WADMALAW

Newsletter - Issue 1 May 2016

WADMALAW ISLAND LAND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Communications

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Education

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Johns Island Liaison

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WADMALAW ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

Bertha Smalls-Middleton
Director

Welcome to the first issue of Wadmalaw!

WHY WADMALAW?

Just across the bridge from Johns Island, which is experiencing rapid development and growth, Wadmalaw maintains a rural residential and agricultural character. It is quiet, uncrowded, and peaceful. It is beautiful. But however idyllic it may appear, Wadmalaw residents are impacted by everyday problems like road maintenance, poor drainage, traffic congestion and litter.

Many residents are not aware of the county and state services that are available to help them contend with these issues. Although they are often raised at public meetings of the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee, not everyone can attend. This is where we believe *Wadmalaw* will perform a service to the community.

The objectives of this newsletter are those of the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee (WILPC), which are "to preserve and maintain the unique and cherished character of Wadmalaw Island" and "to endeavor to represent the varied interests on the island while protecting its diverse cultures and natural beauty for future generations."

Wadmalaw is being produced and distributed at no cost to the WILPC. It is not an "official" publication. The editors have donated their time and writing skills, such as they are. The cost of production for the first year – printing and mailing – was underwritten through donations. The Community Center has kindly offered to serve as the newsletter's address of record and we will seek to support the WICC as well as the WILPC with this publication.

We welcome your opinions, feedback or suggestions to help make *Wadmalaw* a better and more useful publication (and island) for all residents. Please email your thoughts to wadmalawnews@gmail.com or write to The Editors, Wadmalaw News, c/o Wadmalaw Island Community Center, P.O. Box 46, 5605 Katy Hill Road, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487.

WILPC
MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve and maintain the unique and cherished character of Wadmalaw Island by encouraging only the most appropriate and sustainable land use and development and opposing unplanned and inappropriate use and development.

To endeavor to represent the varied interests on the Island, while protecting its diverse cultures and natural beauty for future generations.

GET INVOLVED TO KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL!

Thanks to all Wadmalaw residents who participated in the litter clean-up this past Saturday, May 7th sponsored by the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee and the Coastal Conservation League. The next clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th. Everyone is encouraged to work together to keep our island roads clean and litter-free.

A task force is being organized to develop a comprehensive program to reduce litter on Wadmalaw. Additional members are needed. If you would like to be involved, please email Michele Sinkler at michellesinkler@comcast.net or Robert Siedell at rasiedell@gmail.com. Time commitment will be minimal.

WADMALAW ISLAND CHURCHES

Grace Chapel
Chapel of Ease of
St. John's Church
Rockville Township
Services in June, July and August at 9:00 AM

Little Rock Baptist Church
6522 Maybank Highway
Rev. James Peterson, Pastor
Services at 11:30 AM
Bible study and prayer on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

New Bethlehem Baptist Church
1945 Liberia Road
Rev. William Jackson,
Interim Pastor
Services at 11:00 AM

New Jerusalem AME Church
6179 Bears Bluff Road
Rev. Joseph Swinton, Jr., Pastor

New St. James Bethel AME Church
5305 Maybank Highway
Rev. William R. Jones, Pastor
Services at 10:00 AM

New Webster United Methodist Church
4755 Bears Bluff Road
Rev. Leonard Huggins, Pastor
Rev. Tony Richardson, Sr.,
Associate Pastor
Services at 10:15

Rockville Presbyterian Church
2489 Sea Island Yacht Club Road
Rev. Mark Hunt, Pastor
Services at 10:00 AM

Salem Baptist Church
5768 Bears Bluff Road
Rev. Martha Florence Brown,
Pastor
Services at 11:00 AM

Salem Presbyterian Church
5591 Maybank Highway
Rev. Robert L. Capers, Pastor
Services at 11:00 AM on 2nd and 4th Sundays, 9:30 AM on 1st and 3rd.

CHURCH NEWS

Revival at Salem Baptist Church Bishop Benjamin F. Peterson, Jr., Vice-Presiding Bishop of Bible Way World-Wide in Philadelphia, will hold a Unity Revival at Salem Baptist Church on Thursday and Friday, June 23rd & 24th, at 7:00 PM.

