

BEST of

MOUNT PLEASANT

2016 EDITION

*From Shops
to Docs
Your Favorites
Are Inside*

*The View
from the Top
Winners
Tell All*



They Rocked the Vote!

2016 BEST OF MOUNT PLEASANT

*After Tabulating 61,431 Votes
In 161 Categories*

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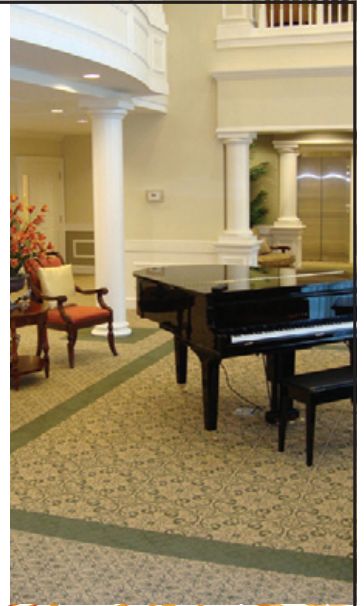
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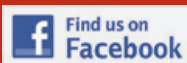


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Publisher's Note

THANKS FOR PICKING UP A COPY OF OUR BEST OF Mount Pleasant 2016 Magazine. This Publication is one of the most anticipated East Cooper magazines of the year. We are passionate about publishing *Mount Pleasant Magazine* and about our ever-popular "Best Of" competition.

I hope you will find the Best of Mount Pleasant 2016 useful, whether you are a resident of East Cooper or you're just visiting. As you flip through our digital or printed pages, you'll find the best businesses, organizations and places the Mount Pleasant area has to offer, from restaurants to boutiques, from medical professionals to auto mechanics, from real estate agents to nail salons and from plumbers to body shops. You'll even find out about the best places, according to the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, to ride your bike, view the Arthur Ravenel Bridge and have your kid's birthday party.


This is our fourth Best of Mount Pleasant, and it is by far our most popular among the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. How fast is the "Best Of" growing? In 2013, a total of 14,000 votes were cast. This year, we passed the 61,000 mark, and we expect even more impressive numbers next year and beyond.

People love to tell us about their favorites. It's social media at its best. It's just like asking your Facebook friends where the best restaurants are or where you can find a good mechanic. Does anyone know the best place my kids and I can fly a kite or ride our bikes? You may not know who cast the 61,000 votes, but you can be certain there's no pay to play in play. So when someone was voted as best doctor, builder or Realtor, you know they were feeling the love of a lot of votes.

You'll also find special stories about local businesses. Those that are voted as a Best Of qualify to have a story written about their business. Through these marketing articles, you can learn about their business philosophy, how they got started, why their clients and customers keep coming back and how they intend to remain among the Mount Pleasant area's top businesses. It's a great way to get to know local business professionals.

Read their stories and those of all Best Of businesses all year long at www.BestOfMountPleasant.com. Join our Facebook fans at www.Facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine. Our fans receive special offers from Best Of businesses throughout the year.

Until next issue,



— BILL MACCHIO
Publisher



BEST of MOUNT PLEASANT

2016 EDITION

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The Best Of Mount Pleasant 2016

Y'ALL ROCKED THE VOTE!

WELCOME TO OUR fourth Best of Mount Pleasant issue for 2016! It's one of our favorite editions of the year, due to the fact that our readers (that's you!) help us write it. Without our readers, the Best of Mount Pleasant would not exist – nor would it exist without the businesses, people and places throughout East Cooper that grace the ballots.

On the cover are a few winning members of the community. Left to right: Candice Mahala, owner of Bistro Toulouse; George McLaughlin, owner of Bottles Beverage Superstore; Caleb Pearson, owner of Caleb Pearson Real Estate; Katie Lorenzen-Smith, executive chef at Tavern & Table; and Tricia Burgess, director at The Sunshine House on Long Point Road.

We had 61,432 votes in more than 160 categories for the 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant, and we could not be more excited. We know the Best of Mount Pleasant will continue to foster relationships between businesses and patrons, and we are already seeing the proof when certificates from the previous years appear in windows and on walls at local businesses. Readers, you have yourselves to thank for sharing all this good news throughout East Cooper.

Turn the page to see the list of who placed in each category, in addition to fun, humorous blurbs about the first-place winners written either by yours truly or Bill Farley.

Thanks again for your vote in the 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant!

Denise K. James
Managing editor, vote counter and enthusiastic resident of Mount Pleasant • www.BestOfMountPleasant.com

Final Results For Best of Mount Pleasant 2016



Best Bakery
- Kudzu.

Food & Drink

BEST ASIAN

“Use your noodle” is one of my favorite expressions. And frankly, every time I use it, I think about our readers’ favorite spot to enjoy noodles, at **Basil Thai Restaurant**. The pad Thai there is a no-brainer.

- Second – P.F. Chang’s**
- Third – Tsunami Sushi**

BEST BAKERY

Life is no piece of cake, but that’s why we have bakeries. And our readers know where to get their cakes, cookies and other pastries – at **Kudzu Bakery**. It makes everything a little sweeter.

- Second – Publix**
- Third – Village Bakery**



BEST BAR

What do you picture when you imagine your ideal watering hole? A friendly bartender? An amazing beer list? A cute guy or girl eyeballing you? A view of South Carolina's natural beauty? Find all of this – plus throngs of our thirsty readers – at **Red's Icehouse**.

Second – The Southern Bar & Grill

Third – Dog & Duck

BEST BBQ

Sick of watching what you're eating? Well, we're giving you permission to "pig" out (pun intended) along with our readers at **Home Team BBQ** on Sullivan's Island.

After you do that, stay around for the yummy drinks and the live music. Remember, dancing burns calories.

Second – Melvin's Barbecue

Third – Mamma Brown's BBQ

BEST BREAKFAST

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day – but "they" never told you that the place to get that important meal is at **Page's Okra Grill** in Mount Pleasant. Luckily, our readers knew the deal.

Second – Eggs Up Grill

Third – Charleston's Cafe

BEST BRUNCH

On Sunday mornings, it's tempting to just stay in bed.

But not in Mount Pleasant! Around here, our readers can barely contain their enthusiasm as they leap from beneath the covers and into the next available seat at **Page's Okra Grill**, where

brunch with a bacon bloody Mary is top priority. After all, you can sleep when you're dead.

Second – Red Drum

Third – Vickery's

BEST BUDGET-FRIENDLY MEAL

After a day of shopping at Towne Centre with wild abandon, where do my pal Rachel and I get cheap eats with our last couple of bucks? At Chick-fil-A, of course, the same spot as our financially-savvy readers.

Second – MOSAIC

Third – Charleston's Cafe



Best Brunch
- Page's Okra Grill

BEST BURGER

In East Cooper, we prefer to use the phrase "I have beef with that person" to indicate something positive, such as a friendly meal around a table of yummy burgers.

Our readers are scheduling those meals at **SOL Southwest Kitchen + Tequila Bar** these days. Let's all "meat" there, shall we?

Second – Tavern & Table

Third – The Americano

BEST CATERER

Just about everyone enjoys having someone else cater to them. And when our readers are in the mood to put their feet up and let someone else handle the cooking, they call **MOSAIC**. After all, a frazzled host or hostess puts a real damper on a party.

Second – Dish & Design

Third – Charleston Bay Gourmet

BEST COCKTAIL

During the great rainstorm of 2015, I decided to brave the streets of Mount Pleasant (they weren't SO bad) in the name of grabbing an above-average cocktail. I

soon found myself at **SOL Southwest Kitchen + Tequila Bar**, enjoying the famous jalapeno margarita. And I can only guess the rest of that rainy day crowd was made up of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* readers.

Second – Tavern & Table

Third – The Americano

BEST COFFEE

Not only will **Starbucks** customize your drink for you, they'll even write your name on the cup so you feel like a special little snowflake. But in our opinion, if you're drinking corporate coffee instead of a cup at one of our own local establishments, you're a flake anyway.

Second – Metto Coffee & Tea

Third – The Collective

BEST CRAFT BEER

When someone says that they're "crafty," it sometimes means that they spend hours looking at Pinterest pages.

But when our readers say it, they mean they're hanging out at

Westbrook Brewery's tasting room or in a bar that



Best Craft Beer
- Westbrook Brewery

serves Westbrook on tap. But I'm willing to bet some of them are Pinterest fans, too.

Second – Liberty Tap Room & Grill

Third – Triangle Char + Bar

BEST DOG-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

Who let the dogs out – and took them to lunch or happy hour? Our readers did, of course, and with good reason. At **Red's Icehouse**, pooches are gladly welcomed along with everyone else.



After all, they're a family restaurant, four-legged members included.

Second – Dog & Duck

Third – The Shelter Kitchen + Bar

BEST DELI

When my co-workers and I are looking for a quick and delicious sandwich or wrap to bring back to the office on a particularly busy day, we head to **Mozzo Deli**. Our worker-bee readers are right there with us in the lunch crowd. In fact, we got the idea from them.

Second – East Bay Deli

Third – Publix

BEST DESSERT

There's an entire movement that says eating dessert first might actually benefit us in terms of burning calories. So if you're planning to "spoil your supper," as my grandmother would say, join our readers at **Page's Okra Grill**, where the revolution could even be televised.

Second – Liberty Tap Room & Grill

Third – Village Bakery

BEST FOOD TRUCK

Imagine for a second that your favorite restaurant, just like your Visa, is everywhere you want to be. That's how it works with the **Coastal Crust Pizza Truck**.

These guys are serving hot, yummy slices of gourmet pie at a variety of spots in East Cooper.

Second – Lowcountry Creole

Third – Dashi

BEST FRENCH RESTAURANT

It doesn't matter to the folks at **Bistro Toulouse** that you only took French for a semester in college (and it was just to sit near the cutie in the next row), and now the only word you remember is "oui." They'll still serve you an authentic, delicious meal, according to our readers.

Second – Annie's Bistro Francais

Third – Saveurs Du Monde

BEST FRIED CHICKEN

I once witnessed a fellow writer purchase a fried chicken plate from **Publix** after she'd stayed up all night, either writing or partying – I'm not sure which. She said it completely revived her, and apparently our readers feel the same way.

Second – Page's Okra Grill

Third – Bojangles' Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits

BEST FROZEN YOGURT

Our readers like to get creative; there's no doubt about that. And they consider **TCBY** to be one of the best places to do so. With dozens of possible flavor combinations, you can practically become the van Gogh of frozen treats – except with both ears.

Second – DIYogurt

Third – sweet Frog Premium Frozen Yogurt

BEST GROCERY STORE

Every weekday morning, I go get my breakfast from **Harris Teeter**.

The ladies who work that shift know my name – they practically know my VIC card number. With that kind of service, I

can't blame our readers for voting them the best.

Second – Publix

Third – Trader Joe's



BEST HAPPY HOUR

Happiness pretty much never eludes us here in Mount Pleasant. But in case it does, we know we can find it at **Water's Edge**, where, according to our readers, the happy hour will elevate the most questionable of moods.

Second – SOL Southwest Kitchen + Tequila Bar

Third – The Shelter Kitchen and + Bar



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BEST HOT DOG

Let's face it. Those basic hot dogs you had as a kid during summer camp outs don't even stand a chance against the delicious options at **Jack's Cosmic Dogs**. So don't be a weenie about it, and go all the way. Our readers say it's worth it.

- Second – Skoogies*
- Third – Johnny's Hot Dogs*

BEST ICE CREAM

Nothing is more old-fashioned and idyllic than an ice cream cone after a sunny day at the beach. According to our readers, **Ye Ole Fashioned Ice Cream & Sandwich Cafe** is the perfect place to enjoy delicious ice cream and a dose of nostalgia.

- Second – Marble Slab Creamery*
- Third – Baskin-Robbins*



Best Ice Cream
- Ye Ole Fashioned Ice Cream & Sandwich Cafe

BEST ITALIAN

Italians are known for being passionate about food, and our readers think it shows at **Bricco Bracco**, where every dish is made with love.

- Second – La Pizzeria*
- Third – Carrabba's Italian Grill*

BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

I don't have kids, but a few of my best friends do – and I often meet their crew at **Chick-fil-A**, where the adults can enjoy a half lemonade, half iced tea while the kids go nuts on the playground. Our readers couldn't agree more that it's a crowd pleaser for all ages.

- Second – Dog & Duck*
- Third – Steel City Pizza*

BEST MAC 'N' CHEESE

This rolled dough and fromage delicacy has been around at least since 14th-century Italy. No, not **Crave's!** Their mac 'n' cheese is prepared daily with only the freshest ingredients. That's why readers voted their rendition of this classic the best in town.

- Second – Page's Okra Grill*
- Third – Coleman Public House*



Best Mac 'n' Cheese
- Crave

BEST MEXICAN

For fajitas that sizzle to burritos that bomb your belly with delicious goodness, it's hard to beat **La Hacienda**. This friendly eatery combines a huge selection of authentic Mexican dishes served with true Southern hospitality. Enjoy a margarita (or two) with your meal and feel like a mariachi!

- Second – Los Arcos*
- Third – Santi's*

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Tavern & Table's proud owners say this gorgeous boite was created to be a gathering place where people sit in comfort and share small plates for the table or enjoy a hearty meal. They succeeded, and tossing in both indoor and outdoor dining on beautiful Shem Creek didn't hurt.

Second – The Americano

Third – On Forty-One

BEST PIZZA

One person's "best pizza" is an opinion; two persons' is a disagreement; three usually involves fightin' words. But in Mount P., our readers' accolades go to **La Pizzeria**.



This family owned and operated restaurant offers a varied menu of Neapolitan delights.

Second – Mellow Mushroom

Third – Andolini's

BEST PLACE TO DINE OUTDOORS

Al fresco, or dining outdoors, literally means "in the fresh air," and, if you love your fresh air brisk with the saltiness of Shem Creek, there's no better place in town to kick back with a cocktail or enjoy a fine meal than **Tavern & Table**.



Second – Red's Icehouse

Third – Water's Edge

BEST PLACE TO TAKE AN OUT-OF-TOWNER

Can **Tavern & Table** do no wrong? It's new, it's exciting, it's attractive and it's situated on the banks of historic Shem Creek. Don't take any visitor here who you wouldn't want to pick up and move to Mount Pleasant.

Second – Shem Creek Bar & Grill

Third – Red's Icehouse

BEST RAW BAR

Whether a stand-alone restaurant or a section of one, a raw bar is where live shellfish are shucked and served. But you know that, if you're a raw seafood buff. And, if you are, **Shem Creek Bar & Grill** is the place for you. If you're not a fan, well, why not?



Second – Red's Icehouse

Third – SALT at Station 22

BEST RESTAURANT SERVICE

Page's Okra Grill labels its dining experience "local food for local folks," which may be why its parking lot is filled day and night. Snag yourself a parking spot, walk inside and you'll be treated like a relative – from the good side of the family!

Second – Red Drum

Third – SOL Southwestern Kitchen + Tequila Bar

BEST RIBS

An out-of-state visitor wrote: "Good service, cool vibe, super friendly staff ... would've bought a sampler pack if we weren't traveling." Even folks "from off"



understand quality and that you can enjoy great ribs right here at **Sticky Fingers Ribhouse** on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard. A word to the wise: extra napkins!

Second – Home Team BBQ

Third – Melvin's Barbecue

BEST SEAFOOD

The Wreck (of the Richard and Charlene) claims it's "where taste buds do the judging." They must be right because from shrimp to scallops, oysters and more, readers judged this bistro number 1. Looking for fried chicken or a steak? As they say on Shem Creek, "fuggedaboutit!"

Second – R.B.'s Seafood Restaurant

Third – Shem Creek Bar & Grill



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BEST SHRIMP 'N' GRITS

Who would think that a place that looks like an upscale diner (which it used to be) would have the best of this quintessential Southern seafood specialty? Our readers would. Just give **Page's Okra Grill** a chance to tickle your taste buds and learn what good is!

Second – Acme Lowcountry Kitchen

Third – Old Village Post House



Best Shrimp 'n' Grits
- Page's Okra Grill

BEST STEAK

If you're seeking a "classic fine dining experience that fuses Lowcountry and global flavor," look no further. Whether your taste is for center cut filet, New York strip or bone-in dry aged ribeye, **Langdon's Restaurant and Wine Bar** never fails to satisfy. Carnivores only need apply!

Second – Outback Steakhouse

Third – LongHorn Steakhouse



Best Steak
- Langdon's Restaurant and Wine Bar

BEST SUSHI

Whether it's nigiri, sashimi, classic or specialty rolls, **Locals Bar** never disappoints. Plus, it's probably the only first-rate sushi bar that's also a sports bar offering a corn dog appetizer and special events including a trivia night and a Thursday night football party. What, no sumo Saturday?

