



Alan Fleming CHAMPIONSHIP

Alan Fleming Tournament Gearing Up for the 36th Annual Senior Open Clay Court Championship on Seabrook Island

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

The 2019 tournament moves into high gear with planning for the competition and surrounding events in the October 2-6 tournament. The tournament was named the South Carolina Adult Tournament of the Year by players and that designation is the result of efforts by volunteers, tournament sponsors and staff.

Mike Kiser, tennis tournament director, noted that the tournament is highly ranked and a favorite for players. He said, "The tournament attracts roughly 250 players from 20 states. The Seabrook Island Racquet Club is world class and with its plentiful clay courts is a popular draw for players."

He notes that the tournament registration begins on Monday, August 5th. To register for this year's tournament visit www.usta.com. The tournament ID is 700053169.

And, additional information on the tournament is available at www.AlanFlemingTournament.net.

FLEMING SPONSORS BEGIN LINING UP

Sponsorships for the Tournament are available at multiple levels and Ken and Nancy Steen, chairs of the sponsorship recruitment effort, announced that the town of Seabrook Island will be a lead sponsor of the 2019 tournament.

"This is a great opportunity for the town of Seabrook to showcase this magical place. Seabrook has gained accolades for the tournament over the years and a lot of players, guests and spectators have the opportunity to not only play tennis but to explore our miles of relaxing beaches and beautiful ocean side golfing," Cat Russo, Fleming Chairperson said.

She also noted that Seabrook Island Real Estate, Coastal Getaways of South Carolina, Fresh Fields Village and Total Beverages Solution have become early sponsors.

"Not only do the sponsors have an opportunity to promote their businesses they are enormously helpful to what has become Seabrook Island's premier marking event," she said. "The tourna-

ment not only draws players and their friends and families, but a lot of people drop in to watch what is a very competitive tennis event."

HELPING ISLANDERS IN NEED FLEMMING'S CHARITY MISSION

Debbir Pickens Charitable Fundraising Chair and Russo emphasized that for all the great tennis and benefits to Seabrook Island that equally rewarding is the worthy charitable causes the tournament benefits.

Because of the outstanding volunteer effort of Sea Islands Blessing Basket it has been selected as the recipient of Fleming proceeds for a second year. A goal of raising \$45,000 for Blessing Basket has been set for the 2019 tournament.

Sea Islands Blessing Basket is part of the Sea Islands Hunger Awareness Foundation (SIHAF). It is a 501 (C) (3). It is a volunteer driven feeding program. For more information on SIHAF visit www.FightIslandHunger.org.

SIHAF's efforts supports efforts to provide food to those in need and drink-

able well water for residents of Wadmalaw Island who do not have running water. The feeding program serves nearly 700 families on Wadmalaw and Johns Island.

"We have watched the impact of the contribution to Blessing Basket from last year's tennis tournament. The Fleming contribution has meant extra food but importantly, the addition of fresh produce and protein to the feeding program. We thought our donation and the extraordinary efforts of Blessing Basket has meant so much to islanders in need that it was a unanimous decision to do a second year," Russo said.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Fleming charitable fundraising effort has always been an "all-volunteer army" with 100% of proceeds going to the designated charity. The web site lists various committees that have been established. Anyone interested in helping is both welcomed and encouraged.

"The five-day tournament and the many related events require a lot of volunteers and we welcome anyone interested in helping," Russo said. "Additionally, it is a great way to connect in our Seabrook community." ▲