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SPRING 2016

MAGAZINE

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of the Island***
The IOP
Rec Center

*Island Home
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You can hardly talk about U.S. Rep. Tommy Hartnett without talking about the Isle of Palms. It's not just the place he has ended up – it's the place where he started. From childhood summers spent on the beach to his first job to the first date with his future spouse, the Isle of Palms has played a supporting role not only in Hartnett's back story but in who he is and what he has accomplished 17



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

MY OLDEST SON, DREW, AND I MOVED TO THE ISLE Of Palms in 1979. I remember our first night on the island. We had just unloaded everything into a house we were renting on 29th Avenue. We were hungry, so we decided to run out for a burger. Of course, the IOP Connector hadn't been built yet, and our closest option was Burger King on Coleman Boulevard, where Heritage Trust is today. It was a long drive for some fast food.

Drew and I loved our new island. We both enjoyed walking to the beach and eating at Front Beach Floyd's or The Palms on front beach. He went to Sullivan's Island Elementary, which has always been a great school. At the time, there was only one way on and off the island. That was one of the reasons I always felt Drew was safe when I was at work off the island. We created a lot of great memories when we lived on the Isle Of Palms. Though much has changed since 1979, one thing hasn't: the high level of passion residents have for their piece of sand on the Isle Of Palms.

Published four times a year, *Isle Of Palms Magazine* is aimed at residents and visitors alike. Each issue will take readers on a journey through the island's past. You'll be able to read about your island neighbors, some who have called the Isle Of Palms home for a lifetime and others who have recently discovered its unique lifestyle.

In this issue, we're excited to have interviewed longtime Wild Dunes residents Tommy and Bonnie Hartnett. It's a great island story: from the island to Washington, D.C. and back again. Managing editor Brian Sherman interviewed Norma Jean Page, who's been with the IOP Recreation Department since 1997, and Councilman Jimmy Carroll, who was recently appointed to a second term as chair of the Recreation Committee. We went back in time and landed on the shoreline of Goat Island to visit the former home of the reclusive Goat Man, and we also traveled across the island to Wild Dunes to take a tour of a home in Ocean Point.

We hope you'll also enjoy our editorial staple, Island Facetime, and the quick read about Isle Of Palms firsts.

Since the Isle Of Palms and Sullivan's Island are neighbors, we thought you'd like the idea of two magazines in one. After all, the two islands have been connected for many decades by ferries, roads and bridges. Why not continue to connect East Cooper's island towns through the digital and printed pages of this magazine? Read the digital magazine at www.IOPmag.com.



Bill and Drew circa 1979.

Bill Macchio

— BILL MACCHIO
Publisher@IsleOfPalmsMagazine.com

Opening Doors ON ISLE OF PALMS AND CHARLESTON

A home is not a home because of its room dimensions or the color of the walls. How gratifying it is to connect buyers to their forever home, vacation property or, just as important, a first time homebuyer. Finding that special place where you can begin building lifelong memories with family and friends.

Since starting my career on the Isle of Palms in 1984, I consequently was fortunate enough to open my own vacation management company and real estate sales office on the Island in 1987. In 2009, I joined Carolina One Real Estate because of their marketing resources and their stellar reputation as well as their charitable giving back to the community.

It is my honor to work with you. Please feel comfortable calling me with any questions. I would love the opportunity of providing you with a free, no obligation market evaluation giving you the most current and valuable information.



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Our Isle of Palms Neighbors

WE'RE SPENDING A LITTLE TIME WITH SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORS TO HELP YOU GET to know them better. If you want to appear in Facetime or to suggest someone you find interesting, please email the name and contact information (email and/or phone number) to editor@IOPMag.com.



Dick Cronin

Lives in: Closest place to paradise (The Isle of Palms).

From: Lived in seven cities in five different states.

Education: Tufts University - Electrical Engineering. Harvard Business School - Program for Management Development.

Employment: 8th year as Isle of Palms mayor.

Favorite reading: Currently, "The Mayor: Joe Riley and the Rise of Charleston," by Brian Hicks.

Favorite music: From Josh Groban to Adele.

Activities: Every day, either tennis, biking, golf or walking the beach.

Interests: Serving on the Board of the Municipal Association of South Carolina and photography, as a pure amateur

Favorite philosophy or quote: Life is too short not to enjoy every moment with family and friends.



John Kurc

Lives in: Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

From: Houston, Texas.

Education: Georgia State University.

Employment: Fine art photographer.