Second – Fuji Sushi & Bar & Grill

Third – Wasabi

BEST TACO

Come early to **SOL Southwest Kitchen + Tequila Bar**. Better yet, camp out overnight. This place is so popular it deserves its own highway off ramp! Plan on sipping one of their specialty tequila drinks (or more), then enjoy outstanding tacos filled with fish, steak and even veggies.

Second – Taco Mamacita

Third – The Americano

BEST UPSCALE RESTAURANT

Need to propose, apologize or close on a business deal? Fast food won't cut it. Our readers suggest the **Old Village Post House** as the upscale restaurant for great atmosphere and delicious cuisine.

Second – Water's Edge

Third – The Granary



Best Upscale Restaurant
- Old Village Post House

BEST WINGS

Bones or boneless, you can sauce your wings with any of 33 flavors (at last count), ranging from mild to absolutely searing! When “wings” is in your name, you’d better do ‘em right, and **Wild Wing Café** does.

Bonus for Mount Pleasant wingsters: two locations: one on Coleman, one at Oakland Market.

Second – Home Team BBQ

Third – Blue’s Local Grill



Best Board Shop
- Parrot Surf & Skate

Shopping and Goods

BEST ANTIQUE STORE

Ah, antique shopping: the excitement of finding something with an interesting story behind it and then giving it fresh perspective. Our readers can vouch for how many stories you’ll hear at **Mount Pleasant Mall**, where you can find your own piece of history.

Second – Six Mile Antique Mall

Third – Page’s Thieves Market

BEST ART GALLERY

Generally, no one is a fan of a naked wall. But if your walls happen to be shamefully naked, where can you go to find proper adornments? Our readers tell us that the **Treasure Nest Art Gallery** is the perfect place.

Second – Karen’s Korner Frame and Art Gallery

Third – Sandpiper Gallery

BEST BABY GOODS

So you got invited to a baby shower and are hoping to find a gift that is unique, memorable and adorable? Our readers approve of **Baby Bloomers** for the best pink and blue selection in town – you’re guaranteed to hear a chorus of oohs and aahs.

Second – Ragamuffin Children’s Boutique

Third – Southern Belles

BEST BOARD SHOP

Don’t sit around the house feeling bored – get your feet ON a board instead. And whether you prefer land or water as your method of travel, our readers say that **Parrot Surf & Skate** has the perfect board to put beneath your feet.

Second – Odyssey Board Shop

Third – Half Moon Outfitters/Sealand Adventure Sports/Time Out Sports/Play it Again Sports (Tie)

BEST BOUTIQUE

Let’s say you need a super chic outfit to wear to a hip new restaurant with your extraordinary date. This is not the time to find any old outfit at a big-box store – instead, join our readers at **Teal: A Swanky Boutique** for one-of-a-kind threads.

Second – Copper Penny

Third – Il Brunettes

BEST BRIDAL STORE

When you think about it, the aisle you stroll down on your wedding day pretty much doubles as a runway – so you and your party had better wow the audience. No worries; **Jean’s Bridal** has everything you and our readers need to say “I do” in a fashionable setting.

Second – White

Third – Gown Boutique of Charleston



Best Bridal Store
- Jean’s Bridal

BEST CHILDREN’S CLOTHING

Face it: kids have to look good on the playground, just like you have to look good at the office. So don’t send them out into the world looking sub-par – buy them cute outfits at

Ragamuffin Children’s Boutique, recommended by our readers and their sharp-dressed kids.

Second – Southern Belles

Third – Shrimp & Grits Kids



Best Children’s Clothing
- Ragamuffin Children’s Boutique



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BEST COCKTAIL/DRESS ATTIRE

Do you seize with panic at the words "black tie" written on an invitation because the last formal outfit you purchased was in the 1990s? Well, then, join our readers at **Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant** and get spruced up for 2016. You might want to update your CD collection, too.

Second – Copper Penny
Third – Belk

BEST CONSIGNMENT CLOTHING

Around Mount Pleasant, one chick's trash is another chick's awesome wardrobe because we, along with our readers, shop at **Uptown Cheapskate**. It's just like scoring items from your best friend's closet – except, be honest, you don't have this many friends.

Second – Angels and Rascals/ Butterfly Consignment (Tie)

BEST CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE

Where are you going to stow your coziest sweater, best silverware or



family photos? For that matter, where will you put your feet up or place your glass of iced tea? For unique answers to these questions and others, our readers suggest visiting **Next to New**.

Second – Coleman Collection/ Mount Pleasant Mall (Tie)

BEST DEPARTMENT STORE

Sometimes I need a whole new life, from my lipstick to my bedsheets, and I know without a doubt that I can find it at **Belk**. Our readers think they're winners in every department, whether you're shopping for the new or the old you.
Second – Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant
Third – Kohl's



BEST GARDEN CENTER

Read our tulips: According to our readers, **Abide-A-While** is the place to go when you'd like to plant new seeds in life and watch them grow tall. And no worries if you lack a green thumb – they have plenty of hardy ones to choose from, too.
Second – Lowe's
Third – Hidden Ponds Nursery



BEST FISH AND TACKLE SHOP

I don't fish much, but I have to report that I like visiting **Haddrell's Point Tackle and Supply**. Where else can I go for a batch of fresh crickets to feed to my friend Ava's pet toads? Plus, our readers voted them best, so I doubt anyone would find my devotion fishy.
Second – The Charleston Angler
Third – Atlantic Game and Tackle

BEST HARDWARE STORE

Let's say your kid wants a homemade playhouse and you have a string of Saturdays available to build her one. Our readers urge you to visit **Royall Ace Hardware** to nail your plans together. They'll sell you a hammer, too.
Second – Lowe's
Third – Sweetgrass Ace Hardware

BEST FLORIST

As a single gal, I often woo myself with flowers. Nothing cheers me up better than a bounty of colorful blooms and a copy of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* on my coffee table. For your own bouquet of bliss – or to treat someone else you love – our readers say **Buy the Bunch** has awesome flower power.
Second – Belva's Flower Shop
Third – Out of Hand

BEST HOME GOODS

What if tonight is your big dinner party and you suddenly realize you need new glassware? A red pillow to accent the sofa? Or a lamp that casts flattering light on your date? Head to **Marshalls**, where our readers shop for chic décor. Will your guests know your secrets? Maybe, if they live around Mount Pleasant.
Second – Kirkland's
Third – GDC Home

BEST FURNITURE STORE

So you just became an empty nester and you want to celebrate with some sharp corners, plush fabrics and snow-white chairs? Our readers say you'll score the pieces you always dreamed of at **GDC Home**. Just don't be surprised when your birdies come back to the new and improved nest for a spell.
Second – Celadon
Third – Stuckey Brothers Furniture of Mount Pleasant



BEST JEWELRY

Attention, fellas: When Beyonce sang "put a ring on it," she didn't mean one that came out of a 25-cent gumball machine. She meant one from an established, local jewelry store with great service and selection, just like **Loy Harn Jewelers**. Apparently, they've been decorating the ladies who read *Mount Pleasant Magazine* for years.
Second – Polly's Fine Jewelry
Third – Skatell's





BEST LIQUOR STORE

So your job, relationship or faith in God is on the rocks? Sounds like you need a trip to **Bottles Beverage Superstore**, stat. Our readers say your cup will runneth over with new inspiration in no time. Just make sure you find your inspiration responsibly.

Second – Clarey's Liquors

Third – Palmetto 80 Liquors



Best Liquor Store
- Bottles Beverage Superstore

BEST MENSWEAR

When ZZ Top sang "Every girl's crazy bout a sharp-dressed man," the gents in Mount Pleasant were luckily paying attention. As a result, our readers check into the **Belk Men's Store** for a dapper look that we ladies approve of.

Second – Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant/Jos. A. Bank (Tie)

BEST PLACE TO BUY A BOAT

The Lowcountry is a playground of water, and those of us who love water head to **Seel's Outboard** for the right boat to navigate our ocean, harbor, rivers and streams. After all, life in Mount Pleasant is but a dream.

Second – Hall Marine

Third – Longshore Boats



Best Place to Buy a Boat
- Seel's Outboard

BEST PLACE TO BUY A CAR

Letting someone drive your car is a sure sign you love them, as the song goes. But letting someone drive your car you bought at **Baker Mercedes Benz of Mount Pleasant**? Our readers say that that's a sign of happily ever after.

Second – Lowcountry Volkswagen

Third – Mount Pleasant Chevrolet

BEST PLACE TO BUY A GIFT

They say that when it comes to gift giving, it's the thought that counts. And if you want your recipients to know that you are thinking hard about what they want the most, go to **Palmetto Moon**, where our readers shop for the perfect present.

Second – Zinnia

Third – Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant/Raffia Accents & Personalized Gifts (Tie)

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BEST RETAIL CUSTOMER SERVICE

There's nothing worse than wandering a store aimlessly, trying to figure out where the heck the fitting rooms or the formalwear sections are. But that never happens at **Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant**. Our readers tell us they're bound to ask if they can assist you as soon as you step foot inside.

Second – Belk

Third – Baby Bloomers/Henry & Eva/Kohl's (tie)

BEST SHOE STORE

Cinderella's shoes changed her entire destiny, and our readers suggest the **Designer Shoe Warehouse** for your own life-changing pair. Plus, you'll be able to wear them after midnight, and you'll never have to share them with family members (unless you want to).



Best Shoe Store
- Designer Shoe Warehouse

Second – Copper Penny Shooz

Third – Belk

BEST SPORTING GOODS

We're guessing that the folks at **Dick's Sporting Goods** were

good sports about winning this year. They probably shook hands with all the second and third place winners – even the losers. So it's no surprise that our readers voted them the best place to get prepped for a game. **Second – East Cooper Sporting Goods**
Third – TrySports



Best Sporting Goods
- Dick's Sporting Goods

BEST SWIMWEAR

The people who live in East Cooper tend to have a wardrobe of swimwear, from cruise ready bikinis to family friendly tanks. And according to our readers, if an occasion on the water presents itself and the perfect suit is missing, Belk is the

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place to find it.

Second – Drift

Third – Athleta/Parrot Surf & Skate (tie)

BEST THRIFT SHOP

Ugly sweater parties. Halloween costumes.

Pretending that you ran a race and bought a t-shirt when you slept through it.

Goodwill can take care of all these and then some.

That's why our readers voted them the best place to drop off donations and score a new-to-you treasure.

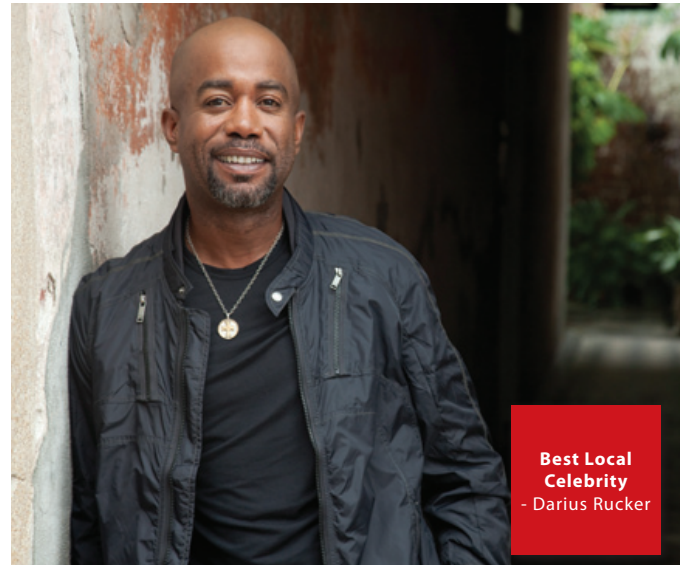
Second – Habitat for Humanity

Third – Mount Pleasant Mall



Second – HandPicked

Third – Gwynn's of Mount Pleasant



BEST TOYS

Our readers secretly don't want to grow up, which is why they are more than happy to visit

Wonder Works along with their children. With fun and educational stuff that will

entertain everyone for hours, it's easy to forget the bills for a while – until the late fees roll in, that is!

Second – Hollipops Fine Toys & Gifts

Third – Learning Express



BEST AUTO REPAIR BUSINESS

Your car is a trusty steed that takes you from Point A to Point B. So when something goes wrong with it, you need someone equally trusty to make things right. Our readers tell us **East Cooper Auto Pros** will get that motor purring in no time – we know you can't wait to get on the road again.

Second – Automotive Excellence

Third – Hudson's Import Service



BEST WOMEN'S ACCESSORIES

Coco Chanel, one of fashion's classic icons, urged ladies to always remove one accessory before leaving the house. But our readers know if Coco had shopped at

Versona, she would have told us to pile it on. With so many choices, who could narrow it down?



BEST ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Assisted living is only one component of the **Franke at Seaside** experience, but it's a key one. This meticulously designed and professionally staffed facility is organized to help residents live at the maximum level of independence possible.

Second – Sandpiper Village

Third – Somerby of Mount Pleasant

BEST ATTORNEY

"Big Business" should be **Pflug Law Firm's** middle

Personalities and Services

name. They're tops in areas including commercial real estate, the environment, employment and labor, corporate and limited liability, and civil litigation. Suing over your neighbor's barking dog? Probably not.

Second – Harvey & Vallini, LLC
Third – Emily G. Johnston family law

BEST AUTO GLASS COMPANY

There's something about damaged auto glass that makes people crazy – a pitted or cracked windshield, a smashed door window, a stemless martini glass. **Glasspro** fixes them all to perfection and faster than you'd imagine possible. Except the martini glass. No one should drink and drive. At least not martinis.

Second – Lowcountry Auto Glass
Third – AAA Carolinas



Best Auto Glass Company
 - Glasspro

BEST BODY SHOP

Whether you've been in a fender bender or you're looking to paint your new Lamborghini chartreuse, **East Cooper Paint & Body Shop** can get the job done. Additionally, they maintain great relationships with all the major insurance companies so they can help get your job done quickly and painlessly.

Second – Ascue's Auto Body and Collision Center
Third – Mt. Pleasant Collision Center



Best Body Shop
 - East Cooper Paint & Body Shop

BEST CAR WASH

Liquid Highway sounds like a great name for a canal. In Mount Pleasant, it's the place to clean your ride, with one of their economy washes or a full-on detailing. If your Rolls is already sparkling, just drop by and hang out in their fabulous waiting room. The fish tank is mesmerizing.

Second – Cactus Car Wash
Third – Americana Car Wash & Detailing

BEST CHILD CARE

There's a lot of everything for your child at **Sunshine House**, from infant and toddlers through pre-school and school-age. Nothing is more important to your little loved ones

than getting a terrific start in life and finding a place that offers quality care and where education is paramount.

Second – Kids Play Garden
Third – Children's Discovery Center/Children's Center at Carolina Park (tie)



Best Child Care
 - Sunshine House

BEST DANCE STUDIO

When it comes to mastering the art of terpsichore East of the Cooper, **Tapio School of Dance and Gymnastics** pirouettes to the top with its small classes and traditional

approach. From neophytes to seasoned veteran dancers, your star-to-be can count on individualized attention from trained professionals.

Second – Creative Edge Dance Center
Third – Dance Carolina



Best Dance Studio
 - Tapio School of Dance and Gymnastics

BEST ELECTRICIAN

If there's one household project the average homeowner should never try, it's messing with things electrical. Always turn to a professional such as **Frampton Electric** for these often hazardous and occasionally deadly tasks. Changing a light bulb? O.K. Rewiring your entire house? Don't even think about it.

Second – Mount Pleasant Electric
Third – McClellan & Claiborne/Osborne Electric (tie)

BEST FINANCIAL PLANNER

A wise man once said that there are two kinds of



people in Mount Pleasant – well-off retirees and everyone else who hopes to become a well-off retiree. Edward Jones gets high financial marks from readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, ranking third overall and first through agent **Philip Cingolani**.

Second – E & R Wealth Management
Third – Edward Jones

BEST GYMNASTICS FACILITY

If you don't know a Shaposhnikova from a side aerial or a Kolman from a kip, drop by **Tapio School of Dance and Gymnastics** and find out. Better yet, bring your budding Nadia Comaneci to learn either competitive or non-competitive gymnastics in a pleasant, safe environment.

Second – GymMasters Gym Academy
Third – The Little Gym/Rock Solid Gymnastics (tie)

BEST HAIR SALON

The Bard wrote, "Vanity, thy name is woman." Here in Mount Pleasant, Vanity is Kim Coleman, who established **Vanity Salon** a decade ago. It quickly became the go-to place



Best Hair Salon
 -Vanity Salon

not only for "routine" hair and makeup but for bridal and special events styling as well – even spray tanning.

