

A Town is Born . . .  
*The Town of Seabrook Island*  
South Carolina



Design by  
Tran Mawicke

Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary  
1987 ~ 1997



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*The Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina*  
1893 Andell Bluff Boulevard ~ Seabrook Island, SC 29455  
Phone (803) 768-9121 ~ Fax (803) 768-9830

## *Shangri-La*

*Standing on the edge of the Continental shelf,  
transfixed by the vastness of the ocean scene,  
into this mystery I delve.*

*Why, of all the places I have been,  
does this alone seem like home?*

*Seabrook Island, South Carolina,  
barrier island on the Atlantic coast,  
On a map of the world, who could find you?  
Yet, of life's amenities you have most:  
The friendliest folks we have ever found  
from all over the continent have come here;  
In natural beauty you abound.*

*Live Oaks, Palmettoes, Egrets, a sphere  
of life peculiar to the Lowcountry isles;  
Our Shangri-La you have become  
with sunshiny days and time beguiled,  
held in abeyance while the old grow young,  
Land of Enchantment where  
Time stands still.*



*Pat Leonard  
1983*

# Come Celebrate With Us!



*Monday, May 19, 1997 • 5:00 PM*

**Introductory Remarks**  
*Jack Garvin*

**Introduction of Distinguished Guests**  
*Mayor Bernard M. Roper*

**Presentation**  
*Norman Ross*  
*Director Camp St. Christopher*

**The Ways to Incorporation**  
*J. Reese Daniel, Esquire*



*Cake by St. Johns Island Cafe*

## ***NOW COMES THE FUN!***

**A Taste of Seabrook**  
**THE RESTAURANTS OF SEABROOK ISLAND:**

*ALANO'S PIZZA - Steve Jones*  
*THE CLUB AT SEABROOK - Steve Powers, Chuck Wakefield*  
*CREEKSIDE COFFEE - Mary McKay*  
*PRIVATEER - Vince Miccichi*  
*RED SKY RESTAURANT - Valerie Shears*  
*ROSEBANK FARMS CAFE - Julia Limehouse*

**Entertainment**  
*The Barrier Islanders*



*Peggie Theoharous & Barbara Marin*

# Welcome!

*A year ago, Mayor Roper approached us to chair the committee for celebrating the Town of Seabrook Island's 10th Anniversary.*

*We found excellent resource material at the Town Hall in nicely arranged albums. In reading and researching, we realized how much of a "mystique" there is in starting and incorporating and building a town. Few of us have had the opportunity to start from the roots up. It is a myriad of issues, ideas, laws and decisions. Such an effort deserves recognition and celebration. Hence, we brought together a diligent and enthusiastic steering committee to bring you this 10th Anniversary Celebration - the first decade in "our" Town of Seabrook. Our thanks to all who have made this a fun occasion - especially the Town Hall staff: Van Willis, Barbara Bennett and Faye Albretton.*

*We hope you will join us in recognizing this event and the many people who made our Town a reality.*

*Peggie Theoharous*

*Peggie Theoharous*

*Barbara W. Marin*

*Barbara Marin*

## Steering Committee

### Co-Chairmen

*Barbara Marin & Peggie Theoharous*

### Bohicket Merchant's Association Liaison

*Carol Gray & Steve Prettyman*

### Anniversary Booklet

*Pat Wire & Jess Coyle*  
*Committee*  
*Fran Downen & Pat Leonard*

### Program

*Jack Garvin*

### Decorations

*Susan Suffel*  
*Allan Suffel*

### Publicity

*Jack Hostutler*  
*Millie Roper*

### Food & Bar

*Dottie Diesing & Jerry Coyle*  
*Committee:*  
*Shirley Bissett*  
*Barbara Grimes*  
*Jean Robnett*

### Registration

*Don Moore & Lou Favret*

### Set-Up

*Doug Hurd & Bob Fulmer*

### Entertainment

*Betsy Smith*

## Initial Voting Commissioners & Committees



### Incorporation Commission

(left to right) Jack Garvin (Chairman), Marilou Stonehouse, Peggie Theoharous, Julius Green, Curt Judge, and Bob Johnson

### Incorporation Committee

Joel Thompson, Chairman  
Tish Dixon, Tom Ford, Keith Fuller, Jack Garvin, Gerry Gordon, Julius Green, Joe Hall, Curt Judge, Paul MacMillan, Jack Reigart, Wilson White

## Founding Committees & Commissions

### STANDING COMMITTEES

(Consisted of Council Members)

