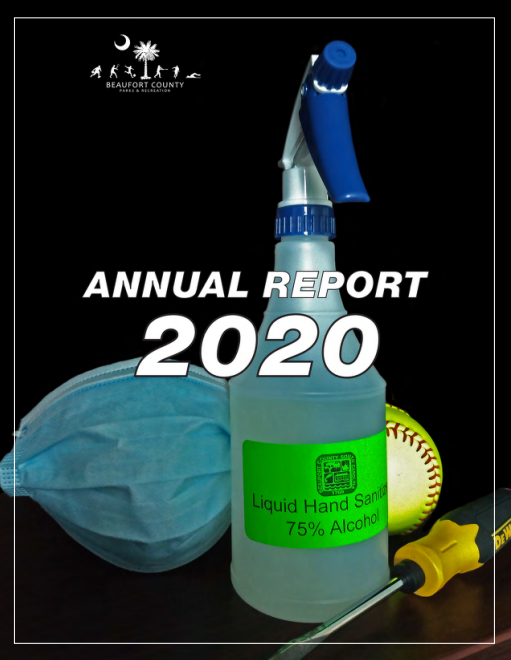
BEAUFORT COUNTY
PARKS & RECREATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2020



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Message From Our Director

As we entered 2020 we were all excited about the start of a new decade. February began to slow the excitement, and March brought all excitement to a stop. As we all know, the highlight of 2020 was the Covid-19 Pandemic, and what a challenge it was to ALL. So many lives lost, so many sick, businesses closed, and jobs lost. The devastation decided to continue its way right into 2021. If the new decade starts in 2021 let's all hope it sure is better than 2020.

In March, all of the Beaufort County Government offices closed down, but Parks and Recreation took that time to make the most of the situation. Some of our employees went to work with Grounds Maintenance, others started deep cleaning our facilities, cleaning out storage areas, painting buildings, waxing floors, painted floors, etc. They worked harder physically than they ever have before. The buildings, pools, and parks are now in the best shape they have ever been. On the other hand, our office staff, after issuing thousands of refunds from spring 2020, had the opportunity to review all accounts and ensure every patron had all required documents. Those that didn't had notes placed on their accounts to make reopening efficient.

Despite everything and all cancellations, we were able to offer Fall Sports outdoors and even pulled off the 2020 SCAP State Soccer Tournament in December. Naturally precautions were put in place, and the face mask requirement was quite the task. The biggest task however was the challenge from parents of only allowing one parent per child during the 2021 basketball season. Like everything else, and all other obstacles, we successfully made it through.

I can't possibly begin to tell you how proud I am of my staff for the patience, understanding, and hard work they put in during 2020. They went along with whatever changes we made, and helped out in all areas needed.

In closing, I will always encourage anyone that has an interest to please get involved with our Parks and Recreation department. We provide an array of programs and facilities for all ages. I especially would like to thank all of our volunteers and coaches. 2020 was not an easy year to recruit volunteers, but those that did were extra special for stepping up to the plate. These kids needed an outlet to enjoy our activities and to be with their friends, and our volunteers made it all possible. Staying involved in the lives of children is so important, and it was extra important in 2020. I am a firm believer in the saying, "it takes a village to raise a child." The more involvement from an adult in a child's life, the more successful they will be. We hope that 2021 will be better, period. We are looking forward to a positive, exciting year. Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Loper
Director
Beaufort County Parks and Recreation

Mission Statement

We utilize proactive means to provide fun, safe, and fiscally responsible recreational programs to elevate the quality of life in our county and region. We will accomplish this effort through standing by our core values:

Professionalism – Demonstrating proficiency and skill, as well as honesty, integrity, and respect.

Accountability – Taking personal responsibility to be engaged and receptive in providing quality recreational services.

Teamwork – Pursuing the best solution, or outcome, for both the community and organization.

