

# TOJI NEWS



James Island, SC: 843-795-4141; Fax: 843 795-4878  
[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us). Follow the Town on Facebook

## Mayor Woolsey's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of TOJI News! The Town of James Island is happy to provide James Island citizens with information about our Town and its exciting future.

First of all, you should know that the Town has been able to make its way through legal challenges and now we are here to stay. We thank our citizens for believing in James Island values and

the right to plan for our own future. Also, our thanks go to Charleston County and Councilman Joe Qualey for their continuing support.

We now provide a wide range of services including public works (streets and drainage), planning and zoning, building inspection, code enforcement and business licenses. And, our citizens are actively participating in a wide

variety of community partnership programs such as James Island Pride, Neighborhood Council and Children's Commission. These groups work with Town Council to insure that we are working on issues that affect our citizens' daily lives. Other sections of this newsletter outline our programs and activities. Our emphasis is on high quality public service. Please contact me via telephone, email or our website with your questions or concerns.

## Town Road Update

One of the Town's objectives is to pave dirt roads that serve our residential neighborhoods. We have identified, mapped and prioritized these roads.

Our first effort will be on Ben Road, which serves a residential neighborhood off Fort Johnson Road. The proposed project will include grading, paving and drainage improvements, and will serve 17 residences.

An improved Ben Road will provide a connection

to the Honey Hill community and improve access for school buses. This project will cost approximately \$370,000 of which the Town's share will be \$185,000. We hope to get good news from Charleston County this summer and will proceed with construction shortly thereafter.

The Town's next road improvements project will likely be Jeffrey Drive and Lemontree Road. The dirt roads are located off of Camp Road. Jeffrey Drive currently has 22 houses

on it and Lemontree has 6 houses. This project will also include road grading, paving and drainage improvements.

Contact Mark Johnson, (843) 795-4141, [publicworks@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:publicworks@jamesislandsc.us) for more information.

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*“works with the Town’s Neighborhood Council ...and also coordinates with the City”*

*“be safe and report any suspicious situations as soon as possible”*



## Island Sheriff's Patrol (ISP)

One of the Town's most effective public partnerships is with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. We have an agreement with them to provide additional law enforcement and public safety services to the Town.

Off duty Deputies work additional hours in the Town to assure that we have maximum protection. The program is

coordinated by Deputy Shawn James and he schedules patrol areas in accordance with concerns reported by our residents. He works with the Town's Neighborhood Council to make sure that issues are addressed in a quick and thorough manner. Our efforts are also coordinated with the City of Charleston so that the most cost effective police services are provided to

our community.

Most ISP stops are for traffic related issues. However, over the past few months we have been emphasizing public safety and crime concerns in our residential neighborhoods. Our program emphasizes crime watch principles and common sense principles.

So, be safe and report any suspicious situations as soon as possible.

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*“\$1.1 million has been allocated by Charleston County for a Greenbelt Park in the Town”*

*“passive recreation opportunities for our citizens”*



## Town Greenbelt Park

Approximately \$1.1 million has been allocated by Charleston County for a Greenbelt Park in the Town. We are now beginning a process to determine the location for the park. A recent public input effort revealed that our citizens preferred a large park that would be located in the Fort Johnson or Harbor View areas in the interior or marsh front.

Several potential sites are under consideration and we hope to make a decision within the next few weeks. A real estate value appraisal and site plan will then need to be completed. This information would then be submitted to the Charleston County Greenbelt Program for their consideration. A decision would come in the fall of this year.

A Greenbelt Park would provide “passive” recreation opportunities for our citizens, while protecting the environment. You would be able to walk and observe native plants and trees.

We are excited about this project and hope it will add to individual and family recreation experiences.

## Property Tax Credit Payments

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*“money to be returned to Town of James Island property owners”*

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The local option sales tax is a one-cent tax levied on sales within Charleston County. This revenue is collected by the State and then returned to local units of government to be used to decrease property taxes and pay for

services, programs or projects.

This revenue is received by the Town; however, the Town does not levy or collect property taxes. The James Island Public Service District does have a property tax.

Despite this unusual situation, previous Towns have provided a tax credit payment on an annual basis. Our first payment to property owners will be this fall. We look forward to providing this financial benefit to our residents.

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## Do you want to become a part of the Town again?

Many of our former citizens would like to return home to the Town of James Island. We receive daily telephone calls and emails from residents who wish to become part of the Town again or believe that they are still in the Town. Unfortunately, there are many areas throughout the Island that were formerly in the Town and now are in unincorporated Charleston County. We miss you and want you back!