#### Ways & Means

Marilou Stonehouse  
David Hughes  
Joel Thompson (Mayor)

#### Public Safety

Tom Semmens  
Joel Thompson (Mayor)

#### Public Works

David Hughes  
Joel Thompson (Mayor)

#### Planning & Zoning

Richard Rakovich  
Joel Thompson (Mayor)



### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

#### Planning & Zoning

Warren Watts • Ethel Wenrich  
Earl Clayton • Ken Gifford • Ed Tracy

#### Environmental Committee

Jack Garvin • Red Ballentine  
Ed Pagola • Meg Rathbun

#### Board of Adjustment

Bert Mahla • Bill Gamble • Barb Pressler  
Don Moore • Lou Favret

#### Accommodation Tax

Bill Davis • John Stagg • Bill Dorris  
Carol Williamson • Pat Wire • Harold Pivnick

#### Beach Management Plan

Henry Lindauer • Walter P. Diesing  
William Davis • Esther Pivnick • Bob Cowan

#### Election Commission

Jack Garvin • Julius Green • Paul McMillian

#### First Election Managers

Fred Zahrn - First Manager  
Committee:  
John Reisen • William Wire  
Barbara Pass • Thomas Bolger • Robert Parker

First In a Series...

## THE BIRTH OF THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND; 1985 STEPS TAKEN THAT LED TO INCORPORATION

by Jack Garvin, Chairman, 1985 Incorporation Committee

You might wonder about the birth of The Town of Seabrook Island and how we got to be a South Carolina municipality.

It all began early in 1985 at the annual meeting of the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association. Retiring POA Board member Russ Blandford called attention to the fact that the City of Charleston was annexing portions of Johns Island in the direction of Seabrook. Blandford warned of the possibility of being annexed and recommended that a task force be created to study the pros and cons of annexation/incorporation.

POA President Bob Johnson asked for a show of hands to determine if the property owners favored the Blandford recommendation. After a solid consensus was recorded, Johnson asked POA Board member Warren Watts to appoint a task force. The original committee consisted of Tish Dixon, Tom Ford, Jack Garvin, Gerry Gordon, Julius Green, Paul MacMillan, Jack Reigart and Wilson White. Later, the committee was expanded to include Keith Fuller, Joe Hall, Curt Judge and Joel Thompson.

After months of study, with advice and counsel of Attorney J. Reese Daniel, the committee concluded that incorporation would provide the best protection for the Island. It was felt that locally-elected Town officials would better determine the well-being and the future of the Island than could representatives in the County Courthouse or, indeed, the Charleston City Hall. An incorporated municipality would have the ability to pass and enforce planning and zoning ordinances.

In October, 1986, the Incorporation Committee filed with the S.C. Secretary of State the required petitions and

data, including the boundaries of the proposed town, a feasibility study of services, the form of government, method of election and term of office. Based upon this data, the Committee requested certification to hold a referendum on Incorporation.

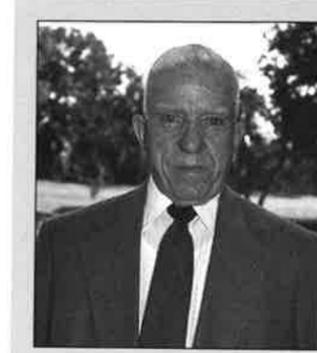
On December 8, 1986, the Secretary of State certified the data and issued a certification to hold a referendum. Election Commissioners named were Jack Garvin, Julius Green, Bob Johnson, Curt Judge, Marilou Stonehouse and Peggie Theoharous. Garvin was elected chairman.

Another committee was formed to inform citizens of the advantages of incorporation, to raise funds and to prepare for the creation of the new town. In addition, this committee, chaired by Joel Thompson, submitted the necessary information to the Voting Rights Division of the US

Department of Justice.

On May 19, 1987, 85% of registered voters approved incorporation by a 5 to 1 margin. They also approved the name of the municipality, a mayor-council form of government, two-year terms of office with non-partisan candidates elected at large. The following day, the Election Commission reported the results to the Secretary of State. On May 26, 1987, Secretary of State John T. Campbell issued the Certification of Incorporation.

The first municipal election was held on August 18, 1987, where the first mayor and four council members were named. Over 80% of the registered voters cast ballots. The following day, the newly-elected Mayor Joel Thompson and Council members Dave Hughes, Dick Rakovich, Marilou Stonehouse and Tom Semmens took the oath of office by the flagpole at Bohicket Marina.



