



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
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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 -