



## September 2006 Newsletter

### Island Notes:

Talk about density! On the 1.3 acre of property located on Yoman's Drive and recently annexed into the City of Beaufort approval is being requested for the construction of 15 homes.

La Hacienda Restaurant opens for business. Located in former Winn Dixie shopping center the new Lady's Island La Hacienda Restaurant opened its doors in the first week of August. They did an exceptional job with the renovation of the former site of the Bonker's Tavern and Restaurant. It looks great.

LIBPA member's recommended bumper sticker: Vote for the 1% sales tax for construction of new roads on Lady's Island or SHUT UP ABOUT THE TRAFFIC FOR THE NEXT DECADE!

New Name: The Country Club of Beaufort at Pleasant Point is now named the Royal Chelsea Club, Inc. and is in the process of upgrading the course. Once completed, reportedly it will operate as a private club.

More good news: In response to the article in last month's newsletter announcing that Secessions Golf Club was in the process of developing the capability to utilize "reclaimed" waste water to irrigate their course, residents of both Dataw and Pleasant Point passed the word that each of their communities have utilized the concept for irrigation of their courses for good number of years.

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### A Different Kind Of House:

The house under construction beside the former Ollie's Restaurant has a unique design and has been the subject of a good number of comments and queries as to whether it is a multifamily, multi-unit condominium or a single family resident. The correct answer is that it is a single family resident. Following are some basic facts regarding the home.

Height – 47.6 feet

First/Ground Floor – Garage (778 square feet) and exercise room (332 square feet)

Second Floor – Kitchen, Dining Room and Great Room (1121 square feet)

Third Floor – Family Room, Bedrooms and Baths (1074 square feet)

Fourth Floor – Children's Bedrooms and bathrooms (1008 square feet)

Total: 3854 square feet

This is the first of the buildings in the Marina area that due to the limited space available and being on the water will take advantage of the 50 foot height authorization for buildings in that area. It should be noted that although the Marina property, due to annexation, is in the City of Beaufort the 50 foot height limit was also included in the original Village Center (county) zoning.

As presently designed, there is no elevator and movement between floors is accomplished by stairs. Naturally, the actual use of the rooms on each floor may change depending on the owner's desires but the basic design is as described in this article.

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**Lady's Island Facts:**

**Student Population Growth:** A comparison of the increase in public school population to the number of new homes built in the last 10 years in the area of Beaufort County north of the Broad River points out that construction of a large number of new homes does not necessarily result in a large increase in student population. Specifically, in the last decade there were over 4500 new homes permitted while the overall student population only grew 707 students or 1 new student for every 6 houses. Lady's Island is different in this regard in that it is the site of a large portion of the overall student growth.

The Dejong study (recent study to project school facility requirements) noted there were 2.6 residents to each home on Lady's Island or that you could plan on 1 child for every 2 homes. Although these figures are best left to the experts to explain, the simple truth is we have great public and private schools on Lady's Island. Parents move to the area which offers the best schools for their children. For an ever increasing number of parents that place is Lady's Island.

**At A Glance:**

Lady's Island Elementary School is the only school on Lady's Island that, in response to parent's vote, operates on a year round calendar. As such, it starts earlier than the other public schools on the island and is able to provide the first indication of what the 2006/7 elementary school population looks like. Lady's Island Elementary School Principal Terry Bennett, each year at the beginning of the school year, provides a "one day" snapshot of their student population. Following are the statistics for "Day 15" of the 2006/7 Lady's Island Elementary School student population along with, in some categories, comparison to similar snapshots of previous years.

STUDENT POPULATION ~ School Capacity - 400 Students							
Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>403</b>

ETHNICITY		
RACE	# OF STUDENTS	% STUDENT POPULATION
<b>White</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4%</b>

It should be noted that LIES is a "school of choice" meaning students assigned to other schools in the county may choose to attend the Lady's Island school. The student population on "Day 15" included 171 students attending LIES "by choice". The following data shows these students' originally assigned school and the number of students from that school.