Jack Garvin



Polling Place



(Induction of Officers, August 19, 1987)  
Jack Garvin (Chairman of Election Commission) with back to camera in act of swearing into office Joel Thompson (Mayor) and council members Dick Rakovich, Marilou Stonehouse, David Hughes and Tom Semmens

# DEVELOPER'S ANTI-INCORPORATION CAMPAIGN, COURT SUITS DELAYED 1987 REFERENDUM, TOWN ELECTION

## Aggressive Tactics Backfire After Pilings Were Quickly Driven Into Deveaux Site

by Joe Hall

Those of us who experienced those days between the December 1986 certification and the August 1987 election know that events were anything but simple.

Upon receiving the Certification from the South Carolina Secretary of State, the Election Commission selected March 3, 1987 as the date for an incorporation referendum. The Incorporation Committee began assembling information required to get the U.S. Justice Department's approval to hold the referendum and then the election.

A few citizens expressed doubts that the City of Charleston would attempt to annex Seabrook. Others were concerned over the possibility of the Town imposing property taxes or that incorporation might threaten the POA security gate. The Committee realized that a majority vote was not automatic and set out to inform citizens of the advantages of incorporation.

### Anti-Incorporation Campaign

Robert B. Russell, Sr., et al, on behalf of the Seabrook Island Ocean Club (SIOC) and other real estate and development interests, launched an anti-incorporation campaign. The developer used scare tactics by highlighting threats that the Town would impose real estate taxes and that the community would lose its security gate. A pamphlet was mailed showing a bearded, leather-jacketed motorcycle rider with the claim that Seabrook would become another Myrtle Beach if incorporation succeeded. A 3'x6' sign appeared near the gate which read: "Why Risk The Security Gate — Don't Let Your Taxes Increase — Vote Against Incorporation"...not a very smart move since the sign was placed on SIPOA property without permission. The POA quickly removed it.

In the meantime, the Committee conducted meetings and issued letters highlighting the advantages of incorporation. While the Committee's efforts were helpful, it seemed that each time the developer made a move, his tactics backfired and resulted in a few more votes in favor of incorporation.

The week before the scheduled March 3 incorporation referendum, SIOC's attorney asked the Charleston County Court of Common Pleas to block the referendum through an injunction. The County Court complied. Reese Daniel, attorney for the Incorporation Committee, moved swiftly to the South Carolina Supreme Court. Chief Justice Ness promptly overruled the lower court. One final hurdle lay ahead. The U.S.

Justice Department authorization had not come through and the Commission had to delay the referendum until May 19, 1987.



Joe Hall

### "Russell's Sticks"

In the meantime, Developer Russell had quietly been planning for the SIOC to build seven villas on the Deveaux site (the water front property between the Beach Club Villas and The Club) and for his partnership to erect four huge buildings, containing 188 units, on undeveloped land along Seabrook Island Road between the Security Gate and the tree canopy. To be called "Seabrook Trace", the buildings would be 66 feet high, 20 feet higher than any other building on the

island, and would be set back only 25 feet from the street. The community first learned of this in April 1987 when Charleston County approved the projects and issued building permits. This despite the fact that the POA and others argued that the Seabrook PUD did not be in harmony with the rest of the Island. Before the POA could get an injunction to stop construction, SIOC moved quickly and within one week drove about 100 piles into the Deveaux site. Residents called the pilings "Russell's Sticks." This action by the developer convinced a number of doubters that incorporation would allow property owners to control their own destiny.

### One Final Challenge

The outcome of the finally-cleared May 19 referendum was predictable. The vote was 341 to 65 to incorporate. The Election Commission set August 18, 1987 for the election of the first mayor and four town council members. On July 26, Russell, et al, on behalf of SIOC, filed a lawsuit to stop the election alleging that the Secretary of State had violated a state law in granting incorporation. On August 13, Circuit Court Judge Robert H. Cureton ruled that the election could go forth.

Five days later, Joel Thompson was elected Mayor and Dave Hughes, Dick Rakovich, Tom Semmens and Marilou Stonehouse were named Town Council members. Finally, after a bumpy ride, the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina had been successfully launched and had a full and ready crew to start her journey.



# THE TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

by Joel Thompson,

Chairman Incorporation Committee beginning December 15, 1986 & Mayor through first three administrations to August 1993

For the historical record, after the Secretary of State certified our Incorporation Petition on December 8, 1986, Jack Garvin moved on to chair the Election Commission. He convinced me to take over as chairman of the Incorporation Committee for its remaining functions. The Committee then consisted of Lou Favret, Tom Ford, Keith Fuller, Joe Hall, Don Moore, Dan Simon, Phil Pressler, Jack Reigart, and myself.