Favorite reading: "A Confederacy of Dunces," by John Kennedy Toole, "Kitchen Confidential," by Anthony Bourdain.

Favorite music: The Pretenders, The Cranberries, The Decemberists, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Jason Mraz, Lyle Lovett, The Handsome Family, Junior Brown, Jeff Coffin, The Rolling Stones, The Doors and a million more.

Activities: Cycling and capturing moments in time.

Interests: Being a great dad, ballet, music and technology.

Likes: Cats; Nikon, Polaroid and Leica Cameras.

Favorite quote or philosophy: Never give up.



Frank Kline

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Education: USC.

Employment: Head chef at Acme Lowcountry

Kitchen.

Favorite reading: Either sports magazines or cookbooks.

Favorite music: Alternative rock – The National, Modest Mouse.

Activities: Cooking – even in my spare time.

Interests: I'm a sports fanatic.

Likes: My wife, being out on the water, taking care of my three pet ferrets and puppy.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Excuses are the nails that built the house of failure."



Tami Enright

Lives in: A tiny house on the Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

From: Native South Carolina girl.

Education: University of South Carolina, master gardener, apiarist, School of Hard Knocks.

Employment: Executive director of The Bee Cause Project (<http://www.thebeecause.org/>).

Favorite reading: "The Secret Life of Bees," by Sue Monk Kidd.

Favorite music: "Flight of the Bumblebee," by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

Activities: In addition to running The Bee Cause Project, I seem to spend the majority of my time shuttling my four children between school and after-school activities. Most days I also succeed at feeding them.

Interests: I love what we are doing at The Bee Cause Project. I also enjoy spending time with my husband, my children and my friends.

Likes: Sleep. When I can get it. And walks on the beach with Honey, my golden doodle.

Isle of Palms Firsts



FIRST NAME OF ISLAND

Hunting Island

FIRST HOME BUILT ON ISLAND

Summer residence of the Nicholas Sottile family – 1898

FIRST POST OFFICE

Inside Hudson's Pavilion – Aug. 5, 1913

FIRST PAPERBOY

George Wurthmann – 1933

FIRST POLICEMAN/ALSO FIRE CHIEF

Eddie Walters, known as "Chief" – 1945

FIRST MAYOR OF IOP

Walter I. Chapman Jr. - elected to office May 31, 1952

FIRST FILLING STATION

Leo Hendrickson's filling station and general repair – 1935

FIRST FULL-TIME FIRE CHIEF

Larry Britton – 1987

FIRST PHARMACY

Island Pharmacy – April 16, 1992

FIRST BANK

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FIRST GROCERY STORE

Isle of Palms Food Store

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Huck's – 1940

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First United Methodist Church - 12 21st Ave.

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Photo by Brian Sherman.

The Heart of the Island

THE IOP RECREATION CENTER

T

HE ISLE OF PALMS RECREATION Center is more than just a dog- and kid-friendly venue where local residents and visitors of all ages can go to learn, play and compete. In the eyes of longtime Recreation Director Norma Jean Page, it's the heart of the island and the center of its social universe.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

"It's a comfortable, easy, convenient place where people can come. The island folks appreciate it and they utilize it," said Page, who has been at her current job since October 1997.

When Page arrived on the island, the Recreation Center consisted of little more than a dingy gymnasium. In fact, because the facilities were so sparse, she seriously considered turning down the job offered to her by city officials. However, after learning that a master plan was in the works for IOP's Recreation Department, she was convinced that relocating from North Myrtle Beach to the Isle of Palms would be "a good challenge."

Today, the centerpiece of IOP's seven-acre recreation complex on 28th Avenue is a multipurpose building completed in December 2004, "on time and under budget." It includes meeting and activity rooms where kids, teens, adults and seniors take part in activities such as yoga,



Photos courtesy of the Isle of Palms Recreation Department.

The Isle of Palms Recreation Department holds an array of activities, including the sand sculpting competition during Piccolo Spoleto and the IOP Beach Run. Right: Luke Armstrong is one of many local residents who participate in the city's youth baseball program.

gymnastics, line dancing, exercise classes and reading. The renovated gym features a cardio room and a basketball court that also hosts events such as the city's annual Halloween Carnival.

"We've dressed it up a lot. It didn't look like this when I got here," Page said. "When I arrived, the gym wasn't even air conditioned. In the summer, the kids would go outside to get cool."