Second – Stella Nova Spa Salon
Third – DonVia Salon

BEST HEATING AND AIR COMPANY

Unlike people, when it comes to your heating and air unit, you want it to blow hot and cold. And if it doesn't? You can call **C & C Myers Heating & A/C** according to our trusted readers. Soon that perfect Hawaii-esque



Best Heating and Air Company
 - C & C Myers Heating & A/C

temperature will be yours again.
Second – Carolina Custom Air
Third – Austin Air LLC

BEST HOME CLEANING SERVICE

You've probably heard of organic produce, organic chocolates and even organic coffee. But have you ever heard of organic house cleaning? Meet **Maid Pure**, a company that will leave your abode immaculate without using harsh, toxic materials. Try them, then invite Ralph Nader over for dinner.



Best Home Cleaning Service
 - Maid Pure

Second – Molly Maid
Third – Mount Pleasant Cleaning Technicians/Have It Maid (tie)

BEST HOTEL

Within living memory, the term "Mount Pleasant hotel" would have been an oxymoron. Today, there are numerous places where a traveler (or a not-so-close friend or relative) can lay his or her head comfortably in our town.



Best Hotel
 - Comfort Suites

Rating these excellent hostelries is a tough task but one our readers took to with gusto, citing **Comfort Suites** at the IOP Connector as the top place to stay.

Second – Hampton Inn and Suites
Third – Wyndham Garden

BEST INSURANCE AGENT

Woody Allen once speculated that the worst torture in the world would be to be sealed in an underground box with an insurance agent. Clearly, Mr. Allen never met the man behind **Billy Swails State Farm**. Former councilman; former mayor; current chairman of the Charleston



Best Insurance Agent
 - Billy Swails State Farm



County Aviation Authority; great guy. Maybe Woody was wrong.
Second – Sam Schirmer
Third – Jack Tankersley

BEST INSURANCE COMPANY

If Billy Swails is Mount Pleasant’s best insurance agent, it kind of makes sense that his company, **State Farm**, would be the first choice of our voters as well. When the results came in, we double-checked them. Then we even “discount double-checked” them.
Second – Atlantic Shield
Third – Allstate

BEST INTERIOR DECORATOR

“Lowcountry Chic” is the signature style of **CHD Interiors**, the top vote-getter in Mount Pleasant among custom interior design firms. While embracing the casual Lowcountry lifestyle, CHD helps clients use traditional and contemporary designs to craft quality living spaces that reflect their personalities and individual styles.
Second – Joy Lang
Third – Domain Interiors & Design

BEST KENNEL

Pampering a pet rises to new heights at **My Three Dogs**, where canine companions can play indoors or out, go for a refreshing



swim or just kick back with their new four-legged friends in air-conditioned comfort. Maybe whoever called this “a dog’s life”

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was right!

Second – Paws in Paradise

Third – Pooch Palace

BEST LANDSCAPER

Customized lawn maintenance programs; landscape design and planting; pruning, tree and palm trimming; debris removal; irrigation installation and repairs. **The Lawn**



Rangers offer all this and more, plus a name that's a tongue-in-cheek pun.

Second – Long Point Services

Third – Palmetto Green

BEST LOAN OFFICER

The old saying goes, "neither a borrower nor a lender be." But **Wes Sellew** has never paid attention to that. He loves lending money to home buyers, according to our readers. And it's clearly working out for everyone involved.

Second – Robert Tennyson, CresCom Bank

Third – Andy Collier, DHI Mortgage/Lorcan Lucey, Lucey Mortgage (tie)

BEST LOCAL CELEBRITY

Just like Hollywood, Charleston and Mount Pleasant have A-listers who walk among us. And of those A-listers, our readers love **Darius Rucker** in particular for his laid-back attitude and undeniable talent. In fact, those people in Hollywood should take lessons from him.

Second – Bill Murray

Third – Brooke Ryan/Rob Fowler (tie)

BEST NAIL SALON

There may be other topics that more women "beg to differ" about than the virtues of where they get their nails done, although probably not many. But scores of online reviewers and *Mount Pleasant Magazine's* readers cut to the chase. East of the Cooper, it's **Princess Nails and Spa**.

Second – Nails So Dep!

Third – Silver Nails & Spa

BEST NONPROFIT

East Cooper Community Outreach – ECCO – has become such an important symbol of caring in East Cooper that it's virtually impossible to imagine living without it. Each year ECCO serves more than 4,500 families with basic needs, health care and more.

Second – East Cooper Habitat for Humanity

Third – Shem Creek Fisheries

BEST PEST CONTROL COMPANY

Life East of the Cooper could hardly be more perfect, except for one thing: the bugs.

In our Southern paradise we've got termites, bedbugs, mosquitoes, palmetto bugs and zillions of



"no see 'ums." That's where outstanding pest control companies such as **East Coast Pest Control** make all the difference.

Second – Mosquito Joe

Third – Buzz Off

BEST PET GROOMER

There is no shortage of ways to treat your dog more like a four-legged child around here. For the real royal pooch treatment, our readers insist that **aFORTable Grooming** is the best in town. They'll have your pup looking show-dog ready in no time.

Second – My Three Dogs

Third – Pleasant Paws Dayspa

BEST POOL AND SPA COMPANY

Atkinson Pools and Spas considers itself the Lowcountry's only full-service swimming pool and spa provider, and for more than 30 years they've been a leader in the field. The company prides itself on using the highest quality materials and handling every aspect of each pool or spa project.

Second – Leslie's Pool Supplies

Third – Lowcountry Pool House

BEST PLACE OF WORSHIP

Feel the need to sing a hymn of praise? Then join our readers at **East Cooper Baptist Church** and kick off your Sunday festivities. You'll leave feeling renewed and ready for the week.

Second – Christ Our King Catholic Church

Third – Christ Episcopal Church



BEST PLACE TO GET A MORTGAGE

Shelter is one of those basic needs in life, and **Mortgage Network of Mount Pleasant**, according to our readers, is equipped to meet not only your needs but also your wants. Well, some of your wants, anyway. For the others, you might want to ask your spouse or your parents.

Second – DHI Mortgage

Third – Lucey Mortgage

BEST PLACE TO HAVE A WEDDING

You've found the man (or woman) of your dreams. The photographer of your dreams. The cake baker of your dreams. So make it extend to the venue and take this tip from our happily hitched readers: **Boone Hall Plantation** will complete the fairy tale in your mind.

Second – Alhambra Hall

Third – Dunes West Club



BEST PLACE TO HOLD AN EVENT

Family reunions, graduations, bar mitzvahs and other gatherings of the human race are much better with a beautiful view of the Lowcountry. That's why our readers chose **Alhambra Hall** as the place to book for all your occasions. But whittling down the guest list is still up to you.

Second – Boone Hall Plantation

Third – Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park



BEST PLUMBER

Water inside the home is fine, provided it is contained within a whirlpool tub, fish tank or sink of warm suds. But when the water is not fine, our readers advise to give **Coastal Plumbing and Gas** a call. They'll handle it so you can tuck your high-water jeans back into the drawer.

Second – Atlantic Plumbing/Harrington Plumbing/Heins Plumbing (tie)

BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL

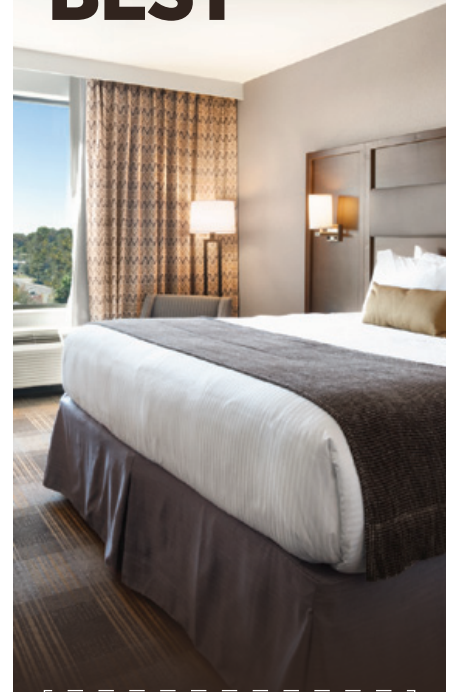
When people who live East of the Cooper are asked what they love most about life in these parts, they inevitably name "great schools!" as part of that list. Likewise, when we ask our readers to name the best private education that East Cooper has to offer, **Palmetto Christian Academy** tops that list.

Second – Christ Our King-Stella Maris

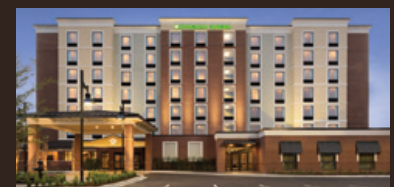
Third – Bishop England



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BEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

As public schools go, **Wando High School** is known for offering a lot more than just “readin’ ritin’ and rithmatic.”

Voted best by our readers not only for academic but also professional preparation, this is one school that will make sure your kid won’t move into your basement after graduation.

Second – Jennie Moore Elementary

Third – Laurel Hill Primary



BEST REAL ESTATE TEAM

Teamwork isn’t just for sports. It’s also for houses. And the **Caleb Pearson Team** was voted best by our readers. Why have just one professional join you on your home hunt when you can have an entire crew?

Second – Greater Properties Charleston

Third – Dede Warren and BV Messervy/Healthy Realty

BEST REALTOR

You know the warm, fuzzy feeling you get when you find the perfect home or sell yours to the perfect buyer?

Caleb Pearson knows it, too – and he knows where to get a fix.

So call him for a dose of home buying and selling bliss.

Second - Anton Roeger/B.V. Messervy/Dan and Laura Pape (tie)



BEST RADIO PERSONALITY

Despite the new forms of technology that constantly debut, radio is a perennial favorite for our readers, who all appreciate the local flavor and voice of DJ

Brooke Ryan. There’s our proof that video did not kill the radio star!

Second – Tanya Brown

Third – The Bert Show



BEST TANNING SALON

In the Lowcountry, we’re fortunate to have sunny days most of the year. But in case it gets cloudy, we have **Ultra Tan**. Thus, there are no excuses for showing up to a party looking pasty. Just ask our readers.

Second – Sun Station

Third – Planet Fitness

BEST TV PERSONALITY

We love our Netflix, Amazon and other television services, but we still tune into good ole network TV to get our dose of **Rob Fowler** along with our readers. He lets us know the weather with a constantly warm, sunny disposition.

And more often than not, the weather follows suit.

Second – Dean Stephens

Third – Josh Mathers



BEST RADIO STATION

Whenever I ask people what they listen to, they always reply with “Oh, you know, everything.” And I take that to mean that they listen to the new **Mix 96**. Our readers say it’s the best for hearing everything from Bruno Mars to Gwen Stefani.

Second – WEZL

Third – 105.5 The Bridge

BEST REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Your house is where you hang your hat, and you can hang it even sooner thanks to **Carolina One’s** diligence in selling you a home – or selling yours. Our readers say their door is always open.

Second – Berkshire Hathaway

Third – The Cassina Group

BEST VETERINARIAN

Nobody greets you at the door and snuggles you on the sofa quite the way your pets do. So when they're feeling poorly, show them that same love and take them to **Pet Vet**. Our readers say you'll both be feeling good in no time.

Second – Park West Veterinary Associates

Third – Advanced Animal Care



Best Hospital
- Roper St.
Francis Mount
Pleasant
Hospital

Health and Wellness

BEST ALLERGIST

How are you supposed to stop and smell the proverbial roses if you can't quit sneezing and sniffing? Don't fret – our readers told us that **Dr. Bruce Ball** can help you. Just wipe your watery eyes, get out the phone and give him a call.

Second – Dr. Ned Rupp

Third – Dr. Thomas Murphy

BEST AUDIOLOGIST

Your ears are essential for jamming to tunes, enjoying conversation with family and friends and listening to the birds sing. The

friendly staff at **Advanced Hearing Care** understands this – and will work to make sure your ears are in peak shape. I guess you could say they hear you.



Best Audiologist
- Advanced
Hearing Care

Second – Charleston ENT

Third – MUSC Health East Cooper

BEST HEARING AID

Haven't heard birds chirping in a while? Wondering why Black Sabbath sounds more like an easy listening band? Get out of those hearing doldrums and come into the digital age with a custom-fitted hearing aid from **Advanced Hearing Care**. With it, you can wipe "what?" out of your vocabulary.

Second – Zounds Hearing of Charleston

Third – Daniel Island Hearing Center

BEST CHIROPRACTOR

Dr. Brian Class is a dedicated chiropractor practicing "holistic and alternative medicine," which, loosely translated, means he treats more than your spine – although he's great at that as well. Listen for him weekends on his popular "Maximized Living" radio show and learn how to treat your body like those of the Olympic athletes he works with.

Second – Drs. Gina and Michael Courson

Third – Dr. Ed Rak

BEST COLON AND RECTAL DOCTOR

A partner in Gastrointestinal Surgical Specialists, **Dr. Margarita Murphy** is one of only two female colorectal surgeons in the Lowcountry. She is a passionate advocate

for young girls considering medical careers and encourages everyone with any concerns to seek medical attention for colon or rectal problems.

Second – Dr. Kerry Hammond

Third – Dr. Jeffrey Joyner



Best Colon and Rectal Doctor
- Dr. Margarita
Murphy

BEST DENTIST

You've seen **Pleasant Family Dentistry** in the news providing free dental treatment to 100 needy patients in one day. Now, and find out how they treat every patient with compassion, caring and the highest professional standards.

Second – Water's Edge Dentistry

Third – Crossland Dental Associates



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Gear for Men



BEST DERMATOLOGIST

Dr. Marguerite Germain seems to win a lot of awards, and now here's another one! Readers named her and her practice best in town in a wide range of services, from cosmetic and medical dermatology to laser surgery to dermal fillers, Botox and much more.

Second – Dr. Sam Stafford

Third – Dr. Leslie Davidson

BEST EYE DOCTOR

Whether you're a baseball umpire or a local resident having difficulty seeing the game on TV, **Dr. Brad Bodkin** and

the optometric specialists at the Vision Center at Seaside Farms are the people to see when you start hearing that you ought to have your eyes examined.

Second – Dr. David Eulau

Third – Dr. Brad Majors



BEST FITNESS CENTER

In Mount Pleasant, **East Shore Athletic Club**

offers one-stop fitness with high-tech equipment, exercise classes, personal training and more. And, with four great locations around

town, the excuse that you'd work out but the gym is too far away doesn't hold water – or energy drink.

Second – Planet Fitness

Third – Ecofitness



BEST GERONTOLOGIST

Just like with friends, the family members who stick around as the years go by are valuable. Show them you feel that way by recommending **Dr. Rex Morgan** as a gerontologist. Our readers say he'll treat your family like his own.

Second – Dr. John Kleckley/Dr. Stephen Murk (Tie)

BEST HOSPITAL

It's good to have a good hospital nearby – even better if it's in your backyard. It would have to offer inpatient and outpatient surgery, an intensive care unit, a 24-hour ER, home-like labor and delivery suites and more. Which **Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital** does.

Second – East Cooper Regional Medical Center

Third – MUSC East Cooper

BEST LASIK SURGEON

If you haven't heard of **Dr. Kerry Solomon**, try listening to the radio. That's because you might not be able to read about him or see him on TV without the Lasik surgery he's so



Best Lasik Surgeon
- Dr. Kerry Solomon

well-known for. It offers freedom from eyeglasses or contacts while promising better vision all around.

Second – Dr. David Vroman

Third – Dr. George O. Waring IV

BEST OB/GYN

Remember in those old movies when fathers-to-be paced nervously outside the room where their baby was being born? Our readers think that if **Dr. Bridget Williamson** had been their OB/GYN, they would've been relaxing in a chair instead. That's how good she is.

Second – Dr. Karen Hallmark

Third – Dr. Delinda Terry

BEST ORAL SURGEON

What can you say about an oral surgeon whose name sounds as if it would be more at home on a movie marquee than on a dental school sheepskin? Well, for one thing, you might say he's likely the best at what he does. That's what our readers think about **Dr. Courtney Shelbourne**.



Best Oral Surgeon
- Dr. Courtney Shelbourne

Second – Dr. Matthew Barefoot

Third – Dr. Philip Prickett

BEST ORTHODONTIST

In Mount Pleasant, when it comes to helping patients achieve and maintain a beautiful, healthy smile, **Dr. Travis Nash** is your man. Plus, if you want to take a field trip, you can visit his



Best Orthodontist
- Dr. Travis Nash

James Island office, too.

Second – Dr. Jed Kelley

Third – Dr. Roberta Gardner

BEST ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

Have you been lying around in bed, unable to extend your limbs to the floor? Call up **Dr. John Graham Jr.**, our readers' pick for Best Orthopedic Surgeon. You'll be back to tap dancing in no time.

Second – Dr. Billy Estes

Third – Dr. William Carroll

BEST PEDIATRICIAN

When your kid doesn't feel well, he or she will let you know. And when you need a doctor, our readers are there to let you know to call **Coastal Pediatric Associates**.



They'll get your child off the couch and back to school so you can turn off Nick Jr. and watch your soaps in peace.