STUDENTS ATTENDING LIES BY "CHOICE"			
PARENT SCHOOL	2004	2005	2006
<b>Beaufort Elementary</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Bluffton Elementary</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Broad River Elementary</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Coosa Elementary</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Hilton Head Elementary</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mossy Oaks Elementary</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Port Royal Elementary</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Shanklin Elementary</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Shell Point Elementary</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>St. Helena Elementary</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Whale Branch Elementary</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>171</b>

An indication of the opinion of parents regarding the quality of education available at LIES is the fact that the student population has grown 67% in the last 6 years and 40% of the students attend by "choice". The fact that 80% of the teachers have Master's Degree or higher (highest percentage in Beaufort County) and for the last 5 years had the best teacher retention rate in Beaufort County provides an idea of both the quality of LIES teachers and their opinion of the school. Lady's Island Elementary is a very special school and for that we offer our thanks to Principal Terry Bennett and all of the teachers.

### Kitchen Design Center - A Family Business:

The Kitchen Design Center on Robert Smalls Parkway adds new meaning to the term "It's a family business". The owner, Barry Cutsler, is the fourth generation of his family to be involved in a business that requires both skill and ability in the area of wood working. Instead of actual furniture making, which his family did for years in Delaware, Barry originally specialized in cabinet making and from there to kitchen design. His wife Lyn brings the skill, talent and special touch of an interior decorator to the design team. Their son Jonathan spent his high school summers in the family furniture factory, became a Microsoft certified system engineer and network administrator plus being a qualified kitchen designer. Their daughter Gretchen serves as marketing director. In addition to the members of the Cutsler family the Kitchen Design Center team includes designer Valerie Long, installers Joe and Betty Wolf and project manager Mike Duncan.

The Kitchen Design Center is currently enjoying its 40th year of providing full service design and remodeling services for kitchen, baths and living rooms. The term "full service" means the Kitchen Design Center team is available to translate your ideas for either a remodeling or a new home into a professional design or they are prepared to guide the project from inception to installation. If you are considering either building or remodeling Barry and Lyn invite you to let their 40 years of experience and five generations of tradition help to insure the final product is just what you had in mind. You can get additional information at their web site ([www.kitchendesigncenter.com](http://www.kitchendesigncenter.com)) or call 521-1532.

### Community Preservation Committee Report:

The Lady's Island Community Preservation Committee met at the Lady's Island Airport conference room on Monday, August 10 for the purpose of reviewing the following agenda items.

- **Request** to rezone a parcel on Springfield from Rural Residential to Community Preservation due to the fact that the land was purchased under the erroneous impression that more dwellings could be constructed on the property than zoning allowed.

**Results:** The Committee declined to recommend a change in zoning and recommended the matter be brought to the attention of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

- **Request** to review the present regulations regarding commercial exterior storage in the Village Center. At the present time commercial exterior storage is not authorized in the Village Center; other than that grand-fathered as being in existence when the present zoning was passed in 2000. The question posed to the Committee dealt with businesses which presently have exterior storage, their business has grown in volume to the point of needing larger facilities and upon relocating to a larger facility would continue to need exterior storage.

**Results:** The Committee agreed that the request pointed out an area in present Village Center zoning that merited change to support a positive business environment. Originally, the LICP Committee recommended a change to the present Village Center zoning which allows businesses to transfer their presently authorized exterior storage capability to a new or larger facility. After additional study, a decision was made to sponsor deletion of the prohibition of exterior storage in the Village Center and establish stringent criteria regarding location, screening and size of such storage.

- **Request** to change the zoning of the property along Mayfair Court from Residential to Village Center commercial.

**Results:** In view of the fact that approval of the request would allow the full range of high intensity commercial activities to be established adjacent to the present existing residential neighborhood the request received a negative vote and would be opposed if further action occurs to implement such a zoning change.

### A Close Look At Residential Inventory: by Jerry Marlow, President, Success Plus School Of Real Estate & Broker with Coldwell Banker Keyserling Real Estate

With all of the attention being given to the question of the health of the real estate market, the following statistical comparison, by price range, of the inventory of homes available for sale in the area north of the Broad River for August 22, 2005 and August 22, 2006 is provided to assist our members in making their own decision.

