

# The Bluffton Sun



*Serving the smiling faces, beautiful places of greater Bluffton and Okatie*

## Bluffton receives permit to connect Buck Island to sewer

By *Ruth Ragland*  
CONTRIBUTOR

The town of Bluffton has received state approval to begin connecting residents in the Buck Island Road area to newly constructed water and sewer lines.

The South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control granted the town a permit to operate Phase 1 of the Buck Island-Simmonsville Sewer Project on Feb. 25. The Phase 1 work area includes Buck Island Road between New Mustang Drive and Eagles Field, Ballfield Road, Centerfield Lane, and Twin Oaks.

Nancy Schilling, founding director of Friends of the Rivers, sees the project as a step forward in protecting the Lowcountry's environment since septic tanks can fail and contaminate the watersheds and rivers. "The sewer project is beneficial to water quality since it takes older septic systems off line," she said. "Therefore the likelihood of contamination by fecal coliform bacteria from human sources is reduced."

The town currently provides residents help in maintaining septic systems

through the Neighborhood Assistance Program, in part to preserve water quality in the May River.

Sharon Brown, a Buck Island Road resident for more than 18 years, said the new system benefits the neighborhood because residents won't have to worry about a septic tank backing up during heavy rains.

"It alleviates quite a few problems but it comes with a cost," she said. "For some people it will be a hardship financially to pay the water bill. People are not exempt from being connected to the sewer – you have to be connected, you don't have an option.

"I'm a hard-working woman and it's going to be a hardship for me as well but it is a good thing for a lot of reasons," Brown said.

Bluffton and the Beaufort Jasper Water & Sewer Authority are making a joint effort to get residents connected to the new system, according to James Ayers, project manager for the town.

Ayers said that more than 60 households had signed up to connect to the

Please see **SEWER** on page 9A



PHOTO BY LYNNE HUMMELL

Belfair Gardens, a residence in Bluffton for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias, celebrated a grand opening and ribbon cutting Feb. 26. See more photos on page 36A.

## County reduces hours for Bluffton business license office

Beaufort County will reduce the operating hours of its Bluffton business license office from five days a week to two days a week beginning March 21.

The office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Wednesday and closed

the remainder of the week. However, Bluffton residents may visit the Beaufort office, located on the second floor of the County Administration Building, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, anytime from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.



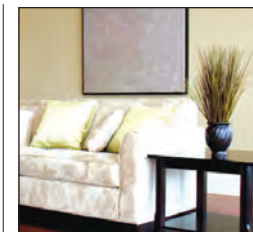
PEP Produces  
Pottery  
5A



Arts Extra  
10A



Personality and  
Your Golf Game  
34A



Stage Your  
Home to Sell  
43A