



The Mitchelville Minute

In 1862, shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed -- while most of the African-American slave population was still trying to adjust to the idea of their new post-war freedom. On this tour you will learn more about how the people of Mitchelville were busy creating a completely new, self-governed culture that would be the guidepost for generations to follow. Take a guided journey through historic Mitchelville by bike or on foot.

On Saturday, February 4th from 11am – 1pm join the Mitchelville Preservation Project for

**Freedom Day - Explore Mitchelville
at the historic St. James Baptist Church,
209 Beach City Road**

NIBCCA plans to continue to provide you with ongoing details about this topic as information develops and will continue to release newsletters on a monthly basis. If you have questions about this topic or anything that we can help you with, please feel free to contact our offices.

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The Urgent Need for Increased Educational Opportunities and Access to Recreation

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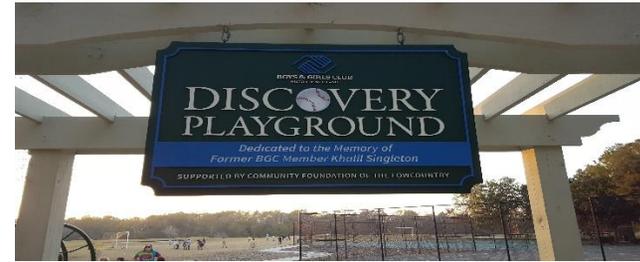


Education

We all recognize the value of education and the benefits of being able to learn throughout life. The problem, however, can be when educational prospects are limited. There are proven advantages to individuals who use education as a direct path to an increased earning potential or career path.

Locally, the native island community's youth and some of its adults need more educational options in order to ensure that they can be a greater part of the island's economic engine. In order for us to continue to grow and develop along with the island, we need stronger educational options that lead to employment. It is the responsibility of the Town to address the needs of the community and to create increased educational options for our community, in addition to the upcoming USCB campus that would provide hospitality training and employment. The town needs to develop a plan to partner with not only USCB, but TCL and the Beaufort County School District to more aggressively prepare native islanders for future employment opportunities such as the upcoming Jasper County Port. The port is just one part of the long range economic plans for our area. As a community, we need to start a dialogue about how and what type of impact(s) opportunities like this will have on the native island community.

SAVE THE DATE : Ward 1 Councilman Marc Grant is hosting a community meeting to discuss Town business on Saturday, December 17th at the PSD Community Room off of Mathews Drive from 8:00 to 9:30 am.



Recreation

Last month, the Town in partnership with the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry dedicated a playground at the Boys & Girls Club in the name and memory of Khalil Singleton. At the ceremony, it was obvious that providing access to environments for the island's children that are safe and opportunities to build relationships based on the "One Community, One Island" theme is important for our children's future. Relationships cannot be built unless the playing field is even. An important part of being able to develop and grow relationships is when everyone involved is given the chance to be included. Access to leisure services and recreation for local residents is an effective and innovative service or program that the town could offer to supplement basic human needs and to provide new leisure time choices for people of all ages. Physical or financial access to a variety of leisure services is something that the Town should ensure that all residents can participate. The Island Recreation needs to provide more access to all ages, in addition to providing more diverse program offerings. Children from all areas of the island should be provided transportation, from the South end as well as the North.

More affordable recreation would give our youth constructive activities outside of school. It is our suggestion that the Town develop a Special Fee Exception for native islanders and Hispanic residents of Hilton Head, which would make recreational activities more achievable and affordable.