Inventory Comparison - August 22, 2005 vs. August 22, 2006						
Price Range (\$1,000s)	LI (05)	LI (06)	Change %	NOB (05)	NOB (06)	Change %
\$0 - 99	0	0		8	9	12.5
\$100 - 199	39	33	(15.4)	131	149	13.7
\$200 - 2 99	24	70	191.7	74	160	116.2

\$300 - 399	15	34	126.7	55	111	101.8
\$400 - 499	10	31	210.0	38	79	107.9
\$500 - 599	10	19	90.0	22	40	81.8
\$600 - 699	9	16	77.8	19	40	110.5
\$700 - 799	2	6	200.0	9	23	155.6
\$800 - 899	1	5	400.0	7	16	128.6
\$900 - 999	2	4	100.0	12	9	(25.0)
\$1 million+	3	10	233.3	33	27	(18.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>+98.3</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>47.6%</b>

Note: LI – Lady's Island, NOB – Total area north of the Broad River

While the inventories continue to grow, unit sales have continued to decline. Sales on Lady's Island have dropped 25.9% as of August 22, 2006 compared to the same period last year, while all areas NOB (except Fripp and Harbor Islands) have dropped 14.9%. For those wondering, the unit sales on Fripp and Harbor Island have dropped by 71.1% this year, according to the MLS statistics.

Just for thought! The median price of properties presently on the market awaiting sale is \$309,000 while the median price of the properties already sold and closed this year is \$220,850.

*Note: All data provided in this article was derived from the Beaufort County MLS and refer to residential sales only.*

### Home Construction On Lady's Island Remains Strong:

Each year we check the number of building permits issued for the Lady's Island area for the first 6 months (January – June) and compare them to similar periods in the past. During the first 6 months of 2006 there were 189 building permits issued for Lady's Island, of which 153 were for construction of single family homes. As can be seen by the following comparison the first 6 months of 2006 had the highest number of new homes under construction of any recent period in Lady's Island history.

Year	Mid-year	End-of-year
2001	95	169
2002	92	163
2003	147	263
2004	109	204
2005	111	203
2006	153	280(projected)

With the addition of 153 new homes, Lady's Island will see approximately:

- 91 additional students in our public schools.
- An additional 1500 daily vehicle trips on Lady's Island roads.
- A new family arriving on the island almost daily.
- An increase of 398 residents on the island making the present population 12,234.

Can the real estate market continue to support this level of construction and growth on Lady's Island? How long can the island continue to sustain population growth at this rate and not experience a diminished quality of life for residents? Can we build sufficient supporting infrastructure to support the additional growth before it reaches a crisis point. These are some of the tough questions the island faces and the answers are neither simple nor cheap.

### **Thank You Ms. Crews:**

CMs. Edna Crews recently served her last day as Superintendent of the Beaufort County School District and was replaced by interim superintendent Dr. Phillip McDaniel. We welcome Dr. McDaniel and look forward to working with him in regard to Lady's Island schools. It would be inappropriate for the Lady's Island Business and Professional Association to comment on why Ms. Crews is leaving her position. Having said that, it should be noted that from the first day Ms. Crews was selected for the position of Superintendent she went the extra mile to work with the Lady's Island community and especially LIBPA. Prior to actually assuming the job she wrote an article for our newsletter; introducing herself and telling the community what she hoped to accomplish. As time went by, in an effort to keep the Lady's Island community informed, she was a regular contributor to our newsletter. She accepted every invitation to visit with our members and discuss the challenges of coping with a county growing at the pace being experienced by Beaufort County. When LIBPA lobbied for another elementary school to relieve the pressure of overcrowding at Coosa Elementary School she gave our request courteous and professional consideration. Each Tuesday morning Ms. Crews showed up at Lady's Island Elementary School to work with "her" student as part of the program designed for volunteers to help elementary students improve their reading skills. We offer a very special thanks to her for her concern for our children, her contribution to our educational system and especially her support of the Lady's Island public schools. We extend our best wishes for success in her future endeavors.

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### **The Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District That Died:**

In 1999, when the zoning for Lady's Island was being drafted, the establishment of a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district appeared to be a way to financially assist in the development of the Village Center portion of the island. A TIF district freezes the tax on property within the designated area and all future increases in taxes goes into the TIF pot to repay loans/bonds. Technically, according to South Carolina law, tax increment finance districts are designed to provide funds to municipalities and counties for programs which correct or improve conditions in "blighted" areas. Since portions of the area around the Village Center appeared to meet the "blighted" criteria a consultant was provided by Beaufort County to assist the Lady's Island Community Preservation Committee in development of a TIF district. A part of this development included projecting what type and how much development would occur in the designated TIF district. In April 2001, based on this projected growth, Beaufort County Council authorized the establishment of a Lady's Island TIF District with a maximum limit of approximately \$1.5 million.