As previously described, Bob Russell's vigorous opposition to incorporation kept the Committee busy answering the rhetoric and allegations of Russell's campaign. Another major hurdle to overcome was the US Justice Department's continuing delay in authorizing the incorporation referendum. The Justice Department would not reveal the source of an allegation of discrimination against minorities, however this false charge led us on a merry chase trying to fulfill Washington's investigation. I remember one day a number of Committee members assembled at my house and called each of our representatives, Strom Thurmond, Fritz Hollings, and Arthur Ravenel in an attempt to shake the Justice Department loose -- all to no avail. Finally, a non-resident property owner called to ask about the incorporation effort. In the conversation I spoke of the snafu with the Justice Dept. and how the allegations could easily be proven false if they would listen to us. This person -- a Washington colleague of Brad Reynolds, then Asst. Attorney General for Civil Rights -- volunteered to call him and tell our story. Within a few days we were cleared. Incidentally that person is now a full time resident of Seabrook.

Even while the Committee contended with the opposition effort, we also had to determine what was required to make a town immediately and legally functional. Don Moore and Jack Reigart pulled together that effort. After choosing Bill Dreyfoos as interim counsel, we preliminarily drafted all of the ordinances that would replace those of Charleston County when we became a town.

Following approval of Incorporation, Council elections were held in August 1987. Joel Thompson was elected mayor with Dave Hughes, Dick Rakovich, Tom Semmens, and Marilou Stonehouse as Council members. After the 1989 elections, Council included Thompson, Rakovich, Henry Lindauer, Bob Wadley and Stonehouse. In 1991, James Demmler and Julius Green replaced Lindauer and Rakovich.

The initial priorities of the first council were to find a location for a Town Hall, obtain funds to operate, and to enact emergency ordinances under which the Town would govern -- and to deal with Russell's continuing lawsuit and his plans to build DeVeaux Villas in spite of community opposition.

In 1987, finding a place for a Town Hall was difficult -- we had to be inside the Town but outside the gate. After some negotiation we secured a third floor space at the marina over

McIntosh's Travel Agency. There was room for a mayor's office and a meeting room that barely accommodated Council. It did not meet OSHA standards so we had to adopt special operating instructions for disabled persons. Eventually Jim and Ruth Irvin closed their ground floor office and with help from Southern National Bank we leased the space currently occupied by the Town.

The local bank, now BB&T, provided an initial line of credit of \$10,000, even though the Town's existence was under threat of the lawsuit. The State of South Carolina was also most responsive and on November 9, 1987 issued our first accommodations tax distribution of \$24,352.81. We then became debt free.

Even while getting the town organized financially, and administratively, our continued attention was required to oppose the lawsuit on incorporation and to closely follow the DeVeaux Villa dispute. There was also the matter

of the disputed property at the north east end of the island which revealed a problem concerning stability of the town boundary lines. The first maps of the town were based on geographic markers that were subject to change due to movement of waterways, etc. Without a lot of fanfare, we succeeded in getting the official state maps redrawn and based upon geodetic locations so that our boundaries would be forever stable. These actions clarified the north beach and disputed property as being firmly within the Town of Seabrook Island regardless of the location of Cap'n Sams inlet.

After the election, Russell's lawsuit had been amended and Town Council was included as defendants. As the depositions went forward it became apparent that a court determination would be lengthy, costly, and the outcome, as in any court case, questionable. Legal opinion strongly suggested finding a way to dispose of the lawsuit.

After months of strenuous discussions, Russell was finally persuaded to drop the suit. The DeVeaux permit was legally grandfathered, but Russell had to apply to the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission for any extension. Time was running out when we became aware of Russell's attempt to illegally extend this permit through the county. That attempt