Mayor Woolsey, Town Council and staff are

working on ways for you to become part of our family again. The first step to take, if you want to rejoin the Town, is to visit our website and indicate that you are interested in annexation. Annexation forms also are available at Town Hall or we can mail a form to you upon request. When we receive a completed request form, the Mayor and Town Council can take legislative action when all legal requirements are met. This process may take several months, but you may be able to rejoin the Town!

In addition, we are working on possible changes in State law that would all us to hold an election in former Town areas that may be interested in annexation. This would be quicker and allow us to deal with larger areas. We hope that action will be taken in this legislative session.

So, why not make your decision today and contact us? We look forward to your return and active participation in Town of James Island affairs.

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*"We miss you and want you back!"*

*"make your decision today and contact us"*



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## James Island Pride

James Island Pride's mission is to make our island a beautiful, healthy place that all island residents can be proud of. On April 27, James Island Pride sponsored an island-wide clean up in connection with Keep America Beautiful's "Clean Cities Sweep." Braving the rain, volunteers from across the island collected a mountain of trash and recyclables from island roadsides. Some even took to their boats and fought the pluff mud to clean debris from our

marshes. Afterwards, Smoky Oak Restaurant provided a complete BBQ lunch for our workers. Everyone was tired and dirty but smiling. The next scheduled cleanup will be held on September 7. Plan to join us!

Working with Adopt-A-Highway, James Island Pride has adopted part of Harbor View and Dills Bluff Roads. Congratulations to Anna Fludd's Honey Hill Community Association on their adoption of Ocean

View Road. Our goal is to encourage all of our churches, community organizations, scout troops, families, or anyone to complete the road adoption process to make sure that, after a scheduled cleanup, the entire island will be litter free. There are plenty of roads to be adopted. Email [jipride@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:jipride@jamesislandsc.us) for information. Ask to be on our mailing list and look for us on Facebook. Let us know what beautification projects you think we should take on next.

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*"James Island Pride's Mission is to make our island a beautiful, healthy place that all island residents can be proud of"*



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## James Island Neighborhood Council

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*“deal with residential area concerns, activate the Crime Watch program and help with emergency preparedness issues”.*

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The James Island Neighborhood Council was established to deal with residential area concerns, activate the Crime Watch program, help with emergency preparedness issues, and provide activities and events. The Town Council Liaison is Troy Mullinax and the

Chairman is Alan Laughlin.

Deputy Shawn James, Charleston County Sheriff's Office, works with the group and serves as coordinator of our Island Sheriff's Patrol (ISP). He also insures that our law enforcement efforts are coordinated with the City

of Charleston's Police Department. Jim Palmer, Safety and Code Officer and Mark Johnson, Public Works Coordinator also serves as staff to the Council.

The Council would like to have representation from all Town neighborhoods. Contact us if your area is not represented.

## Sidewalks and Folly Road Overlay District



Another objective of the Mayor and Town Council is to improve our sidewalk system. A conceptual design plan is being developed by our consulting engineer which would provide a plan for the missing sidewalk links along Camp Road.

The plan will include Camp Road from Mellichamp Drive eastward to Fort Johnson Road. We hope that this would improve connectivity and provide pedestrian and bike friendly service for our citizens. Also the Town is working on an

intergovernmental project to develop consistent zoning standards that can be used as a development guide on Folly Road from Tatum Road towards Folly Beach. Our goal is to create a corridor that is well planned and attractive for James Islanders. Recommendations should be ready in a few months.

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## James Island Children's Commission

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*“Commission's first event was the very successful Memorial Day Festival that was held on Saturday, May 25, 2013.”*

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Mayor Woolsey and Town Council established the James Island Children's Commission to promote children's welfare, including recreation and education, and to provide community programs, activities and events. Sam Kernodle is the Council Liaison and Malinda Stephens serves as the Chairperson.

The Commission's first event was the very

successful Memorial Day Festival that was held on Saturday, May 25, 2013. Local children honored our past and present military by writing “thank you” letters for their service to our nation. The letters were on display and were delivered after the event as part of the “A Million Thanks” effort. The Boy Scouts and the Harbor View Chorus also participated in the event.

The festival also provided the New York Life Insurance's “Child ID Program” to James Island children. In addition, there were various activities, displays, vendors and food available. It was a fun day for the children and an opportunity for everyone to enjoy Memorial Day!

We envision a very active program for the Children's Commission for 2013-14. Join us as we work for our children!