There's at least as much to do outside as inside at the recreation complex. A softball field also serves as a venue for lacrosse and machine-pitch baseball, while a multipurpose field is used for soccer, volleyball and the city's annual Easter egg hunt. Batting cages complement the baseball field, while the lighted tennis courts and basketball courts are nearby. Closer to the main building are a large soccer field, a picnic shelter and a playground, "one of the best in Charleston County," according to Page.

The center even has outdoor showers, where people coming from the beach can rinse off.

Page added that when dogs on the island escape their yards, they often end up at the ever-popular dog park, built by Recreation Department staff with fencing left over after the main building was completed. If possible, she'll return the wayward canines to their owners.

"If the dog has a tag with an address, I'll take them home," she related.

Growing up in Clarkton, North Carolina, Page said she always wanted to teach and coach, "from day one." However, her career almost took off in a different direction. She was unable to find employment after she graduated from Pembroke State University, so she returned to school to learn how to be a lab technician. She was offered two jobs on the same day: one as a recreation director in Salisbury, North Carolina, and the other as a hospital lab tech.

She chose the recreation job and later moved on to Myrtle Beach as director of the community center and coordinator of activities on the beach. Her next, and probably last, stop was the Isle of Palms.

Page was quick to point out that the Recreation Center offers programs and activities for people of all ages, from energetic pre-schoolers to enthusiastic senior citizens. There's soccer for 3- to 14-year-olds and baseball and basketball for kids 5 to 14, as well as summer camps that help youngsters hone their basketball, lacrosse and volleyball skills. Adults, meanwhile, can participate in basketball, tennis, soccer, softball, volleyball and table tennis. An array of activities are offered for youngsters, from art to tae kwon do to ballet, while adults can participate

in everything from Zumba to dog training to learning to speak Italian.

And then there are the seniors. In addition to an array of activities, the “Keenagers,” those 50 and older, get together on Wednesdays for a covered-dish lunch. If they don’t feel like walking from the parking lot to the building, staffers will give them a ride from and back to their cars in a golf cart.

“I tell my staff to treat the seniors like they would treat their grandparents,” Page said.

People who don’t live on the Isle of Palms can use the Recreation Center for a nominal extra fee, while visitors to the island pay a walk-in fee.

“We are a tourist destination, so we cater to those folks as well,” Page pointed out, adding that many who don’t live on the island full-time are surprised at the extent of IOP’s recreational opportunities. “People who visit say it’s a really nice facility. They comment that ‘We don’t have this where we come from.’”

In addition to the many activities offered at the Isle of Palms Recreation Center, the Recreation Department holds an array of special events, including an Easter egg hunt, Doggie Day, Music in the Park, the Holiday Street Festival, the IOP Beach Run, Ghostly Tide Tales, a Halloween carnival, a community wellness fair and various activities during Island History Month. The Department also runs the sand sculpting contest held during Piccolo Spoleto.

All this is accomplished with a staff of only six full-time employees plus Page: Assistant Director Karrie Ferrell; Recreation Supervisors Andy Sinwald and Aaron Sweet; Community Specialist Holly Norton; Parks and Facilities Specialist Rick Daugherty; and Robert Asero, who is responsible for the maintenance of the grounds.

“It amazes me what we do,” Page exclaimed. “These guys work hard.”

She pointed out that around 300 youngsters participate in youth sports programs at the Recreation Center and that an estimated 12,000 people come through the center in one form or another over the course of a year. Page, a breast cancer survivor, obviously is glad she chose recreation over hospital work.

“It’s fun. I can’t imagine doing anything other than what I do,” she said. “We make people happy. I love what I do, and I love the people of the Isle of Palms. The fun part is that we’re able to cater to our residents. For example, if someone forgets to sign up his kids for basketball, we can just call him up and remind him.” 🐾

To learn about all the Isle of Palms Recreation Department has to offer, visit www.iop.net/Recreation.

This Used to be His Playground

As a young boy, Jimmy Carroll wiled away many a day at the public playground on the Isle of Palms. Today, as an IOP councilman and the chair of the city’s Recreation Committee, he is making decisions that affect a critical aspect of life on the island.

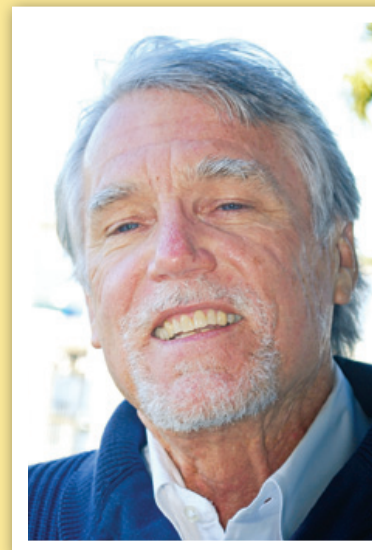


Photo by Brian Sherman.