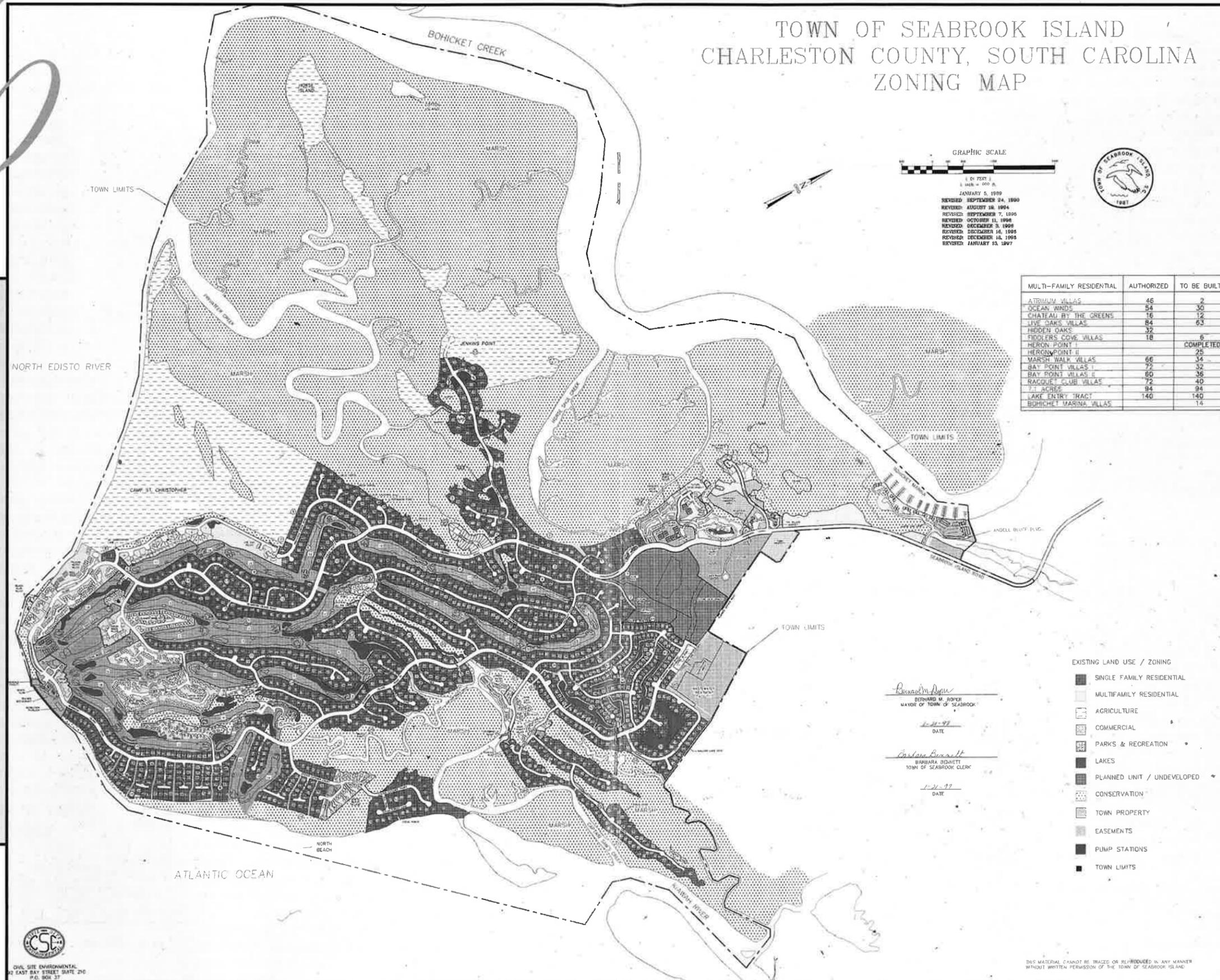
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### TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND COUNCIL MEMBERS

1989 - 1991	1991-1993
Dave Hughes	Hand Lindauer
Dick Rakovich	Richard Rakovich
Marilou Stonehouse	Marilou Stonehouse
Tom Semmens	Robert Wadley

# The Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina

## TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA ZONING MAP



GRAPHIC SCALE  
1" = 750'

REVISED: JANUARY 5, 1989  
REVISED: SEPTEMBER 24, 1990  
REVISED: AUGUST 18, 1994  
REVISED: SEPTEMBER 7, 1995  
REVISED: OCTOBER 11, 1996  
REVISED: DECEMBER 3, 1998  
REVISED: DECEMBER 16, 1998  
REVISED: DECEMBER 18, 1998  
REVISED: JANUARY 13, 1997



MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	AUTHORIZED	TO BE BUILT
ATRIUM VILLAS	46	2
OCEAN WINDS	54	30
CHATEAU BY THE GREENS	16	12
LIVE OAKS VILLAS	84	63
HIDDEN OAKS	32	
FIDDLERS COVE VILLAS	18	6
HERON POINT I		COMPLETED
HERON POINT II	25	
MARSH WALK VILLAS	66	34
BAY POINT VILLAS I	72	32
BAY POINT VILLAS II	36	36
RACQUET CLUB VILLAS	72	40
7.1 ACRES	94	94
LAKE ENTRY TRACT	140	140
BOHICKET MARINA VILLAS		14

