

Special Interest Articles:

- President's Message
- Meet Your Neighbors
- Blackmoor Celebrity

Individual Highlights:

Himstedts	2
Prehodkas	2
Blackmoor Golf	3
Christmas Party	4
Odds & Ends	6

Blackmoor Property Owners Association

Message from our President

This message was written the day after our Tenth Annual POA Meeting. It was great to see so many homeowners in attendance at the meeting. It was most certainly the largest turnout I have witnessed during my three years here. Furthermore, we had a nearly 56% return rate of ballots/proxies this year. This response rate allowed the meeting to transpire and the election of directors to occur. Once all the ballots, proxies, and write-ins were tabulated, Ken Blood, Joe Harbin, and Mike Murphy were elected to three year terms.

The community and I cannot thank enough the three board members who are stepping down after their

collective fourteen or more years serving us in their capacities as first committee chairs and then board members. There is an adage that speaks to the situation when someone of value leaves an organization – “you can’t replace the person but you can fill the position.” When it comes to Dottie Brumley, Ben Augello, and Rich Gloss, this seems to be the case. I know that during my years on the board and especially during my presidency this past year, their support, service, and insights have been invaluable. I know we all wish them good health and happiness as they find other venues to fill their time.

By the time you receive this

newsletter, the board will have met on October 27 to select its officers for 2009-10, set the date of the next Annual Meeting, and schedule at least four meetings of the board. You will be notified of the results by the Communications Committee.

Thank you for having allowed me the privilege to serve you this past year.

Stu Schnur

Message from the Newsletter Committee

We’re back, and we are delighted to be releasing our final newsletter of 2009!

As the holidays are upon us, we wish each of you a blessed, safe, enjoyable and happy holiday season filled with treasured time with friends and family. If you are staying here for the holidays and know of a neighbor who will be alone during that time,

take a bold step and invite that neighbor to your house for a holiday meal.

Sometimes we’re afraid that neighbors and family simply won’t mix, but it’s worth attempting to reach out and be a blessing to others. You might just feel warm and fuzzy for having ventured beyond your comfort zone.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us at Blackmoorbytes@gmail.com to suggest the type of content you would like to see in future issues of Blackmoor Bytes

Mary Anne Benedetto and Sandi Blood

Meet the Himstedt Family



Gary and Sandy Himstedt moved from Niantic, in central Illinois, to Blackmoor in August, 2008, after vacationing in the area every other year for at least twenty years. They knew that they would love southern living and the weather before they ever made the permanent move.

Melissa, Reed, and Ryan are their three local children, and Megan is their daughter who resides in Illinois and recently gave birth to Savannah Grace.

Sandy earned a degree in education and frequently did substitute teaching for the pure joy of interacting with children. Gary owned an independent pharmacy for thirty-five years, sold the business to Walgreens and transferred to this location, where he works full time as a floater pharmacist for seven Walgreens stores.

They enjoy the Blackmoor neighborhood because the properties are well kept, the neighbors are friendly and caring, the Property Owners

Association does a great job, and the POA fees are a very fair value.

Sandy likes the Wellington Women's monthly luncheon, the Moveable Feast, gourmet cooking classes at Horry Tech, Grand Strand shopping, and reading.

Gary is busy in his pharmacist position, but likes to play golf and work in his yard during the spare time that he manages to find.

(Continued on Page 4)

Meet the Prehodka Family

Plainfield, New Jersey's loss was Blackmoor's gain when Ted and Pat Prehodka relocated to South Carolina in August, 2002.

Both Ted and Pat are now retired, but were previously involved in fascinating careers. Pat had been a high school math teacher and then became Director of Government Relations for Hartz Mountain Corporation. Ted was a Naval Officer for twenty-three years and subsequently owned an Executive Search business until retirement. According to Pat, "Ted's Naval career encompassed everything from building guided missile ships for foreign governments to being Comptroller for the Navy

International Logistics Office, including dining with Kings and Ambassadors."

The Prehodkas feel that Blackmoor is a wonderful community where the people are great, there are two thousand area restaurants, and we have pleasant weather (other than July and August). They appreciate the fact that Blackmoor is not strictly a senior citizen community, and feel that having residents of all ages gives us the ability to be a part of life rather than being segregated as retirees. They enjoy seeing the school buses and children in our neighborhood. Ted is a past President of the Blackmoor Property Owners Association. Ted's two sons

are Douglas, who lives in Atlanta, and Ted, Jr., residing in Ohio.