In the 1960s, when only about 300 people lived on the island, Carroll’s mom, Kathryn, served as recreation director. When the playground, located on 27th Avenue, was in need of a new sliding board or a swing set, the Ladies Playground Auxiliary held a fundraiser to help pay for the equipment.

Today, IOP’s Recreation Department, with Norma Jean Page at the helm, is headquartered on a seven-acre complex that offers activities for people of all ages.

“It’s come full circle for me,” said Carroll, who was recently appointed to his second term as Recreation Committee chair.

He pointed out that the Isle of Palms’ first recreation building was donated to the city and moved from Sullivan’s Island.

He added that he and fellow committee members Carol Rice and Ted Kinghorn now are tasked with “bringing before the Council the goals Norma Jean wants to achieve.” To Carroll, that’s an important job.

“The Recreation Department is the center of the Isle of Palms,” he remarked. “It’s critical. It’s what makes a community a community. That’s what brings people together.”

The Lingering Legend of Goat Island



Photo courtesy of the SC FCA Outdoors.



The Goat Man and his wife learned to accept what God provided them with, drinking rainwater and eating whatever grew on the island.

LEGEND STILL LINGERS ON A tiny barrier island only 200 yards off the Isle of Palms. In the early 1930s, a man and his wife lived in self-exile on Goat Island, without electricity or water, choosing to turn their backs on civilization forever. The island remains a place of rustic solitude – a precious, slender slice of land beyond the reach of streetlights and bus stops. The legend of Goat Island has been passed down through generations of locals who sometimes share it with worthy tourists.

BY MARIA ZONE

The legend of the Goat Man emerged in 1931, when a Charleston butcher, Henry Holloway, and his wife, Blanche, decided to free themselves from the rules, regulations and stresses of modern day society. Repelled by the intrusion of what was labeled as progress, the Holloways retreated from the real world as we know it, into a timeless, peaceful life of seclusion on their own

deserted island, which they shared with a herd of goats.

There, alone, in a driftwood-covered hole in the ground, sheltered only by palm fronds, they claimed squatter's rights over the island – the sole living heirs to the virgin paradise of Goat Island's undeveloped beaches and marshlands.

The Goat Man and his wife learned to accept what God provided them with, drinking rainwater and eating whatever grew on the island. They lived in solitude under the aimless canopy of tree limbs and palms that provided them shelter in the rainy season, shade in the hot, sweltering summers and firewood in the cool, wet island winters.

While their nearby neighbors donned fancy new shoes and Sunday clothes, they wore only their tans. They denied a domesticated existence, refusing to live under the watchful eye of any community. They didn't go to church, work or networking groups. Once they abandoned scheduled society, they never had to wake up to the sound of an alarm.

Instead, they rose to the whispering wind and saw their days end with pink sunsets over trouble-free waters.

The Goat Man and his wife collected the discarded debris that drifted onto the shores and into their lives. They eventually accepted handouts from people on passing yachts. The Holloways were always gracious and courteous to those who offered sandwiches and leftovers from a day of picnicking on nearby Dewees Island.

During the Goat Man's 32 years of self-imposed exile, people in nearby communities who didn't have to scavenge for their food knew the Holloways were out there, across the waterway, but, for the most part, they denied the possibility that the Holloways' simple nomadic lifestyle might have been perfectly sane. The famous Charleston rumor mills spread the seeds that the Goat Man and his wife were out of their minds and out of touch with civilization.

Over the years, the legend of the secretive Goat Man and his wife has been told right around bedtime, at dusk, so that children and adults who are a little scared to explore unique possibilities during the day can dream of the unbelievable at night. Little children thought the island was haunted because their parents told them strange voices echoed through the trees and in the thick

underbrush. Some children dared to challenge their fears, crossing the water into the unknown, only to discover that the alien sounds were the soulful singing of a content, solitary man.

In 1961, after 30 years of living in the natural elements, the Goat Man accepted a small hut as a Christmas gift from generous neighbors who were concerned that the Holloways were too old to live an unsheltered life. But their existence soon changed. The Goat Man caught pneumonia and died, leaving Blanche to carry on the legend and tradition alone.