Board & Staff

Parks and Recreation Board Members

Bill Brown	2/22	Military - ex-officio
Ronald Campbell	2/21	Northern Beaufort County
Carlos Cave	2/23	School District Administration - ex-officio
Philip Kiser	2/24	At-Large
William McCullough	2/21	Northern Beaufort County
Michael Manesiotis	2/21	Southern Beaufort County
James Mack	2/23	Northern Beaufort County
Erac Priester	2/23	Southern Beaufort County
Bruce Yeager, Jr. (c)	2/22	Southern Beaufort County

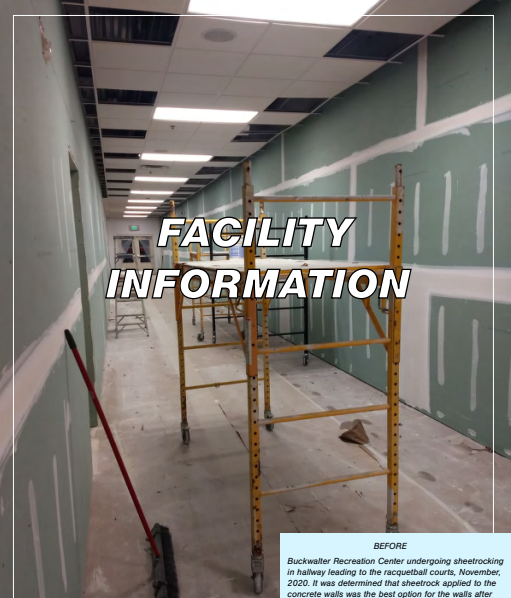
Mark Lawson	Council Liaison

(c) Chairman
(vc) Vice Chairman

Parks and Recreation Staff

Shannon Loper	Director
Matt Watts	Deputy Director
Amanda Snead	Senior Administrative Assistant
Earidean Edwards	Senior Admin Clerk
Evan Christian	Athletic Manager
Darrell Ketola	Athletic Supervisor
Ethan Harris	Athletic Supervisor
Justin Petock	Athletic Supervisor
Kevin Reynolds	Athletic Supervisor
Anny Binette	Pool Manager
Jack Fripp	Superintendent
Jeremy Way	Marketing Coordinator

FACILITY INFORMATION



BEFORE

Buckwalter Recreation Center undergoing sheetrocking in hallway leading to the racquetball courts, November, 2020. It was determined that sheetrock applied to the concrete walls was the best option for the walls after a sprinkler malfunction in Gyms 3&4 in 2019. Parks and Recreation Staff worked in the offices while work was completed by a contractor.

AFTER

Buckwalter Recreation Center sheettrocking and painting completed in December, 2020

Facility Information

* denotes Bluffton or Hilton Head Asset
For more comprehensive information, please visit our website at bcscrec.com

Basketball Courts

Agnes Major: 1 Outdoor
*Bluffton Center: 1 Indoor & 1 Outdoor
Bob Jones: 1 Outdoor
Booker T. Washington: 1 Outdoor
Broomfield: 1 Outdoor with lights
*Buckwalter: 4 Indoor
Burton Wells (Old): 1 Outdoor
Burton Wells (New): 1 Indoor
Dale: 1 Outdoor with lights
Charles Lind Brown: 1 Indoor & 1 Outdoor
*.C. Riley: 1 Outdoor with lights
Scott: 1 Outdoor with lights
Gloria Potts (Seaside): 1 Outdoor with lights
Wesley Felix: 1 Outdoor with lights

Batting Cages

*Buckwalter: 3 Indoor coin operated & 1 Manual
Burton Wells (New): 2 Outdoor
*M.C. Riley: 2 Outdoor
*Oscar Frazier: 4 Outdoor
Wesley Felix: 1 Outdoor with lights

Centers

Agnes Major
*Bluffton Center
Booker T. Washington
Broomfield
*Buckwalter
Burton Wells (New)
Charles Lind Brown
Dale
David Smith (Coosaw)
Gloria Potts (Seaside)
Port Royal
Scott