Although Ted enjoys playing golf, his real passion is for Toomey's Kids, an organization in which he has been involved since he moved here seven years ago. The local concept of the organization was founded by Garden City resident, Jim Toomey, about eleven years ago when Jim's son, Mark, a wrestling coach and teacher of special needs kids, suddenly passed away at age forty-two.

(Continued on Page 4)



Blackmoor's Celebrity – Dick Lajoie

In case any of you missed the November 9th edition of the Sun News, the Local section included a 6x8 inch color photo of our very own Blackmoor resident, Dick Lajoie from Wellington Drive.

Dick, who traveled to the Coastal Grand Mall on Sunday, November 8th, with his wife Carol, "...his sister and his sister-in-law, decided at the last minute to go just to

see what it was all about", noted the Sun News. Dick was selected as a local Wheel of Fortune contestant that Sunday and is now awaiting word on whether he will move on to the next round, ultimately to be a contestant on the nationally televised show.

"I would be ecstatic and beside myself if I had an

opportunity to go back to my college town and see what it looks like after fifty years" said Dick, who attended Northrop Institute of Technology in California.

Dick, we'll be watching for you on the big screen!



Dick Lajoie at the Wheel of Fortune's Wheelmobile.

Blackmoor Travelers Golf

The Blackmoor Travelers, after six great years of getting neighbors to meet neighbors and having one of the best social activities in the community by getting together every Wednesday, are experiencing a change in format, as there are many memberships available or are becoming available in 2010 that impact our booking.

It has been very difficult to stay competitive with prices increasing in golf and so many other options in programs from which to choose. We, the Blackmoor Travelers, have been together a long time and have shared many memories of Wednesday golf within our community.

We will continue to book courses on Wednesdays, and hope that you will all still support our efforts to bring good fellowship to the community by supporting our weekly listings. Our November schedule was booked solid, and we are happy to tell you that we were back to playing every Wednesday in the month with some great courses lined up.

There still have been no Holes-In-One recorded this year, and we'd like to see that change soon. Many great unusual golf shots have happened over the summer months and much camaraderie has continued within our Wednesday golf program.

We hope to feed over 100 people again in December at our annual Pig Bar-B-Q Roast. If you're new to our neighborhood and just getting started in golf, or you're an average player, or even have a low handicap, we welcome you to join Wednesday Golf with the Blackmoor Travelers. Contact Dick Trythall at: E-Mail-RST2175@aol.com or call 215-8352. Sue and I will make you feel welcome

Himstedt Family continued

Gary previously served on the School Board in Illinois for twenty-five years.

Interestingly, Gary and Sandy had known each other all of their lives, having been through twelve years of school together, but never dating until they were living three hundred miles apart. During Thanksgiving break of

their college freshman year, Gary was home from Culver-Stocken College in Canton, Missouri while Sandy had arrived from Eastern Illinois University. They were out with a group of friends, and when a guy began making a pass at Sandy, she said, "I'm with Gary" just to discourage the flirtatious fellow. The romance began, and Sandy

and Gary will celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary in June, 2010!

The proud owners of two cats, Sassy and Joey, they are spending as much time as they can enjoying their first grandchild. An enormous Blackmoor welcome to the Himstedt family!

Christmas by the Sea

It's that time of year when we make our reservations for the Eighth Annual Blackmoor Christmas Party, "CHRISTMAS BY THE SEA", on December 19, 2009.

Some details remain the same – we're headed back to Inlet Affairs on the Marsh Walk, and the price is still a bargain at \$35 per person.

New for 2009 – Roger Jarin, Entertainer, some different selections of passed appetizers and entrees and the opportunity for reserved

seating.

In the past, there was an issue when people had trouble locating a table with their friends. To avoid place settings moved and squeezed into another table, as well as causing confusion and anxiety among the wait staff, this year we are allowing you (if you wish) to reserve a table of eight, AS LONG AS your reservation is accompanied by all the checks for the entire table. When you send in your response and meal selection,

let Joan Theiss or Tara Valcourt know under what name you wish to reserve the table and what names are included in that reservation. Hopefully, this will alleviate the problems we've had in the past.

The invitations have been sent out through the Blackmoor Communications Committee. If you missed it, contact one of the Social Committee members for a copy. Hope to see you all for a fun evening on the 19th of December!