Grace Chapel will reopen for summer services beginning Sunday, June 5th until August 28th.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

To have the county spray for mosquitoes in your area, call the Public Works Department: (843) 202-7880 to make a request.
The schedule is posted online and updated daily.
http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/public-works/mosquito-about.php
Spraying is done between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

HEIRS PROPERTY SEMINAR HELD

The Wadmalaw Community Center held a program on "Resolving Issues Regarding Heirs Property" on March 14th. It was conducted by Josh Walden, the Supervising Attorney for the Center for Heirs Property in Charleston. The non-profit center's mission is to provide education and legal assistance to heirs' property owners to help them clear title and hold on to their land. The center has full time attorneys on staff and provides services free of charge. Approximately 25 island residents attended and were given information on how to obtain assistance in resolving problems involving heirs' property. Residents who would like to attend a similar session in the future are encouraged to contact Bertha Smalls-Middleton at the Community Center. If there is sufficient interest, efforts will be made to organize another session later in the year. More information may be found on the Heirs Property Center website: www.heirsproperty.org

JOIN US AT WILPC MEETINGS

The Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee (WILPC) meets at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of every month except August at the Wadmalaw Island Community Center on Katy Hill Road. All are welcome.

WILL DRAFTING SERVICE PROGRAM SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY CENTER

Having a current will is important for all citizens, and can ensure that your property and assets are handled per your wishes upon your death. When a person dies without a will, then their property is dividing according to a standard procedure specified by the State of South Carolina without consideration for what may have been the deceased preferences. To assist people without a current will, several attorneys and legal assistants from the Heirs Property Center spent all day Saturday, March 19th assisting dozens of Wadmalaw residents in preparing wills. Having a will in place prevents issues and disputes among family members when a family member passes. It is also one of the key recommendations to prevent future heirs' property issues. This all day session was organized by the Community Center and residents interested in participating in such a session in the future should contact Bertha Smalls-Middleton at the Community Center to indicate their interest.

Wadmalaw ONLINE

Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee website: www.wilpc.org
Community Center Facebook: Wadmalaw Island Community Center
WILPC Email address: comments@wilpc.org
Wadmalaw News: wadmalawnews@gmail.com

WADMALAW TREASURE: EDITH FRIERSON ELEMENTARY

Wadmalaw has a treasure that many do not know about and pass by it every day. They see an older building, which is rather small in comparison to the schools on other islands nearby. But bigger is not always the best way to go. Edith Frierson Elementary School is alive and thriving, setting lofty goals for its students and watching them succeed and soar above their expectations. If you are one of those parents or grandparents who sends their elementary age child to school many miles away, you may want to stop and see what you're missing.

Does your child's school:

1) Have an iPad for EVERY student?

2) Employ a full-time technology teacher? (No, because the school has the only full-time one in Charleston County at this level.)

3) Teach computer coding to every student?

4) Have a Science Lab?

5) Have a greenhouse?

6) Have vegetable, fruit and flower gardens, and plans to have a farmers' market to sell they what they grow?

7) Teach yoga?

8) Have a Head Start program as well as a child development center?

9) Have a Personalized Learning Coach?

10) Have Reading Partners with community volunteers?

11) Have after school clubs in Sewing, Trebuchet, Lego Robotics, and Tennis?

Academically, fifth grade students have met or exceeded academic standards in writing for two consecutive years. Third grade students have mastered writing standards and are at or above national norms. 74% of the students in the Primary Grades Academy were on or above grade level.

Edith Frierson Elementary School is indeed a treasure with dedicated teachers and staff, inspirational programs and excited learners. The office is open Monday through Thursday during the summer. Go see the principal, Kimberly Davis, and enroll your students now!

