



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
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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