



NEWSLETTER

BALLENTINE DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 270, BALLENTINE, SC 29002

PHONE 304-5100

WEBSITE: www.ballentinedutchfork.com

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 2008

Hello everyone,

- Big meeting Monday December 1st at 6:30 pm at Ballentine Park.
- Subject... How the new 100' Buffer Zone may affect YOU.
- Richland County plans to vote on the new ordinance Dec 2nd.
- Our County Councilman Bill Malinowski will present the "current facts" on the matter. I would call this a must attend meeting for all area residents.

Many of us received a mailer recently warning us about a new proposed ordinance that would amount to a land grab in the name of water quality protection. How much of this is true? What effect will this have on land values, future development, taxes, or land rights? Does this have any effect on existing lake homes? Are we finally getting closer to saving our precious water resources? The questions are almost endless. We all need to get the facts as soon as possible. County Council is having a Third reading of this proposed ordinance next week on Dec 2nd.

Below is an email I received from Bill Malinowski on Mon 11/24/08 that indicates this legislation has huge holes in it.

Les,

I will be glad to attend the BDF civic meeting on December 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Per our conversation about the proposed storm water buffers, I personally feel there are many loose ends that need resolving prior to passing such an ordinance. The way I understand it is that Richland County has time left to work on this matter. The ordinance is focused on creating a policy that will address FUTURE development. There are also exemptions, people who will not be affected by the ordinance, such as farmers, forestry and cattle land to name a few.

I have received a great deal of citizen input regarding the proposed storm water buffer requirements, both pro and con. I am reviewing all the information and have been in regular communication with Richland County staff in an effort to create an ordinance that will serve the intended purpose of environmental protection of our waters yet not injure property owners by its creation.

Bill Malinowski

If you have land anywhere close to water, if you are interested in water quality or both...you should definitely pay attention to the progress of this ordinance.

Richland County really needs to get this right. The final specifics of this ordinance can have wide ranging implications for protecting water quality, land rights, land values, and possibly property taxes to mention a few. I suggest you pay attention, **COME TO THE MEETING** and stay informed. Let's all come together to ask questions and provide Bill the information he needs to go to Council with our interests in mind.

Important !! Civic Members will be voting December 1st

We must elect a new President and Vice President as well as Board members for the Civic Association. As you all know, Les Tweed and Mike Sloan have swapped being either President or Vice President for many years. The Civic Association has a two-year term limit for President and Vice-President. Both of our terms expire at the end of the year. Are YOU interested? Time is running out. If so, please call me at home at 781-2995 or email me at tweedjl@sc.rr.com. I will be very happy to provide an overview of the office of the President of the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association.

Our search for new leaders has led us to two candidates so far.
Ken Tallman is interested in the position of President and Phil Kuzlik is interested in the VP job.

30th Annual Christmas Party – Saturday December 6th, 2008 - 11:30 am

Can you believe that a Community Christmas party has been happening for 30 years? What a track record for the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association. It will again take place at the Ballentine Community Center. We hope you will be there.

Well folks... it seems this is my final newsletter. As the outgoing President I want to thank all of you that have taken the time to read my letters and thank all of you that have supported me so well over the years.

Most of all I want to thank all the people that have stayed involved and worked for the Civic Association for the betterment of our fantastic community.

Involved people make the difference when it comes to protecting our quality of life...we can never afford to stop working for ourselves!

Les Tweed
President



NEWSLETTER



BALLENTINE DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 270, BALLENTINE, SC 29002

PHONE 304-5100

WEBSITE: www.ballentinedutchfork.com

February 2009

Hello everyone,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and that the New Year has been kind to you and your family. In these times of economic upheaval and uncertainty, the value of friends, family, and community becomes ever more important.

Our first regular meeting of the BDFCA General Membership for this year will be at at 6:30 pm on Monday February 2 at the Ballentine Park Community Center. The Executive Board will meet at 6 pm.

With recent local political issues such as incorporation or school bonds fading away, we on the Executive Board want to refocus the direction of the Civic Association Meetings towards a more social and philanthropic aspect (as opposed to “strictly business”). Please don't get me wrong, we still intend to monitor the issues that affect our Community. We will address those issues as they arise. As always we seek your help in keeping us abreast of any new developments along those lines.

As one way to refocus our direction, we intend to offer a variety of guest speakers and presentations at our meetings this year. I welcome and encourage your ideas and suggestion on topics that would be of interest. We want to make these “your” meetings.

This month's meeting will feature a short presentation on “Project Life Saver” by Cpl. Amanda Lee of the Richland County Sheriff's Department. This program was started to safeguard the “at-risk wanderers” in our Community who might wander away from their homes. It helps give peace of mind to those who love and care for these people.

We also want to redirect our focus in how we can directly help our Community. Earlier this month the Board authorized a small donation to Sister Care, a program of services for battered women and their children in our area. Unfortunately, domestic violence is on the increase.

To wrap it up for this month, I hope to see you at our Meeting this Monday. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, ideas, or concerns.

Sincerely, Ken Tallman, President



NEWSLETTER



Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

P. O. Box 270

Ballentine, SC 29002

(803) 304-5100

www.ballentinedutchfork.com

Hello everyone,

The BDFCA meeting for March will be a meeting of the Executive Board at the Ballentine Community Center on Monday March 2 at 6 pm (in accordance with our current bylaws). There will not be a General Membership meeting this month. Please note that the Board meetings are OPEN to all and we encourage you to attend!

I want to thank those who offered suggestions for program presentations for our future meetings. We are moving ahead on trying to schedule programs that will be of interest to our General Membership.

Following up on February's presentation of Project Life Saver to safeguard the "at-risk wanderers" in our Community who might wander away from their homes, I want to reiterate that this service is free to Richland County Residents. I ask that you join us in notifying our local churches and organizations in order to locate people who may be able to benefit from this service. For more information, please contact me.

Our State Representative Nathan Ballentine, has announced that he is implementing a "Keep Our Community Clean" program. He is asking that interested volunteers contact him. As more details become available, I will pass them along. You can keep up with all of Representative Ballentine's efforts on our behalf at his website at nathansnews.com or call his office at 734-2969.

I have been asked by several of our members about the possibility of scheduling the Richland County Sheriff's Department Women's Self-Defense course for our members. Cheryl Walter has offered to help coordinate this program. If you are interested, please contact her at lakemurraygirl@earthlink.net or leave a message at the BDFCA message line at 304-5100.

Our local CAT team officer, Corporal Amanda Jordan, is hosting a crime prevention class at the Ballentine Recreational Center at 6:30 on Thursday March 19 to highlight prevention tips for auto break ins and "spring time" crimes. Many of our Ballentine and Dutch Fork communities have experienced a recent increase in these crimes. I encourage everyone to mark your calendars to attend this great class and to have a fun time with your community!

Finally, I will close by thanking those who serve our community and by encouraging each of you to find a way in which you can help.

Thank you,
Ken Tallman
President, BDFCA

April 30, 2009

Dear Community-

The next meeting of the Ballentine – Dutch Fork Civic Association will be the Board meeting which begins at 6:00 pm on Monday May 4 at the Community Center in Ballentine Park. Although this is a Board Meeting, it is open to the public and I encourage you to attend.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is continuing the relicensing process for SCE&G's Saluda River Project (Lake Murray). **One very key aspect that remains is the Water Level Management.** This directly affects the recreational use of the Lake, including the fish & wildlife habitat. It will also directly affect property values and the rights of property owners.

The Lake Murray Association and the Lake Murray Homeowners Coalition have been spreading the word about their stance for the acceptance of SCE&G's proposed one-foot drop of water to trigger slowing the release of water during times of low inflow (such as drought). I heartily agree and urge you to take the time to send a letter or email in support. For more information, please visit our website at www.ballentinedutchfork.com or the Lake Murray Homeowners Coalition website at www.lakemurrayhomeowners.com **Our website will post the information from the Lake Murray Association and the Homeowners Coalition website contains lots of background information. For more information about the environmental impact, call Steve Bell of Lake Watch at 803-730-8121.** For those without Internet access, please leave a message on the BDFCA message machine (304-5100) and we will get you the information.

Please spread the word. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any further clarification on this important matter. The time lines are drawing near for the actual decision-making on the water level management policy. **Remember, the policy will have longterm economic, environmental, and recreational effects on our community.**

The next class of the **Richland County Sheriff's Department Citizens Academy** will start on May 26. For more information, please visit www.rcsd.net/prog/citizenacademy.htm

Kem and Janis Dempsey would like to thank all those who have sent prayers and offered support after the recent loss of their daughter, Holly Grace.

Suggestions, comments, and input for our website are always welcome.

Let's enjoy the Spring/Summer!

Thank you,
Ken Tallman
BDFCA President

MARINA BAY APARTMENTS UPDATE

OCTOBER 4, 2010

Since the last meeting of the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association, concerted efforts have been made to learn even more about the proposed Marina Bay Apartments at the current site of Lake Murray Marina. While many questions have been answered, many have not. In addition, some of the answers we have received lead only to more questions. I thank our County Councilman Bill Malinowski, who has been quite responsive to our Members' questions. There are also several members who have been instrumental in pursuing various avenues as well. Many of the currently unanswered questions revolve around the financing aspects of the Apartment project.

Mr. Malinowski was able to find out that essentially the Apartment project (for the most part) does meet and/or exceed current County Planning Department minimum standards. He has pushed to find out more and more, particularly as new questions are posed. Along with research by Association Members, some of the concerns are as follows:

Parking- The proposed plan does meet and exceed County Code, yet the number of proposed parking spaces does seem low. Laura Parnell has found out that Horry County has higher thresholds for parking standards based on their classification of resort-type properties. She also learned that Lexington County also has minimum thresholds than Richland County. She had prepared an estimate of anticipated parking needs for the project that were higher than the plans submitted to Richland County. However, upon her inquiries to the County (as well as Bill Malinowski's), the official RC Planning Department confirmed that Code would have to be changed (a lengthy process) in order to affect this project.

Traffic- The traffic study that was submitted in the planning process determined that increase of traffic from the Apartments would still be in line with what the State DOT considers an adequate level of service. Efforts are being made to have the County revisit this issue. The current plans show no considerable widening of Marina Road, although Mr. Arnold did offer to build a sidewalk on the Marina Rd frontage of his property. Neither the County nor the State have any plans for extending this sidewalk to Rt. 76.

HUD Environmental Review- In answer to Bill Malinowski's further inquiries, the HUD determined that the concerns he put forth would be adequately addressed by the County, DHEC, and other regulatory agencies. As a result, Mr. Malinowski plans to re-address these concerns to the County later this week.

HUD/FHA Financing- This area seems to be the most up-in-the-air. Mr. Arnold had told me that he had sought and received an extension to submit his application and plans earlier in September. It is my understanding that the HUD decision of rejection or to proceed with the next set of "hoops to jump through" must come within 45 days of the submission of that application. One of the core issues that must be determined by HUD is whether this project can stand alone on its own merits. We feel that this is unclear. While Mr. Arnold feels there is a market for high-end near-lake apartments, his nearest competitor (The Haven) is running only an 85% occupancy rate. The Marina Bay Apartments would only add more supply to a depressed market. It is our understanding that the FHA loan would be "non-recourse," meaning that there is no further financial commitment (other than money already spent) by Mr. Arnold should the project go "south." In other words, if the apartment complex failed financially

or for some reason was not finished, Mr. Arnold could walk away without having to repay the FHA loan. HUD would then assume the property to do with as they deemed. This possible “unknown” is probably the most disconcerting issue that faces our Members. Many have also voiced their opinion as to this use of taxpayer money.