Before any money could be borrowed or projects started, the City of Beaufort sued Beaufort County due to the fact some of the property (Ollie's Restaurant and the Upper Crust complex) which they had annexed was in the TIF district and the City desired more of a say in the spending of the TIF money. This lawsuit was settled out of court and reportedly the \$646,000 which the county contributed to the construction of the walkway on the Wood's Bridge was part of the settlement and was supposed to be repaid out of the Lady's Island TIF when it was activated.

A key financial part of the Lady's Island TIF was the development of the Whitehall property and the marina area. Simply stated, these projects have not happened. The Community Preservation Committee deemed it inappropriate and unfair to the Beaufort County taxpayer to request the activation of the TIF until there was some degree of certainty that sufficient development would occur to allow repayment of the TIF bonds.

South Carolina law limits the existence of a TIF to 5 years at which time if it is not activated the governing body which established the TIF, in this case County Council, is required by State law to officially disestablish the TIF district. In April of this year the 5 year limit was reached and the Lady's Island TIF had, during that 5 year period it existed, collected approximately \$350,000 which was still insufficient to support a significant bond issue. Accordingly, the TIF was allowed to expire.

As to the money collected it will be returned to the general fund to which it would have originally gone, as if the TIF had not existed. There were no City of Beaufort funds withheld and with the exception of a portion which will be returned to the Fire District the funds will revert to the Beaufort County general fund. LIBPA has requested that a portion of the money collected as part of the TIF be utilized to join with the City of Beaufort in conducting an engineering study which identifies and designs the streets, sidewalks and bike/walking paths necessary to allow the area surrounding the Village Center to become a true "walking community". In addition, the study would place emphasis on roadway connectivity and access management of the portion of Sea Island Parkway from the intersection of Highway 21 and SC 802 to the Wood's Memorial Bridge. This is an item already identified as part of Northern Beaufort County Capital Improvement Plan for Roads. However, it is not among the projects that would be funded by passage of the 1% sales tax referendum. With the amount of development that is planned for this portion of the highway (Whitehall, condominiums, marina housing) the time to seek answers to the potential traffic problems is now; not after the development is complete.

Once this study is finished perhaps the City of Beaufort and Beaufort County would consider the establishment of a new joint tax increment financing district to fund projects identified by the study as being in the general best interest of the

area. That would appear to be a fair way to accomplish much needed transportation projects in an area which both the City of Beaufort and Beaufort County have commercial and residential property.

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### **Crystal Lake Park Update:**

On August 10 the Lady's Island Community Preservation (LICP) Committee met with John Miller, Director PALs, Truitt Rayburn, who is the land planner hired to design the park, Tom Mobley, Lady's Island PAL's representative and County Councilman Dick Stewart (Public Services Committee) to review the status of the project to design/develop Crystal Lake Park. Following are highlights of the meeting.

- Purchase of additional property. The Rural and Critical Land Program purchased the small piece of property adjacent to Lowcountry Insurance Services. This final acquisition rounds out the total package of property for the park. It also points out the benefit of having a viable Rural and Critical Land Program (please remember to support the November referendum to continue this program).
- Easement of surrounding property. There is a narrow stretch of property between the High School parking lot and Crystal Lake that is owned by the School District and is needed as part of the park to allow a walking path around the lake. Crystal Lake actually consists of a main body of water connected by a narrow slough to a much smaller body of water. This smaller body of water is located on the property St. Peter's Catholic Church. So although the amount of land/water is not large in size, to develop a really great walking path would require access to and use of small pieces of both the School District and St. Peter's property. Representatives of both property owners have met with the LICP Committee representatives to seek a solution. Councilman Stewart agreed to initiate a letter requesting an easement from both property owners for limited use by the park and to initiate a discussion regarding additional details such as liability and access.
- Access and Parking. With the decision to locate the Lady's Island Drive entrance to the Highway 802/High 21 Connector Road near Hazel Farm Road which will most likely result in a stop light, it is only logical to plan on locating an entrance and parking lot for the park directly across from Hazel Farm Road.
- Use of facilities. Whether the present Boat Busters building is initially retained or a new building constructed is strictly a matter of money. Various recommendations have been made as to what could and should be located within the park limits. The committee indicated that it is too early in the planning process to attempt a decision regarding locating facilities, other than bathrooms, on the park grounds.
- Community representation in the park planning process. The question was raised as to the need to establish a special Crystal Lake Park committee to represent the Lady's Island community in planning for the park. The decision was made to continue, at this point, with the Lady's Island Community Preservation Committee serving as the "Point of Contact" for the community. Once the initial planning has been completed a community meeting will be held to provide residents an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed design. If, at that time, the establishment of a special committee appears to have merit, one will be formed.