## Town of James Island

### What you need to know about the Town

Our first Town was founded in 1992 and was followed by two more versions that were successfully contested by the City of Charleston. The fourth try, however, resulted in a Town that met all legal requirements and began operations in August, 2012. The "Free James Island" efforts resulted in the formation of a town that reflected our island's community values and its desire to be an independent public entity.

The Town of James Island is primarily a residential community with a population of 11,500

citizens. Our commercial areas are along Folly, Camp and Harborview Roads. The Town is bounded by the Charleston Harbor, Wappoo Cut, and the Stono and Folly Rivers. Our physical boundaries are interspersed with areas that lie within the City of Charleston and unincorporated Charleston County.

Town residential neighborhoods include: Battery Point, Bayfront, Centerville, Clarks Point, Clearview, Dellwood, Eastwood, Farmington, Fort Johnson Estates,

Harborwoods, Honeyhill, Lawton Bluff, Lighthouse Point, McCall's Corner, Oakcrest, Oceanview, Parrot Creek, Queensborough, Stiles Point, Stone Post, Tidal View, Whitehouse Plantation and Woodhaven.

One of our main objectives is for some of our former neighbors to rejoin the Town: Azalea Park, Grimball, Laurel Park, Oak Island, Quail Run, Riverland Terrace, and Woodland Shores. We miss you and hope that you will contact us regarding annexation.

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*"formation of a Town that reflects our island's community values and its desire to be an independent public entity"*

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### Contact Information

Location and Mailing Address: 1238-B Camp Road; P.O. Box 12240, James Island, SC 29412

Telephone and Fax: (843) 795-4141; (843) 795-4878

Web: [www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)

Mayor: Bill Woolsey, [mayorwoolsey@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:mayorwoolsey@jamesislandsc.us)

Town Council: Leonard Blank, Mary Beth Berry, Sam Kernodle and Darren "Troy" Mullinax

#### Staff Contacts

Hal Mason, Administrator, [administrator@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:administrator@jamesislandsc.us)

Frances Simmons, Town Clerk

(Clerk to Mayor and Town Council), [townclerk@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:townclerk@jamesislandsc.us)

Kristen Crane, Town Planner (Development and Zoning); [planner@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:planner@jamesislandsc.us)

Mark Johnson, Public Works Coordinator, (Streets and Drainage); [publicworks@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:publicworks@jamesislandsc.us)

Jim Palmer, Code & Safety Officer, (Code Enforcement and Emergency Planning); [safety@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:safety@jamesislandsc.us)

Berry Rudisill, Building Inspector, (Development and SC Building Code); [buildingservices@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:buildingservices@jamesislandsc.us)

Robin Flood, Administrative Assistant, (Business Licenses and Records); [assistant@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:assistant@jamesislandsc.us)

Magdalene Williams, Receptionist; [receptionist@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:receptionist@jamesislandsc.us)

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Contact Phone # is (843) 795-4141 or visit our web site at [www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)  
We also are on Facebook 



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Mayor  
Bill Woolsey

Members of Council  
Mary Beth Berry  
Leonard Blank  
Sam Kernodle  
Darren "Troy" Mullinax

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us) and  
Facebook



## Hurricane Guidelines

With the possibility of a tropical depression/storm or hurricane passing through our area this season, it is important to be prepared. Here are a few important tips:

1) Have on hand battery powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries. 2) Listen to local media for current storm information; 3) don't use candles or kerosene

lamps as a source for light, 4) secure outside furniture and items, 5) store drinking water, fill a bathtub, 6) secure all doors, windows and screens; 7) if power is lost, turn off all major appliances to reduce power surge when electricity is restored. 8) Review your local area evacuation plan, 9) fuel vehicles, and 10) know where shelters are located. Be Prepared!

**Be Prepared!**



## Town of James Island Meetings

Town Council meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Planning Commission meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm.

JI Neighborhood Council meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of

each month at 7:00 pm.

JI Children's Commission meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

Board of Zoning Appeals meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

James Island Pride meets when they have business to conduct.

Meetings are held at Town Hall, Council Meeting Chambers, 1238-B Camp Road unless the public is notified via our website.

## Our Promise to you...

Our promise to our citizens is to provide equal treatment, address public issues and challenges in a timely fashion and to work hard to provide cost efficient public services.

We also value growth and development; however, our emphasis will be on making sure that our community values are protected as much as possible.

We welcome public input and pledge to work with our citizens on common sense solutions. Please join us as we move toward a better future!

## TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

P.O. Box 12240  
James Island, SC  
29412