This is just a synopsis of where we currently stand. There are other issues/avenues we are pursuing, but these are the most significant. We continue to proceed, but we do need your help in finding the answers to these questions. If you would like to learn more or help us in any way, please come to the Mon. Oct 4 meeting of BDFCA at 6:30 PM at the Community Center at Ballentine Park.

Thank you,
Ken Tallman
President
Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

Date: Mar 5, 2011 8:06 AM

Greetings!

I want to start this letter by introducing myself for those who do not know me. I am the new president of BDFCA, Andrew Colton. I am a 20 year old Hospitality student at the University of South Carolina. I have lived in Ballentine area since my family moved here in 2002. Upon completing high school at Dutch Fork I moved into a house located in New Friarsgate, and very happy to still be living in the area. If anyone has any direct questions for me, email is the fastest, my email address is AndrewKColton412@yahoo.com. I do have a very sensitive spam filter, so please subject messages BDFCA or something along those lines. I am truly looking forward to this opportunity.

Now down to business.

Our general membership meeting of the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will be held on Monday, March 7th at 6:30pm at the Community Center at Ballentine Park.

New program: FREE art classes to be held beginning February 28th and run each Monday through March 28th. Mark your calendars: February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st and March 28th Time is 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Call 781-2031 for more information. She will cover any type of medium including: scrapbooking, watercolors, knitting, etc. You can start at the beginning to learn, or if you have a project you are working on and need assistance, bring that with you and she will help. Or, if you just want to work on a project and be with other people, that is fine also.

Don't forget, Zumba classes are being held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 to 10:15 am and 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Ceramics classes are also being held (call 781-2031 for times), as well as the Arthritis exercise class, which is Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Bingo – the first Tuesday of each month 11:30-12:30 \$1.00 per card

We are in the middle of the first cooking class by Chef Marion, which has been so much fun. If you are interested in a future class, please contact Laura at 781-2031 to get more information.

Keep in touch with Laura Colton, Director at 781-2031 to find out all the exciting things that will be happening in the future at OUR Ballentine Community Center.

The Lake Murray United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 will be offering a Boating Safety Class on March 12. Everyone who owns/operates a boat is encouraged to attend one of these classes in an on going effort to reduce the number of tragic boating accidents on the lake and other waterways. This is a great idea for the whole family.

Everyone needs to know how to have a fun AND safe time on the water.

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If anyone is interested in keeping up with some fun local event visit the Chamber website, <http://www.greaterirmochamber.com>, and subscribe to their free "E-Blast". They do a lot of fun thing each month from lake events, to grand openings. It is a great way for people to Network in the community.

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful weather we are having. I think am developing a heavy case of spring fever! I hope to see many familiar and NEW faces at the community meetings.

"Pull the string, and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it, and it will go nowhere at all." - Dwight D. Eisenhower

Take care neighbors,

Andrew K. Colton, President

Andrew K. Colton
Lake Murray Cruises, LLC.
Operating; *The Spirit of Lake Murray*
Assistant Manager
803.730.3044
Andrew@spiritoflakemurray.com
Office: 1056 Jones Road. Irmo, SC 29063

Below is information which was compiled by one of our Civic Association members who wanted everyone to be aware of what was happening. Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Please be aware of the enclosed information regarding the proposed Marina Bay Apartments to be built on the site of the Lake Murray Marina. Since they have applied for an FHA "no recourse" loan, and if this project fails, it will be our money in the developer's pockets. They never have to repay the loan! Also, what happens if it only partially gets built and sits in ruins? We are concerned that a need has not be established for these apartments, since there are still apartments not rented at the complex near the dam

- Re: Marina Bay Apartments **Your help is needed!** If these apartments come to fruition it will forever change the complexion of our area and Lake Murray.
- Once those construction trucks start turning into the Marina you can put your pen & paper away—**It will be too late!**

Below you will find a summary of what has been going on in regards to these apartments & the names & phone numbers of the local HUD employees involved with this loan. Please make the time to contact them today with your concerns about this project.

We have raised many issues regarding the negative impact on the community that the construction of the Marina Bay Apartments & other proposed businesses would have if they were built at the present sight of Lake Murray Marina. The developers are applying & at any

minute going to possibly be approved for an FHA loan for this project. It will consist of the following to coexist on 11.85 acres:

216 apartments

200+ boat slip marina adjoining the apartments

A ship store

A new restaurant/bar with banquet facilities

Rental Offices

Tour boat offices (The Patriot & The Spirit of Lake Murray)

Boat Rental Office

Basically the local government agencies have approved the project. It is now ready to be approved at the Federal level. Many of us question if the loan application itself consists of totally valid information. It is our understanding that the developer, Arnold Companies, has had research conducted to prove that the project meets all guidelines & regulations to be approved. If this happens all the apartments will be built at the same time. Our understanding is that there are no checks and balances as to the validity of this information.

If we want to see the loan application we would have to apply through the "Freedom of Information Act" which is a project that would take allot longer than the time for loan approval.

Many of us have written letters to some of the local FHA officials and made phone calls. We are voicing our concerns & questions to these people. Hopefully they will check into the issues we have made known to them.

Most of us feel that this project is totally inappropriate to be put in the middle of a resort area with low density residential zoning. We want whatever that is built there to succeed & fit into the environment. In this project's current form it can not be viable & is completely wrong in every respect for what they are trying to cram into this little space. The current restaurant recently had a "Going out of Business" party which filled up the entire 11.85 acres with cars!

I am sure that there are many of you with serious concerns about this project. In particular at this time we question:

1. Whether the project could appraise in its current form which we understand is that the Marina itself is no longer a part of the project.

2. Whether there is a need for it. The Haven at Lake Murray upscale apartments by the dam has a high rate of vacancies. The land adjoining it which was part of the original development plans is now up for sale.

The Marina Bay Apartments project is supposed to have "upscale" apartments which means expensive. Our concern is where do you find and how long would it take to get 216 residents to rent these apartments? The other upscale apartment complex by the dam stays 10-20% vacant. How long would it take before this project would have to be foreclosed on and then sold to a

developer who would in turn offer lower rents to maintain occupancy? This would bring property values way down for all homes off of Marina Rd.

The folks at FHA are not asking us for input at this time. However, it is important for us to contact them and make them aware of our concerns. In talking with some of them we have found out that there were some important things of which they were not aware because it did not fit into the questions asked on the loan application.

Please take the time to contact the following people by phone or letter. Both of them are working on different pieces of this loan.

Mr. Larry Knightner Phone: 253-3878, Field Office Director, Columbia Field Office

U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, 1835 Assembly St., Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Wayne Wells Phone: 253-3017, U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, 1835 Assembly St., Columbia, SC 29201

These people are not involved or interested in issues concerning increased crime, traffic, noise, pollution, parking, trash etc. They are only interested in whether this project will be a success. Please let them know what you think.



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NEWSLETTER



Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine. SC 29002
304-5100 website: www.ballentinedutchfork.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – APRIL 2011

[Hello Friends.](#)

[I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful days we had in March. Our general membership meeting of the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will be held on Monday, April 4th at 6:30 pm at the Community Center at Ballentine Park.](#)

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER CLASSES

Ceramics – call 781-2031 for times [Free Art Classes Every Monday - Time is 1:30 to 3:00 pm.](#)
[Call 781-2031 for more information](#)

[Don't forget, Zumba classes are being held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 to 10:15 am and 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. NEW ZUMBA TIME!!!! Wednesdays 6:00pm - 7:00pm](#)

LAKE MURRAY MARINA – MARINA BAY APARTMENTS

[If anyone would like to contact a HUD employee to get questions answered about the Marina Project the contact information is below...](#)

- [1. Mr. Larry Knightner Phone: 253-3878 \(Field Office Director\)](#)
- [2. Mr. Wayne Wells Phone: 253-3017](#)
- [3. Mr. Jim Dickinson Phone: 253-3422](#)

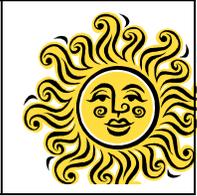
UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Carolina Wildlife Care is hosting a Kids Day on Wednesday, April 20th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Wingard's Nursery and Garden Center, 1403 North Lake Drive, Lexington 359-9091. – There are numerous events planned to learn really cool facts about wildlife. Cost is \$5.00 per child (parents free). Call or email to wingardsnursery@windstream.net for reservations as space is limited.

[If anyone has any questions or would like me to add an event/info to the newsletter you can contact me at my new email \[Andrew@spiritoflakemurray.com\]\(mailto:Andrew@spiritoflakemurray.com\)](#)

[Efforts & courage are not enough without purpose & direction.](#)
[-John F. Kennedy](#)

[See you on Monday neighbors,](#)
[Andrew K. Colton, President](#)



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NEWSLETTER



Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine. SC 29002
304-5100 website: www.ballentinedutchfork.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – APRIL 2011

Dear BDFCA Members

Our general membership meeting of the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will be held on Monday, May 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Community Center at Ballentine Park.

At our meeting this Monday Andy Aun with Aun & McKay Law Firm will talk about the opportunities and obstacles relating to purchasing and refinancing property in this market, particularly on Lake Murray. We will focus on issues with appraisals, taxes, insurance and financing.

Zumba classes are being held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:15 to 10:15 am and 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Wednesdays 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Cost for Zumba is only \$3 for the hour! Also, the arthritis exercise class is again going on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10:15 am to 11:15 am at Ballentine Park. This is a free class, all are welcome to attend.

No new news as far as the Marina Apartment project goes. They are still waiting for HUD approval.

I have given you these names and numbers before but here they are again. Please call and let them know about your questions and concerns.

1. Mr. Larry Knightner Phone: 253-3878 (Field Office Director)
2. Mr. Wayne Wells Phone: 253-3017
3. Mr. Jim Dickinson Phone: 253-3422

The Dockside Raw Bar & Bistro at Lake Murray Marina is now closed. Construction on the restaurant should begin by mid-June.

Rumor has it that Pawleys Front Porch will have a mobile kitchen on site to provide food. Pawleys is Located in the heart of 5-points in downtown Columbia.

They are famous for their burgers.

Hope to have everyone out on Monday!

Andrew K. Colton, BDFCA President [If anyone has any questions or would like me to add an event/info to the newsletter you can contact me at my new email Andrew@spiritoflakemurray.com](mailto:Andrew@spiritoflakemurray.com)



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NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002
304-5100 website: www.ballentinedutchfork.com

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – November 2011

I hope everyone had a fun and safe Halloween. Don't eat all the candy at once! Our next meeting will be Monday, November 7th. The Board meeting is at 6:00 and Community meeting 6:30 pm at the Ballentine Community Center.

If anyone is planning a party or event, please keep the Ballentine Community Center in mind. This facility has a full kitchen and multiple rooms.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting on Monday. If anyone has any concerns, feel free to e-mail me at Andrew@spiritoflakemurray.com or call 304-5100.

There are apartments proposed for the corner of Bickley Road and Broad River Road. They would be called Ballentine Crossing apartments if approved. The plans are schedule to be discussed at the DRT meeting in November. If anyone has any further information on this, please come to the meeting and share it with the community.

