

**2012 BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Jennifer Bihl - President
C: 843-637-9187
Jennifer@bihl-engineering.com

Jim Rowan—Vice President
W: 815-4747 C: 441-1298
jrowan@fraser-construction.net

Mari-Ann Taylor – Secretary
W: 470-1083
mat@Compact2.com

Pat Harvey Palmer – Treasurer,
Fire & Safety
W: 522-0066
pharveypalmer@islc.net

Bill Evans - School Board
301-6858
billevansschoolboard@gmail.com

Paul Sommerville
County Council
H: 521-0827 or C: 575-0827
psommerville@alumni.duke.edu

Jim Hicks
Planning Commission
(Newsletter)
H: 522-3988
jbhicks@hargray.com

Donnie Beer
City of Beaufort Council
(H) 379-6099 (W) 379-2750
dbeer41@gmail.com

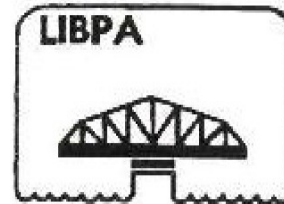
Jon Rembold
Chamber of Commerce
Representative
779-9940
jrembold@wardedwards..com

Peggy Allard
Friends of Crystal Lake
W: 271-7298
allardandassociates@earthlink.net

Judy Smith - Publisher
W: 522-0066
LIBPA.News@hotmail.com

Steve Thompson
LIBPA Webmaster
W: 521-4985

IBPA



LADY'S ISLAND BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

LIBPA Website: www.libpa.org

August 2012

**GUEST SPEAKER FOR AUGUST
P. J. Tanner, Beaufort County Sheriff**



Sheriff Tanner, a lifelong resident of Beaufort County, joined the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department in 1982. He rose through the ranks to serve as Commander of the Sothern Division of the Sheriff's Department. In 1995, following his service with the Sheriff's Department, he became a member of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety where he served in a variety of assignments. Returning to Beaufort in 1998 he was elected as Sheriff of Beaufort County and reelected in 2002, 2006 and 2010. Sheriff Tanner was selected as the 2009 South Carolina Sheriff of the Year by the S. C. Sheriff's Association and served as President of the Association in 2010. He has been requested to include the following in his discussion with our members.

- An overview of crime in Northern Beaufort County and specifically Lady's Island.
- Is there a trend of an increasing number of violent crimes and if so your thoughts as to why this increase is occurring?
- What is the appropriate role for the Sheriff's Department in regard to illegal immigration?
- Are we making progress in Beaufort County in regard to deterring the introduction of illegal drugs?
- Impact of recent ruling requiring a magistrate warrant for arrest in domestic violence cases.

**Meeting: Tuesday, August 14, 8 AM
Beaufort Realtor's Association Headquarters
Palmetto Business Park, Lady's Island Drive
22 Kemmerlin Lane
Invite your friends and neighbors!**

PICTURES OF LADY'S ISLAND NEEDED

Beaufort County publishes a special calendar each year which includes a picture for each month highlighting the beauty of our county. To obtain these pictures they conduct a contest requesting photographs be submitted for consideration and from these, 12 are selected for publication. The theme for the 2013 calendar contest is "Beaufort County Birds and their Habitats". Pictures of birds can be taken anywhere in Beaufort County but pictures of the habitats are requested to be taken in one of a list of specified areas which have been preserved by the Rural and Critical Land Program. On Lady's Island, Crystal Lake Park and the property on Factory Creek on Sea Island Parkway from the public dock to the Filling Station tavern have been designated as sites eligible for habitat photography. Since Crystal Lake is not open to the general public, at the present time, photographers desiring to access the area should park at the former Butler Marine building and enter via the rear of the building. Please remember this property is undeveloped and there are no established trails. The deadline for submission of photographs is September 4 and specific details for participation in the program are available on the Beaufort County web site. For photographers willing to share some of their pictures (other than their contest submissions) of Crystal Lake or the Factory Creek site, LIBPA would love to include some of them in the monthly newsletter. Please forward these pictures via email to LIBPA.News@hotmail.com and space permitting we will share your pictures, with appropriate credit, to our members.



SHOULD LIBPA BE CALLED “FRIENDS OF LADY’S ISLAND”?