- EXISTING LAND USE / ZONING
- SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
  - MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL
  - AGRICULTURE
  - COMMERCIAL
  - PARKS & RECREATION
  - LAKES
  - PLANNED UNIT / UNDEVELOPED
  - CONSERVATION
  - TOWN PROPERTY
  - EASEMENTS
  - PUMP STATIONS
  - TOWN LIMITS

*Bernard M. Roper*  
BERNARD M. ROPER  
MAYOR OF TOWN OF SEABROOK

1-21-97  
DATE

*Barbara Bennett*  
BARBARA BENNETT  
TOWN OF SEABROOK CLERK

1-21-97  
DATE



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was thwarted and mercifully the permit expired. With perseverance we were able to get the "Russell's Sticks" removed just as our first term ended.

Other early objectives were negotiating franchise agreements with the telephone company and Berkeley Electric. These agreements provided major revenue sources to maintain the Town's limited early budget.

During September 1989, hurricane Hugo and the bankruptcy of Seabrook Island Ocean Club presented problems for the new community. While Hugo, thankfully, only brushed our island on its way to Charleston Harbor and the islands north of Charleston, extensive tree damage, loss of power, and loss of essential sewer and water service occurred. Most damage to homes resulted from trees rather than directly from wind or water. Town authorities worked closely with the POA, the S.C. National Guard, Heater of Seabrook, and Berkeley Electric to maintain security at Seabrook and the marina and to restore services.

The bankruptcy of Ocean Club led to an extended



EMS

period during which the future stability of the community was in question. The Town could not take a direct role in the resolution of the bankruptcy problem without possibly placing the privacy of the island at risk. A group of residents, however, separately led the effort to purchase and privatize the property to become The Club at Seabrook Island as it is today.

In the meantime, the control of the Andell property just north of, and outside the gate of Seabrook, changed hands. The new owner planned a development initially comprised of a commercial area, a locked harbor, and a projected golf resort community. A portion involved property inside the Town and required Town zoning approval. Town council, acting on the recommendations of the Zoning Commission, approved zoning changes which retained Town approval of the final design after agency approvals were obtained and design details were available. Opposition to the development was wide spread both in the community and elsewhere and, after a lengthy and fruitless effort by the developers, the plan was ultimately abandoned.

In addition to the foregoing events and the day to day activities of Town management, these administrations contributed significantly to the community in many ways, notably;

- The Town took a leadership role with the county to establish

the EMS station on Betsy Kerrison Parkway. We obtained donations from developers, builders, and the Towns of Seabrook and Kiawah to principally finance the station structure. Without this effort the station would have been delayed indefinitely.

- After persistent effort, the County Legislative Delegation agreed to dedicate Seabrook Island Road to the Town of Seabrook Island and the right of way was annexed into the Town limits.
- Constructed the bike path from the POA gate to Bohicket Marina and initiated the beautification of Seabrook Island Road.
- Avoided potential liability to the community and the Town by prevailing upon the SIOC trustee in bankruptcy court to pay for the removal of petroleum tanks and contaminated soil from the 'abandoned property' in the maintenance area and to obtain retroactive state "clean-up" insurance for the contaminated area.
- Negotiated an agreement with Kiawah development owners to allow the recent POA relocation of Cap'n Sams inlet
- When FEMA revised flood maps and denied flood insurance to the undeveloped lots on Marsh Gate Drive, the town effectively challenged the accuracy of the maps, caused their correction, and restored insurance availability to those properties, all without the "act of congress" that Charleston lawyers claimed was the only resolution.
- At the end of these administrations the Town's assets stood at approximately \$500,000, and it owned 6 acres just outside the equestrian center property

*Note: For sake of brevity, details of some intriguing stories have been eliminated. These three terms were interesting and educational --- particularly as a first experience in politics.*



Fran Downen  
First Town Clerk



Bike Path

## OPENESS, COMMUNICATIONS, CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ARE HALLMARKS OF 27 MONTHS

146 Seabrookers Contributed to Community by Serving on Town's Commissions, Boards, Committees by Mayor Red Ballentine (1993-1995)

On August 20, 1993, the newly elected Mayor and Town Council members, Jim Demmler, Earl French, Bea Linz and Bernie Roper took the Oath of Office. We pledged to "preserve, protect and defend the constitution of this state and of the United States...to preserve the peace and carry into effect, according to the law, the purposes for which we were elected." Upon taking this oath, we became representatives of the State of South Carolina. The S.C. Code of Laws carefully defines duties of elected and appointed municipal officials.