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER CLASSES

Cooking classes – **November 18th** Couples cooking class \$25.00 per couple 6-8 pm
Call 781-2031 to sign up or for more information

There are also ongoing arthritis exercise classes, ceramics and art classes as well as Zumba and turbo kickboxing programs. Call 781-2031 for more information.

TOWN OF IRMO ELECTIONS – November 8th, 2011

Mayoral Candidates: Kathy Condom, Suzanne Gooch, Hardy King and Barry Walker, Sr.

Town Council at Large (two candidates with the most votes will win seats) –

Harvey Hoots, incumbent, Sarah Watson, Paul Younginer

Although the Ballentine area has no say in these elections, it is nice to know who is running.

IRMO CHAMBER EVENTS

Contact www.greaterirmochamber.com for more information

November 9th – monthly luncheon
November 17th – Live and Silent Auction

SALUDA SHOALS PARK EVENTS

Contact www.icrc.net for more information

11/21- Sleigh Bell Stroll
11/22 – Sleigh Bell Trot

Come enjoy the spectacular Christmas lights while participating in these events.

33rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

SPONSORED BY BALLENTINE DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

December 10th 11:30 to 2:00 pm – Ballentine Community Center
Call 304-5100 for more information

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 7th 6:00 pm.....BDFCA Board Meeting
- November 7th 6:30 pm.....BDFCA Community Meeting
- November 11th.....Veteran’s Day
- November 24th.....Thanksgiving Day

- December 5th 6:00 pm.....BDFCA Board Meeting
- December 5th 6:30 pm.....BDFCA Community Meeting
- December 10th 11:30 – 2:00 pm.....BDFCA Christmas party

BALLENTINE-DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

P. O Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002
304-5100

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT **January 2012**

I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. Thank you for your confidence in electing me President of the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association for the year 2012. The Association officers for 2012 are:

President – Phil Savage
Vice President – Ken Tallman
Secretary – Joan Tweed
Treasurer – Rick Pascal

I want to thank Andrew Colton for his willingness to serve as President of the B-DFCA during 2011. Andrew is a fine young man and his service as President last year is greatly appreciated. We look forward to having Andrew's continuing assistance to the B-DFCA as we work to continually improve the Ballentine-Dutch Fork community.

I would also like to thank all of those who contributed to making the **33rd Annual B-DFCA Community Christmas Party** such a great success. The event was well attended – with over 100 locals being treated to a turkey dinner with all of the fixings, dessert, and even a visit from Santa Clause (who had gifts for all of the boys and girls)! Special thanks are due to Joan and Les Tweed and their holiday helpers who work so hard to continue such a wonderful tradition.

Our next business meeting will be held on Monday evening, January 9th at 6:30 PM at Ballentine Park (Board Meeting at 6:00 PM). This will be a relatively brief business meeting to discuss objectives for 2012, etc. However, as usual, all members are invited to attend.

Also, I want to give everyone advance notice of an important general membership meeting on February 6th at 6:30 PM at Ballentine Park. The Superintendent of Richland Lexington School District Five (Dr. Stephen Hefner) will be present to provide information, answer questions, and get feedback from the community about various proposals for school improvements, etc. Dr. Hefner will be arriving at 7:00 pm due to a previous commitment.

I encourage all of our members to attend this meeting.

Finally, I encourage any who have not renewed their membership in the B-DFCA for 2012 to do so now. The annual dues of \$20.00 can be sent to: BDFCA, PO Box 270, Ballentine, SC 29002. Application Forms for new members can be found at www.ballentinedutchfork.com

Happy New Year!

Phil Savage, President
Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

BALLENTINE-DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.ballentinedutchfork.com

P. O Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002
304-5100

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

February 2012

Our next general membership meeting will be held on Monday evening, February 6th at 7:00 PM, at Ballentine Park (Board Meeting at 6:30 PM). After a report from our local Richland County Sherriff's Department representatives, and the completion of any old business, the Superintendent of Richland Lexington School District Five (Dr. Stephen Hefner) will be present to discuss plans the school district is making for improvements to the existing school facilities, constructing new facilities and incorporating new and exciting programs to meet the needs of the students. All of these topics will affect the quality of teaching and learning in the Lexington-Richland Five school district -- and the overall quality of life in our community for years to come. In an effort to keep our community informed, Dr. Hefner will share what is being done to address these needs and answer questions from members of the B-DFCA. I encourage all of our members to attend this very informative meeting.

The meeting will be held in the Ballentine Community Center at Ballentine Park (on Bird Road, across from Ballentine Elementary School). The session with Dr. Hefner will begin at 7:00 PM.

Phil Savage, President
Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

Schedule of Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association Meetings:

February 6 th	6:30 pm.....BDFCA Board meeting
	7:00 pm.....Community Meeting
March 5 th	6:00 pm.....BDFCA Board meeting
	6:30 pm.....Community meeting
April 2 nd	6:00 pm.....BDFCA Board Meeting
	6:30 pm.....Community Meeting
May 7 th	6:00 pm.....BDFCA Board Meeting
	6:30 pm.....Community Meeting

FUN HAPPENINGS AT THE ZOO

Check out the Riverbanks Zoo website at www.riverbanks.org to see exciting new things going on. They are introducing a ropes challenge course called Sky High Safari. There will also be Valentine events, Orchids on the River starting 2/10 and many other family things to do.

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER FEBRUARY PROGRAM SCHEDULE - PHONE 781-2031

Mondays

1:00 pm – Creative Connections (Art programs)

6:00-7:00 pm Turbo Kick Boxing

Tuesdays

9:00-10:00 am and 6:00-7:00 pm Zumba

10:15 – 11:15 am Arthritis Exercise

11:00 am – Ceramics

4:00 pm – Healthy hands

7:00 pm – Couples cooking

Wednesday

6:00 pm Zumba

Thursday

9:00 – 10:00 am and 6:00 – 7:00 pm Zumba

10:15 – 11:15 Arthritis Exercise

11:00 am – Ceramics



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com

304-5100

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Monday evening, March 5th at 6:30 PM, the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will hold a business meeting at Ballentine Park (Board Meeting at 6:00 PM). This will be a relatively brief meeting to discuss community issues (such as the **new Richland County Library** to be located in Ballentine, ...). As usual, all members are invited to attend. Representatives from the Richland County Sheriff's Department will be present to give community updates and answer questions.

I would like to thank Dr. Stephen Hefner, Superintendent of Richland-Lexington School District Five, for attending our February general membership meeting. His presentation concerning plans the school district is making for improvements to the existing school facilities and the construction of a new magnet school in Springhill was very informative.

Hope to see you on March 5th at 6:30 at the Ballentine Community Center.

Phil Savage, President
Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER PHONE 781-2031

Contact Dashia for the ongoing program schedule. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE EVENT - APRIL 28TH

- A community yard sale/craft sale/anything you want to rent space or a table for is planned for April 28th at Ballentine Park. Hours will be 8:00 am until 2:00 pm. Pricing is \$15.00 for inside the community building and \$12.00 outside. Check around your home, if you are like me there are a lot of things we could clean out and make some money. Tell your friends and neighbors. Food vendors, nurseries, churches are invited.

Contact Dashia at 781-2031 to rent space. It is not too early to do this.

Joan Tweed

BALLENTINE-DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

P. O Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002
304-5100 www.ballentinedutchfork.com

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT **April 2012**

On Monday evening, **April 2nd at 6:30 PM**, the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will hold a business meeting at Ballentine Park (Board Meeting at 6:00 PM). This will be a relatively brief meeting. All members are invited to attend. As I will be out of town on April 2nd, the meeting will be conducted by our current vice-president Ken Tallman. Representatives from the Richland County Sheriff's Department will be present to give a community update and answer questions.

Mark your calendars! At our general membership meeting on **Monday evening (6:30 PM), May 7th**, an investigator from the **Richland County Sheriff's Department Gang Task Force** will be present to present a gang awareness update and answer questions from the community.

Hope to see you soon! Phil Savage, President Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

NOTE: Anyone who has not paid dues for 2012 can still send checks to BDFCA, at the address above.

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER

April 14th – Free Gardening Workshop 10:00 am to 12:00 pm – call by 781-2031 April 9th if you are attending.

April 28th – Spring Fest Yard Sale – large and small items, vegetables, plants, baked goods, etc. All are welcome. Call 781-2031 to reserve a table. Inside tables are \$15.00 and outside \$12.00.

Ceramics continues on Tuesday and Thursdays 11:00 am.

Free Arthritis exercise classes Tuesday and Thursday 10:15-11:15.

Active Seniors group also involved in day trips

Zumba and turbo kick boxing continues – contact the center at 781-2031 for schedules. If you have interest in **yoga**, call to sign up for Tuesday classes at 7:15 pm.

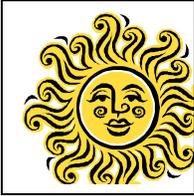
Healthy Hands children's cooking classes start in May Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 pm

They are looking for community input on what types of programs/classes we are interested in so if you have any ideas, call 781-2031 or stop by to see what fun is going on!!

Joan Tweed, Secretary

Riverbanks Zoo

April 1st – Square Foot Gardening - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm - call 978-1131 or go to: www.riverbanks.org for more information



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com

304-5100

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT April 2012

On Monday evening, May 7th at 6:30 PM, the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will hold a general membership meeting at Ballentine Park (Board Meeting at 6:00 PM). Among the items on the agenda will be a gang awareness presentation and question/answer session by the **Richland County Sheriff's Department Gang Task Force**. Learn what signs to look for and how to deal with gang related problems before they become more serious. All members are encouraged to attend. Please feel free to invite any interested friends and neighbors.

Monday, May 7th, Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road in Ballentine, at **6:30 pm**. If you have any questions, please call 304-5100. Hope to see you there!

Phil Savage, President - Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

2012-2013 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \$20.00 dues payable to BDFCA

The calendar year for the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association dues is now running from September through June. If you still wish to be a part of this important community Association, **please send \$20.00 for a Family membership** to the above address. This payment entitles you to two (2) voting rights on any pertinent issues that come before the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association. This is still a bargain to be kept informed of community issues. The money also helps to support area charities.

Events for the future: The annual Ballentine Community Christmas Party. We hope you will be able to participate.

Our meetings are held the first Monday of each month at Ballentine Park beginning at 6:30 pm.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS _____

_____ E-MAIL _____

PHONE NUMBERS: _____

(HOME, CELL, WORK)

Your knowledge is valuable to the community. On what issues can you offer advice or information:

Can you help with any of the following: Please initial: Membership drive _____

Christmas party: _____ Newsletter: _____ Growth/zoning: _____ Schools/Public Affairs: _____

History: _____ Special programs _____

_____ I want a MEMBERSHIP with two voting rights – Dues \$20.00 per family – per year

_____ I want an Associate Membership without voting rights – Free



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002
www.ballentinedutchfork.com

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT September 2012

I hope everyone had a great summer! On Monday evening, September 10th at 6:30 PM, the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will hold a general membership meeting at Ballentine Park (Board Meeting at 6:15 PM). We have several interesting items that will be discussed.

After an update from the Richland County Sheriff's Department and discussion of any past business, Stacey Thompson will update the community concerning her efforts to get approval for a "dog park" at Ballentine Park.

Following our general membership meeting, Kathy Caddell, a financial consultant and a member of the BDFCA, will present a financial workshop titled "Building your own Bank." This workshop will show you how America's financial system works, how you can emulate this in your personal and business lives, and how to recoup some of the dollars that you are already spending with others. You will learn how money works and how you can make it work for you.

