



James Island, SC: 843-795-4141; Fax: 843 795-4878

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Our Promise to you

Mayor Woolsey's Corner

The Town has made great progress in our third year. We completed our first sidewalk project last summer and construction began on our first paving project on Ben Road. We anticipate construction starting on two more sidewalk projects and another road paving project this summer.

We continue to transition services from County to Town Hall. Routine residential zoning permits are now handled by Planning Director Kristen Crane. We are expanding

the building services available at Town Hall and plan to begin issuing licenses for brick and mortar and home businesses here by the end of the year.

The Town continues to improve Dock Street Park and also has a contract to purchase 7.5 acres for our new Pinckney Park. We expect to close by the fall.

Rep. McCoy has filed new annexation legislation. He believes it has a good chance to pass the House this year and should go to the SC Senate early next

year. We remain committed to reuniting the Town.

I have proposed a tax relief plan that will allow homeowners to see a 14% reduction in their property tax bill.

We have introduced a home repair program and are looking for a site for a new Town Hall.

Please find out more by reading our newsletter. Contact me via telephone, email or our website with your questions or concerns.

Bill Woolsey

Repair Care Program - Fixing homes on James Island

Town of James Island residents in need of home repairs are invited to apply for assistance from the new Repair Care Program. This program is a partnership between the Town and Sea Island Habitat for Humanity (SIHH).

Town Council recently voted to fund the program with \$30,000, which will fund repair projects with a cost in the range of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per home. The goal is to address critical needs such as roofs, ramps and

window replacements. Sea Island Habitat for Humanity will review requested projects and perform the repair work.

Repair Care beneficiaries and their families are expected to help to the extent possible when construction crews are on site and also make a modest monthly payment to share in the costs.

Homeowners whose incomes fall between 15% to 80% of the area median income may apply. Applications are available

on line at: <http://www.jamesislandsc.us> and at the Town of James Island, Town Hall, 1238-B Camp Road. There is no deadline to apply. Applications will be reviewed to ensure that residency and other requirements are met. The projects will be completed on a rolling basis.

Town citizens have been asking for help of this kind for a while. The Town has responded with this creative solution.

*Congratulations to the
Town of James Island's
ISP Officer of the Year,
Deputy Corey Shelton*



Island Sheriff's Patrol 2014 Officer of the Year

The Island Sheriff's Patrol (ISP), a partnership with the Sheriff's Office that's funded by the Town, provides our residents with additional law enforcement officers dedicated to making our Town a safer, more secure place to live and work. It is headed by Charleston County Sheriff's Deputy, Sgt. Shawn James who works closely with the Town's

Neighborhood Council to make sure that issues are promptly addressed.

Town Council recognizes deputies with Officer of the Quarter and Year awards for their outstanding service to Town residents.

Congratulations to Deputy Corey Shelton, ISP Officer of the Year for 2014. Deputy Shelton has worked with Charleston

County Sheriff's Office for seven years and has done a wonderful job with the Island Sheriffs' Patrol in the Town of James Island. The Town appreciates the hard work and dedication that Deputy Shelton provides for the safety of our citizens.

To reach the Island Sheriff's Patrol for non-emergencies, call consolidated dispatch at 743-7200.

Future site of Pinkney Park



Coming Soon, Pinkney Park!

As you may recall, the Town was seeking property to purchase for a Town Park with Greenbelt funds. In 2013, the Town sought public input which revealed that our citizens preferred a large park located in the Fort Johnson or Harbor View area. We also asked in our last newsletter to let us know your thoughts on our new park. Fortunately, the Town has been able to negotiate a pending sale of approximately 7 ½

acres off of Fort Johnson Rd. The Town is very excited, as this property offers stunning marsh views, majestic trees, and easy access for residents. The estimated closing time for this property transaction is late fall of 2015. Shortly thereafter, the Town will seek an engineering firm to help with a conceptual plan for the park. This process will include a great deal of public input

from start to finish. We want to know what you want in your next Town Park. Walking trails? A boardwalk? All ideas will be welcome and we look forward to giving the public access to this beautiful, natural setting.

The name "Pinkney Park" comes from the Pinkney family who have owned this land for generations.

James Island Youth Soccer Club



James Island Youth Sports Program in Full Swing

Beginning January 1, 2015, the Town joined forces with the City of Charleston's Recreation Department to help decrease the cost of youth sports for James Islanders. The Town now pays the City to help defray costs for our residents, saving \$25 per sport registration. We

believe this is a great opportunity to encourage fitness, and save our residents some money without wasteful duplication of services. 2015 Fall/Winter registration is currently underway. Visit www.charleston-sc.gov/recreation for more

information and to register online.

Also on the Island is the James Island Youth Soccer Club, which owns and operates its soccer club on Fort Johnson Rd. Visit <http://www.jiysc.com/> for more information on registration and upcoming events.