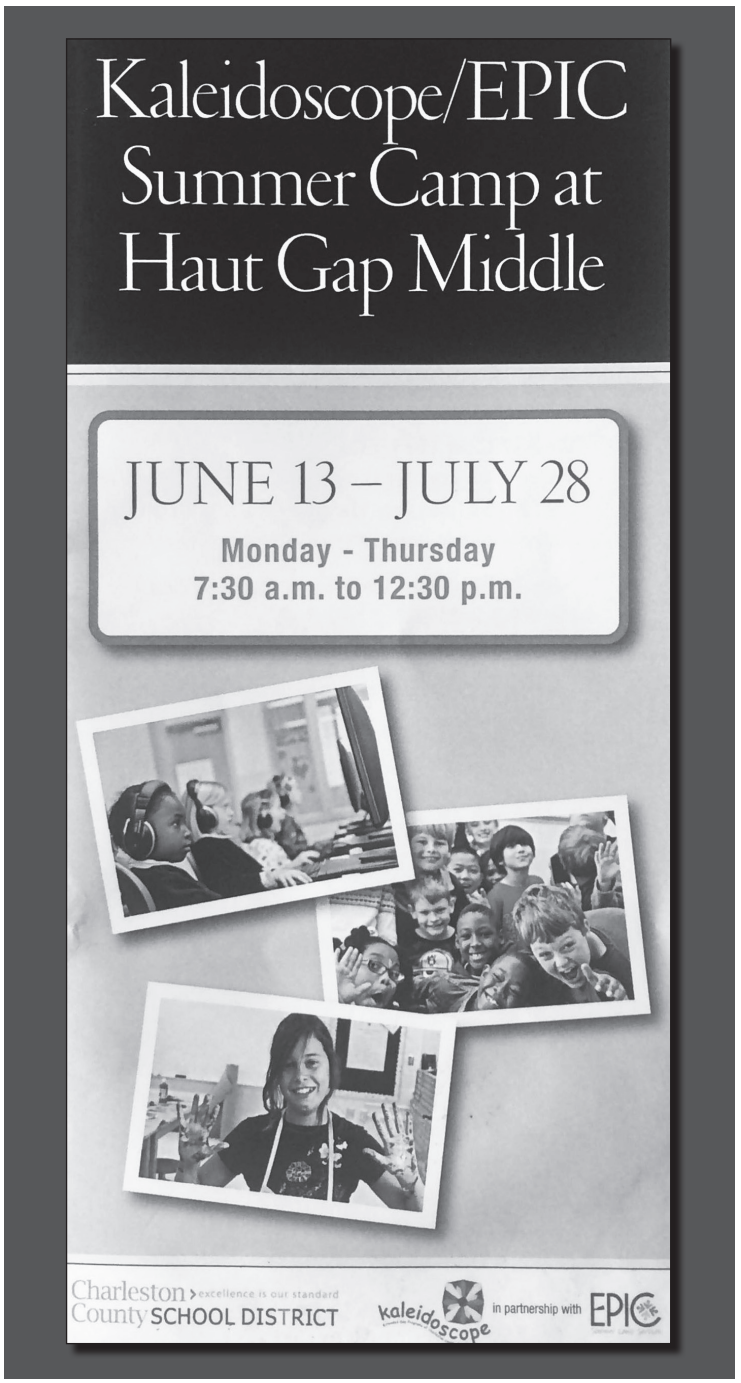
SUMMER CAMP – HAUT GAP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Beginning the week of June 13th and continuing for seven weeks until July 28th, the Charleston County School District is sponsoring a Kaleidoscope/EPIC Summer Camp to be held at Haut Gap Middle School from 7:30 AM until 12:30 PM, Monday-Thursday for children 5-12 years old. A child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2016 to participate. There is a one-time fee of $25 per child for the program. Spaces are limited, and applications are being accepted now for the program.

Applications are available on-line at: http://www.ccsdschools.com/0107/Summer/documents/hautgapsummercampregistration.pdf

For more information, please contact Steve Kugelman at 843-402-7887.

The Charleston County Parks and Recreation Department is also running an afternoon program for children in the afternoons during the summer Information on this program can be obtained by calling 843-795-4386.