Second – Mount Pleasant Pediatrics

Third – Parkwood Pediatric Group

BEST PHYSICAL THERAPIST

If you find yourself struggling to do the Hokey Pokey properly lately, our readers suggest a visit to **Imagine Physical Therapy**. They'll have you back to moving and grooving soon enough, and you won't have to embarrass yourself at any more dances.

Second – Rehabilitation Centers of Charleston

Third – Atlas Physical Therapy



BEST PLASTIC SURGEON

Breast surgery, body contouring, facial rejuvenation, Botox, chemical peels, weight loss and more.

When it comes to accentuating your curves, enhancing your figure and providing a more youthful appearance, **Dr. Jack Hensel** at Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center does it all. Their special bridal packages will have you looking "picture perfect" on your wedding day.

Second – Dr. Thomas Funcik

Third – Dr. Patrick O'Neill



BEST URGENT CARE

Health First has four Lowcountry locations, but the one at Highway 17 and Route 41 is the one our readers like the most. Inspiration for the mini-chain that offers primary, urgent, emergent and pediatric care came from a sermon at Seacoast Church. Take two aspirin and say amen to that!

Second – Doctors Care

Third – MUSC



BEST PRIMARY CARE DOCTOR

Sore throat? Stomach ache? Or feeling fit as a fiddle but in need of a checkup? For all of the above (or something else), our readers voted **Dr. John Knepper** as the primary care doctor to call. He'll make it all better.

Second – Dr. Lee Allison

Third – Dr. John Rowe

BEST UROLOGIST

One patient said, "Love, love this doctor! Personable, caring, knowledgeable. Excellent bedside manner." Another said, "I will be referring him to my family and friends." You just can't buy recommendations like these. That's why **Dr. Alan Fogle** is rated tops in town.

Second – Dr. Dennis Kubinski

Third – Dr. David W. Brandi

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BEST WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

We're fortunate to have abundant choices for food and drinks in East Cooper. And when we've overindulged, we're lucky to have **Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa**, according to our readers. Their weight loss program will get us back in our skinny jeans just in time to go out again.

Second – Weight Watchers

Third – Metabolic Medical Center

BEST YOGA STUDIO

If you saved all the drama for your mama and now both of you are totally stressed out, sign up for a mother-daughter session at **Bikram Yoga**. And next time, spare your poor mother those details. That's what husbands are for.

Second – Charleston Power Yoga

Third – Gaea



Entertainment and Leisure

BEST ANNUAL EVENT

In most parts of the world, the post-holiday slump in January is very real, and no one looks forward to that time of year. But not in Mount Pleasant, where our cheerful readers get ready to suck and slurp at the beloved **Lowcountry Oyster Roast**. The fun never ends around here!

Second – Blessing of the Fleet

Third – The Mac Off

BEST APARTMENT COMMUNITY

If a one- or two-bedroom apartment meets your needs and you want a new home in a golf-side development with plenty of amenities, **Thickett Apartments** is calling out to you. In addition to outstanding design,

this community offers a fitness center and a swimming pool, and pets are welcome.

Second – Belle Hall Apartments

Third – The Boulevard

BEST PLACE TO PUT YOUR BOAT IN THE WATER

There's no wrong place to put your boat in the water, but **Shem Creek**, according to our readers, is the right place. You're bound to run into friends, soak up plenty of ambience and maybe enjoy some bird sighting before you even get on board.

Second – Remley's Point

Third – Sullivan's Island

BEST CONCERT VENUE

Our readers say there's no better place to enjoy performances by some of the most popular acts in the world than at what was once known as the **Family Circle Cup Tennis Center**. Its name has changed to Volvo Cars Stadium, but fortunately, the quality of a good time to be had won't change.

Second – Boone Hall Plantation

Third – Awendaw Green

BEST CUSTOM BUILDER

Emerald/D.R. Horton has always promised affordable new homes built with unmatched efficiencies and uncompromising quality. The proof of that pudding – or, in our case, those grits – is on view at Mount Pleasant's newest residential community, Oyster Point, which offers "a unique opportunity to live near the last remaining Civil War fortification" in the Lowcountry.

Second – David Weekley Homes

Third – Structures

BEST KIDS ACTIVITY

Kids are known for making boxes into playhouses and mud into cake batter – but even kids need a structured activity sometimes. When that happens, head to **Blackbeard's Cove Family Fun Park**. Our readers think you'll have a good time, too, without any mud involved.

Second – Sky Zone

Third – Boone Hall Events

BEST MOVIE THEATER

Hats off, literally, to a great place to enjoy really good food and equally outstanding films. Better yet, raise a toast to **Cinebarre**, whose name hints at this venue's full-service bar! Food, drink, fine entertainment – all that's missing is plenty of parking. Oh yeah, it has that, too.

Second – Palmetto Grande

Third – Mount Pleasant Waterfront Park pier



BEST NEIGHBORHOOD FOR FAMILIES

A good part of Park West's appeal is a "village" quality. There's a swim and tennis club, all manner of recreational opportunities, restaurants, shops and schools within its landscaped confines. This community boasts that you could live your life happily without ever traveling on nearby Route 17. Unless, of course, you want to go anywhere else.

Second – Oyster Point
Third – The Old Village



to make anyone's golden years shimmer! No shucking required!
Second – Dunes West
Third – Park West

BEST PLACE TO FISH

Where are the fish biting? We aren't sure we can tell you. But we can tell you that our readers voted **Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park** as the best spot to cast a line. It's the kind of place where even if you don't catch anything but a sunset, you'll go home satisfied.

Second – Pitt Street Bridge
Third – Shem Creek



BEST NEIGHBORHOOD FOR RETIREES

No bivalve represents the Lowcountry better than the noble oyster, so retirees should be "shellfish" and snap up the homes at **Oyster Point**, a community with the affordable prices and excellent amenities

BEST PLACE TO FLY A KITE

If someone calls you "flighty," or says "your head is in

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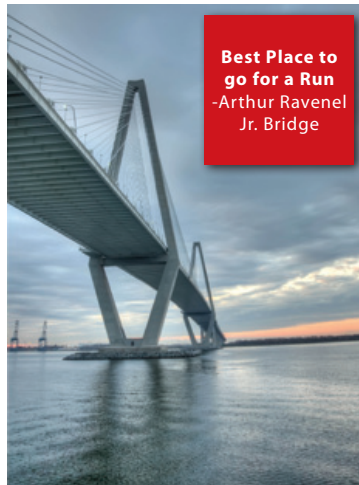
the clouds," it can only mean one thing – you're ready to head to **Sullivan's Island** along with the rest of our readers, launch a colorful kite into the sky and watch it soar.

- Second – Isle of Palms*
- Third – Alhambra Hall*

BEST PLACE TO GO FOR A RUN

Let's say your car breaks down, your niece permanently borrows your skateboard and you have no other means of transportation except your two feet. Well, our readers suggest preparing for such scenarios with regular sprints across the **Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge**. It'll keep that God-given vehicle in shape!

- Second – Old Village*
- Third – Sullivan's Island*



BEST PLACE FOR A CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Fun, fitness and flying through the air are what **Sky Zone** is built on. Is this place great for kids? One guest observed unsolicited, "I felt my 5-year-old was safe because the staff kept an eye out to ensure the older, larger kids didn't get too close."

- Second – Blackbeard's Cove*
- Third – Teacups and Trucks*



BEST PLACE TO HAVE A PICNIC

We won't judge you based on whether your picnic basket contains fresh baguettes, organic grapes and brie – or just a couple of sandwiches slapped with bologna and American cheese slices. We'll just tell you that our readers say **Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park** is the best place to dine in open air.

- Second – Palmetto Island County Park*
- Third – Pitt Street Bridge Park*

BEST PLACE TO MEET SINGLES

Charleston Wine Pairings offers singles opportunities to meet like-minded men and women in safe, fun environments that promote romance! If you think you're falling for a potential partner who complains that the sommelier isn't offering Ripple, you'll know it's time to move on.

- Second - SOL Southwest Kitchen + Tequila Bar*
- Third – Red's Icehouse/The Shelter (tie)*

BEST PLACE TO PADDLE BOARD

Paddle boarding is a hot trend that has caught on well in the Lowcountry, and those who want to be on trend can visit **Nature Adventure Outfitters** on



Shem Creek for professional paddle boarding guidance. You'll be using hip lingo like "SUP" in no time."

- Second – Ocean Fitness/Odyssey Board Shop/SUP (tie)*

BEST PLACE TO GOLF

This Arthur Hills-designed, 6,871-yard par 72 layout has garnered top marks from *Golf* magazine, *Golf Digest*, *Golfweek* and now *Mount Pleasant Magazine* voters.

Dunes West's magnificent course never plays the same way twice, and its marshes, creeks and bunkers present challenges to novices and pros alike.

- Second – Patriots Point Links*
- Third – Charleston National Golf Club/Wild Dunes Resort (tie)*



BEST PLACE TO PLAY TENNIS

With 10 lighted, meticulously maintained courts and programs including private lessons, group lessons and league play, **The Tennis Center at Dunes West** provides great play for kids and adults at all skill levels. Find out how to release your inner Djokovic or



Williams. Either Williams!

Second – Family Circle Tennis Center

Third – Live To Play Tennis Club

BEST PLACE TO RIDE A BIKE

Here's a riddle. What involves two wheels, a seat, handlebars, terrific views, fresh air and friendly neighbors? A bike ride through the **Old Village of Mount Pleasant**, which our readers voted as the best place to shout "Look Ma! No hands!" Just remember your helmets.

Second – Isle of Palms

Third – Palmetto Islands County Park



Best Place to Ride a Bike
- Old Village of Mount Pleasant

BEST PLACE TO WATCH SPORTS ON TV

If your favorite TV channel is PBS, and your favorite food is white truffles, this high decibel eatery is not for you. If you love beer, wings, great bar food and rooting for your favorite teams on TVs both indoors and out, well, pull up a chair and cheer at **Wild Wing Café**.

Second – King Street Grille

Third – Big Game Bar & Grill

BEST PLACE TO WALK YOUR DOG

Dog walking is an underrated art form. It requires being friendly to other owners, courteously picking up poop with a plastic bag and not letting your dog run amok. And walking your dog on the **Isle of Palms**, according to our readers, will make you feel like you're inside a work of art for sure.

Second – Palmetto Islands County Park

Third – Sullivan's Island



Best Place to Walk Your Dog
- Isle of Palms

BEST PLACE TO VIEW THE BRIDGE

The big, famous cities of the world always pride themselves on their beautiful skylines, and the Ravenel Bridge just happens to be the Lowcountry's unique skyline. What better place to admire it than

from our own **Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park**? It's guaranteed to be Instagram-worthy.

Second – Patriots Point

Third – On the bridge



Best Place to View the Bridge
- Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park

BEST PLAYGROUND

The kids will be more than happy to turn your living room into a playground – but why let them do that, when a perfectly good one exists at **Mount Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park**? Then they can leap over something besides your coffee table and swing from something other than your chandelier!

Second – Alhambra Hall

Third – Palmetto Islands County Park

BEST PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS

The beach is a luxury all its own, but when you want that luxury to include clean restrooms, picnic tables, swings and a parking lot, our readers strongly suggest a day at the **Isle of Palms County Park**.

Second – Isle of Palms Front Beach

Third – Station 22 at Sullivan's Island



Best Public Beach Access
- Isle of Palms County Park

BEST VOLUME BUILDER

D.R. Horton homes are everywhere in Mount Pleasant, from RiverTowne to Park West and from Tidal Walk to Oyster Point. This quality builder offers three-bedroom to five-bedroom homes geared to meet just about every buyer's needs!

Second – David Weekley Homes

Third – Lennar Homes



The View From The Top

Our 2016 Winners Speak Out

NOW THAT YOU'VE READ through the results in the 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant – and hopefully enjoyed a chuckle or two – you might be curious about what, precisely, makes those folks good enough to be voted “best” by East Cooper residents – unless, of course, you voted for them yourself. Whether we're talking about a restaurant, a dentist or a liquor store, it's useful to know the business' philosophy and learn a thing or two about what goes into being a winner.

In the following special section, many of the winners will present their success stories. You will

find several of this year's first, second and third place winners and read their special business profiles, all tailored to discuss why they were chosen as the best.

The 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant is a special publication to be enjoyed all year long. At the rate that Mount Pleasant and the surrounding islands are growing, we're certain that newcomers and visitors will find this information useful, so be sure to pass this along to a friend.

On behalf of everyone at *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, thanks for being part of the 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant. It has been an astounding success, and we can't wait for next year.

Automotive Excellence

by Johnny Page



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The Best is Yet to Come Palmetto Christian Academy

SINCE 1992, PALMETTO CHRISTIAN Academy has been shaping the lives of students through Christ-centered learning. What started with a few families trying to establish an ideal education for their children has blossomed into a school that is consistently voted “the best” in Mount Pleasant.

One man who has played a vital role in PCA’s success is Dr. John Graham. As a parent invested in the school since its early years, Graham has seen the progressive growth of the institution and is spearheading a new project sure to add another dimension to PCA’s vibrant academic environment. Plans for a brand new Student Life Center are underway and will soon mark another milestone in PCA’s rich history. “Our Student Life Center will be a state-of-the-art, multi-use facility. This will include a full-sized gym for sports events,” said Graham. “We will have new classrooms dedicated to science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses in one wing, with another wing devoted to spiritual life classes and fellowship. On our campus, we will have a refitted area for performing arts and arts education.”

Whether students desire to shoot hoops with a winning team or star in the school play, they now will have a new home in which to do it. This exciting facilities expansion corresponds with PCA’s 25th anniversary. As the school honors those who have built a foundation of seeking excellence in all things, the Student Life Center will serve the next generation, building on a tradition of spiritual, academic, athletic and artistic excellence.

“PCA is a covenant school, in that we assist Christian parents in the education process,” said Graham. “Our family joined the effort in 1995, just before our daughter started

kindergarten. She was a member of the inaugural PCA graduating class in 2009 and has returned to PCA in order to realize her dream of teaching.”

The fact that Graham’s daughter returned to work at the very school she graduated from is a testament to PCA’s tightknit community and its ultimate goal of helping future generations achieve greatness. Built on lifelong learning and unity, PCA strives to have a lasting impact that exceeds far past a student’s graduation. Faculty members become true mentors, instilling priceless wisdom and always providing an attentive ear.

While spiritual development is a huge aspect of life at PCA, the extracurricular activities and outstanding

academics are equally important. Wanting to craft an experience that caters to each child individually, PCA offers an array of sports and artistic projects for students to pursue. The Student Life Center will no doubt spark more engagement and bring about new ways in which students can express themselves and reach their full potential.

“As our culture becomes increasingly challenging and relativism is the norm,

educational choice becomes critical,” said Graham. “Our academics, athletics, fine arts programs and our achievement scores are competitive.”

From humble beginnings with a modest enrollment of 25 students to a now thriving population stretching just beyond 600, PCA is proof that all things are possible with faith.

“The Lord has surely shown favor on our school,” said Graham. “We desire to honor Him as we continue to grow our school to instruct our children and develop leaders for the next generation.”

To learn more, visit www.palmettochristianacademy.org or call 843-881-9967.



Photo courtesy of Palmetto Christian Academy.

Built on lifelong learning and unity, PCA strives to have a lasting impact that exceeds far past a student’s graduation.

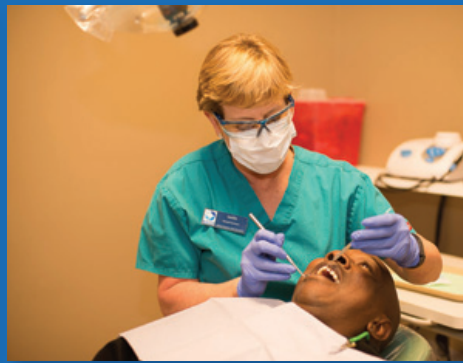
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2015 COMMUNITY IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **\$721,690** is the value of dentistry provided last year, at no cost to the community
- **20,000** hours of service dedicated by our loyal volunteers
- **3,132** visits to the free clothing store
- **538** patient appointments at ECCO's Partners in HealthCare Medical clinic
- **369** families received food each month on average
- **250** active volunteers helped to advance our mission
- **26** years of serving the community
- **11** clients received an IDA saving match to start a business, buy a home, or pursue secondary education



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Seeing the Best in Everyone

East Cooper Community Outreach

EMPOWERMENT IS THE name of the game at East Cooper Community Outreach, not only for the folks who receive aid, but also for the volunteers. In the last year, the local nonprofit – more often known as ECCO – has been quite busy empowering others. And, according to Executive Director Jack Little, they don't plan on stopping any time soon.

BY DENISE K. JAMES More projects should bring big things in 2016, and the staff at ECCO

is looking forward to impacting more people than ever.

