



Beaufort 300 / Beaufort Tricentennial
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News Release

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‘Beaufort 300’ raises funds for City’s 300th birthday, permanent memorial monument

‘Beaufort 300’ is a unique opportunity to invest in Beaufort’s future by recognizing its past – the contributions will help pay for a permanent memorial monument to the City’s first 300 hundred years.

Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling and others involved in the ‘Beaufort 300’ fundraiser kicked off the project Tuesday, Nov. 9, at City Hall. Kevin Cuppia, a longtime downtown merchant and civic leader, handed Keyserling a ceremonial “first check” for \$300 to jumpstart the campaign.

The goal is for 300 people to contribute \$300 toward Beaufort’s 300th birthday. Corporate sponsorships also are available at \$500, \$1,000 and greater. All funds will be used for the Tricentennial monument and festivities related to the yearlong celebration.

“For a community that celebrates our unique history and culture on an almost daily basis, 300 years is a huge benchmark,” Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling said. “The Beaufort 300 campaign will create a lasting monument to donors and an important addition to our historical markers downtown.”

Important figures in the City’s history include Jean Ribaut, Marquis de Lafayette, Robert Smalls, Laura Towne and Col. John "Tuscarora Jack" Barnwell – and as Keyserling pointed out, locals can add their names to that list by participating in the ‘Beaufort 300’ fundraiser.

The Tricentennial monument will be an updated series of historical markers in the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park showcasing Beaufort's three centuries. Investors' names will be included on the monument for posterity.

"It's a very special way to commemorate Beaufort's three hundred years of formal history, and a way to put your family's name on the monument that we expect will stand for at least the next hundred years," said Erin Dean, chairwoman of the Tricentennial Committee and past commodore of the Beaufort Water Festival.

The first contributors will be recognized Jan. 17 at a public birthday party for Beaufort at the Waterfront Park. To kick off the yearlong Tricentennial celebration, Beaufort leaders will host a "Founders' Night" Dec. 31 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Waterfront Park. Activities will include musical performances and fireworks, ending early enough so people can still participate in New Year's Eve festivities.

Beaufort was founded Jan. 17, 1711 by the English, although its beginnings date back to Spanish explorers in 1514. Beaufort was named for Englishman Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort (1684-1714), one of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina.

For more information on Beaufort and the Tricentennial, visit www.cityofbeaufort.org.

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