WATER ON WADMALAW

There has been discussion of late about water on Wadmalaw, all of which is drawn from private wells. Some residents would like to see city water come to the island. Others are concerned that such a step would change our rural environment by bringing commercial development. These discussions are ongoing. However, what everyone agrees is that all residents should have access to clean, safe water in their home. For residents who have an immediate or urgent concern about the safety or quality of their water, there are several opportunities for assistance with their wells.

First - Test Your Water

A sample test kit may be obtained at the Department of Health, "The Point" office, located at 3574 Maybank Highway (across from Bi-Lo), Tuesdays and Thursday between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

One free bacteriological test per well is currently being offered to Wadmalaw residents. Additional tests will be $20.

Test samples must be returned to The Point office the same day the sample is collected. Results will be sent to residents by mail.

If test results indicate that your water is unsafe, the next step is to sanitize your well and house plumbing. Instructions for doing this can be found on the DHEC website at: https://www.scdhec.gov/library/CR-003247.pdf or by contacting DHEC Lowcountry EQC Charleston, 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 300, Charleston, SC 29405, telephone 843-953-0150. After your well has been sanitized, your water will need to be re-tested by DHEC. There is no charge for this retest. If the second test determines that the water is still unsafe, DHEC will contact the resident to schedule an inspection, attempt to identify sources, and collect another sample. You may need to repair your existing well, drill a new well and/or a change in your home's plumbing system.
For more information, please visit online at: http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/WaterQuality/ResidentialWells/WellWaterTesting/

Well Assistance Programs

However, you may still want to improve the clarity of your water or its taste. There are a range of grants and loans available for residents to address such issues. Conditions and guidelines for eligibility are different depending on the program. For all programs there are maximum income restrictions. Applications for each type will be made available at the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM (except August) at the Community Center on Katy Hill Road. Assistance in completing applications can be arranged.

Grants

The ***Charleston County Community Development Department*** utilizes HUD funding to assist residents with well and septic tank work. After an application is approved, the department will do an assessment of your situation and ensure that the well replacement or upgrade/repair meets their standards. There is no cost for this program. Applications for these grants are available from the Charleston County Community Development Office by calling 843-202-6976 or online at:
http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/community-development/grants.php

The ***U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*** provides grants of up to $7,500 with no repayment required if you meet the application requirements, which includes an age requirement of 62+.
Applications are available by calling: 843-549-1822, or online at: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants/sc

The ***Sea Islands Water Wellness Mission*** is a new organization sponsored by the Sea Islands Hunger Awareness Foundation and is focused on providing safe and clean water to families on the Sea Islands who have a critical need to have a well repaired or replaced. ***Application can obtained by contacting Leroy Robinson at a WILPC meeting.***

Loans

The ***Southeastern Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP)*** provides information for individual households on well maintenance and repair. It also offers a Well Loan Program, lending up to $11,000 at 1% interest for 5 to 20 years. Monthly payments are typically $20 to $40. There is no age limit or waiting list for this program.
Applications are available by calling 540-345-1184 ext. 137 or online at: http://sercap.org/documents/IndividualHouseholdProgramApplication-Final_000.pdf

The ***U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*** provides loans up to $20,000 at 1% interest for up to 20 years. In order to qualify, the home must be owner-occupied, there must be an existing well and the property owner must meet federal income guidelines.
Applications are available by calling 843-549-1822 or online at: http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants/sc

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Wadmalaw Island Community Center supports a Food Ministry providing 35+ senior citizens with a hot meal Monday through Friday. Meals are prepared by local residents but volunteer drivers are needed to assist with delivery. If you can help, please contact Bertha Middleton at the Community Center at 843-789-4885.

In addition, volunteers are needed who can give a couple of hours to assist with the grounds maintenance at the Community Center. If you would like to help, please call Bob Cox at 843-696-2385.

ONGOING COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES
All are welcome to attend Bible Study, held Wednesdays at 10:00 -11:00 AM.

WADMALAW PRODUCE

Who's Your Farmer?

