



NEWSLETTER

BALLENTINE DUTCH FORK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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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