After serving 27 months in the mayor's chair, I was convinced more than ever, that the Incorporation of the Town of Seabrook Island was essential if we were to "defend, protect and enhance" our community. Whereas the two Property Owners Associations have

that Mayor Thompson laid. I salute Joel for the many contributions he made in getting the Town incorporated and then off the ground.



Red Ballentine

### The Battle With Heater

I think our effort to take on Heater's annual rate increases has paid off. I am convinced that had the Town not fought this battle and had we not succeeded in purchasing the utility, Heater would have been back to the PSC several times asking for even higher water and sewer rates. We're heard that the PSC took up the case recently and it looks as if we will be getting back most of the money that Heater was allowed to collect, under bond. I salute Bob Johnson and Joe Hall who

spent almost full time pursuing this effort.

### Frequent Communications

Finally, I believe we fulfilled our pledge to communicate openly and frequently with our constituents. Every activity and every action was reported monthly in the "Town Flyer." Some are highlighted in this story. An average of 16 citizens attended each of our 27 monthly Town Council meetings and heard of the activities of the various organizations.



New POA Building

protective covenants and rules, such private organizations are limited in what they can enforce. Our municipality, a political agent of the State and the Federal Government, has authority to enact and enforce zoning and other ordinances.

Looking back over those 27 months, I'd like to highlight four things that stand out in my mind.

### Mayor Thompson's Contributions

Mayor Joel Thompson had to build the Town from scratch, administratively and financially. In his review he highlighted some of the accomplishments of his administration. Because of the space limitation, he could not cover many things. When we took over in 1993 we were able to build upon the solid foundation



New Fence Outside of Gate

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### TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND COUNCIL MEMBERS

1993 - 1995  
James Demmler Julius Green  
Robert Wadley Marilou Stonehouse  
Bernie Roper

## OPENESS, COMMUNICATIONS, CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT . . .

continued from page 11

### How'd We Do?

How'd we do? I have been told that we made some progress in defending, protecting and enhancing our community. I salute the current Mayor and Town Council members for continuing this effort.



Horse Show Tents

### SOME ACTIVITIES GLEANED FROM 29 "TOWN FLYERS"

Here Are highlights of some activities gleaned from the first 29 "Town Flyers" issued between October 1993 and December 1995:

- Enacted 35 ordinances.
- Established an External Affairs Commission to monitor activities and to participate in planning entities outside the Town.



Red Ballentine, Doug Smith, Bernie Roper, and Barbara Bennett

- Challenged Heater's application to the S.C. Public Service Commission for huge increases in water and sewer rates.
- Established and activated Accommodations Tax Advisory and Finance committees.
- Developed, launched a long-range infrastructure and landscape plan to upgrade Seabrook Island Road to a Parkway.
- Moved municipal elections from August to November of every odd number year when more registered voters are in town.
- Rezoned a number of land parcels including major areas known as Jenkins Point and Ocean Forest (now Ocean Pointe).
- Conducted five town meetings and two special elections (referendums) relating to the acquisition of the water and sewer utility.
- Developed, promoted an Evacuation Plan anticipating hurricanes and other emergencies.
- Established a committee to monitor the progress of Andell Harbor project; conducted a public meeting on the project's impact upon the Town.
- Earned a 5% reduction in flood insurance rates by meeting certain FEMA regulations.
- With Town of Kiawah Island, established a Cap'n Sam's Inlet Management Zone.
- Began effort to increase and tighten building codes for residential construction that resulted in the current VAQ program.



1989 Sign Entering Island

## A Message from the Mayor

by Mayor Bernie Roper

In November 1995, "Red" Ballentine ended his tenure as Mayor and handed the gavel to me. With it came an important message. It was his hope that Council members Bob Ferguson, Wayne Hockersmith, Bea Linz, Charles Mangee and I, as Mayor, would continue "to protect, defend and enhance Seabrook Island." We have not wavered from this concept. In February 1997, Carole Gray was elected to fill the unexpired Council seat vacated by Bea Linz. She, too, agrees with this Council philosophy. Prior to being elected Mayor, I served over two years on Town Council as Mayor Pro Tem and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. This enabled me to acquire invaluable insights into Town policies and procedures.

