

The Santa Elena Project Comes Home

Written by Margaret Evans

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The mission of the Santa Elena Foundation is the discovery, preservation, and promotion of the “lost 100 years of European colonization” through the international story of Santa Elena, the 16th Century settlement and colonial capital on present-day Parris Island. *Lowcountry Weekly* recently interviewed some key players in the evolution of the Santa Elena Project: Executive Director Andrew Beall, Chairman of the Board Daryl Ferguson, and County Council Chairman Paul Summerville, who just announced that the Foundation will be moving into the Federal Building on Bay Street.

Lowcountry Weekly: *Mr. Summerville, the County Council just decided to lease the Federal Building on Bay Street, Beaufort, to the Santa Elena Foundation. You certainly had other choices. Why did you find the Santa Elena Project so compelling?*

Paul Summerville, Chairman, Beaufort County Council: The Santa Elena opportunity is economically huge for our county and state. What we discovered is that we have an educational asset that is soon to become of internationally importance. Thanks to the research of the Foundation, the nation’s top historians agree on one significant fact: Modern

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