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### **The Truth Is In There Somewhere!:**

If you know how you are going to vote on the issues to be included on the November ballot and have a solid understanding of each of them you are an extremely lucky and dedicated individual. As near as a moderate amount of research can discover you need to at least be aware of the following before you enter the voting booth.

**State 1% Sales Tax** – You are not going to be asked about this one in the November general election. It was voted on by the state legislature and signed into law by Governor Sanford on June 10, 2006. It is a done deal. Starting June 1, 2007 the state sales tax will go up 1% and \$500 million of these tax dollars will pay for the school operating taxes which you presently pay as part of your property taxes. This is a good news/bad news piece of legislation. If you own and occupy a home, your property taxes will be less. If you don't own and occupy a home, you're going to pay the 1% sales tax anyway. Another aspect of this legislation is that instead of the funding of our schools being at the discretion of the Beaufort County voters and tax payers, the state will now tell us how much money we will be allowed to operate our schools. However, we (Beaufort County taxpayers) still have to pay to build new schools. For a very good explanation of all of the ramifications of this new law visit [www.masc.sc/legislative/weeklyreport](http://www.masc.sc/legislative/weeklyreport).

**LIBPA position (irrelevant it is a law).**

**Beaufort County 1% Sales Tax Referendum** - This is a 3rd attempt (2002 and 2004) to convince the voters of Beaufort County that (1) population growth brings with it increased traffic and (2) increased traffic requires bigger and better roads and (3) no one else is going to pay for these new roads. If approved, Lady's Island would receive 20% of the funds in the form of a new 4 lane Lady's Island Drive, redesigned intersections at each end of the wider road and a

new parallel bridge. Anyone can find a reason to vote against this sales tax. The difficult thing to do is support the referendum simply because it is in the best interest of our community, even if you don't agree with some parts of it. Failure to pass the referendum and allow the needed roads to be built will doom Lady's Island and to a degree the area north of the Broad River to becoming similar to Bluffton - lots of houses, lots of cars and a broken transportation system.  
**LIBPA recommendation – support the referendum.**

**Reassessment Caps** – This is a state proposed constitutional amendment which if it passes would limit the increase in property tax value to 15 % at the time of reassessment, unless the property is transferred or sold. If this is approved it is good news to the home owner and includes a lot of good points such as reassessment at time of sale. Local governments are going to have to either decrease services or find another source of income, especially in areas of rapid growth and increasing infrastructure requirements.

**LIBPA position – neutral.** If it sounds too good to be true, read the fine print. A government needs money to operate, if you limit one source of revenue, another one has to be found. Unless you know where the new source of money is going to come from, it is hard to take a position on this question.

**Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program:** This is a request that you, the voter, authorize the Beaufort County government to borrow \$50 million to continue the Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program. Beaufort County voters approved a similar request for \$40 million in 2000 and it was a great success story in that, with that money, over 10,000 acres were preserved and removed from potential development. The actual cost to you the home owner – about \$16 per year higher property taxes for a \$200,000 home.

**LIBPA recommendation – support the referendum.** When we asked our members if they supported continuing this program, 80% replied with a strong yes.

**A Time of Difficult Choices:** So next June you are going to start paying an additional 1% sales tax but your property taxes are going down because you will no longer pay the school's portion of the tax. At the same time allocation of funds for Beaufort County schools will be decided in Columbia vice Beaufort County. Knowing you are going to be paying that extra 1% next June, in November will you consider voting for another 1% sales tax to pay for the roads that are desperately needed in Beaufort County? If you do, our local sales tax will go from the present 5% to 6% with the new state sales tax and to 7% with the road building tax. Now that the tax for schools has been shifted from the property owner to the general population will you support a change (amendment) to the state constitution which would allow a 15% cap of property tax increases unless the house is being sold or ownership transferred? Finally, will you support the continuation of a program (Rural and Critical Land Preservation) that has a proven record of preventing critical property from being developed? This is all on top of the tough decision of deciding which of the candidates for elected office merit your vote.

*Editor's Note: The summary of the state legislation (H4449 and H4450) regarding the tax swap and the reassessment caps was taken from the Municipal Association of South Carolina July 7 weekly legislative report.*

### **Academic Improvement - A Must: By Jim Bequette, Candidate for District 7 School Board Representative**

As a retired business executive, CPA and university instructor I cannot claim to have a silver bullet for improving the education of the children of Beaufort County. However, I have been studying the issues and analyzing schools that are making giant strides in academic improvement.