Concession Stands

Basil Green: 1
*Bluffton Center: 1
Burton Wells (New): 2
Burton Wells (Old): 1
Charles Lind Brown: 1
*M.C. Riley: 1
*Oscar Frazier: 1
Wesley Felix: 1

Facility Information

* denotes Bluffton or Hilton Head Asset
For more comprehensive information, please visit our website at bcscrec.com

Fields - Baseball

Basil Green: 3 with lights
*Bluffton Center: 1 with lights Bob Jones: 3 with lights Broomfield: 1
Bruce Edgerly: 1
*Buckwalter: 4 Indoor
Burton Wells (Old): 2 with lights Burton Wells (New): 3 with lights Coursen Tate: 2
Dale: 1 with lights
Metz: 1
M.C. Riley: 3 with lights
Scott: 2 with lights
Gloria Potts (Seaside): 1 Outdoor with lights
Wesley Felix: 2 with lights

Fields - Soccer & Football, Multi-Use

*Barker Field: 1 with lights
Basil Green: 1
*Bluffton Center: 1 with lights
Bruce Edgerly: 1
*Buckwalter: 3 with lights
Burton Wells (New): 4, (3 with lights)
Coursen-Tate: 2
*M.C. Riley: 1 multi-purpose with lights
Scott: 1
Shell Point Park: 1
Wesley Felix: 1

Playgrounds

*Barker Field: 3 with lights
*Bluffton Center: 1
Broomfield: 1
Burton Wells (Old): 1
Burton Wells (New): 1
Coursen-Tate: 1
Dale: 1
M.C. Riley: 1
*Oscar Frazier: 2
Scott:1
Shell Point Park
Wesley Felix: 1

Pools

Battery Creek Pool - Indoor
Beaufort Pool - Indoor
*Bluffton Pool - Indoor
Charles Lind Brown - Outdoor

Racquetball Courts

Burton Wells (New): 2
*Buckwalter: 2

Facility Information

* denotes Bluffton or Hilton Head Asset
For more comprehensive information, please visit our website at bcscrec.com

Tennis Courts

*Bluffton Center: 2 with lights

Downtown Beaufort: 7 with lights

Shell Point: 2 Outdoor

Scott: 1 Outdoor

Southside Tennis: 2 Outdoor

Wesley Felix: 1

Tracks

*Buckwalter: 1 Indoor

Volleyball Courts

*Bluffton Center: 2 Outdoor

*Buckwalter: 8 within indoor basketball courts

Scott: 1 Outdoor

Walking Paths

Shell Point Park
Burton Wells (Old)

Weight Rooms

*Buckwalter: 1

Burton Wells (New): 1

ATHLETICS
2020

Fall Soccer season girls play under the lights at Buckwalter Recreation Center's field
photo by Darrell Ketola

2020 Athletics Timeline

January 1 - Online Registration Begins for Spring Youth Sports (Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Soccer, Flag Football)

February 7 - Online Registration Ends for Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse

February 21 - Online Registration Ends for Soccer and Flag Football

March 13 - SC Governor McMaster declares Covid "State of Emergency" for South Carolina

March 16 - Administrator Ashley Jacobs closes all county offices.

March 17 - All Spring Sports in limbo until SC Governor McMaster makes lawful order allowing sports gatherings. Parks and Recreation implements it's 'Plan B' of deep-cleaning indoor facilities, equipment, and outdoor parks with limited staff. Some staff serve in Animal Services and Senior Services.

May 24 - Summer Youth Basketball Registration cancelled / Issuing Credits and Refunds begin for Spring Sports

September 1 - Online Registration Begins for Winter Youth Basketball

September 21 - Fall Youth Sports season begins with mask mandate

October 31 - Winter Youth Basketball Registration closes

December - Winter Youth Basketball Practices begin with stringent guidelines

July 17 - Administrator Ashley Jacobs re-closes all county offices to the public. Parks and Recreation resumes 'Plan B.' Limited staff working.