All members and their guests are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Monday, September 10th, Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road in Ballentine, at **6:30 pm**. If you have any questions, please call 304-5100.

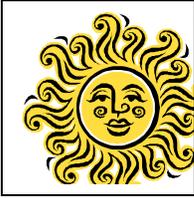
Hope to see you there!

Phil Savage, President
Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

**CIVIC ASSOCIATION UPDATE – THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD ON
DECEMBER 8TH, 2012**

- ANNUAL DUES OF \$20.00 FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BALLENTINE CIVIC ASSOCIATION ARE PAYABLE BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER.

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER – FOR INFORMATION ON CONTINUING PROGRAMS AS WELL AS NEW PROGRAMS, CONTACT DASHIA AT 781-2031. STAY TUNED FOR INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING COMMUNITY YARD SALE NOVEMBER 3RD.



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com new phone number **542-2419**

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT October 2012

On Monday evening, October 1st at 6:30 PM, the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will hold a general membership meeting at Ballentine Park (Board Meeting at 6:00 PM).

After an update from the Richland County Sheriff's Department and discussion of any past business, Tracy Johnson, Director of Medical Services for Pawmetto Lifeline will discuss the issue of pet overpopulation, the importance of spaying/neutering and the goals of the Pawmetto Lifeline Spay/Neuter Clinic. Pawmetto Lifeline is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit animal rescue organization formed to solve pet overpopulation in our community.

The Meyer Finlay Pet Adoption Center of Lexington and Richland Counties on Bower Parkway recently celebrated its grand opening. Their state-of-the-art high volume spay/neuter clinic is the key component to solving pet overpopulation in our community. With over 18,000 animals euthanized every year in Lexington and Richland Counties and over 3 million local tax dollars being spent each year on this problem, a wide scale spay/neuter program appears to be the best way to reduce the number of animals entering shelters.

Pawmetto Lifeline will be hosting the **Fur Ball Moonlight Gala on Saturday, October 13th at 7:30 pm** At the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. There will be cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres and dancing as well as live and silent auctions and plenty of entertainment. Individual tickets are \$115 each or two for \$225. This is a fundraising event. Visit pawmettolifeline.org for more information.

I hope to see you on **Monday, October 1st at 6:30 pm at the Ballentine Community Center** on Bird Road. If you have any questions, please call **NEW PHONE NUMBER 542-2419**.

Hope to see you there! Phil Savage, President - Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

CHECK THIS OUT!!! **BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS**

Saturday November 3rd – Yard Sale – 8:00 am - 1:30 pm - reserve your table(s) now \$15.00 inside; \$12.00 outside. Call 781-2031

Saturday November 10th – Garden Workshop at 10:00 am presented by Ted Williams call 781-2031

Ballentine Community Christmas party – December 8th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Dues of \$20.00 for the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association are payable at this time. Checks can be sent to the above address. Thank you.



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com 542-2419

34rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 8th

The 34rd Annual Ballentine Community Christmas party will be held on December 8th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. As always, there will be turkey and stuffing provided by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association, as well as all the other goodies brought by the Civic Association Members. It will be held at the Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road, off Bickley Road, in Ballentine. There is always a visit from a “special guest” in a red suit that hands out presents to the children (Santa). Bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and their children. This is fun for all ages and **FREE** to all.

It is always a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends. Everyone tells us every year how much this party means to them and how much they look forward to it. Be sure to get the word out so we can have good attendance. We want as many people as possible come to enjoy the festivities. Any questions or for more information, please call 542-2419 (new phone number)

TO ALL MEMBERS – PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH, AND, IF POSSIBLE, AN INEXPENSIVE DOOR PRIZE. This event is **FREE** .

NEW PROGRAMS BEING ADDED AT THE BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER

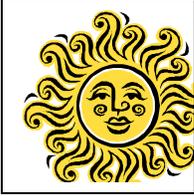
There are now quite a few classes being held at the Ballentine Community Center. Come and check out: Zumba, Arthritis Exercise class, Art classes, ceramics, cooking classes, turbo kick boxing and more. Call 781-2031 to find out more information, or stop by to see the schedule of classes.

Calendar of Events

November 22nd –Thanksgiving Day
December 3rd 6:00 pm.....Board Meeting
December 3rd, 6:30 pm.....Community Meeting
December 8th – 11:30 am.....COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

NOTE: If you still wish to be a member of the BDFCA, dues of \$20.00 are payable at this time.

This party has been a tradition and sponsored by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association for 34 years.



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com

542-2419

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT January 2013

At the January 7th meeting, the 2013 Civic Association officers were elected.

- Les Tweed was elected President to step in for Phil Savage.
- Ken Colton was elected Vice President to take over for Ken Tallman.
- Rick Pascal remains as Treasurer and Joan Tweed stays on as Secretary. The Treasurer and Secretary positions do not have term limits. The President and Vice-President positions have a 2 year term limit.

Our thanks to both Ken & Phil, who have been great officers serving the Association admirably several times in past years. They provided quality leadership during their terms so we hope to have them back again some time in the future.

Our new V.P Ken Colton has been a long term, active member of the Association and he is very familiar with the needs of our community. We are lucky to have a man with his values and concerns for the community working as an officer of the B.D.F.C.A. I would like to say...Thank you, to Ken Colton for accepting the position.

The new President. - If you don't know, I'm Les Tweed and I have been an active member for the past 15 years as well as President or V.P for 11 of those years. I have been deeply involved in almost every activity of the B.D.F.C.A. during all 15 years of my membership. I enjoyed my break from my leadership role but I also feel honored to return as President. Thank you for allowing me to return.

Review...2012 was a pretty quiet year for the B.D.F.C.A. In our area crime wasn't a huge problem based on our Sheriff's Department C.A.T team reports. Weather was pretty normal. Zoning Issues didn't present us with any challenges. This means the outgoing leadership team is not passing on any real problems-in-the-works to the new leaders.

The annual Christmas Party was a great success and attended and thoroughly enjoyed by 82 plus people. We had a surprise visit from a special Santa Claus from the Richland County Sheriff's Department. Everyone had plenty to eat, children were ecstatic with their gifts from Santa, and many left happy with their door prizes. We hope many of you will attend next year, it is quite an event.

What is coming up for 2013 ? A new County? Birch County stands for Ballentine-Irmo-Chapin. Well, this is a subject that needs to be investigated. At this point we know nothing about the individuals or group that ran the ad in the Irmo news touting a movement to form a new "Birch County". The first job of the new leadership team will be to examine the pros and cons of such an ambitious venture. Secondly we need to relay the facts to our group. 3rd step...before we take any position on the matter we will gauge the interest of our membership group. Many of you should remember, Ken Colton, myself and many others in our community were heavily involved in bringing to vote whether Ballentine should become an incorporated town.

If you can't attend all of the monthly meetings at least pay attention to the next couple of newsletters to keep up on the Birch County project. I feel there will be an informational meeting coming up in the next couple of months that you won't want to miss.

Regards,
Les Tweed

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE BALLENTINE DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION:
February 4th – 6:30 pm Ballentine community Center

On Monday evening, February 4th at 6:30 PM, the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will hold a general membership meeting at the Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road (Board Meeting at 6:00 PM). After an update from the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the discussion of any past business, we will hold a working meeting to discuss community issues.

If you have any questions, please call 542-2419. Hope to see you there! Reminder – invoices are payable at this time - for membership \$20.00 – please send to the above address.

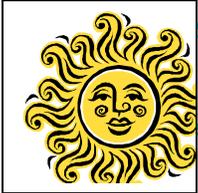
Les Tweed, President - Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

The Ballentine Post Office will remain open with hours from 9:00 am 4:00 pm – lunch 1:00-2:00 pm. Saturdays they will be open from 9:00 – 10:00 am

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS – call 781-2031

There are many exciting things happening at YOUR community center. Call the above number to sign up for some of the varied programs.

The Ballentine Link Library also has ongoing events. Check the library website or stop in and see for yourself.



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com Phone 803-542-2419

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT March 2013

At the February 4th meeting several issues and projects were discussed. Let me fill you in.

1% Transportation sales tax. An article by Ron Aiken titled “Was Penny Tax Vote Rigged?” recently came out. I would like to share a few of the lines from his article to entice you into reading this important and informative piece of information.

- “They were inarguably the worst-run county elections in living memory, a farce of indefensible incompetency and gross mismanagement”.
- “A more sinister scenario, the whispers about which have only intensified in the weeks and months since that cold day in November, is that the fix was in from the beginning.”
- “elected officials and powerful business interests had a billion-dollar motive,”
- “critics argue that following the 2010 vote the pro-penny forces immediately set their sights on the 2012 election, putting their own key people quietly in place such as Richland County Election Director Lillian McBride,”
- “allegedly willful misallocation of voting machines, a mistake that hadn’t happened in the previous 37 years of careful management by former county elections director Mike Cinnamon”
- “on March 15, 2011, when Richland County Senators Darrell Jackson, John Courson, John Scott and Joel Lourie introduced a bill allowing them to combine the offices of voter registration and elections and appoint a new director.”
- “What the legislation accomplished was to allow the delegation on June 1 to quietly oust longtime county election director Mike Cinnamon, a man who had held the position since 1975 and was widely respected for his experience and knowledge, and replace him with the politically connected Lillian McBride without publicly advertising the position.”
- “Isn’t it interesting that after failing (to pass the penny tax) in 2010, suddenly the delegation decides the next year they’re going to combine the two offices,” Letts said. “You have Mike Cinnamon, who wants to stay on, who is highly qualified, and he’s told he has no chance to get the job, so he’s out. They bring in who they want, who they can control, and it’s all done without anyone taking notice until it’s too late.”
- “What we do know is that Frank McBride, who was convicted for selling his vote and who we believe was responsible for generating the absentee ballots, was in election headquarters the night of the elections. He was caught on WIS’ cameras behind the desk where the absentee ballots were and was caught on security cameras not leaving the elections office the night of the election until after three in the morning. The whole absentee ballot question has never been investigated properly.”
- Read all of Ron Aiken’s article at <http://www.fitsnews.com/2013/02/15/ron-aiken-was-the-penny-tax-vote-rigged/>

If you had trouble voting in the last elections or if the information above concerns you, please send your thoughts to Nathan Ballentine at schouse71@aim.com and Bill Malinowski at malinowski@rcgov.us, they are very interested in your voice. Even if you don't take the time to contact Nathan or Bill...PLEASE at least **Forward this information** along to everyone you can in Richland County. Don't let them think no one cares about honest voting.

Complaints were voiced about speeding on the 4 lane section of Dutch Fork Rd. from Rt. 6 to the Post office. The Deputy's agreed to put one of the speed monitoring units out to show drivers their current speed. I have seen it out there so you may want to slow down. If this is not effective in this section, they may need to get more aggressive and write some tickets.

Civic Membership drive & Lake Cruise. Ken Colton & I are working on a special offer to increase membership this spring. The offer will combine a short informative lake cruise on the Spirit of Lake Murray, some food and a membership in the Civic Association for a crazy low price around \$20. Our grand expectations may work out if our efforts to acquire some grant monies for community building works out. We need the subsidy to even remotely hit the \$20 target. Basically we are trying to offer a \$20 membership + a \$25 cruise value + \$5 food value (total \$50) for only twenty bucks. Wish us luck and when available...sign up to join us.

