

news: EDITOR'S LETTER/ READERS' FORUM



EDITOR'S LETTER

Just a quick note to thank our readers and contributors. We look forward to and appreciate feedback from the community, which helps us achieve our goals of producing the best magazine we can each month, and continuing to grow and improve.

We welcome your letters and invite you to visit our evolving Web site, www.hiltonheadmonthly.com.

Sincerely,

Blanche L. Tomaszewski
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LETTERS

On behalf of the entire board of *Hilton Head Heroes*, we would like to say thanks to *Hilton Head Monthly* for the article that appeared in your April issue, "Hilton Head Heroes: Counting blessings through the eyes of a child." *Hilton Head Heroes* is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing families with a child suffering from a life-threatening illness to our island for cost-free resort vacations.

Kristy Gillinder captured the true spirit of our organization with her words and photos of the children. As a local charity, we rely so much on the generosity and compassion of the community for our financial support, as well as our volunteer staff. *Hilton Head Monthly* is to be commended for allowing charities, like *Hilton Head Heroes*, a space among its pages, helping us spread the word about the many wonderful causes and organizations on our island. Since the article appeared we have had many calls from people offering volunteer assistance, lodging for the arriving families, cash in the form of a *Birdies for Charity* pledge, and even a family inquiring about our program for their ill child.

Thank you again for representing the non-profit community. The coverage you provide is invaluable.

Gregg & Lindy Russell

Thanks so much for running the wonderful article on *Hilton Head Heroes*. The response has been great. We have received many calls with offers to help as a result of the article. This is my third year on the Heroes board and we have never received so much attention. Thanks to you and your staff for a job well done.

Stacy Wimmer

Thank you so much for allowing me to come and job shadow at your workplace. I greatly appreciate all the time you spent with me, and all of the knowledge I obtained while being there. My job shadow experience with you helped me to visualize a clearer picture of what kind of job I may want when I grow up.

You not only showed me a greater love for what you do, but you showed me how to keep in touch with the community through work. Thank you again for allowing me to experience my possible future.

Sarah Reuter

Editor's note: Check out Sarah's editorial contribution on page 34.

Terry Bergeron wrote a *Hilton Head Monthly* story (May '04 issue) touting the pricey lifestyle of this community (Colleton River) and even provided "some" owner cost info, which is helpful to those of us in the real estate business as we answer questions from prospective buyers. As Paul Harvey would say, "Now, for the rest of the story."

Question: Why is the golf course and clubhouse under renovation after only 12 years if it was recently voted "the best"? Also, who pays the \$4.5 million (in renovation expenses) and was there an assessment not included in the "annual dues"? Rumor has it that each owner/member was assessed \$38,000, and possibly more, because of a "mold" problem in the Nicklaus clubhouse. What is the complete story?

I believe that Hilton Head Monthly has evolved into essentially a real estate promotion piece, much like *The Island Packet*. Is that your intent, or do you go where the ad dollars are? I probably know the answer, but would like a response.

D. C. Peterson, realtor

Editor's note: The Colleton River article (May '04) was a "Neighborhood Profile," a department we run every month. The intent of this feature is to highlight a local community in terms of location, lifestyle, amenities available, etc. It is not intended to be an "investigative" exposé. This is not to say that we are not interested in addressing the issues you presented, we certainly are, but not in that particular forum.

*Furthermore, while we are an ad revenue-supported publication, and very much appreciate our advertisers, we always do our best to keep editorial and advertising issues separate. As editors, our primary goal is to produce a balanced and diverse lifestyle publication each month, a "Voice of the Community," and leave ad sales to our diligent account representatives. Real estate is undeniably a large and vital part of our community and we will always include it among our pages, but we believe that most who faithfully read our magazine find *Hilton Head Monthly* to be much more than just a "real estate promotion piece." But we appreciate your passionate opinion!*

NEW READERS' POLL!

Each month, we'll pose a question regarding an issue impacting our community and invite you to share an in-depth reply, or state yes, no, or undecided. Results will be published in an upcoming issue. This month's question: *Do you think that we have a problem with illegal aliens in the Lowcountry?* Head over to www.hiltonheadmonthly.com to respond online! Responses do not necessarily reflect the views of *Monthly*, or its parent company Frey Media.

SOUND OFF

We want to publish your letters and opinion pieces. Letters up to 200 words are perfect for comments about community issues or the content featured in the magazine. Send your material to: Editor, *Hilton Head Monthly*, P.O. Box 5926, Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29938; fax: (843) 842-5743; or email submissions to: bkaufman@freymedia.com. You can also visit *Monthly* online at www.hiltonheadmonthly.com. Opinions expressed in the Readers' Forum are not necessarily those of *Hilton Head Monthly* or its parent company, Frey Media. Letters may be edited for clarity or length.