One example is the Torch Middle School in an industrial town in Los Angeles County California. The school is 93% Hispanic and 79% of its students qualify for free or reduced lunches. A new principal took over this failing school in 2000. In four years that school, under his leadership, improved scores by 49% on the standard California achievement tests. A brief summary of the steps implemented in that school:

1. The establishment of a vision developed by the school's professional learning community. This vision led to the creation of clear goals and accountability systems managed and facilitated by the school's administrators.
2. Large-scale ongoing staff development has been an important factor.
3. According to the school the final factor was the establishment and continued development of a faculty with commonly shared beliefs that it was essential to teach the skills required to master the subject.

Our school district now has an Academic and Accountability committee. This committee includes school board members and interested citizens. Two of these citizens, Joan Deery of Hilton Head and Dr. Emile Bernard of Beaufort, became so interested in educational improvement that they are running for the school board. After several months of work, the district adopted their recommendations for establishing reasonable goals for improving academic performance.

Beaufort County is well below the state in performance as measured by the state mandated PACT tests. The Board has now adopted the recommended policy that BCSD will reach the state average in three years. The first year calls for 20% improvement and 40% in each of the next two years. Of course we must assume that the state average will be

improving each year so we have to improve at a much faster rate than the state.

The next step to achieve these important goals must be for the School Board to hold the Superintendent responsible for ensuring that each Principal prepares an action plan for his/her school. Such final plan should be approved by the Superintendent. Then it is up to the School Board to hold the Superintendent accountable for performance of the plan.

I personally will work to see a stronger line organization in our school system. The Superintendent as CEO is responsible to the Board. He must hold the Cluster Superintendents responsible, and they in turn must hold the Principals responsible who in turn hold each of their teachers responsible. This is accountability.

After reviewing a new program the District is implementing, it appears the tools are now in place to measure the improvement of each student each year. This should provide a major measurement in developing incentive payments for the Superintendent and Principals. Teachers should later be added to this program once it is proved successful.

Staff groups are there only to provide service to the line organization described above. In my opinion the line organization's input on developing any and all new programs must receive high priority as they are the ones to implement them if they are to be successful.

A CEO in an international company where I was employed used to remind staff people frequently, "We have never made a product in headquarters that was sold to our customers". Likewise I am not aware of any student being educated in the school district central administrative office.

Beaufort County has a lot of dedicated, hard working teachers who must be motivated with proper respect, pay, supplies and fairness while supporting them with a realistic and enforced discipline policy so they can teach.

#### **Why I Am A Candidate For The Beaufort County School Board - District #7: By Rev. Dr. Elijah Washington**

My philosophy of education is simple. It is absolutely essential that our children attain the best education possible for the sake of the nation, the state, the community and themselves. It is likewise essential that each community, and especially Lady's Island, provide the best educational opportunities possible for our children.

In this light, the Board of Education must concern itself with the task of establishing measurable goals, employing capable professional educators, providing facilities that are conducive to learning, and holding the professionals accountable for the attainment of Board/community goals.

I am a candidate for the Board of Education because I believe in children. I do not have a personal or political agenda, I am not seeking power or a platform for my economic, personal or political agenda. I do not have any allegiances to any group or party. I am concerned only with the education of children and providing the oversight necessary to improve education in Beaufort County.

I believe that the major issues of concern to the Board of Education include Board Governance, the selection of the next superintendent, improving student achievement, providing for growth, and improving the image of the Board with the public.

When elected, I will work to define a governance procedure that will allow the board to work efficiently without the rivalries, factions and hostility that currently pervades. I believe that it is the job of the Board to set policy and goals for the professional educators and evaluate their performance.

The new state funding formula for financing education that uses sales tax revenue in lieu of property will alter the relationship between home owners and school districts. This new financing will also reduce the friction that has plagued this district and the local government. While this change alters the potential for conflict, it will be a challenge to provide, for the needs of a growing district. Therefore I believe that the next superintendent must be able to understand the complexities of the District. This includes growth in general, a growing Latino population, the role of poverty, the impact of isolation, language barriers cultural differences, and the long- term effects of politics. This professional educator must be able to establish an organization capable of managing the district on a daily basis and able to execute the job under the watchful eye of the board.