The details have not been worked out yet but stay tuned for more info next month.

Update A new County? Birch County stands for Ballentine-Irmo-Chapin. We wrote a letter earlier this month and asked them to have a representative contact us for a meeting.

This is a subject that needs to be investigated but at this point we know nothing about the individuals or group that ran the ad in the Irmo news touting a movement to form a new "Birch County". The first job of the new leadership team will be to examine the pros and cons of such an ambitious venture. Secondly we need to relay the facts to our group. Third step...before we take any position on the matter we will gauge the interest of our membership group. Many of you should remember, Ken Colton, myself and many others in our community were heavily involved in bringing to vote whether Ballentine should become an incorporated town.

If you can't attend all of the monthly meetings at least pay attention to the next couple of newsletters to keep up on the Membership drive / Lake Cruise. I feel there will be an informational meeting coming up in the next couple of months that you won't want to miss.

Regards,
Les Tweed

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE BALLENTINE DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION:
March 4th – 6:30 pm Ballentine community Center

On Monday evening, March 4th at 6:30 PM, the Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association will hold a general membership meeting at the Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road (Board Meeting at 6:00 PM). After an update from the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the discussion of any past business, we will hold a working meeting to discuss community issues.

If you have any questions, please call 542-2419. Hope to see you there! Reminder – invoices are payable at this time - for membership \$20.00 – please send to the above address.

Les Tweed, President - Ballentine-Dutch Fork Civic Association

EVENTS FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS –

March 24th – Palm Sunday March 31st Easter Sunday

March 23rd – Garden Festival – Riverbanks Zoo – go to their website www.riverbanks.org for more information.

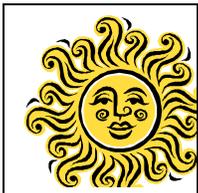
April 3rd – Kid's Day at Wingard's Nursery to benefit Carolina Wildlife – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm - \$5.00 per child. Pizza, drinks, learn about wildlife – there is no cost for the parents. Purchase tickets at the door or www.wingardsnursery.com .

April 11th – 1:00 pm -6:00 pm Charity Day at 14 Carrot Whole Foods to benefit Carolina Wildlife. Entertainment, food, other activities.

April 13th and 14th – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm – Carolina Wildlife Baby Shower and Open House. Tour areas of the wildlife center, meet staff and volunteers. Admission to the shower/open house is a donation from CWC's wish list.

As always, ongoing classes/programs at the Ballentine Community Center – call 781-2031 for more information.

Check Richland County Public Library website for ongoing programs at the Ballentine Library.



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002
www.ballentinedutchfork.com Phone 803-542-2419

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT April 2013

This month it isn't about new issues or stories - it is all about progress reports.

Last month I had a large section about the 1% Transportation sales tax. I asked you read an article by Ron Aiken titled "Was Penny Tax Vote Rigged?" that had recently come out. Well that ship has sailed... the SC Supreme Court is not going to allow a revote on it. I would still like to encourage you to read the article so you would have an understanding that all is not well in our voting system. The court declined to hear a case that threatened to overturn a local (1%) penny-on-the-dollar sales tax. It let stand an earlier decision by the S.C. Election Commission. Michael Letts and his Citizens for New Elections in Richland County challenged the results, court said...he failed to provide evidence – either in documents filed for the Supreme Court or at protests to county and state election officials – that the long lines frustrating voters could have affected the outcome...this is the part WE the citizens failed - to protest the outcome. The SC Supreme court thinks no one cares about honest voting.

This is a quote from Ron's article "*Those who believe the 2012 penny tax vote was engineered say the process to do so began immediately after the 2010 defeat and made its first official appearance on March 15, 2011, when Richland County Senators Darrell Jackson, John Courson, John Scott and Joel Lourie introduced a bill allowing them to combine the offices of voter registration and elections and appoint a new director. With no resistance or opposition or attention of any kind, the bill unanimously passed both a Senate (6-0) and House (59-0) roll call on March 31 and April 13, respectively, was ratified on May 5 and signed into law four days later on May 9, 2011, by Gov. Haley. What the legislation accomplished was to allow the delegation on June 1 to quietly oust longtime county election director Mike Cinnamon, a man who had held the position since 1975 and was widely respected for his experience and knowledge, and replace him with the politically connected Lillian McBride without publicly advertising the position.*" Think about this on your next voting day.

Additional sales tax coming May 1st, with the sales tax increasing to 8-cents-on-the-dollar for most purchases!

How this affects food cost: Ballentine is right on the edge of Lexington & Richland counties. How it affects you is...if you spend \$50.00 in (Richland County stores) it will likely have at least a 2% or \$1.00 tax and end up costing you \$51.00. If you go the extra mile or two to Lexington County you would pay \$50.00. The extra 2% tax is going to add up a lot faster than many people think because it was "sold" as the idea it is only a "penny tax". If you live on the Richland-Lexington county line it is now time to decide how 2% affects your cost on purchases: \$5000 in a year = \$100.00 difference in your cost.

Application for Grant monies...*Civic Membership drive & Lake Cruise.* Ken Colton hand delivered the completed paperwork and forms required to apply for the matching grant money by the deadline. As a reminder, we are working on a special offer to increase membership this Spring. The offer will combine an informative lake cruise on the Spirit of Lake Murray, some food and a membership in the Civic Association for a crazy low price.. Our grand expectations may work out if our efforts to acquire some grant monies for community building works out. We need the subsidy to even remotely hit the \$20 target price for a single person. Basically we are trying to offer a single \$20 membership + a \$25 cruise value + \$5 food value (total \$50) for only twenty bucks. Wish us luck and when available...sign up to join us. This campaign will hopefully be an incentive to homeowners in Milford Park & Adderley Oaks to join. Stay tuned for more details each month.

Latest Birch County news A new County? Birch County stands for Ballentine-Irmo-Chapin. We never got a reply to the letter we wrote asking for them to contact us so Ken & I attended the local Birch County meeting at the Cotton House on Tuesday 3/26. I'm not taking a Pro or Con position on this yet... but at this point I will say they are not an organization and they are not funded yet. This venture needs to attract a lot of volunteers and donations before I could even call it a movement. Please visit Nathan Ballentine's site to get more details on the meeting. Or click on this link...
<http://nathansnews.com/2013/03/citizens-for-birch-county-hold-first-meeting/>

New Low Income Housing on Bickley Rd. This is a huge subject and I don't have enough room here to spell it all out to you so please click on some of these provided links.
Note...I'm sorry if you get this newsletter by mail and you can't access the "link" information. Try getting a friend or relative to print it out for you.
Link to Nathan's site <http://nathansnews.com/2013/03/update-on-proposed-housing-development-in-ballentine/>
Link to Milford Park info...<http://www.scribd.com/doc/130414255/Bickley-Manor-Tax-Credit-Apartment-Information2>

If you can't attend all of the monthly meetings at least pay attention to the next couple of newsletters to keep up on the Membership drive / Lake Cruise. I feel there will be an informational meeting coming up in the next couple of months that you won't want to miss.

Regards, Les Tweed

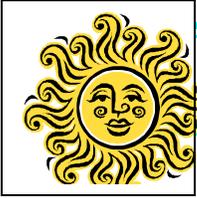
NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING OF THE BALLENTINE DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION:
April 1st – 6:30 pm Ballentine community Center

If you have any questions, please call 542-2419. Hope to see you there! Reminder – invoices are payable at this time - for membership \$20.00 – please send to the above address.

May 6th meeting – IDENTIFY THEFT – Jennifer Williams from Wells Fargo Bank will do a program on how to protect ourselves from identify theft. This affects all of us so please be sure to mark your calendars.

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS call 781-2031 to sign up for these – FREE
April 6th Clemson Extension Division program on planting herbs and vegetables. Plants, pots, etc provided.

April 20th – Cooking class – Low Calorie Meals by Chef Marion \$20.00 -



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com 542-2419

35th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 7th. 2013

The 35th Annual Ballentine Community Christmas party will be held on December 7th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. As always, there will be turkey and stuffing provided by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association, as well as all the other goodies brought by the Civic Association Members. It will be held at the Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road, off Bickley Road, in Ballentine. There is always a visit from a “special guest” in a red suit that hands out presents to the children (Santa). Bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and their children. This is fun for all ages and **FREE** to all.

It is always a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends. Everyone tells us every year how much this party means to them and how much they look forward to it. Be sure to get the word out so we can have good attendance. We want as many people as possible come to enjoy the festivities. If you have new neighbors, please let them know about this event. Any questions or for more information, please call 542-2419 (new phone number)

TO ALL MEMBERS – PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH, AND, IF POSSIBLE, AN INEXPENSIVE DOOR PRIZE. This event is **FREE** .

NEW PROGRAMS AT THE BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER

There are now quite a few classes being held at the Ballentine Community Center. Come and check out: Zumba, Arthritis Exercise class, Art classes, ceramics, cooking classes, turbo kick boxing and more. Call 781-2031 to find out more information, or stop by to see the schedule of classes. The Center is now open 5 days a week, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Calendar of Events

November 28th –Thanksgiving Day
December 2nd 6:00 pm.....Board Meeting
December 2nd, 6:30 pm.....Community Meeting
December 7th – 11:30 am.....COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

NOTE: If you still wish to be a member of the BCA, dues of \$20.00 are payable at this time.

This party has been a tradition and sponsored by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association for 35 years.

NEWSLETTER

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Phone 803-542-2419

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT February 2014

Ballentine Park Improvements? Last month we had a fantastic meeting on a number of issues concerning the Ballentine Park facilities. We had all the right people together to make progress on some much needed Park improvements. In attendance were Executive Director Mr. James Brown of Richland County Recreation Commission, Bill Malinowski, Nathan Ballentine and Todd Latiff, a Richland County Parks Commissioner. With the help of this powerhouse of decision makers, we stand an excellent chance of having requests & needs addressed. The Civic Association and members in attendance expressed the need for: **1.** A good sign on Bickley Rd. for the Park, **2.** Improved Lighting in the Parking lot, **3.** Added fencing to block cars from driving into the walking path areas, **4.** Trying to add a new entrance road to the Soccer fields to stop the traffic passing in front of the Recreation building. These well deserved/needed improvements for our park won't happen right away...but some are expect in the near future. Mr. Brown and Mr. Malinowski jumped right on finding out information about some of the projected projects. Some of them involve other agencies and individual home owners so it may take a while. It is good that we are moving forward and all of us are working as a team.

The important thing here is that the voice of the members of the Ballentine Civic Association has been heard and we feel well received by the people that can effect the changes to enhance our facilities.

YOU..."the community"...demonstrated your support of our efforts by attending our January meeting and that was just what we needed to help advance our goals for improvements.

Docks at Lake Murray Marina...were expanded and modified during the big two year draw down for the new Dam construction several years ago. Word has it that the "special rules" in effect for that draw down period have expired. Now is the time to get informed...before the new changes become permanent. Representatives from the marina will be attending the February 3rd meeting. Their intent is to inform us of a new layout or configuration of slips they want to retain. This alteration would be work necessary for them to comply with the current requirements. Will you like the new configuration or not. **Beacon Point residents...**and surrounding area lake residents should pass this information on to their neighbors to encourage them to attend this meeting. These docks will affect all of you especially. Also Watershire residents should know about this.