ECCO has opened a new location in Huger. The new campus is a great example of the good things going on, with members of the surrounding community pitching in to make the facility shine.

“Monsignor James Carter from Christ Our King, Rev. Dr. Stephen Love and Matt Sloan of The Daniel Island Company wanted to open a new campus in Huger,” Little pointed out. “Knowing the community, Rev. Love discovered a building. We met for a year-and-a-half with the community’s leadership to find out what their interests and needs were. We wanted them to invite us into the community.”

The new campus, known as the Baldwin Carson Center, is offering resources the residents asked for, including medical and dental clinics, cooking classes, home repair, education and job readiness.

Still, the winner of the Best Nonprofit category in the Best of Mount Pleasant competition hasn't dealt only in new projects lately. Little pointed out that mainstays of the organization, such as the savings matching program, are still turning lives around.

“We match someone’s savings if the money is going to higher education, housing or starting a business,” Little explained. “We had three matches in 2015 – one high school graduate from McClellanville is attending Methodist University in Fayetteville, and the other two started businesses.”

Last year’s flood victims received help, too, thanks to steadfast ECCO volunteers and donors. Items such as bedding and cleaning materials were distributed in Mount Pleasant, Huger, Awendaw and McClellanville. Collaborative partnerships were made to pay for roof and

ceiling repairs with Seacoast Church, United Way and The Salvation Army.

“I am so blessed to work with such a talented and compassionate staff and an active board. They always rise to the occasion when troubles arise,” Little said.

Another of Little’s goals for 2016 – and a shared goal for the organization – is to

investigate how at-risk teens can take their futures seriously and continue their education.

With that in mind, ECCO recently began another program at Lincoln High School in McClellanville. The program helps seniors who have no plans for further education. ECCO’s case manager of education, Sheila Russell, addresses topics like budgeting, personal taxes and other life skills.

“She also took the students on field trips to visit job sites,” Little pointed out. “The spring class had nine students with no future plans. Now all of them are going to either a technical school or college. We will teach the class again in the spring.”

To learn more, visit www.eccocharleston.org or call 843-849-9220.



Photo courtesy of ECCO.

Cooking classes are offered at the Baldwin Carson Center campus.

LADIES, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THIS YEAR'S BEAUTY GOALS?

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Your Best You Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa

BUSINESS SUCCESS DOESN'T come easy, though the team at Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa has certainly made it look that way. Michele Hensel, owner of Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa, is a walking testimonial, and her patients respond to that.

"We opened in 2010 after Dr. Hensel, myself and four other people did the hCG weight loss program for ourselves.

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

Between the six of us, we lost over 150 pounds. Our patients kept

asking what we did to lose the weight in such a short amount of time. We finally decided that we wanted to be able to help our patients reach their weight loss goals, so we started teaching the hCG program in our office and had so many happy patients that we continued to expand the hCG and other services."

Patients are indeed happy, and the success of Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa continues to grow through word of mouth. For the second year in a row, it was voted the Best Weight Loss Program by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.

"All of our patients can expect great care and amazing guidance to help them meet their weight-loss goals," said Hensel. "The success that our patients experience from the services we offer has led to referrals to their friends and family."

The staff at Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa is careful when treating new patients because they really do care about what is best for each individual patient.

"We always want to make sure we are considering each individual's needs and choosing the right procedure or plan

for them," explained Hensel. "We don't want to just 'sell' a service. We want to make sure we are making the right choices for each individual."

Patients often report that Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa go over and above to create pleasant patient experiences. "We don't just bring our patients into the office, sell them a package and send them on their way. We follow them every step of the way to make sure they get the most of their weight-loss program. We hold our patients accountable and offer them a plan that is designed for each individual's needs," said Hensel.

The professional staff at Lowcountry Beauty and

Wellness Spa includes three medical aestheticians, two nurse injectors, a weight loss consultant, a medical assistant and a phenomenal ancillary staff, all working together with one goal in mind: patient satisfaction.

Hensel and her staff work hard to stay ahead of the technology curve and have recently introduced a very successful new plan.

The 10-Day Reset boosts

patients' metabolism to help them look and feel their best.

"We would like to thank all our patients for trusting in us to help them meet their weight-loss goals. We really appreciate your business and all of the referrals over the years. We look forward to helping our patients continue to meet their weight-loss goals, not only taking off the weight but helping with the maintenance of the newly acquired you," Hensel said. 🍷



Photo by Jenn Cady.

Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa is located at 1205 Two Island Court in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.lowcountryplasticsurgery.com or call 843-971-2860.



What's the right age to see a primary care doctor? Yours.

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A Significant Impression on the Market – and Voters

The Caleb Pearson Team

ONLY A FEW YEARS AFTER he opened the Mount Pleasant RE/MAX/Alliance office, Caleb Pearson has made a significant impression on the Charleston area real estate market.

He and the Caleb Pearson Team earned “Best of Mount Pleasant” honors in two categories: best individual agent and best real estate team. In addition, Pearson has the number one producing RE/MAX

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

team in Charleston and the number three RE/MAX team in the Carolinas region. They also have received national recognition – they are one of the top producing teams in the country.

The company handles home purchases, home sales and vacant land sales. Caleb Pearson, Clay Pearson, Justin Teachey, Brandon Bott, Matt Alderman, Chris Street, Amanda Perry, Jonathan Hoff, Justin Batt, Pamela Lazarus, Chelynne Crowell and Alexis Webb make up the Caleb Pearson Team.

“I graduated in 2011 with a business degree and had a job lined up in Raleigh,” Pearson explained. “The job didn’t start until the fall, so I decided to move to Charleston for a few months. I met a woman, Betty Gales, who was successful in real estate. She took me under her wing and mentored me, along with her partners, Robert Jeter and Hank Johnson. From there things started to really take off.”

Pearson called the culture at his agency “unbelievable,” adding, “We all absolutely love what we do. The personalities on our team are tough to beat. Each person on our team goes

above and beyond for the client. Our main focus is to treat everyone as though they are our only client.”

Real estate is not about a commission check to Pearson. Instead, he wants to do what is best for his clients, sometimes even advising them to rent a home or wait for the market to improve.

“I would love to have the sale, but they will come back to me down the road when the timing and the market are right. I also find myself turning down listings if the client has unrealistic expectations. It is not fair to the client to take a listing when they believe the house is worth more than it actually is.”

Pearson believes he has become more of an educator than a salesman over the past few years. His goal is to make sure his clients understand what it takes for a home to sell for top dollar.

“It is not my job to sell the client on using me as their Realtor. It is my job to educate them and guide them along

the process. It is ultimately their choice on where to price the home.”

Pearson believes Mount Pleasant is the best area in Charleston for him to do business.

“The school systems are great, the real estate market is booming, the people are phenomenal and everything is right at the tip of your fingers – beaches, restaurants, shopping.”

As for receiving recognition as one of Mount Pleasant’s “Bests” Pearson said, “It is extremely humbling. It is a team effort though. A lot of hard work, long hours and growing pains have gone into our growth.”

To learn more about the Caleb Pearson team, visit www.viewcharlestonareahomes.com or call 843-566-5251.



Photo courtesy of the Caleb Pearson Team.



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JIM CLARK, OWNER OF C & C MYERS Heating & A/C, began his business as an environmental consultant. His job was to discover the source of mold, moisture and other problems and recommend what needed to be done to make life more comfortable for people suffering from the effects of allergens that had invaded their homes and businesses. Unable to provide the customer service he felt his clients deserved, he expanded his company by purchasing one heating and air contractor and then another.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

Today he owns the most reliable heating and air conditioning company in the area, according to the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. In 2010, he bought Myers Heating and Air Conditioning from Tim Myers, who is still his service manager. Three years later, he purchased C & C Heat & Air, a 38-year-old company with roots in East Cooper.

“The owner wanted to hand over his customers to someone with integrity, someone who would take care of them,” Clark explained.

Clark and his 48 employees have changed the heating and air conditioning industry in the tri-county area.

When he started his first company, Environmental Solutions and Service, he was tasked with “finding out what was making people sick in homes and businesses.”

“We were getting referrals from ENT doctors,” he said. “But when we found what the problems were and we asked local mechanical contractors to help, the common response ‘We’ve never done it that way.’”

A board-certified indoor environmental consultant who studied mechanical engineering at North Carolina State University, Clark and his staff can now find the problems that cause sneezing, coughing and other medical issues and fix them as well.

“We test; we don’t guess. C & C Myers uses state-of-the-

art high-tech equipment to test the home, solve problems and offer real solutions with guaranteed results,” he said.

“It gets down to trust. We guarantee the solution. If it doesn’t work, we’ll give you your money back,” Clark stated. “It is our goal to make every customer happy, and we go the extra mile to make that happen.”

Top-notch customer service and knowledge of heating, air conditioning and building principles are important aspects of C & C Myers’ success in the tri-county area, but employees and their education also are vital to the company’s continued growth.

“We are huge into training,” Clark explained. “We have internal training twice a week. Tuesday is mechanical. I do the training on Thursday, everything from building science principles to leadership and how to handle your finances.”

“If I can help an employee be a better person, he or she is going to serve the community in a whole new way,” he added. “If employees are educated, appreciated and well-paid, they’re going to deliver ‘wow’ service.”

Speaking of serving the community, C & C Myers does its

share to support its friends and neighbors. For example, following this year’s heavy rains, the company donated \$100 of every flood victim’s system or duct replacement to the Trident Flood Recovery Fund.

C & C Myers Heating & A/C, the only company of its kind in the tri-county area with an environmental consultant and an engineer on staff, has been recognized by groups other than the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. This year, the company was cited by Inc. as one of the fastest-growing companies in the country, and Bryant Heating and Cooling Systems presented Myers with its Medal of Excellence for customer satisfaction and sales for finishing in the top five in the country. 🏆

To learn more, visit www.myersforac.com or call 881-7588.



Photo courtesy of C & C Myers Heating & A/C

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The Best Dose of Confidence

Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center

THE EXPERTS AT LOWCOUNTRY Plastic Surgery Center, a 5,000-square-foot facility in Mount Pleasant, have established a stellar reputation since opening their doors in 2001. Led by Dr. Jack Hensel Jr., the practice offers a full range of plastic surgery services, both reconstructive and cosmetic.

The readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* certainly recognize Dr. Hensel's expertise – they chose him as the area's Best Plastic Surgeon.

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

Originally from the Kansas City area, Dr. Hensel earned his medical degree at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed general surgery training in Charleston and in Akron, Ohio.

In December 2000, he finished plastic surgery training under a fellowship with Nashville Plastic Surgery under internationally renowned surgeons Dr. G. Patrick Marshall, Dr. Jack Fisher and Dr. Mary Gingrass.

Leaving Nashville, Dr. Hensel made Charleston his home and opened Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center. His goal is to enhance his patients' self-confidence.

"I want my patients to feel better about themselves," said Dr. Hensel. "I appreciate our patients for trusting in us and letting us be a part of their goals."

When asked why patients have responded so positively to him as a surgeon, Dr. Hensel replied, "I am just a normal guy with a great bedside manner and surgical skill. I never put myself on a pedestal, and I listen to my

patients and understand their needs."

Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center offers many procedures, the most popular including body sculpting and facial procedures. The center also has the largest coolsculpting facility in South Carolina and Georgia.

"We do a lot of breast augmentations, SmartLipo, skin tightening procedures and tummy tucks," he explained. "We also do a lot of eyelid procedures and facial skin tightening."

"We always seek out the newest, latest and greatest in technology. We seek to educate ourselves to make sure we are offering the best in invasive and noninvasive technology," Dr. Hensel added.

The highly-trained, motivated team at Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center love to help patients look and feel their best. Recently, the Center introduced "The Manor" which provides an environment geared exclusively toward men. Procedures include body sculpting, hair removal, tattoo removal,

male breast reduction and skin treatments.

"Over the last 10 years, services for men have grown exponentially. We have watched this trend in our office and decided to build a nice, manly environment that men could feel comfortable being a part of. Our men love to come in, hang out in their own space and get the services that they deserve to help them look and feel their best," said Dr. Hensel. 🍷



Photo of The Manor by Jenn Cady.

Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center is located at 1205 Two Island Court in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.LowcountryPlasticSurgery.com or call 843-971-2860.

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The Best Patient Experience

Pleasant Family Dentistry

THE SUCCESS PLEASANT FAMILY Dentistry has experienced since its opening in 1989 just keeps adding up. For instance, the practice once again has been voted as Best Dentist by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.

To be at the top when there are so many options from which to choose comes down to a few simple ideas that Pleasant Family Dentistry does well: state-of-the-art technology and a knack for knowing how to maximize the practice's full potential. However, what really sets them apart, they said, is a no-brainer: Put the patient first – always.

“We are constantly looking for ways to grow in order to improve the patient experience,” said Dr. Rick Jackowski.

This past year, the team at Pleasant Family Dentistry has grown with the hiring of another associate, Dr. Lauren Callison.

“Dr. Callison has been a wonderful addition to the team. Her patients love her compassionate personality and passion for her work. She fits perfectly with our PFD family,” said Dr. Greg Johnson.

“I could not be happier with my decision to join Pleasant Family Dentistry. Our patients are fantastic, and the team has welcomed me with open arms,” said Dr. Callison.

In addition to expanding its team, Pleasant Family Dentistry also has expanded its hours to better serve its patients. Because they now stay open until 7 p.m. during the week and until 5 p.m. on Saturday, patients can

schedule an appointment when it is most convenient for them rather than waiting for a time that suits the dentist.

“We want to be open when our patients need us, and we don't want them to have to further complicate their schedule to get here,” said Dr. Jackowski.

In addition, Pleasant Family Dentistry is now offering IV sedation so patients are unconscious for their procedures. This

is especially appealing for those who are nervous or just want to complete complicated or lengthy procedures in one visit.

“I am thrilled to be able to offer our patients the option of IV sedation,” explained Dr. Rob Carimi. “We are now better able to serve our patients who have anxiety or busy schedules. It has allowed many people to complete treatment in one visit that would previously take two or three visits.”

The future looks promising for Pleasant Family Dentistry, which will be breaking ground in 2016 on a building expansion, adding six new operatories, including two surgical suites, and a call center. These improvements are aimed at enhancing the patient experience.

Pleasant Family Dentistry offers a multitude of services, including same-day CEREC crowns, implants and teeth whitening.

“It's great to be recognized for doing what you love to do,” said Dr. Jackowski. “Our patients inspire us to excel every day, and for that we say, ‘Thank you.’”

To learn more, visit Pleasant Family Dentistry at 1204 Two Island Court or online at www.pleasantfamilydentistry.com. Call 843-654-4679 to schedule an appointment.



Photo courtesy of Pleasant Family Dentistry.

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

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Tried-and-True The Mortgage Network

WES SELLEW, BRANCH manager at Mortgage Network, Inc. in Mount Pleasant, employs a tried-and-true formula for doing business.

“I treat everyone equally and always make certain I establish the correct expectations. When interviewing a client, I take into account not only what their needs are right now but also what they could be in the future,” he explained. “Once I have a grasp on their needs, I can effectively formulate a mortgage plan that is custom suited to their requests and lifestyle.”

He also stays in touch with each client, calling to schedule an annual mortgage review or just to say hello and ask about their family.

“For me, each of my clients is not just another job to be completed and then forgotten,” he said.

It is no wonder that Sellew’s business was chosen by readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* as the best place to obtain a mortgage.

“To me, ‘Best Of’ means someone who is selected for an honor due to the unique and exemplary methods they employ to offer only the best of everything to the people who are in need of assistance,” he commented. “As this town is my home, it is a tremendous reward to know that the work we are doing here is so greatly appreciated by so many of my neighbors.”

Sellew began working for the Hilton Head branch of the Mortgage Network during the final semester of his senior year at Wofford College. In the brief time he was there, he gained insight into the mortgage industry and realized he had found his vocation. After graduation, he was offered a position at the company’s headquarters. During the six months he spent in Boston,

his understanding of the intricacies of the mortgage world were greatly enhanced. He gained experience and insight, in turn becoming more efficient in his job.

Sellew left Boston to become a mortgage banker in Hilton Head, where he remained for the next three years. He moved to Mount Pleasant to manage the Mortgage Network office in 2005.

“In the 10 years I have lived and worked in Mount Pleasant, I have been privileged to meet and assist many wonderful people. That has been my desire since that first position I held while in college, and I look forward to seeing this continue for many years,” he remarked.

Sellew believes communication is key in his line of work.

“The amount of parties involved in one transaction, all of whom depend on my services, can seem overwhelming. The only way to make certain a transaction flows smoothly and without complication is to keep everyone involved and updated on the status of the transaction so we are all on the same page. I still find myself learning something new every day. This always reminds me to be better, so that I can provide my absolute best for those looking to me for guidance.”

Sellew said Mount Pleasant is a great place to work and live and has one of the strongest real estate markets in the area.

