

news: MONTH IN REVIEW

LOWCOUNTRYNEWS



Hardeeville's new school

Cherie Liollo of Liollo Architecture points out some of the features of the proposed Hardeeville K-12 School at a press conference. Many pundits believe the school will be the spark that causes a population explosion in Hardeeville, and the V-shape of the High School accommodates this future expansion.

Pedestrians get the green light

The Hilton Head Island Planning Commission endorsed a new project designed to make travelling the island on foot a little safer. Plans have been in the works for major improvements to pedestrian crossing points along 278 since late 2001. One feature planned will be a raised 'refuge area' in medians for pedestrians to wait for an opportunity to cross. In addition to new signage and pavement markings, new crosswalks are planned for several busy intersections around the island.

Bluffton Council suspicious of private meeting

Bluffton town manager Bruce Behrens recently organized a private meeting in the Buckwalter Tract that included developers from around town, real estate brokers, town planning staffers, representatives from local utilities, Bluffton's Planning Commission Chairman Don Blair, and the town's police and fire chief. Conspicuously absent were Town Council members and several town leaders, who were unaware of the private meeting until after it happened. While several council members have come out and questioned the appropriateness of the private meeting, Behrens assured the town there was no agenda behind the meeting.

Table for four

Spurred on by Bradley Beach residents' complaints of speeding traffic, island officials are looking into installing devices called "speed tables" as a test. Speed tables are similar to speed bumps in practice, but rise on a gentler incline, reaching a height of six inches after a six-foot-long ramp. While they do slow the vehicle just as effectively as speed bumps, they are not as jarring to the driver. Town officials stress the fact that very few roads on the island would require these devices, and the tables on Bradley Beach Road are being installed strictly to test the waters.

You say towmaytoe...

Tennessee-based Horne Properties want to distinguish a shopping center they're putting up in Okatie by calling it "Okeetee Crossing." Citing marketing purposes as the reason behind the spelling change, Horne Properties' development manager Bill Zanoni explained that "Okeetee" is another spelling of the Indian tribe's name from which "Okatie" comes. As the Okatie tribe had no alphabet, spelling of their tribal names was left up to early settlers, who often disagreed on proper spelling. City officials have requested a name change from the company, both out of historical and consistency concerns, but mostly to avoid confusion for emergency officials. The area has been officially recognized as Okatie since 1994.

Carolina Asphalt paves the day

Following the release of Carolina Asphalt Paving from the long-delayed widening project along S.C. 170, lead contractor Balfour Beatty announced that Georgia-based APAC will finish the paving. APAC hopes to complete the work in six months, a full 11 months after work was supposed to be completed. Despite this new development, Carolina Asphalt Paving insisted that negotiations with Balfour Beatty continue.

DRAWN TO THE NEWS



ILLUSTRATION BY MATT ANDERSON

"They call it 'Kree-Ay-Tiv Mar-Ked-Ing'."