If you didn't get your garden in, or want to make a batch of your grandmother's blueberry jam, you don't have far to go to find fresh local fruit and vegetables. Ambrose Farms is located off of Liberia Road and is open from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday-Saturday. Blackberries and blueberries are available for picking usually by mid-June. Vegetables start coming in earlier. They grow tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers, squash, zucchini, peppers, onions-you name it! Call the farm stand to see what is in season (843) 559-0988.

Wadmalaw BBQ Sauce

Dwight and Kay Kennerly of 2039 Bentz Road make Wadmalaw Island BBQ sauce. The mustard-based creation, which started as a hobby for the retired couple in 2005 before blossoming into a business, is featured in the June issue of *Southern Living*'s 2012 'Cue Awards. It's the only representative from South Carolina.
Visit www.wadmalawislandbbq.com or call 843-442-7085.

Pick Your Own

Adair McKoy cultivates about 200 acres of vegetables and animal feed grains, including a healthy annual harvest of grape tomatoes. In the spring, visitors come out for the u-pick strawberry fields, sometimes getting to harvest cantaloupes, tomatoes, watermelons, and sweet corn as well. McKoy is a significant supplier of corn to the chicken farms in the Upstate, successfully combining a utility cash crop with the local flavor of a strawberry u-pick. **Call 843-559-1285.**

Fresh Off the Boat

Head towards the boat landing to buy locally harvested shrimp. Wadmalaw has two local seafood companies to serve you: East Coast Seafood and Cherry Point Seafood. East Coast is on the right before the landing and Cherry Point is at the end of the road past the landing. See what people "from off" are raving about and why they keep coming every summer to Wadmalaw for the sweetest shrimp around. Shrimping season usually starts by the end of May and is regulated by the State Department of Natural Resources. Call to know when the boats will be in.

East Coast Seafood: Jimmy Green.
Open Monday-Saturday, 9:00-5:00. (843)329-9190

Cherry Point Seafood: Daniel LaRoche.
Open Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00. (843) 559-0858

REPORTING ROAD ISSUES

Since everyone travels Wadmalaw roads, ensuring that they are in good condition is in everyone's interest. Residents are encouraged to report any issues affecting road conditions to the appropriate office as soon as noticed. When you call the office, be sure and get the Work Order Number that will be assigned to your reported issue.

Then, if you need to follow-up, you need to reference that in your f/u call. Should you not see action on your reported road problem after a reasonable time, please bring the issue to the attention of Mike Regan at the next Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee meeting. He will investigate the matter with the appropriate state/county office. He will need the Work Order Number to take this action.

Common Issues to Report: Roadway Repair, Drainage Pipe Repair, Litter/Debris, Mowing/Vegetation Grass or Limbs Obstructing Views, Sign Repair/Replace, Tree Removal – In Danger of Falling or across roadway.

There are two types of roads on Wadmalaw and you should report the road issue to the appropriate office.

State roads are: Maybank Highway, Bears Bluff, Liberia, Harts Bluff, Yellow House, Boy Scout and Brigger Hill. Issues should be reported to:

Charleston County SCDOT Office
Phone: (843) 740-1655
http://dbw.scdot.org/workrequest/default.aspx

All other roads on Wadmalaw are County maintained roads. Issues should be reported to:

Charleston County Public Works
Phone: (843) 202-7600
http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/public-works/work-order-request.php

REAL ESTATE

WADMALAW REAL ESTATE SALES (February – April)

VACANT LAND	ACRES	DATE SOLD	PRICE
0 Mikell Hill Rd.	1.03 Acres	4/19/2016	$27,500
5972 Joseph Blake Ln.	4.75 Acres	4/16/2016	$150,000
0 Tacky Point Ext. Rd.	5.94 Acres	2/29/2016	$420,000
4841 Bears Bluff Rd.	37.7 Acres	2/26/2016	$299,000
RESIDENCES			
6217 Bears Bluff Road		2/26/2016	$89,000
2324 Midge Road		3/3/2016	$614,000
6229 Willcap Road		3/15/2016	$591,500
2208 Leadenwah Drive		4/15/2016	$325,000
4651 Lazy Creek Lane		2/5/2016	$720,000

WADMALAW NEWS
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