



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Contact: Erin Dean, Tricentennial Committee Chair, 842-524-0116

County Channel to air Beaufort Tricentennial Parade on Friday, Sunday evenings, plus website viewing

If you missed Beaufort's Tricentennial Parade Saturday with City Council members dressed in antique costumes and the Parris Island Marine Band's military precision, you can catch it Friday and Sunday on the County Channel carried on Beaufort County cable outlets.

The parade video also will be shown in streaming video on the Beaufort County website, www.bcgov.net, starting Friday night.

Local judge, attorney and raconteur Ned Tupper joined Suzanne Larson, the county's public information officer, as parade commentators – something the curbside parade viewers didn't get to enjoy the first time.

"The parade was a wonderful way to show off what makes Beaufort special, and what has made Beaufort so special for 300 years," Erin Dean, chair of the Beaufort Tricentennial Committee, said.

"We had the City Council dressed up in costumes from Beaufort's history, we had about 40 different floats and of course we had the Parris Island Marine Corps Band and grand marshal Gary Sinise. It was amazing to see it all come together."

The parade airs this Friday at 8 p.m. and again Sunday at 8:30 p.m. It will be available at the County website immediately after the initial broadcast on Friday at www.bcgov.net. Click the County Channel logo on the home page and look for the "Video on Demand" option.

The County Channel airs on Charter Cable channel 20, Comcast Cable channel 2, Hargray Cable channels 9 and 252, Time Warner Cable Hilton Head Island channel 66 and Time Warner Cable Sun City channel 63.

“We want to thank the Lion’s Club and Pat Harvey-Palmer for helping organize and line up the parade, and we thank the Beaufort County video team for setting up three cameras and doing the video project,” Dean said. “There are lots of people behind the scenes who made this come together, but those were front and center. We hope people will enjoy seeing the parade on TV.”

Despite the chilly morning and early parade start, hundreds lined the parade route to see 40 floats that highlighted periods of Beaufort’s history. Among the floats and participants were:

- An antique fire truck commemorating the 9/11 tragedy
- Beaufort City Council members and Mayor Billy Keyserling dressed in period costumes
- Former Beaufort mayors Willie Scheper, Henry C. Chambers and David Taub
- Gary Sinise waving from a convertible Camaro
- Heritage groups in period costumes
- The Beaufort Water Festival, with past and upcoming commodores riding their “boat float”
- Friends of Hunting Island
- The Kazoobie Kazoos with their marching band and New South Shirts featuring people dressed in outfits from colonial times to present day
- Fire trucks from Beaufort-Port Royal and Lady’s Island-St. Helena Island departments
- The Beaufort Police Department.

Beaufort is celebrating its 300th birthday throughout 2011, with an anticipated closing event on Dec. 31.

Beaufort was founded in 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. It was on Jan. 17, 1711, that Beaufort’s formal charter was created.

The Parris Island Marine Corps Band led Saturday’s parade with the Beaufort Fire Department’s color guard. A New York Fire Department brought an antique fire truck to carry several wounded veterans in the parade, anchored by Sinise. His service as grand marshal coincided with the Lt. Dan Weekend events and a performance by his Lt. Dan Band to raise money for injured military veterans.

Sinise first visited Beaufort in his role as “Lieutenant Dan” in the Hollywood film *Forrest Gump* with Tom Hanks. Between shooting his popular TV series *CSI: New York*, he tours the country with the band to raise money for injured veterans. Sinise also is known for his role in the movie *Apollo 13* alongside co-star Hanks.

As arrangements continue for different ways to mark the historic 300th birthday, organizers of the Beaufort 300 project are in the final stretch to raise funds for a new historical marker. For a \$300 investment in Beaufort’s future for individuals or \$500 for businesses and non-profits, donors’ names will be featured on a permanent historical monument in the Waterfront Park commemorating the Tricentennial. Corporate and non-profit sponsorships also are available.

Meanwhile, City leaders are laying a path for an even better fourth century through a revitalized city planning process that’s already brought new residential construction and adaptive re-use of

the former Beaufort City Hall. Lowcountry Produce will be opening a food market with a targeted opening later this fall.

For more information and to sign-up for Beaufort 300, visit www.cityofbeaufort.org and look in the upper left corner. You can also join Beaufort Tricentennial on Facebook.

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