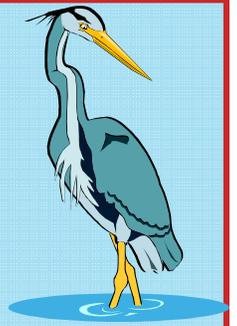


The Heron

July 24, 2015



Newberry County on Lake Greenwood

Cheaper Gas

For now, the South Carolina Driver is actually in the driver's seat. No longer threatened by an increase in the gas tax, we are also seeing the price of gas at the pump tumble as the price of crude drops under \$50 a barrel.

The widespread voter resistance to a gas tax increase was suddenly rewarded when the state found \$400 million dollars in budget surplus thus eliminating the need for a gas tax increase. What does this welcome but unanticipated surplus tell us about the state's budget process?

The Governor had proposed a 10 cent increase in gas tax to be accompanied by a reform of the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Of course, this begs the question: Why do we need a gas tax increase to get a needed reform of the South Carolina Department of Transportation?

Now the Governor proposes that the surplus be used for transportation projects, paying down the debt and/or providing a tax cut. How it will be divided is not yet clear.

Also, "transportation projects" doesn't automatically mean "roads and bridges". Do we need more bike and hiking paths?



Patch the Patches

Once again it's time to patch the patches on County Line Rd. This primary access road to many lakefront properties in both Newberry and Laurens Counties continues to be a bone of contention. And perhaps there is the rub! Sections of County Line Road appear in each county and neither county has the leadership to resolve responsibility for repaving the road. By rights, this is a state road but repaving requires the cooperation of local government. For many years this community has listened to promises.

Most recently The Heron was told that repaving with "chip and seal" was imminent.

How's your car's suspension system?

How is it that Newberry found money to repair bridges in Lynch's Woods Park but is unable to fund the county's contribution to repaving a primary thoroughfare to lakefront communities?



Two of many potholes in County Line Road

President's Message

By Harry Greisser

In 1997 there were just three homes in all of Summerset Bay, Summerset Point and Windmill Landing. The developer was the Architectural Committee and had not established a homeowner's association. By the year 2000 there were ten homes. All ten residents decided to set up our own association but with non-traditional parameters. Our association would be voluntary and any new residents would have to decide if participation was in their best interest and the best interest of the whole community. This created an incentive for the association officers to create value for the neighborhood and not be overly intrusive. Each of us contributed \$150 to pay the \$1,500 legal fee to charter the Summerset/Windmill Property Owners Association. We chose to call ourselves a property owners association rather than a home owners association because we wanted to represent lot owners as well as home owners.

I was the first association president. Also in that first year I began to publish "The Heron". Since then I have served as president, board member, secretary, and newsletter editor. It seems that we have come full circle. With the passing of Cort Nagle the board again appointed me president. Fifteen years older I hope I'm a little wiser and I know I'm a lot slower.

Frankly and unfortunately, I'm president because no one else wanted the job. But I couldn't have accepted the job if Shelley Grund had not stepped up to take over as secretary. Like many voluntary organizations there is always a core of people who can be counted on to make things work. In our organization we have Roy Mendelsohn who leads the mowing committee; Jim Smith does the same with the landscape committee; Lou Rosenthal sees to the architectural committee, Jerry Wilson distributes the snail mail copies of the newsletter; Cecilia Mescall is communications and distributes the Email copies of the newsletter; and Ed LaRoche is treasurer. Others, who can always be counted on to help, include Bob Akers, Larry Sartori and Gene Mayer. The community owes a great debt to these folks and I personally want to extend my thanks. **To others in the neighborhood, I extend an invitation to participate. Come to a board meeting and get involved. The board schedule is on the last page of the newsletter.**

Over the years the association has accomplished a lot. I hope that the future is just as productive.

Lake Level

A number of residents have expressed concern about the low level of water in the lake. The Heron interviewed Jan Figueira, Greenwood Lake Engineering. Ms. Figueira said that the primary reason for a reduced level is simply the lack of rain. We are in a drought condition. The lake is currently down a foot.

Santee Cooper is the power company that controls the dam. They are required to release enough water to protect the downstream ecology. At present they are releasing the same amount of water as flows into the lake.

Even though the same amount is released as is flowing into the lake from upstream sources there are other factors that have an impact on the lake level. Lake Greenwood is a reservoir from which Greenwood draws its water supply. Then, of course, in this heat, evaporation is a serious issue. Finally, many of us use the lake for irrigation of our lawns and gardens.

Medical Transport

As a community of mostly senior citizens sometimes we need help with non-emergency medical transport. For example, some medical procedures do not allow the patient to drive after a procedure. The Newberry County Council On Aging (NCCOA) provides such a service. For those who live alone or have a spouse who cannot drive this is a valuable service.

This service is free for Medicaid Clients. For other seniors the rates are as follows:

- ⇒ Newberry to Newberry: \$ 2.00
- ⇒ Newberry to Greenwood: \$10.00
- ⇒ Newberry to Columbia: \$15.00

The fee is for a round trip. The driver will drop off in time for the appointment and then come back to take the patient home.