In this era of declining revenue governments are increasingly being faced with the unpleasant task of diverting funds from popular but nonessential items. To replace this governmental support private citizens often form nonprofit organizations to promote their favorite projects. These organizations can accept nontaxable donations, solicit grants, conduct fundraisers, organize group activities in support of their project and act as the voice of community when dealing with the local government on matters involving a specific project. Some examples of organizations which have been formed in this manner include Friends of Beaufort County Library, Friends of Fort Fremont, Friends of Hunting Island, Friends of Downtown Beaufort, the recently formed and the very successful Friends of the Rail Trail which has been renamed Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail, and presently in the process of being formed on Lady’s Island is the Friends of Crystal Lake.

The Lady’s Island Business and Professional Association (LIBPA) serves as a form of a “Friends of Lady’s Island” in that it is organized to promote the best interest of the community. When issues arise which appear to pose a threat to the community such as annexation or excessive growth it is LIBPA that has sought solutions. When the need arises for specific projects such as widening of roads, additional bridges, a new park or paving of dirt roads LIBPA serves as the community cheerleader for attaining them.

One of the significant differences from similar organizations is

that the Lady’s Island Business and Professional Association does not conduct a series of fund raisers. Rather, more in keeping with the old tradition of “pass the hat”, members pay \$45 in the form of annual dues and from these funds a wide variety of Lady’s Island projects are supported. Examples of LIBPA supported projects include the sponsorship signs on the McTeer Bridge and Sams Point Road medians and the “Welcome to Lady’s Island” signs. LIBPA uses its members’ annual dues to fund those things which if accomplished are in the best interest of the community and for which there is no other source of funding.

Just as the members of the Friends of Hunting Island promote Hunting Island with their time, talent and funding the Lady’s Island Business and Professional Association promotes the Lady’s Island community. Having operated with the name Lady’s Island Business and Professional Association for over 30 years changing its name to Friends of Lady’s Island is probably not in the organization’s best interest but with 170 members promoting a community with a population of 13,000 we certainly could accomplish more if additional members would join in the efforts to promote our community. Please consider taking a few minutes and invite a friend, neighbor or business associate to the monthly meeting, share the LIBPA monthly newsletter with them and request they consider becoming a member as a way to share in the efforts to promote the Lady’s Island community.

NEW MEDICAL FACILITY SCHEDULED FOR LADY’S ISLAND

The undeveloped piece of property next to Dairy Queen on Sea Island Parkway has been purchased by Beaufort Memorial Hospital, which has developed plans for construction of an 8,500 square foot primary care office. The property has been cleared and plans have been submitted to the county for review and approval. The design being considered is a one-story facility with 46 parking spaces. When completed in 2013 the building will serve as a primary care office and provide a new home for the Beaufort Memorial Lady’s Island Internal Medicine practice of Dr. Philip Cusumano and Dr. Randy Dalbow, which is presently located at 12 Professional Village (behind Sonic).

WELL DESERVED RECOGNITION

The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce recently awarded Mr. Terry Bennett the 2012 Outstanding Leadership Beaufort Alumni Award for his contribution to the community. He was the recipient of the Lady’s Island Business and Professional Association 2010 Community Spirit Award for his contribution in support of educational excellence in the community’s public schools. During his distinguished professional career as an educator he has served as Principal of Lady’s Island Elementary, Lady’s Island Middle School and Lady’s Island High School. At the present time, he is the Director of Grants Management for the Beaufort County School District. Congratulations Mr. Bennett and thank you for your contribution to the education of the children of our community.



STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Beaufort County has taken advantage of the lull in construction to improve the permitting process. A central office has been established on the second floor of the County Administrative Building where those seeking a building permit or business license can visit and have the zoning for the project validated, a business license provided for commercial facilities, and a building permit issued. Understanding there are still many questions remaining as to how to best cope with the pressure of high intensity growth such as was experienced in the last decade the establishment of a centrally located permitting site has to be a step in the right direction. Mr. Chuck Atkinson, Building Codes Director, has been a driving force in the development of the concept of a centralized permitting convenience center and along with Ms. Edra Stephens, Director of the Business License Department oversees its day to day operation.

WHAT ARE GOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS WORTH?

By Jim Hicks

Each year the Beaufort County School Superintendent, who is responsible for the education of the counties' 20,000 students along with the operation and maintenance of its 31 public schools, must submit a proposed budget for the following year. Each year the County School Board reviews the budget in detail and forwards it to the Beaufort County Council for final approval. Each year the question arises as to what is the value (other than fulfilling a moral obligation to educate the children of the community) of the money being spent in support of public education. The Virginia Beach City Public School system, with its 85 schools and 70,000 students, recently hired an economic consultant Dr. Michael L. Walden Ph.D. to conduct a study to answer the question of what do you, the taxpayer, get for a dollar spent on public education.