2014 Civic Association Leadership Team...was elected on 1/6/14

2014 Civic Association Leadership Team...was elected on 1/6/14

Les Tweed-President, Ken Colton-Vice President, Joan Tweed-Secretary, Rick Pascal-Treasurer.

Board Members: Gary Howard, Clyde Moody, Gene Biernaski, Laura Parnell, Cheryl Walter, Phil Savage. Thanks to all who step up to keep the Ballentine Civic Association as a watchdog for our wonderful community.

Civic Association Audit...has been completed. At our January meeting the subject of having an audit was raised. It sounded like a good idea to all of us...so we had an audit conducted. Gene Biernaski headed up the project. I expect that our accounting is all correct... but as President Reagan said "Trust but Verify".

Regards, Les Tweed – President

BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER OTHER NEWS

OUR CENTER is constantly growing under the direction of Charlene Lyles, the new manager at Ballentine Park. New programs starting in February:

Book Club - The Purpose Driven Life - 10:00 am to 11:00 am starting February 7th.

Crafting - Crochet starting February 7th 2:00-3:30 pm the first and third Fridays of each month

Needlepoint - Tuesdays 1:00-2:30 pm, cost for these \$2.00 per class

Cooking - February 8th - Healthy Cooking by Chef Marion - 10:00 am-12:30 pm cost \$25.00

These classes are in addition to Arthritis exercise class, ceramics, bridge, Zumba, Creative Connections art, and many others that are ongoing. To sign up for any (or all!!) of these call 781-2031.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

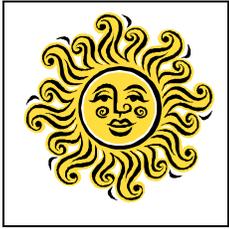
February 3rd 6:00 pm.....Board meeting

February 3rd 6:30 pm.....Community Meeting with Tammy Wright from Lake Murray Marina regarding docks

February 14th.....Valentine's Day

February 17th.....President's Day

March 3rd.....Ballentine Civic Association meeting



NEWSLETTER

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PO Box 270

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Phone 803-542-2419

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT March 2014

Update -Ballentine Park Improvements.. The January meeting started the ball rolling on a number of issues concerning the Ballentine Park facilities. In attendance were Executive Director Mr. James Brown of Richland County Recreation Commission, Bill Malinowski, Nathan Ballentine and Todd Latiff, a Richland County Parks Commissioner. The Civic Association and members in attendance expressed the need for; **1.** A good sign on Bickley Rd. for the Park, **2.** Improved Lighting in the Parking lot, **3.** Added fencing to block cars from driving into the walking path areas, **4.** Trying to add a new entrance road to the Soccer fields to stop the traffic passing in front of the Recreation building. **5.** Pave the parking lot. Our Councilman Bill Malinowski researched information for possible funding avenues for some of these projected projects. It is good that we are making progress and all of us are working as a team.

Come again...Attend our March 3rd meeting to hear the results of Councilman Bill Malinowski's funding ideas. YOU..."the community"...demonstrated your support of these projects in January and we still need voices to advance our goals for improvements.

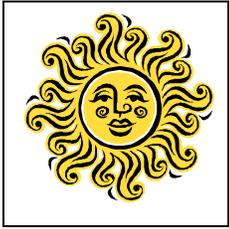
Lake Murray Marina...representative Tammy Wright discussed changes in the boat dock configuration last month. She told us about a reduction in the total slip count that resulted because of an increase in the length of a number of slips. The Marina is increasing their capacity to dock more large vessels. Tammy will also be attending the March 3rd meeting to address fuel storage concerns raised last month. Beacon Point & Watershire residents and area lake residents should pass this information on to their neighbors to encourage them to attend this meeting.

Road widening...starts in 2 weeks! That is the statement I would like to make for Rt.76 some day. The fact is there are no plans at present to widen the two lane section of Dutch Fork Rd. out to Chapin. We want to open the door to that possibility. Because it will take along time to even get it on the drawing boards, people want to get started NOW. Nathan Ballentine has been invited to the March meeting in an effort to take our first of many steps to a wider four lane road Ballentine to Chapin. Who knows...if we push on our end maybe Chapin folks will start pushing on their end. Think positive...that's why we voted the 1% transportation tax in. Bill Malinowski will be at the meeting for update us on this issue.

Update - Civic Association Audit...has been completed. At our February meeting the results of an audit was revealed. Gene Biernaski told us the project went very well. He found NO financial discrepancies. Rick Pascal is taking good care of the Association's funds. Gene did suggest we improve our record keeping system. This, of course, is very good news because we haven't done this in a long time. Thank you Rick & Gene for a job well done.

Regards, Les Tweed – President

Ballentine Community Center - call 781-2031 to find out all the great things to do over there now. Cooking class on March 8th at 10:00 \$25.00 cost includes good eats..



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT April 2014

Update -Ballentine Park Improvements...Executive Director Mr. James Brown of Richland County Recreation Commission is currently working on his new fiscal budget. Hopefully the improvement projects we requested at the January meeting will be included for funding. The Civic Association and members in attendance expressed the need for: **1.** Park signage on Bickley Rd. **2.** Lighting for the Parking lot, **3.** Add fencing to prevent driving into the walking path areas, **4.** Add a new entrance road to the Soccer fields. **5.** Pave the parking lot...(we have a valid quote that this could be done for \$29,775) Our Councilman Bill Malinowski has researched information for possible funding of a new access road to the Soccer fields...let's hope it works out. **Lighting update:** From 4/14 through 4/18, the RCRC maintenance staff will begin trenching the parking lot for lights. From 4/21 through 4/25, SCE&G will begin installing the lights in the parking lot

If anyone wants to help....write a letter or send an email to Executive Director Mr. James Brown of Richland County Recreation Commission (email james_brown@rcrc.state.sc.us) & Councilman Bill Malinowski (email malinowski@rcgov.us) to encourage them to follow through on getting these requests completed.

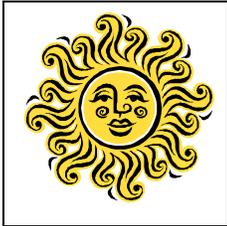
Lake Murray Marina...at the March meeting representative Tammy Wright brought documentation to verify to our organization that proves the Marina is complying with all regulations related to safety issues in dispensing fuel at the docks.

Rt.76 widening... our need is for the two lane section of Rt.76 /Dutch Fork Rd. be widened at least out to Hilton as recommended in 2003. Thanks to Phil Savage...we have a report that Central Midlands Council of Governments (CMCOG) recommended the widening project in 2003. Now we need to know...why are we still waiting when the project was ranked #3 in importance out of 20 needed improvements. The estimate was \$17 mil which was close to the average cost of the top 10 projects. The other important discovery was...this recommended project was identified years before the passing of the 1% transportation tax we are all paying now.

It is time to get active and ask Nathan Ballentine (email schouse71@aim.com) to find out why this project isn't underway. Tell him you want this to happen...write to him, email him and forward this information on to anyone around here that agrees we need Rt.76 /Dutch Fork Rd. to be widened at least out to Hilton as recommended by the CMCOG in 2003. <http://www.centralmidlands.org/>

Nathan Ballentine was invited to the March meeting in an effort to take our first of many steps to a wider four lane road. He didn't make it...maybe we will see him this month.

Regards, Les Tweed – President



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT May 2014

The Bad News...Wake Up Adderly Oaks and Millford Park residents...If you don't want Commercial Business across the street from Ballentine Elementary you better express your issues at this Irmo Town meeting. We stood up and won against the Low Income Housing project. But NOW the property owners want to Annex into Irmo so they can commercialize that zone any way they want. How would you like a Truck terminal, a cement factory or a warehouse distribution center? Who Knows what... but we know it WILL BE COMMERCIAL and Richland County won't be able to stop what ever Irmo allows. The property owners want to switch to Irmo because Richland County (with support from Bill Malinowski) want to keep it residential as most of us homeowners prefer. If this becomes Irmo property you totally lose control.

May 6th will be the Second reading of this Annexation and the 1st reading passed!

SECOND READING of Ordinance 14-05 to annex 4 parcels located in Richland County on the north side of Bickley Road between Wise Road and Broad River Road; TMS # 02500-Block 07-Lot(s) 17, 19, 21 and 22 will be May 6th.

Contact your HOA and BE THERE to prove to Irmo we don't want this to happen!

THE IRMO TOWN COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TUESDAY, MAY 6TH, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 7300 WOODROW STREET

THIS PUBLIC HEARING IS TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON A PETITION TO ANNEX 4 PARCELS AS SHOWN ON RICHLAND COUNTY TAX MAPS AS TMS #02500-BLOCK -07-LOTS 17, 19, 21, AND 22, TO BE ZONED GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG), THESE PROPERTIES ARE BORDERED ON THE SOUTH OF BICKLEY ROAD BY THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF IRMO.

LIBRARY UPDATE - Good News...Kelly Jones, Manager of Richland Library Ballentine, will be coming to speak at our May 5th meeting to discuss summer programs and events at the local libraries. Roberta Bibbins, the Library's Planning and Project Manger will be attending also to give us a progress report on the proposed new Ballentine library.

Update - Ballentine Park Improvements...Lighting has been improved and the Parking lots have been leveled out. Thanks to Executive Director Mr. James Brown of Richland County Recreation Commission part of our wishes have come true. He is currently working on his new fiscal budget and hopefully the improvement projects we requested at the January meeting will be included for funding. No new news to report on: **1.** Park signage on Bickley Rd. **2.** Add fencing to prevent driving into the walking path areas, **3.** Add a new entrance road to the Soccer fields. **4.** Pave the parking lot.

Our Councilman Bill Malinowski has researched information for possible funding of a new access road to the Soccer fields...let's hope it works out.

If anyone wants to help....write a letter or send an email to Executive Director Mr. James Brown of Richland County Recreation Commission (email james_brown@rcrc.state.sc.us) & Councilman Bill Malinowski (email malinowski@rcgov.us) to encourage them to follow through on getting these requests completed.

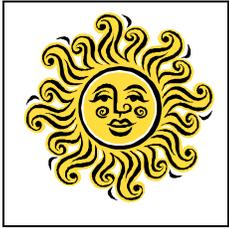
Ken Tallman, who has served as President and Vice President and a board member since 2002 will be leaving the area in August. He has been one of our most valued Members and will be sorely missed. Good luck for the future, Ken.

May 5th will be our last meeting of this session. The Ballentine Civic Association will resume in September 2014.

Regards, Les Tweed – President

CALENDER OF EVENTS

May 5th.....6:00 pm Board meeting BCA - last meeting until September
May 5th.....6:30 pm Community Meeting
May 11th.....Mother's Day
May 26th.....Memorial Day



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270

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Phone 803-542-2419

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT Sept 2014

Well it's time to get back to our Civic duties of meeting to discuss the issues confronting our community. I hope your summer went well and you're are willing to come join us at the September 8th meeting at 6:30. These meetings are open to anyone. Please invite friends and neighbors and anyone else you think might be interested in our community. Let me update you.

The Bad News... at the May 6th Irmo council meeting about annexing 4 parcels located in Richland County on the north side of Bickley Road between Wise Road and Broad River Road; TMS # 02500-Block 07-Lot(s) 17, 19, 21 and 22 ...that was approved. No one from Adderly Oaks or Millford Park even showed up to contest the annexation. People "say" they don't want Irmo to take control of this area but even when they were given opportunity to object...they didn't. Adderly Oaks & Millford Park residents...If you didn't want Commercial Business across the street from Ballentine Elementary you missed your chance to express your opposition to Irmo Town Council. Remember the property owners want to Annex into Irmo so they can commercialize that zone any way they want. How would you like a Truck terminal, a cement factory or a warehouse distribution center? Who Knows what... but we know it this has become Irmo property - you totally lost control. I wonder why your HOA was not involved.