Blanche survived Henry in solitude on Goat Island for almost a year. She died from burns suffered in a fire caused by a wood-burning stove that also was a handout from civilized do-gooders. According to the legend, the Goat Man and his wife were buried together in the Lutheran Church Cemetery in Mount Pleasant. Their paradise was overrun by looters searching for hidden wealth and buried treasure. But the Goat Man's paradise wasn't measured by material things. There was nothing looters could take, either before or after the Holloways passed on. Their wealth was their ability to challenge the unknown and to abide by the laws of Nature. 🌿



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Just Beachy

New Parking Regulations in 2016

IN YEARS PAST, A DAY AT BEAUTIFUL Isle of Palms during peak season could get a bit overwrought for motorists struggling to find a spot to park the family vehicle, unload snacks, drinks and beach chairs and head for the shore. In an effort to calm the haphazard parking, ensure the safety of residents and visitors alike and make

a day trip to the sand and surf more pleasurable, the city of Isle of Palms is implementing a new parking plan beginning in May. But don't fret – it's going to be a good thing.

“For the 2016 beach season, no daily beach visitor will have to pay to park on the SCDOT right-of-way,” assured Linda Tucker, the city administrator, when

Cronin and other officials of the city, has been in the works for a handful of years, starting back in 2008. As early as February of that year, the Planning Commission began working on a parking plan to submit to the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Things took a while, but the new 2016 plan has been met with approval by the SCDOT.

“Because the majority of the roads on IOP belong to the state, anything we decided had to be cleared by them,” Cronin explained.

Folks who are lucky enough to live on the Isle of Palms year-round or own a vacation home are encouraged to visit the city's website and apply for special credentials, at no cost to them, which enable them to park in residential-only



Photo courtesy of the city of Isle of Palms.

she saw me delicately wrinkling my nose at the words “parking regulations.” “Drivers will just have to park in the designated beach parking areas.”

These designated areas – mostly along Palm Boulevard and otherwise outside of the nooks and crannies of residential life – apply only during the peak hours of the day, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., and during the peak months of the year, between May 15 and Sept. 15.

“City Council tried to zero in on a specific challenge and time of year,” remarked Mayor Dick Cronin. “Essentially, unsafe conditions were created when people parked wherever they found the space. And though tickets were given for illegal parking, those unsafe conditions remained. So the city sought a more managed beach experience.”

The more managed beach experience, according to

areas during peak times. Meanwhile, they can give their personal visitors a day guest pass; for \$15, each resident can receive up to two booklets of 30 passes for the season.

“We want people to visit the website and go through the process to have their cars and golf carts – yes, golf carts are included in the new regulations – credentialed,” said Tucker.

And if you're a hapless visitor, either from elsewhere in the tri-county or from another state, who knows naught about areas in which parking is permitted? According to city officials, that, too, is the time to visit the Isle of Palms website, where a map marked in red clearly shows where to leave your car during a sunbathing session.

“If you're a Mount Pleasant resident and you come to the beach, you can park in the red areas – simple as that,” said Tucker. 🍹



57 OCEAN POINT

WILD DUNES, ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA

NESTLED AT THE FAR end of the gated resort community, Wild Dunes, sits Ocean Point, a prestigious, private neighborhood. A second gate marks the exclusivity of the 71 residences that call this area home.

57 Ocean Point was custom-designed and built just more than a decade ago by Dr. and Mrs. Houser as their primary residence.

Mrs. Houser herself insisted on the open, gracious entry that “gives the house that extra touch of Charleston charm.”

A welcoming front porch and stained oak door usher you into the luxurious great room. An elegant stairway beckons a grand entrance. The high ceilings, seemingly endless windows and neutral colors simultaneously awe and soothe, creating a serene atmosphere.

There are views of the Atlantic, Dewees Inlet and even the Links Golf Course from nearly every room – almost bringing the great outdoors inside.

A marvelous first floor master suite overlooks the ocean and has access to the expansive ocean-view sundeck and pool. A sitting area, with a fireplace and bookshelves completes this room. Imagine curling up with the newspaper and morning



coffee, overlooking the ocean. The impressive master bath boasts a jetted tub, large separate shower, dual vanities and multiple closets.

There are a number of architectural details within the home, illustrating the care that went into its custom design. The interior features curved walls, stately columns, a grand, sweeping staircase and much more. The custom-designed eat-in kitchen, dining room, den, living room and master suite are all on the first floor, most offering expansive views. An elevator provides access to all three levels and makes every day living in this expansive space comfortable and easy.