Dr. Walden's study "The Economic Impact of the Virginia Beach City Public School System" was completed in 2011 and provided the following items of information in regard to the value of money invested in our public educational system.

- Every \$1 spent as part of the operating budget (salaries, insurance) and retained in the local area will create an additional \$1.53 of revenue in the local economy. Interestingly, it was estimated that approximately 35 cents of each dollar allocated to the operating budget will leave the area in the form of taxes, social security or similar cost directing money out of the local economy.
- Every direct district job will generate an additional 0.64 non educational related job in the local economy or each 10 district employees will generate almost 7 new jobs.
- Every \$1 spent as part of the capital budget (construction or new equipment) will generate an additional \$1.55 in the local economy.
- Every \$1 million spent as part of the capital budget generates 12 additional jobs in the area.

- Each additional high school graduate represents an annual cost avoidance of \$189 that will not have to be allocated to responding to crime.
- A high school graduate over a normal lifetime will require \$37,464 fewer tax payer dollars in the form of public support in the areas of crime and health services than a non-high school graduate. To put this in perspective the estimated additional lifetime cost to the taxpayer for the 122 Beaufort County students who dropped out of high school in school year 2011/2012 is \$4.6 million.
- In the area of Medicaid cost alone, the average non-high school graduate over a lifetime is projected to cost the taxpayer \$17,326 more than a high school graduate.
- Consistent improvement in test scores over a 4 year period equated to improved residential property values in the vicinity of those schools attaining the improved scores.

As can be seen from the above bits of information good public schools are a sound investment in the local, state and national economy. There are no standardized or simple answers as to how we reduce the dropout rate, figure out how to best minimize the devastating impact of poverty on education and guarantee that all students attaining a high school degree are really ready to move on to the next phase of life. These are questions which every community in the nation is struggling to find answers. The search for answers as to how to best operate our schools deserves the attention of parents, politicians, the business community and citizens in general throughout the year and not just when the annual school budget is being considered.

Editor's Note. All dollar values quoted in this article based on Dr. Walden's study were based on the value of a 2011 dollar.

BEAUFORT'S LENDING ROOM GOES GLOBAL

The Lending Room, a local organization which serves as a clearing house (collects and reissues used medical equipment to members of the community) recently joined with a similar organization in Guilford, Connecticut (Charlie's Closet) to donate surplus medical equipment to Nicaragua through a group called Quest for Peace.

The Lending Room and Charlie's Closet each have the mission of reaching out and helping neighbors, near and far. Both organizations are non-profits in nature and both accept donations of gently used medical equipment. The equipment is distributed back into the community to anyone requesting it, regardless of income or insurance. Quest for Peace, an organization which regularly sends equipment and supplies to Nicaragua has been working with Charlie's Closet since 2009. The Connecticut branch of Quest for Peace organizes two shipments per year which include a variety of items such as school and medical supplies, food and other aid. The shipments are collected from a variety of sources, average 1000 boxes and impact nearly 10,000 people in 20 different schools and Community Centers. A recent Quest for Peace shipment to the Somolillo Hospital located near the Honduras border and a clinic in Managua included surplus walkers and crutches from Beaufort along with equipment from Guilford.

On a recent trip to Nicaragua a member of Quest for Peace, visited the Somolillo Hospital saw firsthand just how basic the needs are. He witnessed a woman giving birth on the floor because there were not enough hospital beds. He was also approached by a hospital cleaning woman who asked him if he could bring her a mop and bucket on his next trip! There is no question as to the real and tangible service provided by this program.

The Lending Room exists because of the support and donations of the Beaufort community. It has been in existence since the days of Luther's Pharmacy and relocated to Therapeutic Solutions on Sams Point Road in 2009. We are pleased that we have the equipment resources to not only make a difference in our local communities, but to be a part of Quest for Peace's humanitarian mission. To obtain or donate equipment, contact The Lending Room 843-524-2554 or e-mail lendingroom@yahoo.com. To learn more about Charlie's Closet, visit www.charliescloset.org; to learn more about Quest for Peace, visit www.nicaragua-quest-for-peace.org

Editor's Note. A special thank you is extended to Lori Wells of The Lending Room who was involved with Charlie's Closet when she lived in Guilford. When she recently moved to Beaufort and became a member of the Lending Room volunteer team she used her past experience to guide the development of a partnership between the Lending Room and the Guilford group in support of the Quest for Peace project.

