



NEWSLETTER

Ballentine Dutch Fork Civic Association
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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.