Building Better Infrastructure

The Town has made great progress in its mission to improve sidewalks and roads in the Town. Last year, the Town completed a sidewalk on Foxcroft Road and also an erosion control project along Sweetgrass Creek.

Construction should begin soon on sidewalks along Jerome and Stiles Drive from Fort Johnson to Mikell. We also anticipate construction beginning for Phase I of the Camp Road sidewalk from Fort Johnson to Dills Bluff, which will then continue down Dills Bluff back to Fort Johnson.

Engineering for Phase II of our Camp Road sidewalk project (the stretch between Dills Bluff and Secessionville) is now

complete and we are seeking a CTC match for construction.

We will be funding design work for sidewalks along Quail Drive and Lighthouse Point Drive this year. We also will be funding a conceptual plan for a sidewalk along Dills Bluff Road connecting to the sidewalk slated for Harborview Rd.

The Town is leading a joint effort with City of Charleston, Charleston County, Bishop Gadsden, and CCPRC to develop a conceptual plan for a sidewalk along Camp Road between Folly Road and Riverland Drive.

The Town has provided matches for two previous paving projects managed by Charleston County.

The Ben Road project is currently under construction with the paving of Jeffrey and Lemontree to follow. Completion of both is expected before the end of the summer.

Charleston County's Harbor View Road project is well underway with completion scheduled for early 2016. That project will include bike paths and sidewalks from Fort Johnson to North Shore Drive.

Intersection Improvements at Camp and Folly Rd. have been delayed and the County is working towards rebidding that project. For more info on these two projects, visit <http://roads.charlestoncounty.org/projects>.

ReThink Folly Road

Rethink Folly Road: a Complete Streets study is being undertaken by the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments (BCDCOG) in association with the City of Charleston, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the Charleston Area Regional Transit Authority (CARTA), the Town of James Island, the City of Folly Beach, and Charleston County. The purpose of this study is to explore the potential to remake Folly Road a more sustainable, multimodal corridor, which could

become a precedent for the Charleston region.

From May 7-13, a design charrette was held, and a team of planning, urban design, transportation, economics, and green infrastructure experts worked with the community to develop a plan for the future of the Folly Road corridor, from Center Street on Folly Beach to the Wappoo Cut Bridge.

The Steering Committee has been charged with reviewing the input received from the public charrette and helping to

integrate that into a comprehensive plan. Planning Director Kristen Crane, Mayor Pro-Tem Leonard Blank and Planning Commission Chairman David Bevon represent the Town on the Steering Committee.

There will be more opportunities for public input and workshops. The best way to stay up-to-date is to visit <http://follyroad.mindmixer.com> where you can become a part of the interactive discussion.

Groundbreaking for Ben Road



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Foxcroft Sidewalk



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Sherwin-Williams



Yard of the Month Program



A Word about Code Enforcement

It's finally summer, and with that comes the growing season. One of the biggest complaints the Town Code Enforcement Officer receives is about livability code violations. We encourage everyone to help keep James Island looking its best and mow your yard and keep your property mowed, free of

debris and derelict vehicles. Not only are you helping to beautify your property, you're helping to benefit your entire neighborhood.

One way the Town's Neighborhood Council has approached this is with awarding Yard of the Month recognitions. Thanks to James Island

Signs for the great work on the signs. Come join a Neighborhood Council meeting and share your concerns and ideas with our Code Enforcement Officer, neighborhood representatives, and a representative from the Island Sheriff's Patrol.

To contact Code Enforcement, email James Hackett at jhackett@jamesislandsc.us

James Island Pride

James Island Pride is the Environment and Beautification Committee for the Town of James Island. JI Pride hosts island community cleanup days and litter pickups periodically on Saturday mornings, with volunteers meeting at Town Hall. We participate in four Adopt-A-Highway/Palmetto Pride community cleanups annually. We work in collaboration with JICHS student groups, the Exchange Club, Boy Scout troops, etc. to keep James Island litter-free.

In 2014-2015, we hosted our first SC Arbor Day celebration at Fort Johnson Middle where we planted five trees. We continued participation at the Charleston Green Fair at James Island County Park, where we enjoyed painting turtles with children using recyclable materials. Our Second Annual Arts Auction was a great success in February 2015, with proceeds benefitting island art teachers and artists. JI Pride hosted a Blood Drive with the American

Red Cross at Camp Center. In May of this year, we hosted our first hazardous waste collection day as a joint effort with the County. We are fortunate to have the support of local restaurants including Smoky Oak, Melvin's, and Paisano's. In 2014, JI Pride recognized Community Heroes Eric Stewart, Mary Beth Berry, Kristi Reagor, and in memoriam Rev. Joseph Barbour and Katrina Schulhof. Please visit the JI Pride and JI Arts Facebook pages for more info.