Prehodka Family continued

Jim originally created a committee to help area special needs children. When Ted took over the Chairmanship, he expanded the work of the committee and formed a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax exempt charitable organization called Toomey's Kids, Inc. Through this charity, approximately 200 Horry and Georgetown County special needs students from twenty-two kindergarten through high school classes are positively impacted. The Sun News named Ted "Volunteer of the Year" in 2006 for his efforts

in this regard.

An annual event for Toomey's Kids is a children's Christmas party, which has grown to the extent that two parties will be held this year. Ted and Pat indicated that in the past, many Blackmoor residents have stepped up to the plate to wrap presents for the party, as the Prehodka home becomes the central gift wrapping command center for the event. Many Blackmoor friends also volunteer at the party and other events, such as the annual golf tournament.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated! In the future, we can watch for a television commercial and brand new web page for Toomey's Kids.

One fact about Ted that may surprise you is that he is a past-President of the Plainfield Symphony, the third oldest symphony orchestra in the United States. While Ted has visited forty different countries and Pat has traveled to over twenty-six, they love calling Blackmoor "Home".

Seacoast Artist Guild

If you haven't yet visited the Gallery at Applewoods House of Pancakes in Litchfield, then add it to your "must see" list soon.

Applewoods is home to a variety of artwork from the members of The Seacoast Artist Guild. The Guild, headed up by our very own Ron Blanchard (President) and his wife Cindy (Secretary and Membership Chair) is a 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to not only offering art to the community, but also providing lessons to those who could not normally afford them.

Cindy, a pastel artist, was a member of the Guild years ago, and sadly watched the membership dwindle down to only thirty-two artists. The group needed someone with a business background, and Cindy encouraged Ron to become involved and help the group grow. Ron took the challenge and was voted in as President of the Board, with the intent that he would remain on the Board for six months. Now, more than two years later, Ron is still the President, overseeing a Board of eleven and membership of more than 120 artists!

Along the way, Amy Vlahos of Applewoods, suggested the restaurant become the gallery for the Guild artists--a place for them to display and sell their work. With this, a wonderful partnership was born.

The gallery now boasts fifty rental spaces with room for over 150 pieces of 2D, 3D and photography adorning the walls. Every six months the art is changed out, so there is always something fresh for viewing.

When we talked with Ron and Cindy, they expressed their pride and gratitude to their Board and artist membership, for being engaged and active and helping the guild grow. Monthly meetings include presentations from members, showcasing for the audience their particular talents.

If you have an interest in becoming a member and enjoying the benefits it offers, take a look at their website www.seacoartistguild.com or attend a monthly meeting (the first Sunday of every month at Waccamaw Library in Pawleys Island). Take some time to stop by Applewoods in Litchfield, enjoy a delicious breakfast or lunch, take a look at the artwork displayed and maybe even purchase a raffle ticket for the Artist Guild Christmas Tree, adorned with hand painted art and printed photography (available until the drawing on December 13th). The trip might just encourage you to join, too!

Photo to the right shows Ron Blanchard cutting the ribbon that officially announced the formation of The Gallery at Applewoods.



December Events

**Brookgreen Gardens –
Night of a Thousand
Candles**
December 4, 5, 11, 12, 17-19

For more details check out
their website at
www.brookgreen.org or call
235-6000.

**Murrells Inlet Annual
Christmas Parade**
December 6
3:00 PM

Starts at Wilcox Avenue

For more details see
www.murrellsinletsc.com or
call 357-2007

**Murrells Inlet Holiday
Home Tour**
December 12
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Christmas on the Creek -
\$20.00 limited number of
tickets

Arts & Crafts Boutique at
Lee's Inlet Kitchen

www.murrellsinletsc.com or
call 357-2007

Electronic Newsletter for the
benefit of the members of the
Blackmoor Property Owners
Association

E-MAIL:
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OR CONTACT:
Mary Anne Benedetto
215-4676

Sandi Blood
650-4054

Odds and Ends

Do you have a favorite
"comfort food" recipe that you
always make during the
winter months? If so, please
send the recipe along to
Blackmoorbytes@gmail.com
and we may publish some
favorites in our January issue
to share with all residents.

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Judy Wells on Wellington
Drive is looking for anyone
interested in forming a book
swap or book exchange. If
you have any interest, please
contact Judy at 215-3147 or
email her at
jwells36@sc.rr.com with your
suggestions.

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The Newsletter Committee is
always looking for a few
good men or women to join
our team. If you think you'd
like to participate in our bi-
monthly newsletter, please
call Sandi or Mary Anne or
email us at
Blackmoorbytes@gmail.com

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