



June 2012  
Issue 55

## ROADS LESS TRAVELED

By Lindsay H. Valek

On a warm April morning I rubbed the sleep out of my eyes and drank coffee, peering over my glasses at the tattered map spread out before me. My eyes shifted towards Highway 321. "I wonder where it leads." I mumbled to myself. My finger tapped the crease-lined paper. *That's* where I'll go today.

I carry a camera, a thermos of hot coffee and an iPod filled with what I consider to be the greatest music of all time: An eclectic mix between Tom Petty and the Shang-ri-las. The windows are rolled down and the stereo is cranked up. I am on the open road to nowhere and everywhere at the same time. I am on the road to Blackville, South Carolina.

Blackville is one of those quiet, quaint, perpetually storybook towns. It has stubbornly weathered the hard knocks of businesses closing and U-Haul's loaded for the big city as its residents left for bigger dreams and the convenience of a drive-thru restaurant. Its buildings have defiantly remained standing; structures that have obvious signs of damage and neglect yet stand proud all the same. There is a current here; an heartbeat signifying that despite closed doors and moving boxes, life goes on in Blackville.

On my way to the city, I stopped just north of my destination at the junction of highways 3 and 4. I notice trucks, wagons, a school bus and a

chicken steering off the main road into an open arena. It was as though the universe commanded that I enter this strange and primitive world. A dilapidated sign overhead welcomed me to the Springfield Flea Market, South Carolina's oldest flea market, founded in 1958. Fatback is fried to order here and shelves are lined with toiletries to rival any urban Walgreens. There are oil paintings for your home, collards for your dinner and used automotive parts for your truck or tractor. All the while chickens, goats and rabbits are staring at you from their cages waiting to be adopted (or eaten) by you and your family. A sense of community infiltrates these 700 acres. Part family reunion and part corporate luncheon, the surrounding community congregates here for food, fellowship and farm business which was a thoroughly delightful spectacle to this city-dwellers' senses.

Successfully leaving Springfield without a free puppy, I continued my journey. The one-lane road to Blackville is lined with tall pines, sparsely dotted with cotton fields and a few turn of the century churches. A short detour clearly marked leads you to Healing Springs.

Healing Springs is a series of artesian wells that have been flowing for over 100 years. Legend has it that during the American Revolution, four injured British soldiers were cleansed at the springs and miraculously healed of their mortal injuries. The water itself is cool but not cold. Its sharp mineral aftertaste seems to awaken the spirit and the body alike. I filled my thermos and immediately wished I had brought a larger bottle. The water at Healing Springs refreshes the mind if for no other reason than because it's clean, cool and damn good tasting. The locals swear by the brew, filling milk jugs, 5-gallon drums and other receptacles full of the good stuff. Tread carefully here though, as the property itself belongs to the big man in the sky. In 1944 the lands' owner, Lute Boylston, deeded the wells to "Almighty God" for the use of all mankind.

*To be continued in July issued.*

## MEETINGS

- ▲ **June 7**, Blackville CDC, Town Hall, 6:00pm
- ▲ **June 11**, BHHS, District 19, School Board Meeting, Board Office 7:00pm
- ▲ **June 12**, Barnwell County Council, Agriculture Building, 6:00pm,
- ▲ **June 18**, Town Council Meeting, Community Center, 6:30pm
- **June 25**, Barnwell-Blackville NAACP, Macedonia Baptist Church, 7:00pm
- **Blackville Civic Club and Blackville Downtown Development Corporation will not meet in June**

## LIBRARY NEWS

### **Summer Reading Program**

**Monday's at 2:30pm**

**June 11**, Spoon Man

**June 18**, Magician Chad Crews

**June 25**, Paper Bag Princess Puppet Show

Additional information call 803 284-2295

## **MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

June 4<sup>th</sup> - June 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

9:00AM-12NOON

Transportation provided, contact information

803 284-3311

803 793-4355/571-2709

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ethel Washington, **June 1**

Mrs. Ada Felton, **June 1**

Allan Harrison, **June 2**

Rev. Inez Raysor, **June 4**

Lucille Kearse, **June 5**

Shirley Taylor, **June 9**

Robbie James, **June 10**

Edwin Felton, Jr., **June 13**

Delores Jeter, **June 16**

Desiree' Pernell, **June 16**

Carmen Hammonds, **June 25**

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd (Shirley) Taylor, **June 1**

Mr. & Mrs. Solomon (Rose) Daniels, **June 30**

## FUN/CHEAP THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS

- ▲ Take a walking tour of Historical Sites in town
- ▲ Fly a kite
- ▲ Visit Library
- ▲ Plant vegetables/flowers in a flower pot
- ▲ Teach kids to cook
- ▲ Jump rope
- ▲ Take a bike ride
- ▲ Play card games
- ▲ Go fishing
- ▲ Play outside in the rain, sprinklers
- ▲ Decorate your walkway with chalk
- ▲ Put a Jigsaw puzzle together
- ▲ Catch lightning bugs
- ▲ Stargaze
- ▲ Play board games, Monopoly, Operation, etc

## FOOD SAFETY TIPS

Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from other foods in your grocery-shopping cart and in your refrigerator.

- ▲ If possible, use a different cutting board for raw meat products.
- ▲ Always wash hands, cutting boards, dishes and utensils with hot soapy water after they come in contact with raw meat, poultry and seafood.
- ▲ Never place cooked food on a plate, which previously held raw meat, poultry and seafood.
- ▲ Never store cooked foods or foods that will receive no cooking under raw foods in the refrigerator where juices could drip down and cause contamination.
- ▲ Always wash raw foods (fruits, vegetables, etc.) thoroughly.

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## **HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

We can both receive and send information to you electronically  
[blackville@bellsouth.net](mailto:blackville@bellsouth.net) or [vtalston@bellsouth.net](mailto:vtalston@bellsouth.net),  
add "NEWSLETTER" in subject line. Comments and suggestions accepted.  
Thank you. Visit us on the web at [townofblackville.com](http://townofblackville.com)