June 30 - Process of Issuing Credits and Refunds for Spring Sports ends

June 1 - Facilities re-open with adjusted hours and staff. New, strict cleaning measures are in place. Season begins for Baseball, Soccer, and Flag Football. Online Registration begins for Fall Youth Sports.

Athletics Registrations

SPRING 2020 BEAUFORT YOUTH - played during Summer		COVID-RELATED REFUNDS OR CREDITS
93	Baseball	87
44	Flag Football	21
176	Soccer	176

SPRING 2020 BLUFFTON YOUTH - played during Summer		COVID-RELATED REFUNDS OR CREDITS
66	Boys Lacrosse	0
477	Baseball	52
89	Flag Football	51
445	Soccer	328
124	Softball	12
17	Tennis	0

SPRING 2020 BEAUFORT ADULTS - played during Summer		COVID-RELATED REFUNDS OR CREDITS
46	Baseball	0
SPRING 2020 BLUFFTON ADULTS - played during Summer		
171	Kickball	36
403	Softball	0
SUMMER 2020 BEAUFORT YOUTH - CANCELLED		
0	Basketball	0
SUMMER 2020 BLUFFTON YOUTH - CANCELLED		
0	Basketball	0
FALL 2020 BEAUFORT YOUTH		
33	Baseball	0
8	Cheerleading	0
62	Flag Football	0
250	Soccer	0
FALL 2020 BLUFFTON YOUTH		
149	Baseball	0
19	Cheerleading	0
147	Flag Football	0
561	Soccer	0
67	Softball	0
FALL 2020 BEAUFORT ADULTS		
44	Softball	0
FALL 2020 BLUFFTON ADULTS		
542	Softball	0
WINTER 2020 BEAUFORT YOUTH		
211	Basketball	0
WINTER 2020 BLUFFTON YOUTH		
661	Basketball	0

TOTAL ATHLETICS REGISTRATIONS IN 2020 = *4,859*
vs.
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS IN 2019 = *6,699*

Setbacks & Comebacks - Athletics

These Before & After shots are exemplary of the kind of work performed by Parks and Recreation Staff. Picture of locker room at Charles Lind Brown Gym. Photos by Ethan Harris

January

Redesigned management controls give athletics staff a streamlined approach to workflows
Youth basketball player at Buckwalter receives suspension for punching wall in gym
Under Armor becomes official shirt of Adult Softball

February

Outdoor Volleyball net was stolen from Bluffton Recreation Center
Beaufort Flag Football numbers rise after waiving late fee and extending registration deadline
Horton & Goodman are the corporate sponsors ($2,500) of Bluffton Youth Spring Soccer
Coursen-Tate Park on Lady's Island vandalized / Building spray-painted and trash can set on fire
Seventeen teams are registered for Adult Kickball in Bluffton
Dick's Sporting Goods contributes greatly toward Parks and Recreation athletic supplies

March

Bluffton Youth Soccer registration closes at 773 participants / Beaufort Soccer closes at 352 participants
All sports activities and facilities suspended to observe Beaufort County Covid-19 precautions
Cleaned and organized over 3,000 square feet of storage and activity space at Bluffton Recreation Center and Gym

Setbacks and Comebacks - Athletics

April

Cleaned and organized over 5,000 square feet of storage and activity space at Buckwalter Recreation Center and Gym

Waxed tens of thousands of square feet of office and hallway floors throughout all Parks and Recreation facilities

May

Powerwashed miles of sidewalks at Buckwalter, Bluffton Recreation Center, Burton Wells, Lind Brown

Summer Basketball cancelled

Prepared over 1,000 spray bottles of Hand Sanitizer to be distributed among Beaufort County offices

Covid-related refunds or credits to parents are processed

June

Youth Baseball, Softball, Flag Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, and Tennis seasons begin...

