

CSO Gospel Choir

The Charleston Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Gospel Choir, Glenn R. Nixon, Director, brings its celebrated concert event African-American Sacred Songs to Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 3871 Betsy Kerrison Parkway, Johns Island, Friday, April 4 at 7:00pm. This concert is free and open to the public; donations graciously accepted.

In anticipation of popular demand, first-come first-served entry tickets (up to four tickets per person) may be picked up in advance at four area locations: Holy Spirit Catholic Church office Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:00pm; Kiawah Island Town Hall, 21 Beachwalker Drive, 8:00am-5:00pm; Indigo Books at Island Center Plaza, Bohicket and River Roads or Johns Island Public Library. Call for 768-9166 for availability.

College of Charleston Chamber Orchestra



The College of Charleston Chamber Orchestra will perform on April 20th at 4 pm in the Episcopal Church, Church of Our Savior. Lorenzo Muti, born in Spoleto, Italy, is the conductor and has conducted for both the Italian and The Charleston Spoleto Festivals in major European centers including Rome, Florence, Milan, London, and Amsterdam and for several American opera companies, including Washington, Michigan, Connecticut, and Providence. Tickets for the event will be available beginning at noon on Monday, April 7th. For more information, please contact Town Hall at (843) 768-9166.

Arts Council Survey

In last month's edition of Town Notes, a survey of the Arts Council was included for you to respond with your comments and evaluations. A copy of this survey and an attachment listing last year's events can be found on the Town website at www.kiawahisland.org. You can print the survey from home and mail to the Town of Kiawah Island at 21 Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island, SC 29455. You can also fill it out electronically and email the completed survey to trucker@kiawahisland.org. Please feel free to call Town Hall with any questions by calling (843) 768-9166. Surveys can be submitted anytime before April 15.

2007/08 Arts Council Season Outlook

KIAWAH ISLAND ARTS COUNCIL 2008 SEASON PLANNER

EVENT	EVENT DATE AND TIME	LOCATION	NUMBER OF TICKETS & AVAILABILITY DATE	NOTES
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON ORCHESTRA	4/20/2008 SUNDAY, 4:00 PM	CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR	250 4/7/2008	ORCHESTRAL CONCERT
D'YAN FOREST FRENCH CABARET	5/1/2008 THURSDAY, 7:00 PM	SANDCASTLE	100 4/15/2008	FOLLOW-UP OF 2007 SMASHING PERFORMANCE
CHARLESTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA	5/15/2008 THURSDAY, 7 PM	FRESHFIELDS	FREE TO ALL ATTENDEES	SATAX EVENT MANAGED BY THE KIAWAH ISLAND ARTS COUNCIL PUBLICITY BY KRA REAL ESTATE
DETROIT WOMEN	5/17/2008 SATURDAY 7:30 PM	EAST BEACH CONF. CENTER	300 5/2/2008	ALL FEMALE JAZZ GROUP
GULLAH FESTIVAL	6/22/2008 SUNDAY, 4:00 PM	MINGO POINT	600 6/8/2008	CULTURE, STORYTELLING, ARTS, MUSIC, GULLAH CUISINE
GULLAH HISTORY EVENT	TBD	TBD	TBD	LECTURES, GOSPEL, FOOD TASTING

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TOWN HALL AT (843) 768-9166 OR VISIT THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AT WWW.KIAWAHISLAND.ORG

French Cabaret Singer, D'yan Forest

Cabaret Singer D'yan Forest will return to Kiawah on May 1st, 2008 for a follow-up to her smashing 2007 performance. She has performed for years in clubs throughout Europe and across America. She sings in French, croons in Italian, dabbles in Irish, serenades in Spanish and polkas in German. While piano is her mainstay,

While piano is her mainstay, she enjoys playing 7 additional instruments including the glockenspiel and ukulele. Her singing and acting career has taken her to stages in New York as well as 2 different films.

