

Our Town

A Newsletter of the Town of Hilton Head Island
 Brought to you by the Town of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
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Town Manager's Note

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Steve Riley

University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) Hospitality Management Facility

In order to bring everyone up-to-date with the location of USCB on Hilton Head Island, I want provide the following information, and also reflect some of the positive aspects of a USCB Campus on Pope Avenue. We are mindful of all points of view on a USCB presence and are taking measures to balance all concerns.

Current Status

- Carolina Office Park Complex has been acquired. Time Warner building is under contract and will close in mid-2015.
- Tree, topo and wetland surveys have been completed. Site plan being refined.
- Traffic study has been completed, and detailed intersection improvement plans are being developed.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been fully executed.
- Demolition of existing buildings targeted for fall of 2015. Construction slated to begin in 2017 with classes starting in the fall of 2018.

Existing Collaborative Efforts on the Island

- Center for Event Management and Hospitality Training at Sea Pines Welcome Center.
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) facility; currently at Pineland Station.
- Coastal Ecology Research Project at Harbour Town Marina.
- Continuing Medical Education in collaboration with USC School of Medicine and the Sea Pines Resort.

Furtherance of the Comprehensive Plan

- The 2010 Comprehensive Plan, "Charting the Island's Future - From Here to 2030" calls for assuring "higher and continuing education opportunities for citizens with emphasis on opportunities that match the specific needs of our local population and economy."
- The Plan notes that "Continuing and adult education has been identified as important to Island citizens."
- And that "More on-Island opportunities should be considered for higher education."

Benefits of USCB collaboration

- Adult and continuing education opportunities for residents and visitors; improving quality of life.
- Opportunities for students at management end of an industry that is one of the largest and fastest growing in the nation.
- Opportunities for students in an industry that allows them to remain in the area.
- Enhanced opportunities for internships with local businesses.
- Better trained and knowledgeable employees translates into better service and a better experience for residents and guests.
- Creates opportunities for other collaborative efforts with the University; adding to Island offerings and thus Island "brand."
- Given its international reputation, success on Hilton Head Island radiates out across the County and region.
- Presence and promotion of the facility will increase exposure of the Island.
- Expanded opportunities for tourism research - adding to the Island's exposure.
- Events and conferences will showcase the Island and introduce us to future property owners.
- Higher education and continuing education opportunities are a hallmark of most "best communities" type lists.
- Free space at Gateway campus for expansion of other programs.

Costs for Road Improvements

- Traffic circulation improvements will serve the entire Pope Avenue, Office Park Road, New Orleans Road and Greenwood Drive areas.
- Costs, currently estimated to exceed \$1 million, will be the responsibility of the Town and will be paid from TIF funds.
- Grants to assist with these costs have been received from Hargray Communications (\$275,000).

Traffic Impacts and Proposed Road Improvements

- A traffic impact study of the proposed USCB facilities has already been completed and reviewed with the CSA Traffic Committee.
- Proposed use has less traffic impact than the other uses and densities allowed under the Town's LMO for the Sea Pines Commercial District.
- A private developer would not have been required to do a traffic study.
- Removal of the Time Warner Building facilitates long overdue reconstruction of the Pope/New Orleans/Office Park intersection; the need for which is reaffirmed by the study.
- Improvements to the Greenwood Drive/Office Park Road intersection are also called for.
- The "regional" traffic study being undertaken is looking at the bigger picture of zoning changes, a build-out scenario and the impacts of redevelopment throughout the southern portion of the Island, including inside the PUDs.

Costs for USCB Facility

- Current discussions are focused on capping costs for "Phase I" (the main building) at \$24.5 million; including land costs and site preparation.
- USCB will contribute \$2.5 million which has already been raised and is in a separate interest-bearing account held by the non-profit Beaufort-Jasper Commission on Higher Education.
- Future phases (separate OLLI Building) will be the responsibility of USCB.
- Through TIF funding, the Town's partners contribute as follows: County (47%), School District (23%), Town (18%), USCB (10%) and HHPSD (2%).
- In the TIF extension, no school operating taxes are used; only Debt Service millage.

Location

- Pope Avenue and Office Park Road. Replaces the Carolina Office Park development (three office buildings) and the Time Warner operations building.