Three guest rooms with ample closets are on the second floor, along

with a multipurpose room (possibly a fifth bedroom) with a spacious walk-in closet and private balcony, also overlooking the Atlantic.



The third floor is a colorful space featuring a game room complete with pool table, a card room with a wet bar, and window seating, a craft room and a secret entryway

into a cozy bedroom and den (or the perfect exercise room). Think grandchildren ... or "man cave"!

The driveway accommodates a number of vehicles and leads to a four-car garage with plenty of room for autos, golf cars, bikes ... you name it. The exterior is framed by lush landscaping that complements the home's architecture.

Ocean Point offers owners and guests access to a stunning ocean front pool, complete with a covered open air picnic pavilion and hot tub.

Contact info:

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843-442-1889

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TOP 10 MOST EXPENSIVE HOMES SOLD 2015

Isle of Palms, S.C.

MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$4,900,000	Steve Kaul Carolina One	Jane Smith Carriage Properties	24	\$4,175,000
2) \$4,240,000	Betty Gales REMAX Alliance	Eve Olasov Luxury Land and Homes	35	\$3,750,000
3) \$3,995,000	Ashley Haynes East Island Real Estate	Ashley Haynes East Island Real Estate	67	\$3,500,000
4) \$3,350,000	Melinda Mitchell AgentOwned Preferred	Kristin Walker Dunes Properties	75	\$3,110,000
5) \$2,595,000	Holly Covington The Beach Company	Frank Rutigliano Keller Williams Charleston Islands	40	\$2,450,000
6) \$2,850,000	Bill Barnhill Keller Williams Charleston	Everett Presson Carolina One	45	\$2,450,000
7) \$2,795,000	Holly Covington The Beach Company	Ruthie Smythe Lois Lane Properties	60	\$2,450,000
8) \$2,650,000	Ashley Haynes East Island Real Estate	Jimmy Carroll Carroll Realty	70	\$2,450,000
9) \$2,400,000	Jimmy Carroll Carroll Realty	Tim Rogers AgentOwned Preferred	65	\$2,300,000
10) \$2,500,000	Jason Ogden Cassina Group	Debbie Davis Dunes Properties	45	\$2,250,000

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716 Carolina Boulevard | \$2,150,000 | 6 bed, 4 bath, 3990 sq ft

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Photo by Jenn Cady.

Still at Home on the Island

FORMER U.S. REP. TOMMY HARTNETT

By Brian Barrie





Photo provided by Tommy Hartnett.

In the Oval Office: President Ronald Reagan, far right, with, counterclockwise: U.S. Reps. Tommy Hartnett and Floyd Spence; David Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget; Lyn Nofziger, assistant to the president for political affairs; U.S. Reps. Trent Lott and Carroll Campbell; and Vice President George Bush.

YOU CAN HARDLY TALK ABOUT former U.S. Rep. Tommy Hartnett without talking about the Isle of Palms. It's not just the place he has ended up – it's the place where he started. From childhood summers spent on the beach to his first job to the first date with his future spouse, the Isle of Palms has played a supporting role not only in Hartnett's back story but in who he is and what he has accomplished.

Hartnett's story is a fascinating tale of politics and family in the Lowcountry, highlighted by his six years in the U.S. House of Representatives as the first Republican elected from South Carolina's 1st Congressional District since Reconstruction.

THE EARLY DAYS

The foundation of today's Isle of Palms was laid in late 1944, when real estate developer J.C. Long purchased more than 1,000 acres of land and began building roads and houses, putting into motion IOP's transformation from a small summer resort community to a permanent

home for thousands of year-round residents. Hartnett was introduced early on to the island that would become such an important part of his life.

"J.C. Long's wife was my daddy's first cousin. We called her Aunt Alberta," Hartnett recalled. "They would give us a house on the Isle of Palms for two or three weeks every summer. My daddy being handicapped, J.C. always felt it was good for him to come out and get some island air. We would stay near their house when there were hardly any houses out there. The farthest the island went at the time was 21st Avenue. There was a public picnic ground there where you could go out and picnic, but there was nobody on the island then."

Year after year, the family would return to the island where Hartnett and his sisters spent their days playing on the beach and their evenings watching fireflies. The amusement park on the island, with a carousel and swings, was open year-round, and there was bingo, too, but the Isle of Palms was still a strictly local retreat.

"It was very quiet – all local people. It was not any place where people came from afar to vacation with their families because there weren't any big houses here and no

air conditioning,” Hartnett said.