BUDGETS, IPADS, ELECTIONS AND OTHER THINGS SCHOOL RELATED

By Bill Evans, Lady's Island School Board Representative

The budget has been submitted and approved by the County Council for the 2012-13 school year. My intent here is to present some insights or background into the two primary issues that came up during the budget discussions. The millage increase met some understood resistance but, let's shine a light on the background to the request. Although most saw the purchase of Ipads as the primary reason for the increase, history for this really goes back to the last reassessment in 2009. When any governmental entity goes through a reassessment, one of the key concepts is maintaining revenue neutrality that is, not realizing a windfall or a loss as a result of the action. In 2009, the school district, to my knowledge, was the only tax supported organization that actually lost money; the district was rolled back to 90.26 mills when it should have only been rolled back to 93.26 to maintain a revenue neutral position (prior to reassessment the millage for operations was 102.6 mills). Although this had the result of forcing the board and administration to make some cuts that were probably necessary, it also meant that we lost about \$3.5-\$4 million dollars a year in revenue. Keep in mind that just like other governmental bodies, the school district has to absorb growth in services and mandated increases in health insurance, salaries as required by the state and other annual costs such as utilities or fuel for buses. These costs typically run between \$3.5 and \$6 million per year. When revenue stays the same, the district has to act just like you do with your personal accounts; we make decisions that ensure that we are not spending more than we are taking in (although we have had to use some of our reserves for just this reason over the last several years).

This year with the mandated increases from the state and continually rising costs in other areas, the district finally hit a wall in regards to cutting further the services it offers. Remember, during the last several years of lost revenue, the district has eliminated almost 200 jobs (35+ at the district office) and trimmed many successful or promising programs such as the reading, math and science coaches as well as the additional days at our three most challenged schools; additionally we closed one school and sought to consolidate others. Although the Ipads were out there as the visible reason for the millage increase, in reality, it is my opinion that the district needed to try and "claw back" some of the lost millage from 2009. The point was made during the Council's discussion that this millage increase would be permanent; keep in mind, that the same rationale can be applied to the 2009 rollback which looked to be permanent as well. With a new reassessment coming up in 2013 it would seem reasonable to have the 2009 reassessment adjusted for revenue neutrality before a new millage rate is established.

In regards to the Ipads themselves there is room for debate. All of us see that continuing to grow technology skills and accessibility to technology is important to the growth of our students. Those who argued against the purchase of Ipads at this time made some good points. They asked if the savings and capabilities are really there yet, or if there were enough availability of eBooks to replace textbooks as a means of realizing some savings. We know that this is coming. We know that we will begin some initial savings by using less paper and requiring students to submit their work electronically. But what drove my decision-making were costs and available funds. We will not achieve all the potential savings this first year, but more and more, books and other expensive items will become available digitally. We had one time funds from federal sources to pay for about 2/3's of the Ipads now. In a year or two, the costs might be lower but the entire bill would have to be paid with general fund dollars, those raised by millage charged only to a small group within our community, or by creating more debt under capital borrowing. I understand the frustration that non-resident homeowners and commercial property owners feel about the present system for supporting the operations of the school district; I too own rental property and see the increases. However, that is a problem that needs to be resolved in Columbia. Chairman Wes Newton of the County Council has argued this point for years; his election to the state-house, along with the continuing efforts by Senator Davis, Representative Erickson and the other members of our delegation are the only way to fix this problem permanently.

Speaking of elections, that brings me to the substantial topic of the upcoming board elections this November. Many have spoken through letters to the editor, opinion pieces and blogs about the need to make wholesale changes to the board; that is an issue that the voters will have to decide. I am encouraged by the large number of contested elections for school board that will take place through the summer and into the fall. In 2010, I ran in what was probably the only true contested election for school board, it gave the voters in this section of the county the opportunity to ask questions and make judgments. My only charge to you, the voters, is to get to know the candidates, and I mean really get to know them. Require them to meet publicly in unbiased debates or question and answer sessions; require them to put their positions on budget, salaries, instructional programs, school choice, leadership, discipline, attendance zones, etc., in writing and out there to be reviewed, analyzed and subject to more discussion. Don't support someone because you think you know what they may want to do, make them tell you and then hold them to it if they are elected. After nearly two years, I can tell you it is more demanding than many think. Many of the issues are very complicated and on occasion you find yourself having to choose between two good solutions or possibly two not so good solutions. You have to think about the entire district, all 20,000+ students and all 31 schools; what works well in one place may be a disaster in a different part of the county. You cannot be successful or represent the voters as a single agenda candidate.