... over three months late

July

Enforcing SC Governor McMaster's Covid-19 mask order at games difficult due to it's unpopularity among parents

An Adult Softball player at Barker was shocked standing next to a lightpole with hands on the fence

Player award ceremonies are cancelled due to social distancing

Child receives a three-game suspension for using a racial epithet

August

Fall Adult Volleyball Season cancelled

September

"No Refunds, Credit Only" policy begins

October

Athletics is fully-staffed with six, full-time athletic supervisors

November

Burton Wells Recreation Center re-opens, 8am - 5pm, Monday through Friday

Buckwalter closed while Engineering fixes lingering moisture caused by 2019's sprinkler failure in Gyms 3 & 4

December

Winter Youth Basketball practices begin with temperature checks at lobby and "One Parent in Gym" Rule

Rule proves unpopular.

Photo Evidence, Athletics

Parks and Recreation Staff filled, assembled, labeled, organized, and distributed 75% alcohol hand sanitizer for all county offices in preparation of re-opening. Photos by Jeremy Way

Photo Evidence, Athletics

Parks and Recreation Staff normally do everything possible to avoid interruption of service to its constituents. Powerwashing our facilities involves hundreds of yards of connected hoses running from special spigots located in restrooms. Since facilities were closed, this clean-up was an opportunity to regain some of the original beauty of our facilities without creating a tripping hazard to the public.

Photo Evidence, Athletics

Despite everything and all cancellations, we were able to offer Fall Sports outdoors and even pulled off the 2020 SCAP State Soccer Tournament in December.

AQUATICS
2020

2020 Aquatics Timeline

January 1 - 31: Swim Lesson registrations improved 500% over January 2019

February 1 - 28: Swim Lesson registrations improved 320% over February 2019

March 1 - 15: Swim lesson registrations decrease by 97 participants

March 13 - SC Governor McMaster declares Covid "State of Emergency" for South Carolina

March 16 - Administrator Ashley Jacobs closes all county offices.

March 17 - All Spring Sports in limbo until SC Governor McMaster makes lawful order allowing sports gatherings. Parks and Recreation implements it's 'Plan B' of deep-cleaning indoor facilities, equipment, and outdoor parks with limited staff. Some staff serve in Animal Services and Senior Services.

April 15 - May 15: Aquatics Staff cleans and makes improvements to Battery Creek, Beaufort and Bluffton Indoor Pools. Improvements include new, painted flooring and walls throughout locker rooms, office walls. All pool decks and drains are pressure-washed. All pools are re-organized.

2020 Aquatics Timeline

June 1 - Pools re-open with adjusted hours, services, and staff. New, strict cleaning measures are in place. New Locker Room rules aim to prevent Covid transmissions. Swim Lessons resume with "Instructor On Deck" rule to prevent Covid transmission. New rules prove unpopular with patrons.

July 17 - Administrator Ashley Jacobs re-closes all county offices to the public. Parks and Recreation resumes 'Plan B.' Limited staff working.

August 17 - Part-Time Lifeguards supervise the high school swim teams 7am - 9am daily. Pool not open to public.

November 2 - Battery Creek Pool and Bluffton Pool re-open with adjusted hours and staff. Beaufort Pool remains closed for necessary repairs.

November 30 - Beaufort Pool re-opens with adjusted hours and staff.

Aquatics Participation

DAILY PASSES SOLD LAP/OPEN SWIM		2019
314	Battery Creek Pool	1,480
286	Beaufort Pool	1,500
731	Bluffton Pool	1,544
726	Lind Brown Pool (Outdoor/Summer Only)	2,410

MONTHLY PASSES SOLD LAP/OPEN SWIM		2019
106	Battery Creek Pool	235
87	Beaufort Pool	271
212	Bluffton Pool	342
29	Lind Brown Pool (Outdoor/Summer Only)	38

ANNUAL PASSES SOLD LAP/OPEN SWIM		2019
3	Battery Creek Pool	15
5	Beaufort Pool	11
6	Bluffton Pool	13

SCHOOL SWIM LESSONS		2019
0	Battery Creek Pool	817
0	Beaufort Pool	1,213
0	Bluffton Pool	4,862