Later, his first job was on the island, with J.C. Long’s construction company, as was his first date with Bonnie Kennerly, his future bride.

“Our first date was a luau on front beach,” recalled Bonnie Hartnett. “We were chaperoned by Henry and Esther Tecklenburg, parents of Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg. There was a fire and we roasted marshmallows and I think they cooked a pig. You could do that back then.”

Later on, the couple would go to the end of the island where Wild Dunes is now and shoot cans over the marsh.

“That was where I learned to shoot, when I was dating Tommy here at the end of the island,” Bonnie Hartnett remembered.

They were married in 1965, and they determined to start their new life together on the Isle of Palms. They purchased their first house on the island but never moved in.

“We bought the house a month before we got married,” recalled Hartnett. “There was no living together

then – she lived with her mom and dad and I lived with mine – but she was teaching school in North Charleston and I was working downtown. We got to thinking about it, and it just wasn’t the practical thing to do, so we sold that house before we ever moved into it.”

More than a decade later, in 1977, the couple bought another house on the Isle of Palms, this time in Wild Dunes. It was their summer home until 2011, when they became permanent residents.

PUBLIC SERVICE CALLS

By the time the Hartnetts bought their home on the Isle of Palms, Tommy was already a leader in the South Carolina Statehouse. He was a rising star in the Republican Party as well, though his political career had begun on the other side of the aisle.

In 1964, at the age of 22, Hartnett entered his first political contest, running in the Democratic primary for the State House of Representatives. He won that race as well as the general election and went on to be re-elected three more times, serving a total of eight years. He might have spent



Photo provided by Tommy Hartnett.

The Hartnett children: Tom Jr. and Lee Anne.



Photo provided by Tommy Hartnett.

Bonnie and Tommy Hartnett with President Richard Nixon.

more time in Columbia, but, in 1972, the Democratic Party nominated George McGovern as its candidate for president, and he was just too liberal for Hartnett.

“I fell out with the Democrats,” Hartnett explained. “My name was already on the ballot for the June (Democratic) primary when I went to a meeting and they were asking all the candidates who they were planning on voting for for president. I couldn’t lie. I said ‘I’m voting for Richard Nixon, and if me voting for Nixon means I don’t get your vote for the Statehouse, then keep your vote. I quit.’”

Local Republicans quickly recruited Hartnett to run for the State Senate, and, when he and future Gov. James B. Edwards won their seats, half of the Charleston-area Senate delegation was on the Republican side of the aisle. After two terms in the Senate, he was ready for a new challenge. When U.S. Rep. Mendel Davis an-

nounced that he would not seek re-election in 1980, Hartnett set his sights on Washington, D.C., and the U.S. House of Representatives.

The last time voters had sent a Republican to the House from Charleston was during the post-Civil War Reconstruction era in 1876, when African-American Joseph Rainey was re-elected to his fourth term. Reconstruction ended the following year when federal troops were withdrawn from the South and Rainey was defeated in the election of 1878.

MR. HARTNETT GOES TO WASHINGTON

While Ronald Reagan was changing the national political landscape with his landslide victory in 1980, Tommy Hartnett was doing some landscaping of his own back in Charleston. In running for Congress in the 1st District, he was challenging 102 years of Democratic



Photo provided by Tommy Hartnett.

Aboard Air Force One: U.S. Rep. Tommy Hartnett, President Ronald Reagan and U.S. Rep. Carroll Campbell.

control and also a well-known opponent. Charles “Pug” Ravenel had run unsuccessfully for governor in 1974 and against Strom Thurmond for a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1978. Hartnett won a close race and moved the family to the Washington area.

“It was a thrilling time for the whole family. The kids were young, Bonnie was young. I was excited about it,” Hartnett recalled. “We packed up at Christmas in 1980, rented a house in Alexandria and moved up there. Everyone was enthusiastic.”

Hartnett was elected as the president of an exceptionally large freshman class of congressional Republicans, a position that gave him much more access than most newly-elected congressmen.

“I got to meet with the president, fly on Air Force One, sit in the cabinet room with the president and the leaders of the party,” explained Hartnett. “I really liked that, but it wore on me family-wise and otherwise constantly coming back and forth to Washington.”

During his campaign, Hartnett had pledged to serve no more than three terms – a promise he

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Bonnie and Tommy Hartnett greet President George Herbert Walker Bush.

kept – but his wife and children only made it through the first term. After two years, they moved back to their home in Wild Dunes, and, during the rest of his time in Congress, Hartnett rented a small apartment within walking distance of the Capitol and flew home on weekends.