I hope as we move forward, we can continue to address the sophisticated and diverse nature of our students and families. I believe we need to address school choice with more flexibility; we need to meet the needs of our special populations whether that be with remedial and accelerated programs to help some catch up or enhanced and enriched programs that challenge more advanced students. At the same time however, we must continue to meet the needs of our largest population; those that come to school every day, simply needing to be challenged at their level by competent and caring adults, who have been trained to meet the individual needs of children and who work in an environment that values their skills and provides them with the time and the programs to meet that mission.

As always, I leave you with the challenge to get involved. Schools need volunteers (the United Way is looking for 600 volunteers to assist with an ambitious partnership it is establishing with the district to have all students reading on grade level by the start of the fourth grade); School Improvement Councils, SICs, are required to have community members as part of their membership, you do not have to have children in school. Athletic and band booster clubs need assistance and many of our programs K-12 are constantly looking for speakers to meet with students about careers. There are a myriad of opportunities, so join us and continue to make our community a great place for children to learn.



FIRST OF 2012 REAL ESTATE REVIEW

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

The Beaufort County real estate market started strong in 2012. The first quarter was quite good, compared with last year. So it was with some anticipation that we awaited this year's first semi-annual results.

I did mention in a previous article that even though the market has signs of a recovery, selling prices would continue to soften - possibly for another year or so after the market hit bottom. The reverse happened when the market turned down in that sales shrank, but asking prices continued to increase for around eighteen months. It took that long for sellers to realize the market had changed, and that they were not going to see the gains of the previous years.

Following is a comparison of the single family real estate market for the areas indicated for the first 6 months of 2012 as compared to the first 6 months of 2011.

Sales Area	Volume (millions)	Units	Avg Price	Median Price	Active Inventory (As of July 15)
Beaufort					
2011	\$4.7	20	\$226,207	\$210,000	99
2012	\$7.9	31	\$256,205	\$199,900	88
Change +/-	+68%	+55%	+13%	-5%	-11%
Mossy Oaks					
2011	\$4.3	30	\$144,194	\$123,750	51
2012	\$6.9	30	\$231,757	\$165,750	35
Change +/-	+60%	0%	+60%	+33%	-31%
Port Royal					
2011	\$3.8	20	\$189,626	\$133,250	46
2012	\$3.4	21	\$165,700	\$180,000	49
Change +/-	-11%	+0.5%	-13%	+35%	+6%
Burton					
2011	\$16.2	74	\$218,177	\$195,987	218
2012	\$18.9	93	\$203,246	\$192,066	167
Change +/-	+16%	+25%	-7%	-2%	-24%
Lady's Island					
2011	\$20.6	65	\$317,024	\$255,862	266
2012	\$19.0	75	\$254,282	\$195,000	211
Change +/-	-8%	+15%	-20%	-24%	-21%
Total Northern Beaufort County					
2011	\$49.4	209	\$236,485	\$189,000	680
2012	\$57.5	250	\$225,468	\$187,000	550
Change +/-	+16%	+19%	-5%	-1%	-20%



The City of Beaufort had a "banner" first half as regards to closed sales. Unit sales and volume increased substantially. The median selling price was down a little, and inventory was down 11% as has been the trend over the last year or so.

Mossy Oaks also did acceptably well, with strong gains across the board. The actual units remained static, and again inventory was the only segment down.

Port Royal was a little surprising, when compared to most of the other areas. Everything was down except the median selling price and the inventory, which bucked the trend and increased a tad. One gets the feeling that the Port Royal market is just treading water, and waiting for the port development to actually close.

Burton results were good overall, but when compared with some areas, they look "middle of the road". Sales volume and units were both up appreciably. Prices were softer. And again inventory was down.

Lady's Island like Port Royal was very surprising. Lady's Island has in the past been one of the leading areas for real estate sales north of the Broad River. It is not often we have seen the numbers be on the negative side for Lady's Island. Actual sales volume was up though, and again inventory was down appreciably. So not all bad news.