BALLENTINE LIBRARY UPDATE - News... on the proposed new Ballentine library. There are going to be community meetings on 9/10 at 6:00 pm - 9/11 at 11:00 am and 9/11 at 4:00 pm. Please try to attend one of these meetings to express your interests. The sooner they get information, the quicker we get our new library.

Update - Ballentine Park Improvements...Lighting has been improved and the parking lots have been leveled out. Fencing has been put up around the walking paths to increase safety and keep people from driving and parking in that part of the park. Thanks to Executive Director Mr. James Brown of Richland County Recreation Commission part of our wishes have come true. Our Councilman Bill Malinowski has researched information and has been advised that approvals were received to move forward with a new road as a separate entrance to the soccer/football parking area at the Center. Mr. Brown is working on information about paving the parking lot.

There are many programs/classes going on at Ballentine Community Center. It is worth checking out. Call Charlene at 781-2031. A cooking class is scheduled for September 13th at 10:00 am. Cost \$25.00 ages 10+.

Richland County has been holding Community Open Houses for people to learn about the Plan that has been created for the future of Richland County. Come and share your thoughts on their recommendations and talk one-on-one with the planning team. This is the last opportunity for the people of Richland County to express their views before the Plan is considered for adoption. Come and review the draft Comprehensive Plan Update. The meeting closest to us is on September 10th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Dutch Fork Middle School (cafeteria), 1528 Old Tamah Road, Irmo, SC 29063.

Many people in this area constantly complain about rampant, uncontrolled growth, too many houses going up, developers not respecting the land/trees, etc. BUT, PEOPLE DON'T COME TO MEETINGS TO TRY TO IMPROVE OR CHANGE WHAT IS HAPPENING! It is easy to sit in our easy chairs and second guess everyone else's decisions but it doesn't help matters any. STOP COMPLAINING AND START DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT! One way is to join the Ballentine Civic Association to keep informed about local news. Please also attend the above referenced Community Open House on September 10th.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

September 8th 6:00 pm..... Ballentine Civic Association Board meeting
6:30 pm.....Community Meeting
September 10th 6:30 pm.....Richland County Community Open House
September 10th and 11th.....Ballentine Library Meetings - see above for times
October 6th 6:00 pm.....Ballentine Civic Association Board Meeting
6:30 pm.....Community Meeting

The Annual Christmas party has been scheduled for December 6th. More information will follow.

BCA INVOICE CALENDAR YEAR 2014/2015

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association

PO Box 270

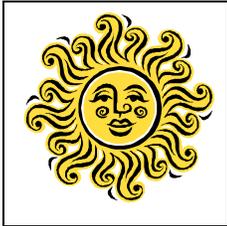
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com

Phone 803-542-2419

The calendar year for the Ballentine Civic Association dues is now running from September through May.. If you still wish to be a part of this important community Association, **please send \$20.00 for a membership** to the above address. This payment entitles you to a family membership on any pertinent issues that come before the Ballentine Civic Association. This is a bargain to be kept informed of community issues. The money also helps to support area charities.

Upcoming events: The annual Ballentine Community Christmas Party. We hope you will be able to participate. Our meetings are held the first Monday of each month at Ballentine Park beginning at 6:30 pm.



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT November 2014

Some success...after meeting with them on 9/10, we received the e-mail below pertaining to our request to remove Ballentine from a "priority investment" area for growth & a possible Transportation Hub. We still need people to attend the upcoming meeting on November 5th at 1:00 pm but below is basically a progress report.

They still want to encourage "investments" here so we need to tell them what kind of growth we consider "positive" growth in our minds. Read the e-mail...come to the meetings & SPEAK YOUR MIND, and I mean now before it is too late.

Example...Without road widening any "good growth" will be over shadowed by congestion frustration.

Email from;

Tracy Hegler, AICP Planning Director, Richland County Planning & Development Services (803)576-2168 heglert@rcgov.us

Hi, Ms. Tweed

The Planning Commission will be going page by page in the Comp Plan to make recommended edits or changes. They may vote on individual items they want to see changed, like a particular policy, but they will NOT be making a recommendation of adoption of the plan. That will come in December.

I strongly encourage you to attend both meetings, if you can. The meeting in November will be mostly for observance of what the Planning Commission may change. The December 1 meeting would be the opportunity for you to speak in support of (or against) the Comp Plan.

Also, please note that **we have removed the language about the transit hub from the Priority Investment Area near you**. It has been refined to read as follows:

Ballentine at Dutch Fork Road, Marina Road, and Broad River Road.

Commercial node in Northwestern Richland County.

Area has existing commercial development, and is identified as a Neighborhood Activity Center. The intent is to provide neighborhood serving commercial uses, but to limit development to neighborhood serving uses to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow from surrounding neighborhoods. Investments could include necessary infrastructure, streetscape improvements, signage, and lighting.

Thanks for checking in and let me know if I can help in anyway. Tracy Hegler

Your reply & our message to Richland County Planning & Development Services on the subject "Commercial node in Northwestern Richland County "priority investment" should be strongly delivered as **NO Priority Investment Area designation without or before Roads Investment!!**

If you can't attend meetings at least call or email your concerns to [Tracy Hegler](#) (her contact info is listed above)



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
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www.ballentinedutchfork.com 542-2419

36th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 6th. 2014

The 36th Annual Ballentine Community Christmas party will be held on December 6th from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. As always, there will be turkey and stuffing provided by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association, as well as all the other goodies brought by the Civic Association Members. It will be held at the Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road, off Bickley Road, in Ballentine. There is always a visit from a “special guest” in a red suit that hands out presents to the children (Santa). Bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and their children. This is fun for all ages and **FREE** to all.

It is always a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends. Everyone tells us every year how much this party means to them and how much they look forward to it. Be sure to get the word out so we can have good attendance. We want as many people as possible come to enjoy the festivities. If you have new neighbors, please let them know about this event. Any questions or for more information, please call 542-2419.

TO ALL MEMBERS – PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH, AND, IF POSSIBLE, AN INEXPENSIVE DOOR PRIZE. This event is **FREE** .

PROGRAMS AT THE BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER

There are now quite a few classes being held at the Ballentine Community Center. Come and check out Arthritis Exercise class, Art classes, ceramics, Zumba, turbo kick boxing, bridge, canasta. New programs are being added all the time. Most of these class are free or inexpensive. Call 781-2031 to find out more information, or stop by to see the schedule of classes. The Center is now open 5 days a week, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Calendar of Events

November 27th –Thanksgiving Day
December 1st 6:00 pm.....Board Meeting
December 1st, 6:30 pm.....Community Meeting
December 6th – 11:30 am.....COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

NOTE: If you still wish to be a member of the BCA, dues of \$20.00 are payable at this time.

This party has been a tradition and sponsored by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association for 36 years.



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT January 2015

To: BCA Members and Friends

Some thoughts for 2015. As we begin a new year together, let us reflect on where we are as an organization and highlight some projects we need to discuss and work on during 2015.

First, we build on the time and talents of the people who have led the Ballentine Civic Association in the past. Both Joan and Les Tweed have been the pillars of this organization for at least the past 15 years. We are grateful for their service to our community over the years. This year our meetings continue to be the first Monday of each month at the Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road just a short distance off of Bickley Road across from the Ballentine Elementary School.

I have been asked to serve as your President. Les Tweed will assume the VP chair and Joan Tweed continues in her role of Secretary. Rick Pascal, who has been promoted from Branch Manager but still maintains an office at Ballentine First Citizens, continues to be our Treasurer. We do have vacancies on our Board of Directors so if you would like to serve on the board please give me a call or speak to me at one of the meetings. The board always meets at 6:00 (30 minutes before our General Meeting). Laura Parnell, Linda Howard, and Clyde Moody will continue to serve on the Board during 2015.

The main role of the Ballentine Civic Association is to be a forum of ideas on improving our community. The attendance at our meetings greatly increases when we have HOT issues that come up. Many of us recall the days when we attempted to incorporate and become an official municipality. Meetings were standing room only. At most meetings our attendance varies from 15-30 people. We welcome all residents at our meetings. If you have an issue or concern, come and share it with us.

During 2015 here are some issues I would like to see discussed: (1) Improving the signage as you enter the Greater Ballentine Area; (2) Encouraging local residents to serve on County and State Boards that will benefit our community; (3) Inviting businesses in the Greater Ballentine Area to dialogue with us on their concerns; (4) Keeping informed of the new Ballentine Library; (5) Informing our residents of the activities at the Ballentine Community Center; (6) Recognizing the men and women of the Richland County Police and Fire Departments that serve in our area; (7) Having fun together as we count our blessings.

Come and join us on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 at the Ballentine Community Center!

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2014

The Annual Christmas party held on 12/6 was a great success. We had many new community folks discover this wonderful, yearly event and all had a good time. Santa, as usual, was quite a hit with the kids. Please join us next year, you won't regret it.

THINGS TO DO!

- Free Fridays at Riverbanks Zoo in January and February for residents of Lexington and Richland counties with valid picture ID. 803.779.8717
- 1/1-1/19 Main St Ice Skating, 1515 Main St 'www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation' 803-545-3100
- 1/4 SC State Museum, \$1 admission the first Sunday of the month
- 1/4, 11, 18, 25 Free Sundays at Columbia Museum of Art
1515 Main St. 803.799.2810, www.columbiamuseum.org
- 1/8-1/18 Restaurant Week Columbia, Dinner Only, special menus throughout the Midlands.
'www.restaurantweeksouthcarolina.com'. 803-765-9000
- Check out the Ballentine Library for their schedule of things to do there, as well as other library locations.
- there are always programs going on at the Ballentine Community Center. Don't sit home being bored, call 781-2031 to find out program schedules.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

January 5th 6:00 pm..... Ballentine Civic Association Board meeting
6:30 pm.....Community Meeting
January 19thMartin Luther King Day

Greater Ballentine Civic Association

Agenda for February 2, 2015 6:30 PM

1. Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Opening Prayer Ken Colton, Chair
2. Reports
 - a. Richland County Sheriff Department Update on Activity in Ballentine Area
 - Last month (1) stolen car in Milford Park—keys left inside car (2) 27 deputies work Outbound Region 4 which includes Greater Ballentine
 - b. Reports of Elected Officials
 - Councilman Bill Malinowski
 - State Representative Nathan Ballentine
 - Others Present
3. Old Business
 - a. Monetary gifts to Lake Murray Sisters in Service & Boy Scout Troop 411
 - Rick Pascal, Treasurer
 - b. Report on (1) boundaries and (2) signs as you enter Ballentine area
 - Gary Howard, Committee Chair
4. New Business
 - a. Appoint committee to (1) make original Ballentine Civic Association building a historical site, (2) look into costs of repairs to building, (3) pursue available grant money. Building has a rich history. At one time it was a prison, at another time a general store. Look for historical articles on the building. - Les Tweed, VP
 - b. Grant writing workshop at 3 PM, Tuesday, Feb 3, at County Building Council Chambers.
 - c. Other:
5. Invited Guests
 - Roberta Phillips and Tamara will give us an update on progress for the new Greater Ballentine Area Library

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME AND BRING A NEIGHBOR!