“It’s not a very family-oriented profession,” explained Hartnett.

As promised, Hartnett limited himself to three terms in Congress, returning to South Carolina and running for lieutenant governor in 1986. He narrowly lost that race to Democrat Nick Theodore.

Hartnett made one more run for office, this time for the U.S. Senate against fellow Isle of Palms resident Fritz Hollings.

“That was a wonderful race. I had more fun in doing that than any other political thing I’ve ever done, even though I lost it,” recalled Hartnett. “Nobody thought I could win – and I proved that they were right – but if I had a little more help financially I could have. I lost that race by less than 1 percent statewide. I got more votes for the Senate in South Carolina and lost than anybody had

ever gotten to that point and won. The turnout was huge.”

Some might find it awkward to lose such a close election and then have to live in the same neighborhood as your opponent, but Tommy Hartnett isn’t one of those people. Hartnett and Hollings have a long history, and one election, no matter how contentious it seemed, was unlikely to cause a permanent rift.

In fact, Hartnett’s first political activity was volunteering for Hollings’ unsuccessful attempt to win a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1962. Two years later, Hollings was among the first to contribute to Hartnett’s run for the Statehouse. Hollings was at Hartnett’s wedding, and Hartnett helped Hollings’ daughters get jobs as pages in the State Legislature.

“We’ve stayed friendly, and that’s the way it should be with Democrats and Republicans,” said Hartnett.

Anyone who’s retired from public service after so many years is bound to have regrets about things not accomplished, and Hartnett is no different.

“I was offered the assistant secretary of the Army. I turned it down and I regret that,” recalled Hartnett. “And then I was offered the chairmanship of the Federal



Photo provided by Tommy Hartnett.

Bonnie Hartnett talks with First Lady Nancy Reagan.



Photo provided by Tommy Hartnett.

President Ronald Reagan leaves Air Force One with U.S. Rep. Carroll Campbell, Sen. Strom Thurmond and U.S. Rep. Tommy Hartnett.

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Maritime Commission, and I turned that down. I don't regret that as much as I do the assistant secretary of the Army. I think I would have loved doing that. The other thing I regret after coming home is when Harvard called me and wanted me to come to the John F. Kennedy School of Government and be a lecturer for one semester. It didn't pay much, and I was just getting set up in business again so I turned that down."

While there may be a few regrets from his time in Washington, Hartnett has no regrets about where he's ended up: "I think I'd stay on the island if I could go anywhere. I'd probably live on the front beach with a view of the ocean, but if I could make a choice of anywhere I could live, it would probably still be here." 🐼





President George Herbert Walker Bush, left, and U.S. Rep. Tommy Hartnett discuss issues aboard Air Force One.

Photo provided by Tommy Hartnett.


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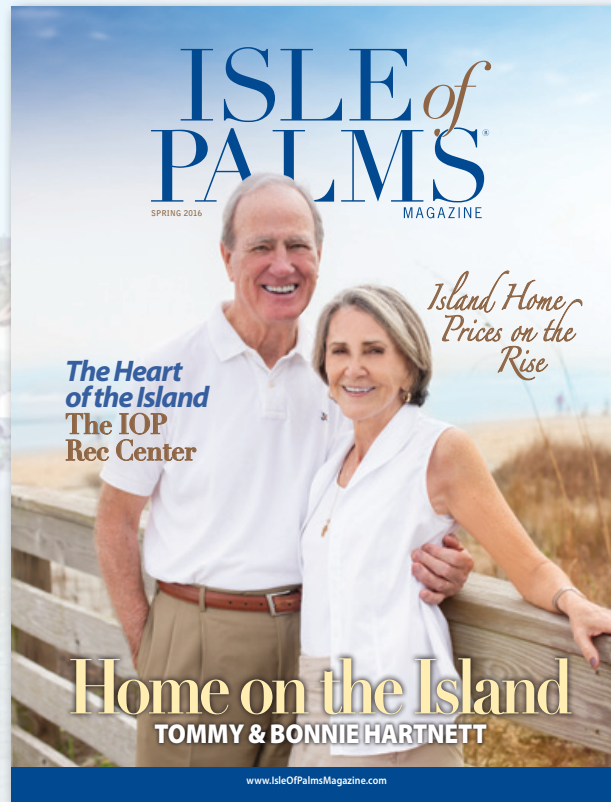
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