With this talented a performer, this is to be a show that you not want to miss. Tickets for the event will be available on April 17th at Town Hall. For any questions, please call (843) 768-9166.



TOWN NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND

Natural Beauty Equals High Real Estate Value



The three insets show the life of a typical building lot; (1) before development, a densely vegetated domain; (2) during construction, where much if not most of the vegetation is removed; and (3) Sweet Grass Award level property, properly landscaped and maintained to Kiawah's standards.

We often take things for granted and only realize their importance and immense value when they disappear. It's like the old saying, "you never know what you've got until it's gone". Over the past five months, the "Jewels in the Crown" article series has taken the time to remind each of us that Kiawah Island is a special place with a wonderful natural landscape and an intact, functioning ecosystem. The series has emphasized the fact that a small conscious effort by many individuals will combine to produce a significant positive result, and assure that the natural beauty/biodiversity of Kiawah Island doesn't disappear right before our eyes.

The six physical Jewels in the Kiawah Island crown are: pristine maritime forests, lush natural vegetation and understory, marsh, creeks, beach, and abundant and diverse wildlife. The seventh jewel is us, the property owners of Kiawah Island. With 3,250 developed lots already in place and an estimated 2,300 lots still to be developed, it is essential that we the property owners do our part to maintain the unique beauty and diversity that brought us all to Kiawah in the first place.

Over the past decade, researchers have studied and monitored many of the island's wildlife species in order to better understand their specific needs. The bobcat has taken the forefront as the primary research "umbrella species" on the

island. Researchers have studied bobcats on the island for almost 10 years and have a thorough understanding of the specific importance of various habitat types on the island. Some habitat types, such as dense shrub understory and vegetated marsh edges, appear to be more important than others, although each type of habitat has value. Densely vegetated areas not only provide essential habitat for many different birds and animals, but they also serve to screen development and to provide privacy for individual property owners. Each time a new lot is cleared; Kiawah loses another small piece of habitat, but dense screening and naturally vegetated buffer strips around homes can go a long way toward maintaining the natural look and feel of Kiawah Island. By landscaping with and preserving existing native vegetation, a property owner can increase privacy, provide valuable wildlife habitat and food, reduce landscape maintenance costs, and increase future property values.

The value of real estate on Kiawah Island has climbed rapidly over the last 20 years, due in large part to the unique and natural look and feel of the island. Home sites with natural beauty and landscaping, giving them a secluded feeling, consistently sell at a higher price than comparable sites without these features.

It is the responsibility of each of us as property owners to make the right

decisions and to make the effort to preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity found on Kiawah Island. Resources such as the Kiawah Island Community Association's Landscape Management Guidelines, the Architectural Review Board's Designing with Nature, and the Kiawah Conservancy's Landscaping for the Legacy can help us get started. Additionally, the Conservancy will be unveiling a new Habitat Improvement Initiative program in the spring of 2008 to help individual property owners assess and improve the wildlife value of their own yards. Owners of a high habitat value lot will be eligible for a Sweet Grass Award. You as property owners are truly the seventh jewel in Kiawah's crown. Your insight, efforts and dedication can and should serve to protect and improve our island's beauty, heritage, and value.

Editors Note: The "Jewels in the Crown" series will be reprinted and bound for distribution to property owners, visitors, and guests.

Council Meeting Highlights

Our Lady of Mercy Outreach

Sister Mary Joseph and Mr. Griff Hogan discussed the Our Lady of Mercy Outreach and its current services. The center has an ongoing capital campaign to raise \$4.5 million which includes a pledge from the Kresge Foundation of \$500,000 if they raise \$4 Million by June 30, 2008. As of March 11, 2008, Our Lady of Mercy's capital campaign has \$3.1 million pledged.

Fire District 2008 Annual Budget

Chief Karl Ristow of the St. Johns Fire District discussed the current budget which does not include tax increases. The budget adds 3 employees to Station #4, on Kiawah Island, helping to reach the national staffing standards. He noted that the new Fire Station #7 on Main Road has resulted in lower response times and insurance rates for homeowners. Chief Ristow concluded that the consolidated 911 center will help reduce the districts ISO rating from 4 to 3.