Conceptual Exterior Rendering

Around Town

Rowing and Sailing Center at Squire Pope Community Park

It was talked about for over a decade and now it's finally open to the public. The Town has a new rowing and sailing center located at 133 Squire Pope Road and on Skull Creek, to help get people on the water without having to compete with the motor boats at the County landings and the private marinas. The main feature of this park is the dock and pier, providing water access for non-motorized water craft (kayaks, rowing, sailing, paddle boarding, wind surfing, etc.), as well as fishing and crabbing. But this place is not just for rowing and sailing, it is a much needed neighborhood park for the north end of the Island and the Stoney area. The park also includes parking areas, restrooms, a storage building, a picnic pavilion, playground, fire pit, swings, benches, and two, fenced-gravel storage areas. In addition to being vetted by the Parks and Recreation and Planning Commissions and Town Council, Town staff worked extensively with the Squire Pope / Stoney neighborhood and rowing and sailing groups to incorporate the appropriate design elements and park features.

This project was fully funded by the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) program, with no private funds being contributed. Construction costs just under \$1.2 million; \$492,000 for the dock and pier and \$680,000 for the upland park. The TIF program is designed to allow the Town to take tax money that may have been spent elsewhere in the county and devote it to providing new and enhanced infrastructure within the TIF district here on Hilton Head Island. We are sure this facility will enhance the already highly regarded eco-tourism on Hilton Head Island and will be enjoyed by Island residents for generations. The Island Recreation Center operates the park and will be running water craft programs out of this facility. Contact them if you have questions about the park and programs at 843-681-7273 or www.islandreccenter.org.



Power Line Burial Project

The Overhead to Underground Power Line Conversion Project is approximately 10 years into a 15 year project, and is funded in lieu of a franchise fee paid by Palmetto Electric. This project will increase the reliability of electric service by requiring all overhead non-transmission electric lines to be located underground. The project has an estimated 40 miles of 3 phase feeder lines, and the number of residential and commercial services to be affected is 1,790. To date, Palmetto Electric has buried more than 35 miles of feeder lines (85% of project), 99 miles of non-feeder lines, and serviced more than 1,109 consumers (62% of project).

Benefits of buried power lines:

- Enhances aesthetics of Island
- Increases reliability of service
- Reduces power outages due to inclement weather
- Ensures trees are not a detriment to any lines
- Allows coordination of construction schedules between the Town and Palmetto Electric on Capital Improvement Projects, therefore reducing negative impact to the general public.

Areas that have completed burial of power lines include:

- North Forest Beach
- Pope Avenue
- Sea Pines
- Mathews Drive
- Folly Field Road
- Port Royal Plantation
- Beach City Road
- Squire Pope Road
- Palmetto Bay Road
- US 278 –various locations from Jenkins Island to Arrow Road.

In the next few months, Palmetto Electric will be removing overhead power lines in three areas:

- Mathews Drive at US 278 to Chaplin Park
- Palmetto Dunes to Chimney Cove
- Fresh Markets to the Greenery.

Future projects will occur in:

- Spanish Wells Road
- Dillon Road
- Mitchelville Road
- Wild Horse & Gumtree Roads
- Sections of Marshland Road
- US 278 from Sea Pines Circle to Arrow Road.



Shelter Cove Community Park

The Town of Hilton Head Island, in conjunction with the developers of Shelter Cove Towne Centre, Blanchard and Calhoun, have recently completed construction on a new approximately 5-acre waterfront park. The new waterfront Shelter Cove Community Park will replace the existing park and will serve as a festival park for special events as well as encouraging day-to-day use in a passive manner.

Key features of the park include a park entry with water feature and a centralized natural marsh view; an event lawn with shade structures and seating areas; a festival lawn including a playground with Lowcountry themed elements, restrooms, and a sunset pavilion; a waterfront pedestrian promenade including bench seating and interpretive signage; a performance lawn including an elevated performance pavilion with picnic tables for daily use and stage for special events; public art; bike racks; and internal pathways with connectivity to other public pathways.

The official ribbon cutting ceremony was held on April 1st.



What's Going on with the Public Projects & Facilities Department?

