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Town Hosts Goethe-Shults Neighborhood Meeting to Develop Infrastructure Plan

The Town of Bluffton, along with the Lowcountry Council of Governments, will host a public meeting Monday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m. to seek community stakeholder input into developing a neighborhood infrastructure plan. The meeting will be held at the Rotary Community Center for residents and business owners of the Goethe-Shults Neighborhood. The neighborhood plan will help identify capital improvement project needs such as public facilities, sewer, roads, sidewalks, lighting and other elements which will add infrastructure, features and possibly amenities to the neighborhood.

The homes and businesses within the Goethe-Shults neighborhood boundaries are not a part of a planned community and do not have the benefits of pre-planned infrastructure and amenities.

“This meeting is the first step to developing a neighborhood plan. It allows residents and business owners to voice their vision and opinions on what’s good for the neighborhood,” Town Manager Marc Orlando said. “Once the neighborhood plan is in place, town staff can apply for state and federal grants to help fund identified projects.”

Orlando said this plan may need multi-years and phases to accomplish, however, the first step is to develop the overall plan and implement as much as each year’s budget and grants allow.

“There are only about 4% of the Town’s residents and businesses who aren’t in a planned community,” Town Councilman Fred Hamilton said. “Many of the families who live in the Goethe-Shults area were there long before other communities were and established their homes while Bluffton was still considered rural. These families are now surrounded by planned neighborhoods and business parks.

“The Town can now help mobilize these residents and help design, implement and find funding to support additional infrastructure for this area. In addition, improvements to this area will improve the quality of life for these residents as well as connect and complement the sidewalks, parking and other public safety features which are happening all around them adding to the overall walkability and safety of the entire town,” Hamilton said.

The streets within the Goethe-Shults Neighborhood include the following:

- Dustin Loop
- Hilderbrand Drive
- Shults Road
- Goethe Road
- May River Road (Portion between Wharf and DuBois)
- Taylor Court
- Laurel Court
- Bush Lane
- Grace Lane
- Kidd Lane
- Benjamin Miller Lane
- Martha Brown Lane
- Derf Lane
- Little Lane
- Jillfer Lane
- Joe Hamilton Lane
- CM Ellis Lane
- Tamarack Lane

The April 30 meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be facilitated by Michelle Knight, director of community and economic development, for the Lowcountry Council of Governments. Knight will present the steps involved in developing a neighborhood plan and ask residents and business owners to participate in a brainstorming session to gather ideas for the plan.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to offer your opinions and ideas, please email Michelle Knight at (mknight@lowcountrycog.org).