Keep James Island Litter Free!



2015 Art Auction



Reuniting Our Town – Annexation Update

We remain committed to providing an opportunity for all of our former citizens to again be part of the Town of James Island.

Rep. Peter McCoy filed annexation legislation to modify the legal definition of contiguity. House Bill 4203 applies when a municipality is entirely included in a special purpose district with an elected governing body. The bill makes property

that would be contiguous but for a break in the contiguity of the special purpose district legally contiguous with the municipality.

The Town is entirely included in the JIPSD which has elected Commissioners. When signed into law, this bill will allow us to reach parts of James Island separated from the Town by areas annexed to the City of

Charleston. We will be able to annex individual properties at the request of the owners or organize petition drives and hold annexation elections as we did last year.

Rep McCoy believes the bill has a good chance to pass the SC House this year so that the SC Senate can consider it early next year.

Our Town will be reunited!

Town of James Island

Tax Relief Plan

I remain deeply committed to providing property tax relief to the people of the Town.

This is more important than ever with the JIPSD planning to increase their millage from 51.1 to 53.1 mills next year, an approximate 4% increase. They intend to increase their taxes an additional 4% in the next 5 years.

I have a plan to instead allow the JIPSD to cut their millage to 35.4 mills, an approximate 31% tax cut.

How does the plan work?

The plan is to ask the JIPSD to transfer the service rights to solid waste collection to the Town and continue to

provide garbage and trash pickup to Town residents by contract. The Town would agree to pay the JIPSD nearly \$1 million per year to provide solid waste collection.

The Town would need to introduce a property tax of 17.7 mills, but since the Town must provide a Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) property tax credit against its own millage, no one would pay any property tax to the Town.

What would this mean for the average taxpayer in the Town?

The JIPSD would continue to provide excellent garbage and trash pickup as determined by the JIPSD Commissioners.

On your County tax bill, the line for the operating millage for the JIPSD

would be reduced from 51.1 to 35.4. The amount billed by the JIPSD for a \$200,000 home would go down from \$409 to \$283. There would be a new Town LOST tax credit of \$142 shown on the tax bill. There would be a new line for the Town's 17.7 operating millage, but the amount billed on that line would be \$0.

Compared to last year, the total property taxes on the County tax bill would be 14% lower for a home, 7% lower for a car, and 6% lower for a boat.

The plan would not impact the JIPSD fire or sewer services, taxes of fees.

Find out more about how to reduce your taxes on the Town's website.

Mayor Bill Woolsey

The Town of James Island at the 2015 Taste of James Island – Winner of best decorated table



2014 Arbor Day



Tree Stewards Needed!

Some of the Live Oak trees have been replaced along Ft Johnson Road and need your help to survive. If you have a new tree planted near your house you can help by watering it. If you can reach the tree with a garden hose, run it for about a minute twice a week, or you can tote 2 gallons jugs of water to the tree 3 days a week. Already the leaves on some of the trees have turned brown but the trees are not dead. Trees will drop leaves when they are under stress. They will leaf out again if they get enough water. Thank you for your help in restoring the tree canopy over our new sidewalks!

Contacts

Location: 1238-B Camp Road, James Island, SC 29412

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12240, James Island, SC 29422

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Town Council: Leonard Blank (Mayor Pro Tem), Garrett Milliken, Darren "Troy" Mullinax, Joshua Stokes

Staff Contacts

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Contact Phone # is (843) 795-4141 or visit our web site at www.jamesislandsc.us

We also are on Facebook  and Twitter 



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Mayor
Bill Woolsey

Mayor Pro Tem
Leonard Blank

Members of Council
Garrett Milliken
Darren "Troy" Mullinax
Joshua Stokes

Visit us at
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on Facebook and Twitter

A New Town, A New Look

Last Summer, you voted for your favorite sign and we listened! A big thanks to Signature Signs for the beautiful new welcome signs to James Island and also to Outside the Box Signs and Designs for our new Town Hall sign. Also, check out our

revamped website with a fresh new look at www.jamesislandsc.us. There, you can view maps, submit work order requests, stay up-to-date on the latest Town news and events, and search the Town's Code of Ordinances online.



Check our website for those upcoming regularly scheduled dates.

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

Town of James Island Meetings

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

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

Board of Zoning Appeals meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm

Neighborhood Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Children's Commission meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 pm.

James Island Pride meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm.

We've formed two new Committees – the History Committee and Business Development Committee.

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.

Our emphasis is on making sure that our community values are protected as much as possible. We strive to protect our citizens, our way of life, and our future.

We welcome public input and do our best to keep you informed. Email Robin Flood at rflood@jamesislandsc.us to sign up for our Town News email list.

TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

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