“Most importantly, my job allows me to meet my new neighbors on a daily basis. I believe it will always be a wonderful place to live and work because of the great culture we have – the history, dining, beaches and schools. All of it comes together to form a diverse place that I love to call home,” he said.

The Mortgage Network is located at 321 Wingo Way in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.wessellew.com or call 843-388-1772 or 843-368-2124.



Photo by Rick Waldo.

Wes Sellew believes communication is key in his line of work.

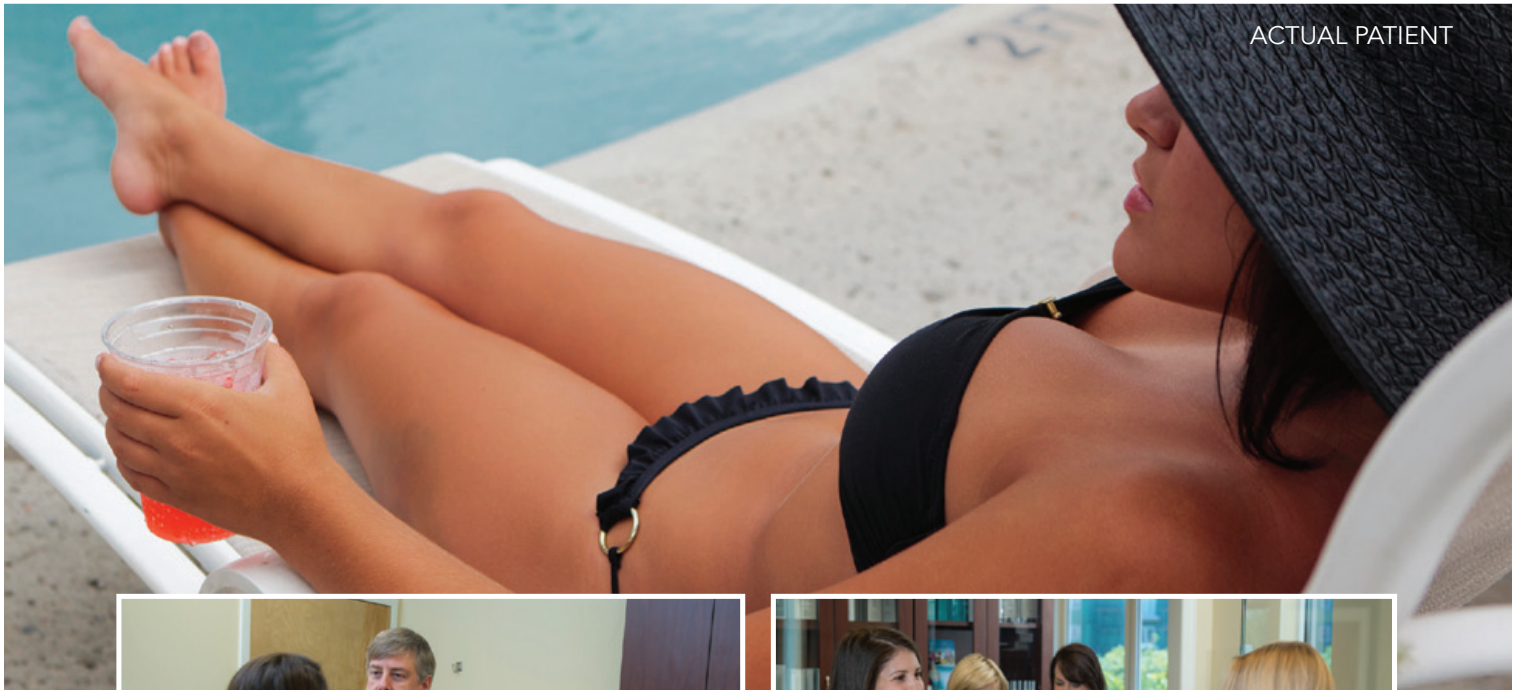
BY JOHN TORSIELLO



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ACCORDING TO DR. PATRICK O'Neill, the opportunity to use an artistic touch is one of the greatest things about his profession as one of East Cooper's best plastic surgeons. "I love the artistic challenges that come with being a plastic and reconstructive surgeon," he acknowledged. "Whether we have a cosmetic or reconstructive procedure, the most gratifying part of my work is making patients feel better about themselves."

He doesn't do it alone – Dr. O'Neill described his office staff as being trained, dedicated and hardworking employees who do an incredible job.

"We all work together to create the best possible experience," he mused. "I would not be successful without them."

A proponent of patient education, Dr. O'Neill emphasized the importance of potential patients learning more about plastic surgery before experiencing any procedure.

"Not knowing the facts can hurt not just your appearance but your health and budget," he commented. "It's important to ask a lot of questions, stay well-informed and make sure the physician you select is board-certified."

After earning his degree at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, Dr. O'Neill enhanced his education and experience with nine years of additional training. He completed a full general surgery and a plastic surgery residency, both at the Medical University of South Carolina, and a hand and microsurgery fellowship at the Christine M. Kleinert Institute for Hand and Microsurgery in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. O'Neill was an attending surgeon at the Medical University of South Carolina, starting in 2000, and he continues to work and teach at MUSC as a clinical

associate professor of surgery, helping future plastic surgeons refine their skills. He opened his own practice, O'Neill Plastic Surgery, to meet the unique cosmetic needs of Lowcountry residents.

Now conveniently located on Daniel Island and serving residents of Mount Pleasant and the surrounding areas, O'Neill Plastic Surgery offers a number of surgical techniques, including cosmetic procedures such as

liposuction, tummy tucks and breast enhancement plus cosmetic procedures such as face, brow and neck lifts. Nonsurgical procedures – laser resurfacing, Botox and fillers – are also available.

And how did Dr. O'Neill feel about the news that the readers of Mount Pleasant Magazine cited him as one of East Cooper's best plastic surgeons for 2016?

"I am humbled and honored to be voted as one of the best," he said. "It is even more rewarding since the voters are my patients, family, friends and the community. I hope it is a reflection of how dedicated my office staff and I are to patient care."

Meanwhile, Dr. O'Neill's patients explain best why *Mount Pleasant*

Magazine readers rated him among the best:

"I wanted to express my gratitude and thank you for taking such good care of me during the process, as well as after the procedure. I truly appreciate it."

"I have had such a wonderful experience with Dr. O'Neill and his amazing staff. Everyone is so friendly and makes you feel so comfortable and confident with the decision you make."

"Thank you all for everything. You didn't treat me like a patient; you treated me like family. You made me feel pretty!"

To learn more, visit www.oneillplasticsurgery.com or call 843-881-2130.



Photo courtesy of O'Neill Plastic Surgery.

PFLUG | LAW

The Pflug Law Firm, LLC represents county and state agencies, railroad companies, wireless communication companies, buyers, sellers, landlords, tenants, lenders, borrowers, developers, and investors, and serves businesses of all types and sizes.



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Focusing on What They Do Best

The Pflug Law Firm

FIVE YEARS AGO, CHAUN PFLUG, Esq., left his job at one of the largest law firms in South Carolina to open his own practice in a 150 square-foot office in P'On. Since The Pflug Law Firm opened, it has grown to four attorneys and two support staff, a larger Mount Pleasant location and a second location in North Charleston. Most importantly, he has won the trust of his clients and the Mount Pleasant community.

BY ANNE TOOLE

“One year after opening, we bought an office near Shem Creek. Thankfully, there was more space, because business picked up and the firm grew,” Chaun said. “I have represented Palmetto Railways, a division of the South Carolina Department of Commerce, on some major economic development projects, and business has continued to grow.”

Chaun and his wife, Sarah Pflug, Esq., a partner in the firm, met while attending law school in Manhattan. They returned to Sarah’s hometown of Mount Pleasant and have been practicing law in the area for 12 years.

The Pflug Law Firm’s four attorneys each have their own practice within the firm, allowing them to focus on certain areas of law.

“Of course we help each other on client matters, but by focusing on what we each do best, we provide better service for our clients,” Sarah Pflug said.

Chaun Pflug focuses on environmental, commercial real estate and business law, while Sarah Pflug’s forte is residential and commercial real estate transactions. William Kleindienst, Esq., handles employment, business, environmental and real estate matters, while Katherine Dahlheim, Esq., provides criminal defense and also works

on residential and commercial real estate transactions.

The Pflugs are passionate about what they do and find inspiration and fulfillment through their work.

“The projects I work on help create economic and job opportunities,” Chaun Pflug elaborated. “My work impacts the state, and to see my community and my state benefit in many ways from the work I do is tremendously rewarding.”

Sarah Pflug finds that building relationships and connecting with her clients – as well as the lenders and Realtors involved in the closing process – is what drives her.

“Whether I am working with a first-time buyer or a seasoned client, I really enjoy helping people

through the entire process from beginning to end,” she said.

The two agree that exceptional client service is one of the reasons The Pflug Law Firm was chosen as the best by *Mount Pleasant Magazine’s* readers.

“In our profession, client service is as critical as

providing excellent legal services,” Chaun Pflug explained. “We try to make ourselves available as much as possible seven days a week. Our clients have our cell phone numbers and can reach us any time of the day.”

But the Pflugs also give credit to those they work with.

“We are not only thankful for the other attorneys who work with us and our wonderful support staff but also for our clients and the Realtors, lenders and many others in the community we have developed relationships with over the years,” Sarah Pflug said.

Most of all, The Pflug Law Firm credits its clients and the community at large for the success it has found.

“Those are the people who make us who we are, and we are thankful for that,” Chaun Pflug concluded. 🍷

To learn more, visit www.pfluglaw.com or call 843-647-7774.



Photo courtesy of the Pflug Law Firm.

Chaun Pflug and his wife, Sarah Pflug, a partner in the firm, met while attending law school in Manhattan.

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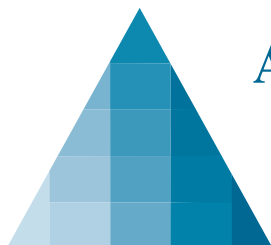
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ADVANCED HEARING CARE isn't concerned about selling hearing aids. Instead, the doctors at the longtime East Cooper business concentrate on developing long-term relationships with their patients and providing "the highest quality hearing health care services in the Lowcountry," according to Audiologist Dr. Mary Anne Larkin.

That, most likely, is the major reason the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* chose **BY BRIAN SHERMAN** Advanced Hearing Care as the Best Audiologist and Best Hearing Aid Provider for 2016.

"It all comes down to taking care of our patients," said Dr. Larkin. "We listen to them, find out what their concerns are and formulate a plan to improve the quality of their life through better hearing."

Advanced Hearing Care, founded by Dr. Larkin in 1993, offers a comprehensive plan that includes much more than simply fitting people with devices that help them hear better. Dr. Larkin pointed out that many of her referrals come from local health care professionals.

"Physicians know we're not going to just sell their patients hearing aids," she commented.

Dr. Larkin earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Purdue University and her doctor of Audiology degree at the University of Florida. She gained valuable experience at a speech and hearing clinic in Florence, South Carolina, and at two ENT offices in Charleston before opening Advanced Hearing Care. Her associate, Dr. Casey Adkins, did her undergraduate work at the University of Kentucky and earned her doctor of Audiology degree at Purdue University.

Neither of them plan to finish learning about hearing any time soon. They both earn 30 to 40 hours of professional continuing education in the field of Audiology each year.

Dr. Larkin has garnered several professional honors, including the national Leo Doerfler Award for excellence

in clinical practice; the Southeast Audiologist of the Year Award; and the Elizabeth P. Wade Memorial Award for dedication to the profession.

Dr. Larkin was quick to point out that she and Dr. Adkins listen to what their patients are saying. Here are just a few testimonials from the people who depend on Advanced Hearing Care to help them hear as clearly as possible:

"The doctors and staff have always been very thorough, caring and generous with their time."

"My life changed the minute I began wearing hearing instruments. I started noticing sounds I had never noticed before, such as the birds singing, cars passing me along the road and the hum of my refrigerator."

"Coming to Advanced Hearing Care was the best decision I have made to improve my hearing health. I saw other audiologists, but Dr. Larkin was the first one that really listened and validated my concerns and then immediately helped me."

These patients and others have come to count on Advanced Hearing Care to maintain their hearing health. According to Dr. Larkin, though, not enough people pay attention to their hearing issues. That's why the

practice offers free hearing screenings for everyone over the age of 50.

"You have your eyes and teeth checked annually; check your ears often as well," Dr. Larkin and Dr. Adkins recommend. "If it's been years – or decades – since you have had your hearing tested, now is the time. Seek the professional advice of an audiologist and find out the status of your hearing. If a change in your hearing is discovered, do something about it. The earlier you receive treatment, the easier it is to keep your ears and brain stimulated and improve your health and quality of life overall." 📞

Advanced Hearing Care is located at 900 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.advhearing.com or, to schedule a free hearing screening, call 843-606-5658.



Photo by Brian Sherman.

Dr. Casey Adkins runs hearing tests on patient Lib Tiller.

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Making Waves in East Cooper

Atkinson Pools and Spas

ATKINSON POOLS AND SPAS has come a long way from its inception in 1984, when Rex and Jenny Atkinson founded the firm as a small pool maintenance company. The couple's business started in a red supply shed, with nothing more than a pickup truck for making calls. Atkinson Pool Company has grown to become the Lowcountry's only full-service swimming pool and spa provider, with more than 40 full-time employees.

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

"Rex started the business 32 years ago," said Josh Atkinson, "and I have had the pleasure of working with both my father and my grandfather (Ralph). We are so pleased to be where we are after starting as a small company."

Josh joined the business over a decade ago and has been building pools full-time since. He pointed out that Atkinson Pools is more than just a swimming pool builder and supply store.

"We service over 500 pools per week, do commercial construction, maintenance and repair, sell hot tubs, repair pools and spas and are the only warranty center for every major manufacturer in town," he explained. "One of our biggest selling points is that we are the only company in town with our last name on the side of the building. That may not mean a lot until it all boils down to reputation, which is everything to us. It's extremely important to us to provide our clients with something that would not only serve them well long-term but also something we would want for our family and friends long-term."

It is this commitment to quality and customer service that played a part in Atkinson Pools being selected as the

best in Mount Pleasant, according to the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.

"We are extremely honored to have been selected as a Best of Mount Pleasant," said Atkinson. "As the longest-standing business of our kind in Mount Pleasant, it's easy to be content with our business day in and day out. We really strive to be the best we can be in our industry, and it's really nice to have that backed up by our own residents."

The company adheres to a simple business philosophy that has served the firm well.

"Respond to your client and do the things you do well the best way you can," said Atkinson, adding that the company's ultimate goal isn't to sell its clients what is easiest or most popular. "It's about providing the best

possible resource and product to them for the long-term health of their investment. Outside of a car or a house, often times a pool will be the largest investment our clients will make in their lifetimes. It's our responsibility to provide them with lasting and durable products and design choices."

Atkinson Pools offers custom-designed swimming pools, HotSpring Spas and a full line of Bioguard products, carrying the "highest-quality products on the market." The staff has more than 200 years of combined experience in the pool and spa industry.

"Mount Pleasant is a great place to do business," Atkinson said. "It has tremendous potential and growth. As a native, I love working in my own town and working with people to make their homes and spaces a better place to live."



Josh Atkinson (center) has had the pleasure of working with both his father and grandfather over the years.

Photo courtesy of Atkinson Pools and Spas.

Atkinson Pools and Spas' showroom is located at 1113 Bowman Road in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.atkinsonpools.com or call 843-881-3068.



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AT ADVANCED ANIMAL CARE, the patients are not just pets – they’re family. And veterinarians Leslie and David Steele and their staff go the extra mile for their four-legged patients.

“We like to offer a level of care only certain people are looking for, but for people whose pets mean a lot to them,” she said. “For some, the animals we see feel like their children.”

For Leslie Steele, becoming a vet was always in the cards. “It’s all I ever thought about since I was 6 years old,” she said.

The Alabama native received her bachelor’s degree in Microbiology before attending Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, where she met her husband, David. They moved to the Lowcountry and opened Advanced Animal Care in 2001. The practice specializes in dogs and cats and offers services including wellness visits, vaccinations, cardiology, oncology, diagnostics and more. Both veterinarians and their team stay up-to-date with the latest techniques in advanced veterinary medicine, including laser therapy.

For surgeries, Steele uses a carbon dioxide laser for routine procedures, which causes less swelling and bleeding and offers a faster recovery time than surgery with a traditional metal scalpel. The practice is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association.

The patients are not the only ones meant to feel like family at Advanced Animal Care, according to Jessica Hecker, a veterinary technician manager who started working at the practice four years ago.

“I immediately fell in love with both the vets here and the way they care about their staff,” she said. “I feel like I have

found my home here at Advanced Animal Care. It’s definitely an amazing environment to work in. It’s very positive.”