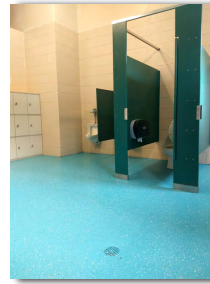
SWIM LESSONS		2019
84	Battery Creek Pool	201
115	Beaufort Pool	418
433	Bluffton Pool	370

WATER AEROBICS		2019
120	Battery Creek Pool	978
108	Beaufort Pool	881
243	Bluffton Pool	890

SWIM TEAMS		2019
40	Battery Creek Pool (H2A)	361 (H2A + BCHS)
31	Beaufort Pool (LCAC)	897 (LCAC +BHS)
408	Bluffton Pool (FINS)	3,805 (FINS + BHS)

2020 TOTALS	2019 TOTALS
4,087	23,552

Setbacks and Comebacks - Aquatics



These Before & After shots are exemplary of the kind of work performed by Parks and Recreation Staff. Picture of locker rooms at Battery Creek and Beaufort Pools. Photos by Jeremy Way

January
Sand Filter at Battery Creek is causing sand to enter the pool through it's jets, broken lateral suspected
Swim lesson registration numbers sharply increase
New, Walk-In Individual Swim Lessons introduced, $10 for 30-minute lesson, no appointment necessary
Water level at Beaufort Pool drops inches daily, leak strongly suspected

February
More lifeguards need to be hired to meet individual swim lesson demand at Bluffton Pool
Sand and broken laterals in filter at Battery Creek Pool are replaced
Pool Heater at Battery Creek not working

March
Bluffton Pool gets new pump and filter system
Pool Heater at Battery Creek Pool fixed
Pools areas are thoroughly disinfected in response to Covid-19
Pools closed - Aquatics Staff re-organized into three teams: Maintenance, Senior Services, and Animal Services
Bluffton, Battery Creek, and Bluffton pool decks are powerwashed and deck drains strongly flushed out

Setbacks and Comebacks - Aquatics

April
Rusted steel beams and doors along the pool decks at all indoor pools are painted
All pools have newly-painted office walls, lobby walls, locker room walls, lobby floors, locker room floors

May
Cleaned and organized over 15,000 square feet at Bluffton Pool, Battery Creek Pool, Beaufort Pool
All indoor pools get large, box fans to increase air flow from deck's sliding glass doors
No new seasonal staff hired

June
Pools re-open with new hours and rules to prevent Covid transmission, staff uses
new Covid Waiver to limit liability
Beaufort Pool's, on-deck sliding glass doors get tracks fixed to allow maximum outdoor air ventilation
Lind Brown Outdoor Pool uncovered, cleaned and opened for the season
Majority of pool patrons patient and understanding with new rules, a few become belligerent
about the change
Parents of children in swim lessons unhappy at temporary "Teaching From Deck" social-distancing policy

June
All Pools closed again
Aquatics Staff re-assigned to department's Grounds Maintenance Crew to cover employee absences

July
All aquatics staff has multiple certifications updated
All indoor pools open 7am-9am to accomodate school swim team practices only
Lind Brown Outdoor Pool is re-covered for season

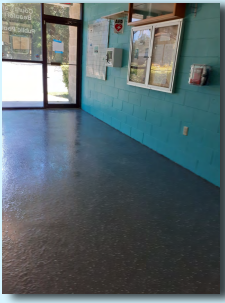
September / October
All indoor pools open 7am-9am to accomodate school swim team practices only

November
Battery Creek and Bluffton re-opened with limited hours and staff / Beaufort Pool resurfacing continues
Beaufort Pool re-opened with new resurfacing with limited hours and staff

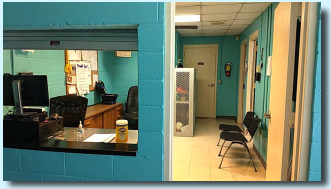
December
Inflatable obstacle courses researched for future use at Battery Creek Pool

Steel beams on the pool deck at Bluffton Pool had heavy oxidation. Staff washed, sanded, washed again, and painted over three dozen of these throughout all three indoor pools while pools were closed to the public.