I am convinced that the next Board and superintendent must understand the diversity of the district's students. Beaufort County is unique in its makeup and therefore the solutions to our educational problems must also be unique.

I will support positive educational programs including the Small Schools concept at Beaufort High School, the Arts Infused School at Lady's Island Elementary, and other such research-proven programs. I will listen and respond to professional educators and evaluate their results. I am convinced of the need for additional facilities on Lady's Island to

meet the current and future needs of the community. I will support an additional elementary school on Lady's Island and additional learning space at Beaufort High School. I will not support any effort to bus elementary students from Lady's Island to schools in other areas for the sake of space being available.

The conduct of the Board of Education does not currently reflect that of a professional organization. When elected, I will work with other Board members to build communication channels, share opinions without undue anger, and treat the staff and public with respect. I will work to ensure that all voices are heard and that decisions are made in the best interest of children. I am committed to children and not politics.

I am a father, a retired medical doctor, a life long member of this community, a pastor, and a concerned citizen. I have children in the system so I have a realistic view of the system and its needs. I support accountability not only for fiscal resources but also for academic and social outcomes. I have no political history but I am committed to education and to all of our children. I am seeking to represent the particular needs of Lady's Island residents while serving in the best interest of our children district wide.

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### **Add The New Bridge - Now: By Mark Generales, Lady's Island County Council Representative**

What would you pay to add an additional brand new two lane bridge for 802 crossing from Lady's Island to Port Royal? What if reconstructing the entire intersection at 21 and 802 by Publix was included as part of the project? And the intersection at 802 and Ribaut Road in Port Royal? While at it, let's include completing the entire 802 as a four lane road from Publix to Ribaut Road and all the way to the bridge at the Broad River!

Would you pay for this and other road improvements? What would you say if I told you that we can get these and other projects and we would only pay for half of the costs – that's right, 50%?

This is Lady's Island's opportunity to get over \$35 million in new road and bridge construction. And over 50% of the cost will be paid for by tourists and visitors to our area! This is the one cent sales tax road referendum will be on our ballot in November. What an improvement for our area. And the tax is the same one we voted on when 170 was presented to us just a few years ago. Can you imagine driving through the Okatie on a 2 lane road today? And while we are at it, how about Sams Point Road before it was expanded? Remember the 8AM traffic when it was a 2 lane road? If that is hard to believe, imagine what driving a 4 lane 802 all the way to Port Royal will be like in just a couple of years. How about getting through the 21/802 intersection in the morning and afternoon? Once done, the current conditions will be as hard to remember (perhaps painful is a better word) as the others I have mentioned.

The last time we had the opportunity to dramatically improve our traffic situation; it lost because just 73 more people voted no rather than yes. That's right, out of 50,000 votes cast, had 73 more people voted positively, the last 1 cent sales tax referendum would have passed. We'd have 4 lanes on 802 right now. The bridge would be done. The intersections would be improved and the traffic we have would be massively improved. Lady's Island can't afford to miss out on this opportunity again.

But we know some people will always be negative about referendums. I can hear the comments now. "Government created this mess let them clean it up." Or, "I'm voting no, it's a matter of principle." Or "I'm not paying to take care of this or that part of the project list." How about this one," We have enough growth, we don't need anymore. I'm not voting to add one more thing. All it'll do is add to the traffic we already have." Or the perennial "The state should take care of it, it's their road." The state is broke. We are the government and no one else is going to take care of our problems. Growth is not going away – especially that which is already here. And we will all be able to find something on every project list we think is a waste or just plain not important. The key thing to focus on is what we gain – not lose. And for Lady's Islanders – and all the Islands east of us – this referendum is a home run.

And while we are talking about this, remember evacuations and what it takes to get out of town. A four lane 802 opens up the potential for reversing the lanes on 802 to Port Royal. That would allow us to have 5 lanes exiting Lady's Island (four on 802 and 1 on 21 – we must have a lane open for emergency vehicles) instead of the current 2. 802 evacuees could be routed to 280 or 170 – all 4 lane roads – to get out of town.

The other projects on the list dramatically impact other areas in our county. Can I find things I don't like – you bet. But I always can. That's democracy. But a new bridge, 4 laning 802 and totally re-engineering and reconstructing the 802/21 and 21 Ribaut Road intersections trump any negative. A yes vote here is a major win for Lady's Island. Please get out and vote and bring your neighbors, family and friends. We can't afford to have 73 people decide this election. It is too important to Lady's Island.

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