- Rowing and Sailing Center – construction close out, boat storage shed construction by others
- Mathews Drive Connectivity which included the acquisition of private roads for improvements to storm drainage, pavement and on-street parking – construction close out
- Shelter Cove Park – construction close out
- Traffic Signal Pre-emption System which detects emergency vehicles at each signal and provides advance notice to downstream signals – contract close-out; system fine tuning
- Mitchelville Sewer Project made sewer available to the Town's Barker Field Expansion and Mitchelville Beach Park facilities and surrounding area – contract close out
- USCB – design development
- USCB – Memorandum of Understanding recently signed
- Fire Station #2 – concept and design development
- Fire Station #2 – determine temporary quarters for firefighters and equipment during the construction of replacement station
- Island Recreation Center Expansion – design development; permitting
- Marshland Road/Mathews Drive Roundabout - construction
- William Hilton Parkway - Fresh Market to Shelter Cove Pathway - construction
- Town-owned roads maintenance and resurfacing - construction
- Honey Horn special events access and parking - construction
- Coligny Parking Improvements - construction
- Pathway Safety Improvements - construction
- Fish Haul Park Flagpole and lighting - construction
- Spanish Wells Traffic Signal Replacement – construction
- BCSO Holding Cells - construction of cells for temporary detainment awaiting transport to Beaufort County Detention Center
- Office Park Road Intersection Improvements – design
- William Hilton Parkway at Squire Pope Intersection Improvement - design
- Pope Avenue Corridor Sub-regional traffic study
- Gumtree Sewer Project – staff support
- Dirt Road Acquisition Initiatives – concept development and public meetings
- Island-Wide Beach Renourishment – permitting and design development
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II – permit compliance and reporting
- Coordination with SCDOT – Jarvis Creek Bridge replacement; Spanish Wells Road
- Coordination with SCDOT – Jenkins Island/Windmill Harbour intersection improvements
- Carolina Office Park – landlord/tenant issues
- Installation of additional pay-by-space meter at Driessen Beach Park
- Numerous stormwater improvement and maintenance projects
- Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Inventory and modeling of stormwater systems (Indigo Run, Upper Broad Creek)
- Coordination and acceptance of sub-POA stormwater systems for maintenance within PUD's that have a stormwater maintenance agreement with the Town.
- Negotiations of stormwater access and maintenance agreement with Shelter Cove and smaller POA's (Jarvis Creek Club, Bermuda Pointe)
- Flood Insurance Rate Map revisions



Meet Our New Mayor



David Bennett
Mayor

Spouse: Terri

Children: 3

Years on the Island: 5 years

Hobbies and Interests: Anything to relating to my family, golf, tennis, studying the Bible

Education: B.S. in Finance and Real Estate from Indiana University

Professional Background: Real Estate Development

Civic Background: Hilton Head Planning Commissioner, Palmetto Dunes Finance Committee

Other Affiliations: Member of Grace Community Church

Item of Interest: I'm an avid and lifelong fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers. I did not like running before moving to Hilton Head. Since moving here, I've become a marathoner.

Married: 20 years

Place of Birth: Indianapolis, Indiana

Meet Our New Ward 5 Councilmember



Thomas W. Lennox
Ward 5 Councilman

Spouse: Marilyn "Mary" Lennox

Children: 2 adult sons, 5 grandchildren

Years on the Island: 9 years

Hobbies and Interests: Golf, travel, grandchildren

Education: Ohio State University, BS Finance and Economics. Stonier Graduate School, University of Delaware, Banking and Finance.

Professional Background: Retired Bank CEO

Civic Background: Hilton Head Island Planning Commission 2008-14, past Vice Chairman; Capital Improvement Program Committee, past Chairman; Comprehensive Plan Committee; Greater Island Council; American Heart Assn. Low Country Heart Walk, Chairman 2009 and 2010; Leadership Hilton Head Island/Bluffton 2008

Other Affiliations: Sea Pines CC, past director and Treasurer; CSA 2014 Strategic Plan Committee; Harrisburg, PA Art Association, past President; Meadville Area (PA) Chamber of Commerce, past President

Item of Interest: Formed a "start-up" commercial bank in 1999 in Harrisburg, PA which was subsequently sold in 2006. Remained employed by acquiring Bank when an opportunity to take a bank CEO position on the Island occurred allowing us to move here permanently later that year.

Married: 26 years

Place of Birth: Canton, Ohio

Technology Utilized by Hilton Head Island Dispatch

Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue manages its own enhanced 911 communications center. The center is responsible for answering 911 calls for Hilton Head Island, Daufuskie Island, and the Hilton Head Airport. The communications center operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

One of the most powerful tools utilized by Hilton Head 911 dispatchers is the Computer Aided Dispatch system, or as it's commonly referred, the CAD system. The CAD provides a common operating picture for all the dispatchers to see as incidents are created and updated. There are two to three dispatchers on duty at all times

and while one is obtaining critical information from the caller, another dispatcher

is assigning and sending the proper apparatus to the incident. The CAD has an integrated map that displays the location of all ongoing incidents as well as the location and status of all emergency response vehicles staffed by Fire Rescue. This means resource recommendations are based on the type of incident, the required apparatus, and the drive time it will take for those closest units to respond based on their current location. The CAD system allows dispatchers to assign the units and monitor incident status at the touch of a button, improving response times.

Understanding that technology evolves quickly the Town is committed to keeping this important CAD software up-to-date in an effort to maintain and reduce response time. Recently, the CAD underwent an update and for the first time, this process was completed by our internal Public Safety Systems Team. This resulted in approximately \$120,000.00 in savings when compared to the vendor providing the same service.

We are proud of our 911 Dispatchers. They are the first responders you never see.