Although Seabrook Island is unique, we have many of the same needs as surrounding sea island communities. Therefore, it is very important for us to continue on-going dialogue with representatives of Kiawah Island, Johns Island and Wadmalaw Island, as well as with Charleston County legislators. Growth is inevitable. How that growth develops is of the utmost importance. This Council, and future Councils, must continue to be aware of the proposed growth and development in the greater Charleston County area. By monitoring development and participating where appropriate, we will be assured that our voices will be heard and recognized. We can substantially contribute to this process, and we should.

It is expected that during the 1997 calendar year, there will be an announcement that the Mark Clark Interstate is coming to Johns Island. It is also expected that work on the new bridge to James Island will begin. These two activities will have tremendous impact on growth and development in our area. We need to be a part of this process to ensure the safety of our lifestyle at Seabrook Island.

It appears that interest in the development of the Andell property has once again returned. Whether it is commercial, residential, or both, we must stay involved to guarantee that any new road system will not substantially differ from the system we have today. By working closely with Kiawah Island representatives and the Andell developers, we will ensure that our community needs are protected.

We will always have some complaints, misinformation and rumors. Each of you has the responsibility of remaining aware of issues that affect our Island. Come to Town Council meetings where you will obtain answers from reliable sources. At the same time, I ask that you understand I am committed to uphold the "Oath of Office" I took when sworn in as Mayor.

Think of where we live. Would you want to live anywhere else? I wouldn't. It is time for each of us to become involved in all phases of town government by serving on committees or running for elected office. I want to thank each person who has contributed to the development of our outstanding Island over the past ten years. It is hoped that a decade from now someone will stand here and say, "Look how far we have come in the first twenty year history of our town."

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

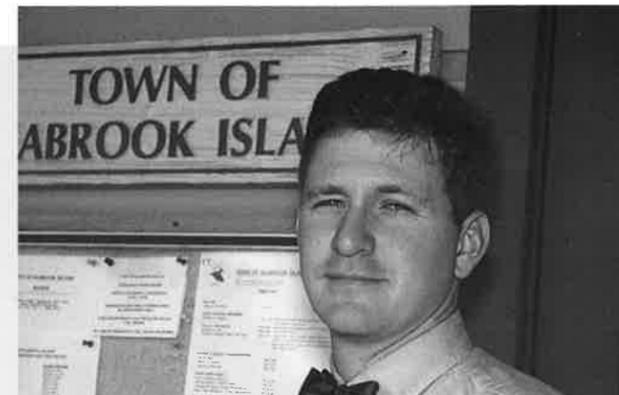


Bernie Roper

### TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND COUNCIL MEMBERS

1995 - 1997

Bob Ferguson	Carole Gray ('97)
Wayne Hockersmith	Beatrice Linz ('95-'96)
	Charles Mangee



Van Willis, Jr. - First Town Administrator  
Took office June 3, 1996



New Plantings

# Island Living Boring? Never!



- Aerobics
- Horse Shows
- Senior Tennis Tournaments
- Annual Art and Craft Shows
- Natural History Club
- Garden Club
- Symphony Pops
- Environmental Day
- Beach Sweep
- Turtle Patrol
- Golf Tournaments
- Bridge Tournaments
- Oyster Roasts
- Singles Parties
- All-Island Sports Day
- Outreach
- Swimming
- Gardening
- Book Clubs
- The Beach
- Fashion Shows
- Symposiums
- Walking
- Jogging
- Rollerblading
- Seabrook Lakes Yacht Club
- Adopt-A-Highway
- Seabrook Island Art Group
- Boat Tours
- Parasailing
- Fishing Tournaments
- Adopt-A-Hole
- Bicycling
- SLOL Neighbor Connection
- Kiawah-Seabrook Exchange Club
- And...Hurricanes
- And More -

Something for Everyone!

# Personal *Notes* Pictures, Etc.

## Our Town Historian



Patricia K. Wire

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Scrapbooks from our town's very beginning and before are located in the Town of Seabrook Island's Town Hall. The State of South Carolina Department of Archives recognized the unique nature of the Town's history. They recommended to the town that permanent records be kept on file in the State Archives in Columbia. Drop in at Town Hall and take a look! Perhaps you have something you would like to contribute.



"Thank you" to all who have made The Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina more than a gleam in Russell Blandford's eyes. With the help and dedication of so many, we have seen it grow and flourish to the joy it is today. There is no way to thank each and everyone personally, but, **you** know who you are. **You** know that anything you have contributed has been greatly appreciated. Many will follow and much more will be accomplished. So "thank you" to all who will mold and further its future!

Pat Wire