Amendment to Franchise

Agreement-Night Heron Park, LLC

Mrs. Rucker explained that the Amendment to the Franchise Agreement expired in January 2008 but allowed for an extension of two separate one year terms. With the proposed amendment, the contract will expire January 31, 2010. This item was reviewed and forwarded by the Ways and Means Committee. The motion to approve the amendment carried unanimously.

Beach Debris Contract

Mrs. Rucker explained that the current contract service rate is \$1,708 per month and, the amendment increases that rate to \$2,100 which includes an increase in the scope of work; including service and maintenance to recycling bins along the beach. The Beach Debris Contract Amendment passed unanimously.

Auditor Selection

Mr. McIver discussed the auditor bid and review processes. Mr. McIver stated that he and Mr. Gunnells had reviewed the proposals. Based on Town staff's and Ways and Means Committee evaluations, it was recommended that the auditor contract be awarded to Bryant, Truesdale, Adkins, and Williams, PA CPA for the competitively bid price of \$74,180 for three years. The motion carried unanimously.

FY 2008-2009 SATAX

Committee Reappointments

Mr. McIver stated that previous year members were contacted and agreed to serve another

annual term. The membership is guided by SC Code of Laws 6-4-25. The committee members include: Elizabeth King, Roger Warren, Pam Harrington, Bill Daniel, Bill Blizard, Diana Permar and Gail Vandall. All members were unanimously reappointed.

Planning Commission Appointment

Mayor Wert announced that Ms. Jo Ann Makely, previous Chair and vice-chair of the Planning Committee, has purchased a home on Seabrook Island and will be moving there permanently. For this reason, she will be ineligible for Planning Committee membership and thus announced her resignation. Mayor Wert motioned to approve the nomination of Mr. Peter Trees to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Commission with the term to expire in 2011. Mr. McIver seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation American Red Cross

Mayor Wert proclaimed March 2008 as American Red Cross month on Kiawah Island.

Environmental Committee

Trapping began on February 28 GPS bobcat study so far, two bobcats have been trapped. The bobcat survey was featured on ABC News 4 and the clip of the video can be viewed on the Town's website. There have been 45-50 reported cases of raccoon distemper on the island and the majority of them were euthanized. A juvenile red tail hawk was rescued and failed to thrive due to malnourishment. He reported that expired batteries can be dropped off at the Nature Center for recycling.

Arts Council

Mr. Lipuma stated that the Arts Council's previous two events were big hits. They are looking forward to the upcoming events: the Bill Jameson Art Demonstration and Tommy Gill Jazz performance. He also announced that several pending events have been finalized. For a detailed listing of these events please see the Season Planner on Page 4. Some of proposed events for the 2008-2009 season include a jazz cruise, beach music, and a brass Christmas recital.

Kiawah Island Parkway Construction

Mr. Orban reported the work continues to find possible land alternatives for mitigation for the impacted wetlands. The Town met with representatives from OCRM on March 11, 2008 to address mitigation options. Mr. Orban concluded by discussing the dangerous area near Cinder Creek Roadway, stating that

there are orange cones in that area due near bike and pedestrian accidents. The orange cones will remain until the Resort obtains ARB approval for permanent warning/barrier devices.

Financial Affairs

Mr. McIver announced that the Ways and Means Committee had approved the expenditure of \$3,600 for the purchase of three new defibrillators to replace the existing machines. The new AED Machines will be purchased at a discount price of \$3,600 rather than the originally quoted \$6,000. The machines will be stored in council chambers, the main gate, and with beach patrol. Mr. McIver also noted that the Town has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 4th consecutive year from the Government Finance Officer's Association.

