

Countdown to Valentine Ball

Written by Editor

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As social affairs go, Beaufort Memorial Hospital Foundation's winter fundraiser promises to be a ball. Some 50 elegant dinner parties have been planned all over town in some of the area's finest homes.

And that's just the warm-up for the main event—a black tie gala with live music, dancing and decadent desserts.

The much-talked about Valentine Ball takes place Feb. 9 at Parris Island's historic Lyceum. As many as 500 people are expected to attend the soiree—the Foundation's biggest annual

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What sets the Valentine Ball apart from other charity functions is the pre-ball dinners. Guests who make their reservations by Jan. 14 will receive an invitation to one of the private parties hosted by area residents.

“Everybody brings out their finest china and goblets,” said Becky Trask, who helped organize the first Valentine Ball and has hosted countless dinner parties over the years. “You try to make it really special with good food, an elegant place setting and beautiful decorations.”

About 9 p.m., the dinner parties break up and attendees head over to the gala where they are treated to a grand selection of desserts and dancing to the music of Charleston’s 17 South, an eight-piece ensemble playing everything from Motown to swing to shag.

The festivities also will include a silent auction featuring unique items up for bid, among the

