

Brunswick Mayor Bryan Thompson

The best thing about living in Brunswick

“For me, the best thing about living in Brunswick is the people. Over my 54 years, I’ve lived and worked throughout the Midwest and Southeast in many small towns and large cities. When I first visited Brunswick in early 1996, I admit I was a bit unsettled by the ‘tattered elegance’ that the city had quietly settled into during two decades of economic decline. However, this soon became irrelevant as I began meeting the wide and diverse range of people who lived and worked throughout the community.

“In Brunswick I was simply accepted for who I was and very quickly folded into the inner life of the community. I believe this openness is grounded in Brunswick being a port city for over 200 years. With centuries of close association with individuals of different races, religions, cultures from across the region, state, country and world, there really are no strangers or outsiders here.

“As evidence of this, I again need only mention my own experiences in Brunswick. I’m from ‘up north,’ a former actor and vegetarian who doesn’t smoke or drink and who, until recently, drove a purple pick-up truck. And after living here nine years, the great people in this wonderful Deep South City elect me their mayor in a landslide.

“Is this a cool town or what?”



Dennis Burgess

President, Island Newcomers Club

Top reason for moving to the Golden Isles

“People move here for a number of well established reasons – to bask in the sunshine and warm breezes of the island, to savor the beauty of the canopy of live oaks dressed with Spanish moss, to relax in the slower pace of life, to make a garden in a light sandy soil instead of in clay and rocks, to revel in the beauty of a sunset over the marsh. But when heat, humidity, interminable falling oak leaves, biting insects and procrastinating contractors devalue these reasons, one aspect of living in the Golden Isles remains secure – the unrestricted generosity of spirit and welcoming friendship displayed at all levels of society. Whether it be the neighbor, the shopkeeper, the post office counter hand, the yard man or the person met on the beach, a sense of community and goodwill exists that is unique to the islands. It is more a justification for moving than a reason for moving because its full impact does not become totally apparent until one has started to live here.”