The staff consists of three technicians, an office manager, a receptionist and Drs. Leslie and David Steele.

“We’re a tightknit bunch,” said Hecker. “We consider ourselves a small family.”

The positivity of the practice can be seen in the treatment of the patients, according to Hecker and Dr. Leslie Steele.

“We like to develop and enhance the animal/human bond,” said Hecker. “We make sure the animals have a good experience. Some pets are traumatized going to the vet. We are focused on trying to eliminate that fear.”

Veterinarians wear many hats, according to Dr. Leslie



Drs. David and Leslie Steele treat their patients, but they also help pet owners make difficult decisions.

Photo courtesy of Advanced Animal Care.

Steele. While they treat their patients, they also console the pets’ owners and help them make difficult decisions, such as deciding when to let their longtime friend go. Hecker and Dr. David Steele are currently working on the development of a hospice program to assist clients with the terminal palliative care of their pets in a home environment, providing comfort for the animal and support for the owner.

“Of course, the worst part of our job is euthanasia,” said Dr. Leslie Steele. “We know it’s something the owner will remember forever, so we make it as peaceful as possible.”

Since the Steeles want to be sure their employees are doing their best in treating their patients with the respect they deserve, the staff is now undergoing training for low stress handling of pets.

“Instead of holding a dog down, we take it more slowly, work with treats to gain their trust,” she said. “Our goal is for every pet to be happy to walk through the front door.”

Advanced Animal Care is located at 3373 South Morgan’s Point Road in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.advancedanimalcaremp.com or call 843-884-9838.

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Tops for Raising a Toast

Bottles Beverage Superstore

BOTTLES BEVERAGE SUPERSTORE was voted as the best liquor store by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, which is no small feat. Liquor stores dot the landscape no matter where you travel, and yet the people of Mount Pleasant flock to Bottles.

“When we began creating the concept of Bottles in 2010, the owners agreed to never try and fool a customer. Instead, we wanted to offer the best products and prices,” explained

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

George McLaughlin, owner and managing member of Bottles. “We

find the most esoteric products that you can’t find anywhere else and offer them at an affordable price.”

From a large selection of wine to local craft beers and many types of spirits, Bottles utilizes its 15,000-square-foot location to cater to all customers.

The employees are educated in all of the products that line the shelves so that each customer can have a personal experience.

“If you are a first-time customer, always start at the front of the store, meet one of our awesome associates and they will walk you through the entire store. Let us know what you like because we love helping you to find it,” said McLaughlin. “Bottles is a fun, unique place and not intimidating for our customers.”

Bottles gives customers the freedom to make their own choice, and the people of Mount Pleasant appreciate it.

So whether you are seeking professional advice on quantities and selections for a party or just looking for a gift, Bottles’ expert staff, on-site ownership and one-stop

shopping convenience makes it the one place to fulfill all your beverage needs.

“All of the owners are from the hospitality industry, not the retail industry, and that sets us apart,” said McLaughlin.

Further, Bottles provides service to more than 80 restaurants in the Lowcountry, six days a week. And, as one of the largest liquor buyers in town, Bottles is able to pass along its savings.

If you are interested in purchasing wine, beer or spirits at a single location, McLaughlin recommends staying on the east side of the Cooper River.

“Prior to opening Bottles, we were tired of crossing the

river and getting the bait and switch. We wanted to make sure our customers received what they wanted,” he said.

Bottles in Mount Pleasant has been so successful that, in 2015, a second location opened in Columbia, South Carolina. For the owners, their mission is the same: to treat every customer with



Photo courtesy of Bottles.

Bottles gives customers the freedom to make their own choice, and the people of Mount Pleasant appreciate it.

respect and to share their knowledge.

“We very much appreciate the people of Mount Pleasant for believing in us and supporting our business. We still learn from our customers every day, so it is a great two-way street,” said McLaughlin. “We are thankful for all the support we have received, and the future for Bottles looks great.”

Events at Bottles include weekly wine and spirit tastings as well as Tap Takeover, all with complimentary tastings. 🍷

Bottles is located at 610 Coleman Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.shopbottles.com or call 843-849-9463.



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Relationships Are Her Best Medicine

Dr. Margarita Murphy

EVER SINCE SHE CAN REMEMBER, Dr. Margarita Murphy wanted to be a doctor. She pursued her dream with gleeful and dogged persistence and has established herself as one of the leading gastrointestinal surgeons in the Lowcountry. It is no surprise then that Dr. Murphy was chosen as “Best of Mount Pleasant” by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

“I wanted to be a doctor to help people, to get close to them, create a special bond and cure them from devastating diseases like cancer. As I started medical school, I realized that this was definitely my calling. I fell in love with surgery when I realized that I could do exactly what I had always wanted,” she explained.

Dr. Murphy believes having a “special relationship” with her patients has been a key to her being successful in her practice.

“To have that relationship with my patients that they will trust me enough to allow me to operate on them and allow them to live a long and full life: What a blessing,” she beamed.

On receiving the plaudit as a Mount Pleasant “Best Of,” Dr. Murphy said, “It is a great honor to have been chosen as best colon and rectal surgeon in the area. I feel that my genuine concern for people and hard work is valued and apparent. My team and I love our patients and having been voted ‘Best Of’ feels like they are loving us back.”

She continued: “It is very common to hear lots of laughing if you stand outside my exam rooms. Those patients who walked into the office completely scared and embarrassed to be there in the first place are now laughing with me. I really get involved with my patients. I get to know them as people, moms, daughters and dads. It is part of making them part of our family at the office.”

Dr. Murphy owns and manages two different

businesses: a surgery practice – Gastrointestinal Surgical Specialists – and a surgery center – The Colorectal Endosurgery Institute of the Carolinas.

“It is all about priorities. Number one is God, two is my family, and three my patients. Also, I live in Mount Pleasant and feel committed to this wonderful community. That means putting my two businesses here, having my kids in the Mount Pleasant public schools and

living in Mount Pleasant. I also feel that because I am blessed I have to give back. My husband and I participate in multiple local programs designed to give specialty care at a discounted fee or completely free,” she said.

Dr. Murphy believes that because she practices only GI surgery and not general surgery, she is much more experienced than others in intestinal resections for such issues as cancer, diverticulitis, ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease.

“My partners and I created the first-in-the-country JCAHO-approved Center of Excellence for minimally invasive colorectal surgery. We achieved this by

showing excellent expertise in laparoscopic bowel resections with better results and lower complication rates than the national average. We utilize the latest treatment options, including transanal endoscopic microsurgery and sacral nerve stimulation.”

She said Mount Pleasant is a “wonderful place to work and to live,” adding, “The greatest asset in this area is the people. We have a community with great principles and two great hospitals to do surgery at and better cater to our patients.”

Dr. Margarita Murphy’s office is located at 1439 Stuart Engals Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, call 843-853-7730.



Photo courtesy of Dr. Margarita Murphy.

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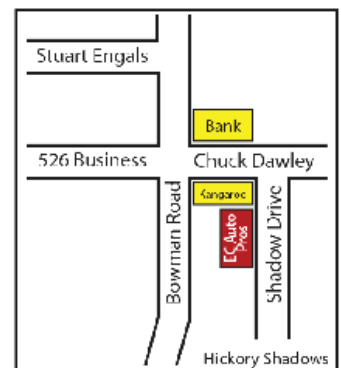


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On the Road – and the Winner’s List – Again

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IT’S ALWAYS A PLEASANT SURPRISE WHEN we find that automobile mechanic we can trust throughout our years of driving, from fixing that first heap of junk in college to fine-tuning the family SUV. The team at East Cooper Auto Pros, including owner Willie Hopkins and his wife, co-owner Chrissie Hopkins, aren’t surprised that their patrons cast enthusiastic votes in the 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant. They’ve spent years building relationships – and cars – that last.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

One lifelong patron of East Cooper Auto Pros, Lori Bates, even goes so far as to drive her car from her current home in Ravenel. A former resident of Mount Pleasant, Lori values the service she gets from East Cooper Auto Pros well enough to settle for nothing else.

“They’ve been working on my car for over 20 years,” she mused. “I found them back when I owned a little Honda CRX. It had broken down, and I was carpooling one day with Cindi Perez back when I taught at McClellanville Middle School. Cindi suggested that I take the Honda to East Cooper Auto Pros.”

Lori never looked back. Now married, a mother and a driver of a Chevrolet Tahoe, she’s still an enthusiastic customer who said Willie and his team “stand behind what they do.” In fact, her staunch belief in their work converted her husband, who now takes his car there, too – but Lori isn’t afraid to go solo.

“I know women think about mechanics taking advantage if they don’t know much about cars,” she said.

“But you don’t have to worry at East Cooper Auto Pros. They’re always straight up and honest – and I’m not a bit surprised they won.”

Bringing along the whole family seems to be a common theme for customers of East Cooper Auto Pros. Adele Franz, a local attorney, admitted that having children who drove older cars – and having Willie to keep said cars running – has certainly helped cement her business.

“The fact that I trust East Cooper Auto Pros with my kids’ cars is the biggest seal of approval I can give anyone,”

Adele pointed out. “And I feel they take care of my family’s vehicles as if they were their own.”

Tom Reed, a local business owner, drives a great deal for the sake of work and has trusted Willie and team to keep his car in top condition for the last eight years. Tom noted that the positive reviews he heard from his neighbors when he first searched for a mechanic



Photo by Christina Riley.

Lori Bates and Tom Reed, far right, with East Cooper Auto Pros owner Willie Hopkins, center, and manager Bob McCormack.

encouraged him to check out East Cooper Auto Pros.

“I’ve been self-employed for a while, and I believe in referrals,” he said. “That first time I brought my car in was the beginning of a long relationship. They’ve earned my business.”

“I’m probably East Cooper Auto Pros’ biggest fan,” Adele added. “They’re all good people, and Mount Pleasant is fortunate to have a local business like them.”

East Cooper Auto Pros is located at 1198 Shadow Drive in Mount Pleasant. To learn more about this local business, visit www.eastcooperautopros.com or call 843-881-2820.



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UR HOMES ARE TRULY A reflection of us. From where we slather the toast with butter each morning to where we lay our heads at night, the décor of our abode sets the stage for countless memories formed along the way. One Mount Pleasant shop owner is playing a vital role in ensuring home interiors match the vibrancy of moments shared within those four walls. Amey Nicoll, owner of Encore Interiors, is changing the

BY KALENE MCCORT

living spaces of clients one boldly-colored throw pillow at a time, and, with a longtime love of design, this innovator shows no sign of slowing down.

“I want visitors to be in awe when they walk through our doors and have an instant rapport with the items they see,” said Nicoll. “I want them to be able to envision themselves in those spaces that resonate with them.”

Since taking over the space in April 2015, Nicoll has transformed the 14,000-square-foot shop into a delightful feast for the eyes. A cornucopia of historical remnants and modern-day gems grace the nooks and crannies of this winding wonderland for those that revel in fantastic findings.

The daughter of a Realtor mom and construction-industry dad, Nicoll claims her destiny with “all things home” was an obvious one. Innately drawn to the way textures and colors intertwine to create a mood, she approaches each work day with the same enthusiasm she had when she started out in interior design.

“Even as a child, I would set the Barbie home up and marvel at the way everything complemented each other,” said Nicoll, who once was a sought-after stager enlisted by Realtors to make houses sell in record time. “There are no rules when it comes to design.”

Whether you’re searching for that authentic Moroccan rug to drape over your hardwood or you are in need of a framed oil painting to adorn the hallway wall, Encore Interiors has got you covered. A treasure-seeker with an impeccable knack for pairing the unusual with grace and style, Nicoll houses an array of one-of-a-kind pieces sure to entice everyone, regardless of personal taste.

“I love to be able to continuously surprise people,” said Nicoll. “Whether that’s with a truly unique piece that they wouldn’t normally go for or with an incredible deal on something they never dreamed they could afford.”

From handcrafted Korean furniture to an ancient rug that was once touched by the soles of British royalty, you never know what you might find in this antiquer’s paradise. Intricately carved Southwestern cow skulls, beaded chandeliers and vintage mirrors oozing with character are just a few of the many items up for grabs.

“It’s extremely rewarding to provide young working professionals with pieces that they couldn’t find elsewhere,” said Nicoll. “We truly have something for everyone. From the very funky to midcentury modern, you’ll find such a variety here.”

Nicoll also finds a great sense of pride in running a green business that focuses on reusing products rather than mass-producing new ones.

“I love the stories each piece tells,” said Nicoll, admiring two crimson repurposed doors that once adorned a New York City brownstone. “Our homes become sanctuaries, and it’s great to be able to provide people with pieces that add real depth to their homes.”



Photo courtesy of Encore Interiors.

Encore Interiors is located at 665 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, call 843-352-7863 or visit <https://encoreinteriors.wordpress.com>.



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DRS. MICHAEL AND GINA COURSON met at the University of Georgia while working on their undergraduate degrees. Following a few unfulfilling attempts working in other fields, they both decided to go back to school after Gina's grandfather, a personal injury attorney, suggested the art of chiropractic.

Six years later, in 2000, the Coursos decided to move to the Lowcountry. Now, 16 years and two offices later – still going strong – Gina and Mike have built a strong reputation in Mount Pleasant with Accurate Chiropractic.

“We both found that the philosophy behind chiropractic really fit our thinking of health that we already had,” Gina pointed out.

“Chiropractic is the science, philosophy and art of detecting misalignments in the spine. These misalignments can cause nerve impingement or pinched nerves. Sitting too long at the computer, repetitive motions, weight lifting and driving for prolonged periods can cause these pinched nerves in our spines,” Mike continued.

“By adjusting these vertebrae back into normal motion,

we are encouraging these spinal joints to move better than before and unpinch the nerves,” he added.

Accurate Chiropractic offers a variety of services, including cold laser therapy, intersegmental traction, detox/energy balance and massage therapy. The two Dr. Coursos pride themselves on offering low impact ways to adjust and tailoring the adjustment to the needs of each patient. Speaking of patients, the list has grown significantly – no surprise, since the office was voted one of the best chiropractic practices in the area by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.

“As Mount Pleasant grew, so did the need to have two offices, one on each side of town. Now we are able to accommodate patients from all over,” Gina pointed out. “We are open six days a week, from early morning to late evening, and see everyone from newborns to the elderly. We love all people and do our best to keep them healthy, happy and vibrant. It's our passion,” she concluded. 🐾

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Fashion for the Family Ragamuffin Children's Boutique

THE RAGAMUFFIN CHILDREN'S Boutique, locally owned and operated by Windi McKeithan for the past 32 years and really three shops in one, was chosen by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* as the best place to buy children's clothing.

BY EILEEN CASEY

"My dream since college was to have my own shop, and, after studying fashion merchandising, along with years of experience in retail and as a buyer, I bought The Ragamuffin Children's Boutique and Stride Rite Shoes," Windi explained. "I added Radical Rags for older kids about a year later."

"We are so honored as our customers mean so much to us," she added. "We have relationships with them, and multiple generations of the same families come to us. We love to work with them to find the right items for their children from head to toe. We are known for offering the

most sought-after brands, including Southern to European styles, casual to dressy and everything in between."

"We strive to be the customer's go-to store for any occasion, from babies to tweens and from mothers to great-grandmothers," she went on to say. "We have everything they may want under one roof. We know how to put clothes together to create awesome family pictures, wedding parties or whatever the occasion, along with a complete dance shop for ballet, tap and jazz."

With a daughter in medical school and a son at Clemson University, Windi acknowledged, "Running a small business is tough, but when you have a team of great co-workers and wonderful customers, it makes it a lot of fun." 🌟

The Ragamuffin Children's Boutique is located at 210 Coleman Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.ragamuffinchildrensboutique.com or call 843-884-4814.

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BEAUTY RUNS DEEP IN THE EAST COOPER area, from the landscape to the people – and Vanity Salon has been aiding in that endeavor since opening in 2005.

A full-service salon, Vanity Salon makes its clients look and feel their best. For the fourth year in a row, readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* have voted Vanity Salon as the Best Hair Salon.

“I would like to thank our clients for their loyalty and support over the years,” said Kim Coleman, owner of Vanity Salon. “We continue to educate ourselves so that we stay up-to-date on new trends and styles for our clients. We love bringing new ideas to help customize the right look for our clients.”

As one of the top wedding stylists in the Lowcountry, Coleman leads her staff in a professional manner that

repeatedly showcases their work for all to see.

“Our clients love to see us everywhere. It’s just as exciting for them to see what we have done as it is for us to be given the opportunity,” said Coleman.

Working around 200 weddings a year and several photo shoots annually, Vanity is more than just the average salon.

“Our team has been behind the scenes at the Miss America pageant, been seen in many local and national publications and on stage and in print. Vanity Salon is the home of the one and only Style Bus, which is available for on-site occasions,” Coleman said.