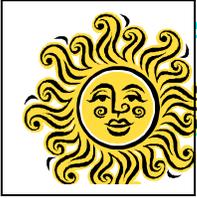
Greater Ballentine Civic Association

Agenda for April 6, 2015 Board Meeting 6:00 – General Meeting 6:30 PM

1. Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance - Opening Prayer by Ken Colton, Chair
2. Reports
 - a. Richland County Sheriff Department Update on Activity in Ballentine Area
 - b. Reports of Elected Officials
 - Richland County Councilman Bill Malinowski
 - Others Present
3. Old Business
 - a. Report from Sign Committee
 - Gary Howard, Committee Chair
 - b. April 25th Self Defense Class for Women at Harbison Recreation Center
 - c. Comprehensive Plan for Richland County – anyone looking at it?
4. New Business
 - a. Status of Multi-Family Housing being discussed to be built behind Food Lion in Ballentine. [7.36 acres, 56 units, rents \$400-\$700, tax credit project]
5. Invited Guests (7:00)
 - Valeria Jackson, Director of Community Development, Richland County Government. She has been asked to talk about Affordable Housing and its possible impact on the Greater Ballentine Area.
6. Adjourn at or before 7:30.

NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, MAY 4, 6:30

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com 542-2419

37th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 5th. 2015

The 37th Annual Ballentine Community Christmas party will be held on December 5th from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. As always, there will be turkey and stuffing provided by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association, as well as all the other goodies brought by the Civic Association Members. It will be held at the Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road, off Bickley Road, in Ballentine. There is always a visit from a “special guest” in a red suit that hands out presents to the children (Santa). Bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and their children. This is fun for all ages and **FREE** to all.

It is always a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends. Everyone tells us every year how much this party means to them and how much they look forward to it. Be sure to get the word out so we can have good attendance. We want as many people as possible come to enjoy the festivities. If you have new neighbors, please let them know about this event. Any questions or for more information, please call 542-2419.

TO ALL MEMBERS – PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH, AND, IF POSSIBLE, AN INEXPENSIVE DOOR PRIZE. This event is **FREE** .

PROGRAMS AT THE BALLENTINE COMMUNITY CENTER

There are now quite a few classes being held at the Ballentine Community Center. Come and check out Arthritis Exercise class, Art classes, ceramics, bridge, canasta. New programs are being added all the time. Most of these class are free or inexpensive. Call 781-2031 to find out more information, or stop by to see the schedule of classes. The Center is now open 5 days a week, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Calendar of Events

November 26th –Thanksgiving Day
December 7th 6:00 pm.....Board Meeting
December 7th, 6:30 pm.....Community Meeting
December 5th – 11:30 am.....COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

NOTE: If you still wish to be a member of the BCA, dues of \$20.00 are payable at this time.

This party has been a tradition and sponsored by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association for 37 years.

Sent: Dec 29, 2015 8:16 PM
Subject: Ballentine Civic Association January Meeting 1/4/16

Let's start 2016 with new ideas for our community.

Come and voice your ideas at the next meeting on January 4th.

At our January 4th, 6:30 pm meeting we will ask our members to share an idea they would like us to pursue in 2016. Be thinking of ways the Ballentine Civic Association (BCA) could improve our community. If you are unable to attend our January 4th meeting, send me, or Joan, an email and we will bring up your suggestion.

Here are some things we will be doing:

- (1) We will be nearing the opening of the Ballentine Library.
- (2) We will be watching what the County plans to do with their new property off of Salem Church Road.
- (3) We hope to finish having our BCA Welcome signs up. Gary and Linda Howard have been working this project for us. Mike Richardson has also been working on this.
- (4) We will keep having our monthly updates from Richland County Sheriff Department as well as Bill Malinowski our Area Council Member. Other elected officials are always invited to join us.

I am resigning from the President's position. Our business has moved to Lexington County and we plan to sell our home at 1056 Jones Road and move to the house we bought near our marina off of Hwy 378.

I plan to nominate Tom Callan to finish my last year as President. Tom has been a supporter of BCA for several years and was a key worker in our Incorporation Drive. Moreover, he has completed the Richland County 101 Course and knows a lot about how the County functions. Tom has agreed to assume the position.

If you would like to nominate someone else, please check with the person and then nominate him or her at our January meeting. We will vote for the replacement for BCA President on January 4th.

Les Tweed will continue to serve his term as Vice President, Joan Tweed continues as Secretary, and Rick Pascal continues as Treasurer of the organization through 2016.

Come and join us at 6:30 on Monday, January 4th. Bring a neighbor with you!

Ken Colton, President, Ballentine Civic Association
1056 Jones Road, Irmo, SC 29063

Business Phone: 803.730.3044 Cell Phone: 803.429.4673 www.SpiritofLakeMurray.com



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002
www.ballentinedutchfork.com Phone 803-542-2419

BCA NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2016

As we prepare to end our regular monthly meetings for the summer recess, we hope you will join us on Monday, May 2nd at 6:30 PM at the Ballentine Community Center for our last meeting until September 12th (one week later than usual due to Labor Day celebration). Our guest at the May 2nd meeting will be Mr. Dickinson, from the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging to discuss programs available to the community.

As we recess our regularly scheduled meeting please be assured that the Ballentine Civic Association never rests and we will continue to monitor activities of interest to our community throughout the summer months. This has been a productive year thus far, and while the Civic Association cannot take all the credit, our collective efforts have produced results as a brief recap shows:

- Parking lot at the Ballentine Community Center has been paved and a new access road for the soccer fields is under construction, which will improve safety for those in the parking lot.
- We have addressed the Richland County Lake Murray "LM Project" and as of our last meeting we have been assured by Councilman Malinowski that there are no plans or funds for further efforts in this area. Residents in the Salem Church area and the BCA will continue to monitor this project in the hope of persuading the county to sell the land rather than consider any type of development.
- We have expressed our concerns, along with Senator Courson and Nathan Ballentine, and in The State, regarding a proposed project for 2 forms of low income housing in the vicinity of the intersection of Rt 6 and 76. Our concerns focus on the fact that these projects will add to an already congested intersection and lack support resources such as public transportation and adjacent medical and shopping services for low income dwellers.

We await a decision by the SC Housing Office on whether or not these projects will receive funding.

- The Penny Tax presentation we received on March 7th revealed that the survey, land acquisition and utility relocation is underway for the expansion of 76/176 from 2 to 4 lanes. This project will probably get underway in earnest in August, and while not a 100% fix for some of the traffic issues, it is a solid first step in alleviating congestion along this busy thoroughfare. More info is available at RichlandPenny.com.
- The new Ballentine Library is under construction and is eagerly anticipated. At present there are some concerns about the traffic impact just over the railroad bridge, but the site development may include turn lanes to ease potential problems.
- The BCA continues our efforts to design and install new Ballentine Community signs along Rt 76. Several members have been working to develop cost effective signage and alternative locations. We hope to bring this to closure in 2016.

While we will be in recess, we urge you to keep us posted regarding issues of concern. Please join us at the May 2nd meeting. We hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer and look forward to see you September 12th.

Tom Callan

As always, everyone is welcome at the community meetings. Bring your friends and neighbors along with on May 2nd at 6:30 pm . The Office on Aging has numerous programs to assist the population in our neighborhoods. If you know of any senior citizen who could benefit from hearing about them, please bring them also.

The Ballentine Community Center also has many classes, etc. Please contact Charlene at 781-2031 to find out if there is anything of interest to you or someone you know.

Joan Tweed

BALLENTINE CIVIC ASSOCIATION (BCA) - NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2016

Summer is nearing the end and we hope one and all have had a thoroughly relaxing and enjoyable summer. We will resume our monthly Ballentine Civic Association meetings and the next one is at 6:30 PM on Monday September 12th, at the Ballentine Community Center. Our guest for this meeting is Kelly Jones, Manager of the Richland Library Ballentine, who will provide an update on the new library facility. The Art Director, Steven Olexa, as well as others with Richland County Library, are helping the Ballentine Civic Association design new "Welcome to Ballentine" signs to be placed at strategic locations. The BCA has also been offered four Ballentine road signs by DOT to be placed in different areas (areas still to be determined). We hope to see you there, and by all means bring a friend/neighbor.

While the BCA has not been conducting meetings we have endeavored to monitor activity in our community.

Nathan Ballentine has been working with Laura Nicholson, www.SChousing.com to try to determine if low income housing developments have or have not been approved for Ballentine. They were called "The Park and the Pointe". As of 8/17 we still did not have a final answer from Ms. Nicholson. We do know that a development of this type has been approved on Lake Murray Blvd. in Irmo "The Chinaberry" development.

A. J. Amick Road in Ballentine - There was a request to rezone 18 acres to low density which Richland County has already approved. It would have a maximum number of 65 houses allowed.

There are signs up going toward Chapin on Rt. 76 just past Rauch Metz Road about leases for stores etc. which seems to lead towards a strip shopping center going in there. If anyone has further information about this, please let someone from the Ballentine Civic Association know about it. 542-2419

There are also a number of activities ahead in the surrounding area that may be of interest to you:

- Sew Divine: A gathering of crafters (for adults) 6 – 7:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Library
- Book Bingo (for teens). Stop by and fill out a bingo card using the books on the shelves. Any card with BINGO gets a prize at the Library.
- Many more activities at our local branch library. Stop by and/or check out the website at: <http://www.richlandlibrary.com/locations/ballentine>
- **Cool Jazz On A Warm Summer Night, Music & Dancing** – Live Band Performance by Jazmatic, Saturday September 17th from 6pm – 8pm at the Ballentine Community Center. Tickets \$10 per person, and light refreshments will be served.
- Unlimited mulch for Richland County residents. \$10 a ton (BOGO) Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Sat: 7 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Richland County C&D Landfill, 1070 Caughman Road North.

- REMEMBER ELECTIONS ARE ON NOVEMBER 8TH. Poll workers are desperately needed. If you know someone who would be interested please have them call Betsy at 803-576-1512 or by email at hille@rcgov.us.
- One of our Board members, Laura Parnell, has been in touch with DHEC about getting water samples evaluated from well water. The gentleman has agreed to come to our first meeting on 9/12 and talk about what the samples would show. He would like a head count so he can bring enough bottles to hand out to attendees at the meeting. Please let us know if you are interested in having your well water tested.

We look forward to see you September 12th.



NEWSLETTER

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PO Box 270
Ballentine, SC 29002

www.ballentinedutchfork.com 542-2419

38th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 3RD, 2016

The 38th Annual Ballentine Community Christmas party will be held on December 3rd from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. As always, there will be turkey and stuffing provided by the Ballentine Civic Association, as well as all the other goodies brought by the Civic Association Members. It will be held at the Ballentine Community Center on Bird Road, off Bickley Road, in Ballentine. There is always a visit from a “special guest” in a red suit that hands out presents to the children (Santa). Bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and their children. This is fun for all ages and **FREE** to all.

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Calendar of Events

November 24th Thanksgiving
December 3rd – 11:30 am..... COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 5th.....Community Meeting 6:30 pm - Senator Courson -
guest speaker

NOTE: If you still wish to be a member of the BCA, dues of \$20.00 are payable at this time.

This party has been a tradition and sponsored by the Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association for 38 years.