Town Administrator's Report

The Town is continuing to expand its "Going Green" initiative, and a "Green Team" has been formed. The Town has recently submitted a grant to DHEC for recycling and waste reduction programs on the Island. The Town also submitted a MASC Annual Achievement Award for the completed Beach Renourishment Project. The Town has submitted its second Palmetto Pride Tree Grant which will assist in landscaping the newly paved parking lot area. The Town is continuing to work on a Town Balanced Scorecard which will include objectives, goals, and measures of each department.

Mayor's Report

Conversations continue between the Town and the Resort on the Development Agreement. The Mayor stated that the beach parking at the Ocean Course will be available, but the determination of the site of the parking lot will not take place until the old clubhouse is destroyed. The parking lot will provide walking access to the beach. Mayor Wert stated that it is his opinion that there will never be a consensus on the roads and that someone is going to have to step up and make a decision. He also announced that KPOG is sponsoring a roads information meeting on March 26, 2008 at 7:30 at the Sandcastle.

Council Members Comments

Mr. Burnaford stated that the work being done around River Road and Betsy Kerrison Parkway is pertaining to a Planned Unit Development that has been in the works since 1985.

Status of the Beach Report by Dr. Tim Kana

Dr. Kana presented the annual beach report to citizens and Town Council. He discussed the projects original goals along with results. As of the presentation, the project had been completed for a little over a year and the project is in the first of five years of monitoring. Dr. Kana stated that

"Kiawah Island is one of the healthiest islands on the coast." The project has created new habitat for the Piping Plover, very valuable saltwater wetland acreage, and has, achieved the protection of the world renowned Ocean Course. This report will be available to the public once finalized.

2008 Bobcat GPS Study

The 2008 Bobcat GPS Study being conducted by The Town of Kiawah Island (TOKI), in partnership with the Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy (KINHC), is underway. Trapping will take place over the next few weeks with a goal of 10 bobcats. So far, 2 bobcats have been captured and fitted with GPS radio collars this year. These collars will acquire thousands of GPS locations over the next 1-2 years. During this time, TOKI biologists will be able to periodically download the latest GPS position data from the collars. This data will be available for public viewing on the Kiawah Island Bobcat Tracker website, which can be accessed from the TOKI and the KINHC websites.

Bobcats play a major role in regulating the deer population on Kiawah. They also act as an excellent "umbrella species" (by protecting the bobcats and their habitat many other species will also benefit) for our island. A healthy bobcat population is necessary to maintain the current ecological balance on Kiawah Island. Information from this study will help researchers determine more detailed bobcat habitat usage patterns and will provide important and accurate information to aid in habitat conservation on Kiawah Island.



Sea Island Issues

Mr. Burnaford stated that he had attended the County Council meeting where there was supposed to be action taken on the 2000 update of the road study. However, this item was postponed due to lack of communication between the City of Charleston and the County of Charleston. The two entities had differing corridor recommendations pertaining to Maybank Highway. Mr. Burnaford stated that the Planning Departments of both entities should be working together to achieve the goal; rather than not

communicating. Mr. Burnaford also stated that the Johns Island Council is working to develop a committee that will discuss a consensus response for the fixing of roads on Johns Island. This issue is separate from the I-526 issue. Mr. Burnaford stated that he believes zoning, not road construction, is method to control density. Once again, Mr. Burnaford urged those in attendance to contact County Councilman Paul Thurmond in order to voice their opinion on the roads.

Great American Clean-up

The fourth Highway Cleanup of the Kiawah Island Parkway and Beachwalker Drive will take place at 9:00 am on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 and will conclude with a boxed lunch for volunteers. Volunteers will meet at Town Hall promptly at 9:00 am to receive their supplies and

cleanup supplies. The Nature Center will be supplying naturalists and kayaks to help clean the waterways adjacent to the road. The week of April 14-18 will focus on waste reduction and beautification.

New Homes

Under Review by the ARB

116 Spartina
35 Kiawah Island Club Drive

The above homesites have been presented to the ARB for conceptual review, the first of three reviews by the ARB prior to approval. Call 843-768-3419 for more information.