POA Board Minutes by Shelley Grund

Summerset/Windmill POA

Board Meeting June 11, 2015

Chappells Station #10

Harry Greisser presided and opened the meeting at 7:10 P.M.

Board Members Present: Harry Greisser, Shelley Grund, Ed LaRoche, and Larry Sartori

Guests Present: Donald and Georgetta Eckrich, Gene Mayer, Roy Mendelsohn, Lou Rosenthal, and Jim Smith

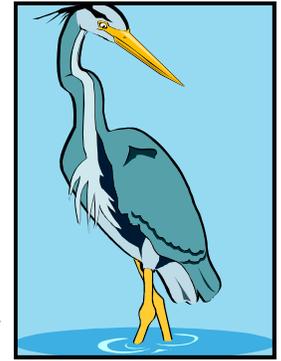
- * Reading of the Minutes/Secretary Report – Shelley Grund. Minutes were read and approved as revised
- * Treasurer's Report was provided and attached to the minutes.
Balance as of May 29, 2015: \$13,247.39
The report includes the purchase of the new mower (\$12,400 less trade-in=\$6848.00)
A Pole Saw was purchased
Landscaping budget remains \$1,500
Available balance after contingencies: \$7,628.44
Reported: \$6,775 from 65 lot owners (2015 current Dues/Maintenance receipts)
Distributed: Property Owners list by last name and current POA Membership list
"POA Stickers" are available.
- * Newsletter – Harry Greisser: THE HERON to be published July 25. All articles to be submitted by July 15. (h.greisser@gmail.com / 864-992-3090)
- * Greenwood County – Roy Mendelsohn:
The "Lake Study" results are still not available. This study was site specific and would show maximum precipitation flood potential.
Still working on reducing the "draw down" time period

Committees:

- * ACC – Lou Rosenthal:
2 houses under construction
- * Mowing – Roy Mendelsohn:
The new mower works very well with less maintenance

Robbie Campbell is paid to mow Summerset Bay Road
VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED!!

- * Landscaping – Jim Smith:
Tree trimming is the current maintenance need
Crepe Myrtles on Summerset Bay Road have started blooming
Hand watering may be needed for the crepe myrtles when there is no rain for 2-3 weeks this summer.
- * Communications: Social & Welcome: New chair: Kathy Mayer
Possible social at Skippers this summer



Old Business:

- * EMS Response issue is still of concern
The agreement in place states Laurens Cty is the back-up. Response is supposed to be: Chappells èLaurens è Newberry, but this isn't what has been happening
Should the Chappells firefighters be asked what they know to be the procedures?
Larry Watson is the only official EMS responder
- * Motion was made and seconded to make the yearly donation of \$500 to the Chappells Fire Department

New Business

- * Gene Mayer: POA's representative to Connect Greenwood. There are Membership levels for Connect Greenwood. Those joining at the minimum of \$25 receive a coupon book with the value of \$1,500.
- * Gene will get the information to Harry for the newsletter and Cecilia for sending it out to the POA members.
- * Ed LaRoche:
The roadside will be treated for fire ants. Homeowners may have their property treated for \$75/acre. The date and further information will be sent out by Cecilia
The insurance has been updated to include the new mower

Meeting was adjourned, 8:05 P.M.

Next meeting: September 10, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

New County Web Site

On June 26, Newberry County unveiled its new web site. Aside from providing updated information, the site is also now much more accessible to mobile device users, who Newberry County IT director Dylan Snyder says are the most common visitors to the web site. The new web site also emphasizes organization over clutter, and is more visually appealing than its predecessor. Contract work for the project was performed by Vision Internet, a California company that specializes in designing web sites for small local governments, at a cost of \$23,975. The new site represents the county's first effort to revamp its web presence since 2004.

New County Economic Developer

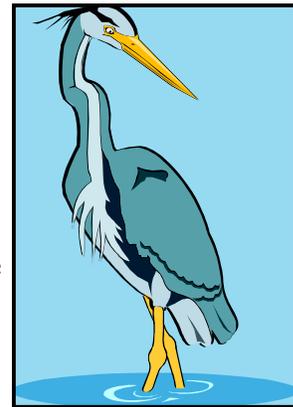
On May 11, Rick Farmer took over duties as Newberry County's economic developer. He replaced Teresa Powers who held the position for 10 years and left to become a senior project manager for the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Farmer comes to Newberry County from Sumter County Economic Development where he worked for 16 years, focusing in the areas of communications, project support, and day-to-day operations. Prior to his work in economic development, Farmer was a journalist, covering local government activities in Laurens, Greenwood, and Sumter counties. Rick Farmer and his wife, Christy, have two children – five-year-old twins; the family will relocate to Newberry County on August 1.