A TRUE PROFESSIONAL

Dr. Valarie Truesdale recently announced she has accepted a position with the Charlotte – Mecklenburg school district in North Carolina and will be departing from her job, as Beaufort County School District Superintendent, in the near future. It is with a touch of sadness that we view her departure in that under her leadership our schools have improved, and so many of the questions that we argued over for years (length of school year, uniforms, overcrowded schools) were resolved under her time in office. There is no way to adequately note her many accomplishments in our school system so we will simply say “Thank you for a job well done” and wish you a bit less stress and shorter hours in Charlotte.

Crystal Lake Progress Report.

By Peggy Allard, President of Friends of Crystal Lake

Good things continue to happen as part of the effort to develop the Crystal Lake property into a passive park. Members of the Friends of Crystal Lake gave an orientation tour of the property to members of the Lowcountry Master Naturalists Association, Lowcountry Master Gardeners Association, South Coast Chapter of the South Carolina Native Plant Society and the Audubon Society. The Beaufort County Natural Resources Planner, Amanda Flake, submitted a request to appropriate authorities for approval to construct a boardwalk over the park’s wetlands. The State Forestry Commission evaluated the property and approved its use as a model for “forestry management of a small parcel of pristine land”. As part of the forestry project a variety of professionals in the fields of birds, plants, and wildlife will evaluate the property and contribute to the forestry management plan. Beaufort County selected Crystal Lake as one of the properties which photographers can utilize as subjects for the 2013 Annual Beaufort County Photo Contest for the Land Preservation Calendar.

On an administrative note, an application has been submitted to the South Carolina Secretary of State requesting the Friends of Crystal Lake be designated as a nonprofit organization (501.3c). Finally, development of official bylaws for a Friends of Crystal Lake organization is in progress. The project to develop the 26-acre Crystal Lake property into a passive park, open to the public, has been underway for over 10 years. The grand opening of the park will not happen tomorrow, but it will happen, thanks to the support, help and contributions of so many people.

POLITICAL SIGNS

Each season can be identified in its own unique way and one of the indications of the political season is candidate’s signs appearing along the roadside. There are no county regulations as to how early a candidate can post a campaign sign but there is a requirement to possess a sign permit. Naturally, political signs may not be installed on the South Carolina Department of Transportation right of way. Once the election is over all political signs are required to be removed within 48 hours.



NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION REMAINS SLOW

In an effort to identify potential trends in the real estate and construction market on a semiannual basis LIBPA gathers the number of building permits issued for Lady’s Island, the City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal and compares them to the same period for the last few years. Following is the data for the period January through June of this year (2012).

LADY’S ISLAND SINGLE FAMILY BUILDING PERMITS

Year	Mid- Year	End of Year
2005	111	204
2006	93	159
2007	30	73
2008	22	52
2009	16	21
2010	7	20
2011	22	30
2012	25	37 (projected)

Without trying to read too much into the data it would appear that 30 to 40 new homes per year on Lady’s Island may be the “new normal”. At least until the inventory of older homes on the market is reduced and the bank held foreclosures are depleted or at least significantly reduced. Following are the number of residential construction permits issued in the first 6 months of 2012 by the City of Beaufort and the Town of Port Royal.

MUNICIPAL SINGLE FAMILY BUILDING PERMITS (Mid-Year)

Municipality	2010	2011	2012
City of Beaufort	9	19	17
Town of Port Royal	29	29	40

The City of Beaufort market for new homes would appear to be holding steady while the Town of Port Royal enjoyed a 40% increase. It should be remembered that the Town of Port Royal and Lady’s Island have active residential projects under development while the City of Beaufort is emphasizing infill development.

ARE THE CITIZENS OF NORTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY SUFFERING FROM PLANNING FATIGUE?

Following the 2005 devastation of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina a period of intense planning as to how best to rebuild the city occurred. Some of the first meetings attracted almost a 1000 residents but as time went by that number dwindled to less than a dozen individuals attending an average meeting. It was said that the residents of New Orleans were suffering from “planning fatigue”. There would appear to be indications that many of the residents of northern Beaufort County may be suffering from “planning fatigue”.