Photo Evidence - Aquatics



All floors in foyers throughout our indoor pools get fresh, oil-based epoxy. All walls are touched up or repainted in office areas. Photos by Anny Binette



It's not as simple as just putting down new paint and sealant. All floors required sanding, washing, painting, sealing and texture.

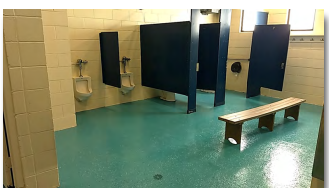
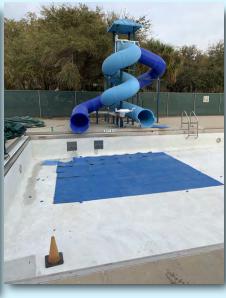


Photo Evidence - Aquatics



Staff drains, skims, and powerwashes the outdoor pool at Charles Lind Brown in May. This is a normal occurance in anticipation of opening around Memorial Day. The staff this year was much smaller because no seasonal guards were hired.

After School
Summer Camp
Senior Services

Love House Learning Academy

September 1, 2020

Re: Explanation of Services for RFP for Senior Day Program

This message will explain our services for our RFP with the Senior Day Programs.

Due to Covid-19, Love House Learning ACADEMY have not held face-to-face services with the Senior Citizens that we serve since March 13, 2020 due to the danger Covid-19 poses to our aging population.

In exchange for these services, LHLA redeveloped our program to continue meeting senior's needs with door-to-door meals delivered five-days a week with seven fresh frozen meals that can be heated within five minutes. These daily deliveries allowed us to physically see the seniors we serve to have in person wellness checks. This also allowed us to provide seniors with a nutritious meal balanced by a Dietitian to assist them with maintaining their health during this pandemic. Meals are dropped off at the door where the small talk begins and ends. For many of these seniors, we are their only daily visitation.

We have also been able to provide seniors with masks and sanitizer for their protection on a rotating basis. We also deliver to each family a fresh box of vegetables with fresh fruit to help provide garden fresh nutrients to those seniors with limited transportation. This support helps to reduce their exposure and without it many would have been at risk of their health to meet their basic needs.

Earlier this year, due to Covid-19, the vehicles assigned to LHLA were returned to PALS to "limit the risk" of exposure to the virus for Beaufort County employees who drive vehicles for services alone. Our feeding program for the senior citizens of Beaufort County began Thursday, March 19, 2020. It was at this time, PALS offered to support LHLA senior feeding program by contributing PALS spare staffing along with vehicles to help LHLA deliver food to support our new Covid-19 feeding program.

On June 1, 2020 Beaufort County re-opened and many of PALS supporting staff returned to their normal duties; however, one continued for a few additional weeks to train their replacement. This was a great support to us and we truly appreciate all the help PALS has given us. We now have four staff members delivering food three times a week as we continue our feeding program. Also to date, we have served an estimated of 13,440 fresh frozen meals, 1575 fresh fruit and vegetables boxes, 400 face mask, and sanitizer to an average of 80 senior citizens since March 2020.

As of today, we have received enough funding to support senior feeding throughout the end of 2020.

Theresa A. Roberts, Executive Director

Love House Learning Academy
843-525-1043

January
All-Star Basketball Tournament at Buckwalter
March
Home & Garden Show, Cancelled
October
Beaufort County Tax Sale at Buckwalter
November
National Election at Bluffton Center, Buckwalter, Burton Wells, Charles Lind Brown
November
Trash Clean Up Day along Highway 170
December
All-Star Soccer Tournament at Buckwalter
December
Christmas Parade, Cancelled

Bluffton/Okatie Service Area		2019
???	Available Balance	$5,256,968
Burton Service Area		2019
???	Available Balance	$46,277
Lady's Island Service Area		2019
???	Available Balance	$214,223
St Helena Island Service Area		2019
???	Avaiable Balance	$36,020