Monetary Incentives for Emergency Services Volunteers

For the first time in the county's history, Newberry County Council has approved monetary incentives for emergency services volunteers. The annual \$250 payment is available to fire, rescue, and hazmat volunteers who also meet requirements for state income tax breaks related to emergency services volunteerism. The total budget cost of the incentives is \$64,750, with the largest portion going to volunteer firefighters (\$45,000). Rescue squad volunteers will claim \$17,500 of the appropriation, while hazmat volunteers will receive \$2,250. Distributions are based on the number of volunteers qualifying in the previous year. Council, along with leaders in the emergency services community, is looking to retain existing volunteers and perhaps encourage growth in these volunteer organizations.

New County Budgets Adopted

FY 15-16 budgeting for the county operations levy continued Newberry County Council's tradition of recent years by not increasing property tax millage. Staff projections indicate that the prior year's county operating levy of 125.5 mills will be sufficient to service the new budget as well. The county operating levy is the largest of three levies under the purview of county council. However, the community services levy, which funds appropriations for Piedmont Technical College, the Newberry County Library System, and the Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, is projected to increase by two-tenths of one mill, from 6.6 mills to 6.8 mills. And the bonded indebtedness levy, being driven largely by planned investments in emergency services equipment and economic development property, is projected to rise by 3.5 mills, from a millage rate of 9.1 mills to 12.6 mills. The overall 3.7-mill increase will mean an extra \$15 per \$100,000 of market value on an owner-occupied home. The resulting total of 144.9 mills for the three levies is 1.4 mills (or about 1 percent) higher than the five-year average.

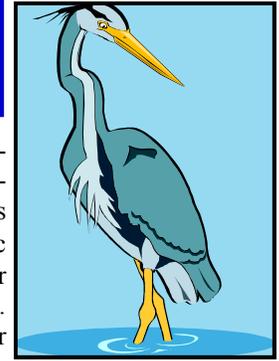


County to Seek Third Renewal of Penny for Capital Projects

On August 19, Council will consider a resolution appointing a capital project sales tax commission. The six-member panel's job will be to develop a list of capital projects for county council to consider placing on the November 2016 ballot. In 2010, voters approved continuing use of the one-cent sales tax by a 2-to-1 margin. The primary project on the ballot that year was the conversion of an old WalMart store on Wilson Road to the current Newberry Campus of the Piedmont Technical College. In order to be considered for ballot inclusion, projects must be sponsored by the County, a municipality, or the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority. First approved by Newberry County voters in 1998, the capital project sales tax was renewed in 2004 and 2010.

Council Meeting for August 5 Canceled

Council will not hold its meeting on the first Wednesday in August due to a conflict with the South Carolina Association of Counties' annual conference. They will next meet at 7 PM on Wednesday, August 19. Council meetings are held in the Courthouse Annex at 1309 College Street in Newberry.



Fire, Rescue and Medical Emergency Services

Newberry County has budgeted \$280,000 for the lease purchase of a new fire truck and for funding to upgrade the simulcast fire radio services. Equipment and communications are certainly necessary components of a responsive public safety service. Unfortunately, the bigger requirement is for firefighters and emergency medical personnel. In our community these services are provided by volunteers. Not enough of them! One problem is that the community itself is made up predominantly of retirees, senior citizens, most of whom, with all due respect, would be an encumbrance rather than a help on a fire ground.

There is an Emergency Services Amendment to the county budget to provide a nominal reimbursement to volunteers. An amount of \$45,000 is appropriated for Fire Volunteers and \$17,500 for Rescue Squad Volunteers. Also, there is an increase in Fire Training appropriation from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

It's not clear how these changes would be administered or whether they would encourage more volunteerism. Time will tell.

Newberry County Library System

By T. Sam Ziady, Director

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. It is a time when libraries across the country remind parents, caregivers and families that the most important school supply of all is a library card! Serving as Honorary Chair of Library Card Sign-up Month 2015 is Snoopy, the world famous beagle from the beloved *Peanuts* comics.

Newberry County Library System,
 1100 Friend Street, Newberry, SC 29108-3416
www.youseemore.com/Newberry

Treasurer's Report by Ed LaRoche

Balance as of February 27, 2015	\$20,741.77
Deposits	
2015 dues	\$ 450.00
Total	\$ 450.00
Disbursements-	
Grass Seed for roadsides	\$ 211.96
Mower purchase	\$6,848.00
Pole Saw, mulch for signs/crepe myrtles	\$ 566.48
Higdon appreciation for Annual Meeting	\$ 106.56
April SSB Road Mowing	\$ 165.00
Diesel Fuel	\$ 71.38
Total	\$7,969.38
Balance as of May 29, 2015	\$13,247.39
Pending Disbursements	
PO Box rental	\$ 24.00
Mower Maintenance	\$ 47.65
5/8 and 5/21 SSB Mowing	\$ 330.00
Total	\$ 401.65
Current Pending and Contingency	\$5,618.95
Cash after contingency	\$7,628.44

Board Meetings: 2015 Chappells Fire House

September 10 -7:00 P.M.
 December 10 -7:00 P.M.

NEW MEMBER FORM

If you are not now a member and would like to join your neighbors in making Summerset/Windmill a great community please fill out this form and send with a check for \$100 to the return address above.

NAME:

DEVELOPMENT:

Lot # or local address:

Mailing Address if different:

Telephone No.

Check Enclosed