Over the past few years the citizens of Northern Beaufort County have responded to various forms of charrettes or planning meetings as part of the process to develop a comprehensive plan, road expansion designs, regional transportation studies, a northern regional plan, community preservation plans, development of an air installation compatible zone (AICUZ) and a northern bypass study to mention just a few. The City of Beaufort is in the process of developing a very detailed plan for implementation of a type of form based code of zoning. Beaufort County is in the final stage of drafting a county version of a form based type of zoning. The Town of Port Royal has completed a plan for the complete renovation of the waterfront portion of their town. Each of these efforts has involved a very real and intense effort to solicit public involvement. However, it would appear that regardless of the subject, it is getting increasingly difficult to attract any significant number of citizens to discuss planning for the future. As was the case in New Orleans the residents of northern Beaufort County may have contracted a serious case of “planning fatigue”.

How to best establish a meaningful dialogue between government representatives and members of the public is a question everyone, in this age of the internet, e-mail, smart phones, texting, and tweeting, is struggling with. It is a time of transition from the days of a few elected individuals meeting and making key decisions with only a few members of the public present to the entire meeting being available on local public television. Today the agenda for almost every government meeting is available online. Each government entity in Northern Beaufort County has its own web site where it provides an amazing amount of information. There is no question that larger quantities of government related information is being made available to the general public but there does seem to be some question as to how well government and the public are actually communicating.

WHAT IS A CHARRETTE?

As part of the effort to introduce a form based type of zoning at both county and municipal level a number of public meetings have been conducted. Many of these meetings are referred to as charrettes. A charrette is an intensive planning session or series of sessions during which citizens, designers, planners and others collaborate with a consultant or planner to come up with a vision for development of a designated area. One of the benefits of this type of session is that it allows those citizens who participate to feel a sense of authorship of the plan. As a matter of interest the term “charrette” is derived from the French word for “little cart”. During the 19th century professors at an art school in Paris would circulate among the students with little carts to collect final drawings from their students. Today charrettes are a commonly used vehicle by which planners involve members of the community in the planning process.

DECON

THE TYPE OF BUSINESS YOU DON'T HEAR ABOUT!

DECON USA, Inc. has offices in New Jersey, Florida, California and Beaufort, South Carolina. Developed in the 1970's DECON provides an improved form of concrete reinforcement and connection of joining layers of concrete plates called Studrail. Mr. Neil Hammill, M. Sc, P. Engineering is President of the Studrail Division of DECON and arrived in Beaufort in 2007 as a result of his wife becoming associated with the Savannah Symphony. His office, located in the Professional Village on Lady's Island, is an amazing place in that it is covered almost wall to wall with bins of blueprints. When a company receives a contract for construction of a project which includes a requirement for concrete reinforcement of the nature Studrail provides a query is made to Mr. Hamill for an estimate of cost to provide a sufficient amount of his product for the project in question. To provide this estimate requires a detailed review of the blueprints by an engineer. If the contractor accepts the bid by DECON the actual product is produced in their plant in Canada and delivered to the construction site. The Beaufort DECON team consists of Mr. Hamill and 2 associates (both engineers). It is worthy of note that only a limited number of their customers are located in the South Carolina area with the majority being in other states and countries. Mr. Hamill, with his knowledge based type of business, could establish his office almost anywhere. He and his family chose the Beaufort area because of the quality of life it offers. As a community we are lucky to attract individuals such as Mr. Hamill and the DECON business and appreciate his choosing Lady's Island for his office.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mike & Judy Naanes—Residents
Frampton Harper—Harper Law Firm

LIBPA MEMBERSHIP

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

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

WHAT ARE LIBPA'S PRESENT PROJECTS. To promote the development of Crystal Lake as a community park, encourage excellence in the public and private schools on the island, guide the use of form based code into Lady's Island present zoning, support efforts to attract new businesses to the island and assist existing businesses.

YOU CAN JOIN BY FILLING OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURNING IT WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE (\$45) OR JOIN THROUGH OUR WEB SITE AND WE WILL BILL YOU. YOUR NEW MEMBER'S FEE COVERS YOUR DUES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2012 AND ALL OF 2013.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name/Company: _____

Attn: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Web Site _____

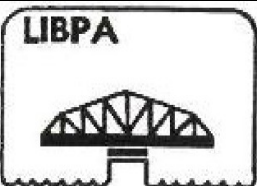
Newsletter preference: U. S. Mail E-Mail E-mail Address: _____

Type of membership: Business Residential Civic Org.

Business category for directory _____

Please mail along with your membership fee of \$45 to:
LIBPA
182-D Sea Island Parkway
Lady's Island, S. C. 29907

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



LADY'S ISLAND BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
182-D Sea Island Parkway
Lady's Island, SC 29907
LIBPA Website: www.libpa.org