To see what the hype is about and get your style on, call 843-216-7181 for an appointment or check out Vanity Salon online at www.vanitysalsc.com or in person at 1909 Highway 17 North in Mount Pleasant.

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Breathe Easy Charleston Allergy & Asthma

DR. BRUCE BALL DIDN'T START OUT to be a doctor but, luckily for his patients, he took a postgraduate anatomy class and worked in an emergency room, where he discovered that he "was fascinated by multiple areas of medicine."

Together with his colleagues, he sees patients of all ages at Charleston Allergy & Asthma, treating a variety of conditions from seasonal allergies to asthma to immune deficiencies. He enjoys the challenges brought by each patient, which spur him to keep up with the most up-to-date information.

"Each day I'm thankful to see patients who have put their trust in us to provide the best health care we are capable of giving," Dr. Ball said. "However, if I didn't have great staff who treat the patients with respect and kindness and who also enjoy their jobs, it is unlikely this award (Best

of Mount Pleasant) would have come in my direction."

Charleston Allergy and Asthma currently has three offices, with six board-certified allergists who are committed to excellence in patient care. Each one listens carefully to devise treatment plans that help pediatric and adult patients breathe easily and enjoy life to the fullest.

Although Dr. Ball does not suffer from allergies himself, he finds that many people "put up with bothersome allergy disease" that could be better controlled with an appropriate treatment plan designed by an allergy specialist.

"The most rewarding part is seeing my patients improve their quality of life," Dr. Ball said. "It is a privilege to work with infants, families and all age groups as we work to build treatment plans that yield positive results." 🐝

To learn more or to make an appointment, visit www.CharlestonAllergy.com.



Thank You *Mount Pleasant Magazine* Readers for Voting Us 'Best Allergist' for the 3rd Consecutive Year!

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Meredith L. Moore, MD • Thomas B. Harper III, MD • Andrew E. Davidson, MD
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843.832.9588

WEST ASHLEY
2090 Charlie Hall Blvd., Ste. 301
Charleston, SC 29414
843.556.9588



CHARLESTONALLERGY.COM  



It's a Long Way to the Top But Page's Okra Grill Got There

YOU COULD PROBABLY STOP IN AT Page's Okra Grill at opening time in the morning, stay there most of the day and sample a taste of why the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* rated the local restaurant among the best in seven separate categories.

Page's, a local landmark since 2006, took top honors in the magazine's Best of Mount Pleasant competition for Best Breakfast, Brunch, Dessert, Restaurant Service and Shrimp 'n' Grits. Run by sisters Courtney and Ashleigh Page, the restaurant claimed second place in two other areas: Best Fried Chicken and Best Mac 'n' Cheese.

The success of the Page sisters, who purchased Billy's Back Home Restaurant, changed the name to Page's Okra Grill and eventually moved down Coleman Boulevard to their current location, is based on four factors, according to Courtney: top-notch customer service, high-quality ingredients, good value and "an atmosphere that feels like home."

Hard work doesn't hurt, of course, and none of the restaurant's 108 employees put more of their heart and soul into the business than the Page sisters. Ashleigh runs the kitchen, showing up before the sun rises on most days to bake biscuits from scratch, while Courtney manages the business, waits on tables, greets customers and even sweeps the floor, if necessary.

Page's Okra Grill's rise to prominence in the East Cooper restaurant scene wasn't easy. When the Page sisters purchased Billy's, they served only breakfast and lunch. When dinner hours were added, they soon outgrew their 52-seat capacity, so they purchased the building that housed Alex's Restaurant.

"When we bought the building, we worked all day at Page's, then came down the street to clean up Alex's," Ashleigh commented.

It's obvious that all their hard work paid off. 🍷

To learn more about Page's Okra Grill, visit www.pagesokragrill.com or call 843-881-3333.



Page's OKRA GRILL

Local Food for Local Folks



302 Coleman Boulevard
(843) 881-3333
www.pagesokragrill.com



**New Daily Specials
New Beer and Wine List**



Thank you for voting us Best Of Mount Pleasant year after year! We really appreciate all of your support.



One Stop for Everything Baby

Baby Bloomers

HAVING A BABY IS AN EXCITING time in people’s lives, but for many first-time expecting families, deciding what to get for a new bundle of joy can be overwhelming.

That’s where Baby Bloomers steps in and provides a one-stop shop for everything baby. The store has been helping parents prepare for their new arrivals for 13 years. From the big items – cribs, strollers and car seats – to the smallest essentials such as pacifiers and burp cloths, they have taken the guesswork out of buying for baby by offering only certain lines and high-quality products.

“We have a very knowledgeable staff, and we love to help new parents who don’t know what they need,” said owner Robin Query. “We work really hard to carry what we feel like are the best products out there.”

This commitment to quality and customer service earned Baby Bloomers 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant

honors for Best Baby Goods.

“It’s clearly an honor that our customers voted for us,” Query acknowledged. “We’re serious about what we do; the award means a whole lot.”

Query knows it can be hard for parents to buy an item online without being able to see or touch it – especially when baby’s safety and comfort are concerned. If someone buys a crib from her store and there’s a problem, Query said her husband, Winn, will visit the house and personally assist the client.

“Customer service is very important to us; we stand behind everything we sell,” Query said. “People who are having babies need to feel good about the purchases they are making, so it needs to be right.”

Baby Bloomers, located at 616 Coleman Blvd., is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. To learn more, call 843-856-9277 or visit www.babybloomershome.com.

BY PAMELA BROWNSTEIN

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This commitment to quality and customer service earned Baby Bloomers 2016 Best of Mount Pleasant

The best go-to store for everything baby



The Lowcountry experts in babies’ and children’s rooms

616 Coleman Boulevard
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
843-856-9277
www.babybloomershome.com





Shining in 2016 Loy Harn Jewelers

LOY HARN JEWELERS HAD A HUMBLE beginning when Loy Harn opened the doors in February 1980. Loy quickly became a master of his craft and built an incredible reputation and following in Mount Pleasant.

Unfortunately, in 2002, Loy passed away suddenly and the store was left to his son, Jason Harn, who was only 20 at the time. Jason is now married and has a 1-year-old daughter and another daughter on the way, due in May. He and his wife, Keenan, attribute their success, and being awarded Best Jeweler in Mount Pleasant, to getting the store back to its roots of being a family jewelry store.

“We like for our customers to feel like family and for them to know that they are in good hands. Loy built an amazing reputation for the business, and we strive to continue to provide our customers with a memorable

experience when they shop with us,” said Keenan.

The jewelry industry has evolved over the years, but Loy Harn Jewelers has always operated as a fine jewelry retailer and a full-service jewelry repair shop.

“Our main focus now, and the majority of the work that we do, is custom jewelry design. We often have customers come in with handfuls of inherited jewelry that we will sort through, identify, repair and create new pieces out of broken and outdated pieces. Custom engagement and bridal pieces are also a large part of what we do,” said Jason.

Loy Harn Jewelers is proud to be celebrating its 36th year in business in Mount Pleasant this February. There are many new and exciting things in store for this family business in 2016. 🍷

To learn more, visit www.loyharn.com or call 843-881-0111.

BY NATALIE CAULA HAUFF

Loy Harn Jewelers



Let us turn your old and broken jewelry into something that you will love, or let us help you design your dream engagement ring!



“I have always appreciated the heartfelt kindness that Loy Harn Jewelers has offered me for over 25 years. The highlight was when they helped me to create a beautiful custom pearl and diamond necklace for my daughter’s wedding a few years ago.”
- Ann Apperson, P.A.

“I knew Loy Harn for a very long time. He created a number of one-of-a-kind custom pieces for me over they years. Though I am sad that he is no longer here, his son, Jason, and his staff are just as sweet. They have continued to create custom pieces for me and I would highly recommend going there!”
- Dana Woodberry

“The team at Loy Harn was wonderful to work with. I can’t imagine a better experience for creating my DREAM engagement ring! It was like they took the picture out of my head, made it, and now I get to smile every time I look at my hand.”
- Amber Dover

Thank you Loy Harn Jewelers for making this gorgeous custom cameo piece for our wedding! It was perfect!”
- T.K. Garris Wall

Fine Jewelry Sales and Consultation, Custom Jewelry Manufacturing, Jewelry Repair, Antique Jewelry Restoration, Watch Repair, Appraisals, Estate Jewelry, Estate Diamonds



WWW.LOYHARN.COM | 843.881.0111





A Favorite for French Cooking

Bistro Toulouse

WHILE THERE ARE A HANDFUL of other French restaurants in Mount Pleasant, Bistro Toulouse earned a place of honor on Mount Pleasant's "Best Of" list thanks to its great service, culinary creativity and high-quality food and drink.

Owners Candice Mahala and Matt Schulz met while attending The Culinary Institute of America. They've spent 15 years working around the East Coast – Mahala as a cook, pastry chef and catering manager and Schulz cooking in fine dining kitchens. Most recently, Schulz worked with French and Belgian chefs in Washington, D.C., where he mastered the art of French cooking.

"This is the type of food we love; it's comfort food," said Mahala. "Onion soup gratiné, steamed mussels. These are dishes we crave."

While daily specials offer a wide variety of modern

interpretations of French dishes, and a section of the menu evolves based on seasons and customer suggestions, Schulz keeps the most popular items, such as Steak & Frites, available year-round.

The Bistro Toulouse team uses only fresh ingredients and boasts extensive beverage options. With more than 20 different wines offered by the glass, Mahala designs the wine program to offer producers and varietals not typically found in other restaurants and that pair well with the menu. Weekly "Wine Wednesdays" feature \$10 off all bottles of wine. Classic and creative cocktails, along with craft beers, also change with the seasons.

"Food and beverage together create an experience," Mahala said. "That's what we do at Bistro Toulouse, and I think that's why we've become a town favorite."

Bistro Toulouse is in the Sea Island Shopping Center. To learn more, visit www.bistrotoulouse.com or call 843-216-3434.

Thank you for selecting us Best French Restaurant
 Classic French Cuisine, Fine Wines and Creative Cocktails






Open for Lunch, Dinner and Weekend Brunch

Lunch Tuesday - Friday
11:30am - 2:30pm
Dinner Tuesday - Sunday
5:00pm - 9:30pm
Brunch Saturday - Sunday
11:00am - 3:00pm

Join us for Restaurant Week January 6 - 17



Happy Hour
 Tuesday - Friday
 5:00 - 6:30pm
 \$2 off Signature Cocktails and Wines by the glass,
 \$1 off Draft Beer and select Bottled Beer
 \$6 Mussels, \$3 Frites, \$3 Marinated Olives

Wine Wednesday
 \$10 off ALL bottles of Wine ALL day!



Sea Island Shopping Center • 1220 Ben Sawyer Blvd., Suite I, Mt Pleasant, SC
 843-216-3434 | www.BistroToulouse.com





Best Shopping Secret

Teal – A Swanky Boutique

VOTED MOUNT PLEASANT’S BEST boutique, Teal may well be one of best shopping secrets in town. Teal is a perfectly curated collection of stylish clothes and select home accessories. The atmosphere is as relaxing as the

BY BARBARA MILLEN PATRICK

scented Rewined candles, the clothes are eye-catching and surprisingly affordable and it is wise to check back often because the selection is ever-changing. Regular clients know that the stock is on trend and as fresh as the name Teal.

“Teal has always been my favorite color, and, when trying to pick a name, after going through a million options, it just felt like the right one,” said owner Jessica Crittenden.

After working as a buyer for another boutique, Jessica knew that owning her own boutique would be wonderful. “We only buy limited quantities of the styles we pick

for the store to give our customers that exclusive feel – you won’t walk around town and see several people wearing your same outfit,” Jessica said. “Plus, we are a local, small business which I think people appreciate.”

Naturally, she is pleased that Teal was named Mount Pleasant’s best boutique.

“I would hope that it’s because customers have a really great experience shopping at Teal for not only great styles and price points but also for the customer service they would only receive from a local boutique,” she said.

Why swanky?

“I think our customers think swanky means stylish, sassy and posh. We are just not any boutique – Teal is a swanky boutique!”

Teal, a swanky boutique, is located in Mount Pleasant Towne Centre and also online at www.ShopTeal.com.



teal
a swanky boutique

Thank you for voting us
Best Women's Clothing Boutique!

shopteal.com
Mt. Pleasant Towne Centre



A Dog's Best Experience aFORTable Grooming

IF DOGS COULD VOTE FOR THE BEST groomer in town, they would cast their ballot for Briggs Fort at aFORTable Grooming. It isn't just that she loves dogs – she also knows how to pamper them. As a professional groomer, she provides a complete array of

BY BARBARA MILLEN PATRICK

services, from a simple nail

clip to a full bath, brush and trim.

For clients who have shedding issues, Briggs offers FURminator services. She'll even brush their teeth.

Local dogs may not have voted, but their "parents" certainly did, naming aFORTable Grooming best in class.

"I just love dogs," Briggs said, adding that she truly enjoys working with them.

It's clear that Briggs has turned her passion for dogs into a successful business. She offers a full slate of services,



using quality products for shampooing and conditioning in a stress-free environment. For older dogs or those with anxiety issues, aFORTable Grooming provides a kennel-free option.

Briggs is thrilled to be named best groomer in Mount Pleasant.

"I'm glad they love my grooming," she exclaimed.

Her clients concur. Every dog leaves the shop feeling a little prouder and stepping a little higher. 🐾

aFORTable Dog Grooming by Briggs Fort is located in The Shoppes of Brickyard. Walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment for "an experience your dog cannot afford to miss," call 843-972-8660. To learn more, visit www.afortablegrooming.com.

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(Located in The Shoppes at Brickyard)

2700 HWY 17 N, Unit E 🐾 Mount Pleasant, SC
843.972-8660

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm 🐾 Sat 8am-2pm
www.afortablegrooming.com
afortablegrooming@gmail.com



The Best Prices and Selection Next To New

CATHERINE MOOREHEAD, ONE OF the owners of the Next To New furniture consignment and home interiors shop, knows her customers.

Having recently been named “Best Consignment Furniture” by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, Catherine acknowledged, “We have received recognition in the past and always appreciate it. We value our customers and are thrilled that they, in turn, value our efforts to showcase their items to their greatest advantage.”

Most items come from customers who are moving, downsizing or redecorating. The inventory at Next to New includes home decor needs from furniture to china – just about anything to furnish and decorate your home.

Catherine revealed, “Our customers tell us we have the best prices and selection in town, and we strive to provide the best customer service as well. We also enhance the experience

for our customers with staging, where we set up vignettes so customers can imagine the items in their own home.”

Another marketing tool that Catherine believes customers appreciate is the online service that is available so that customers can track the progress of their items. Consigned pieces will be kept for up to three months, with the sales prices split 50/50. Consignors are welcome to retrieve their unsold items after the three-month period. Otherwise, the items are donated to Habitat For Humanity.

Commenting on the success of the store, Catherine stressed the importance of her staff: “It really ‘takes a village’ to run Next To New. We have a wonderful group of dedicated, talented women who make shopping and consigning at Next to New a great experience.”

Next to New is located in The Shoppes at Brickyard. To learn more, visit www.nexttonewsc.com or call 843-606-2715.

**THANK YOU
MOUNT PLEASANT
FOR VOTING US
BEST CONSIGNMENT
STORE AGAIN
THIS YEAR!**

“Shop often... the good stuff goes fast”

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843.606.2715
www.NextToNewSC.com
Monday-Thursday 10-6 | Friday-Saturday 10-5



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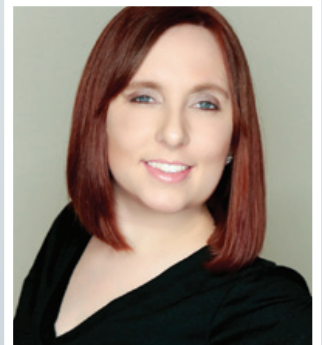
Sarah Ledbetter
Elite Smile Coordinator;
Certified EFDA



Heidi Gagnon
Registered Dental Hygienist
& Gum Therapist



Heather Baysinger
Certified Expanded Function
Dental Assistant



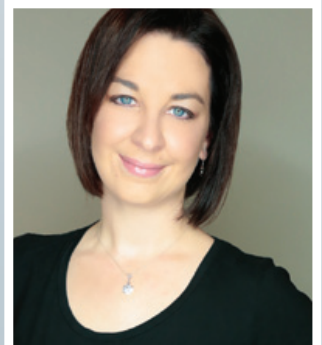
Angela Laflin
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& Gum Therapist

The Smile Team

Our team of dedicated, friendly professionals takes pride in serving Charleston, Mt Pleasant, Daniel Island and the entire Lowcountry of SC with gentle dental care in a comfortable environment.



*Thanks for voting us
"Best of Mt Pleasant"!*



Darlene Butler
Practice Manager and
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