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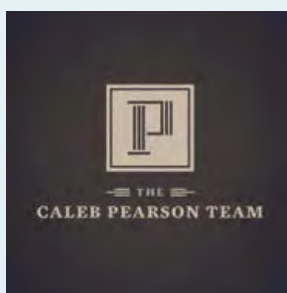
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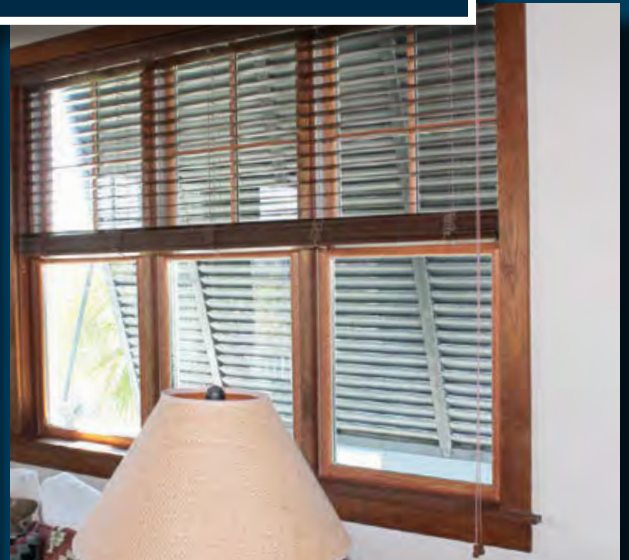


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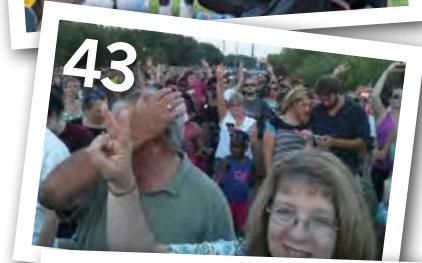
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CHARLIE'S PUBLISHER'S NOTE

YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T THINK MY BUDDY BILL MACCHIO was going to let me, Charlie the Goldendoodle, write this, but I'm glad he did. This is how it all started.

You probably don't know this, but I frequently hang out at the *Mount Pleasant Magazine* office. Everyone there is pretty nice, although sometimes they seem a little bit crazy to me. Do they really think I'm just lying there, waiting for someone to walk over or around me or that I actually enjoy emptying the trash cans all over the office floor? (I do.) What they don't know is that I'm listening to everything they say.

I can't recall what day it was, but I remember a couple of people talking to my buddy Bill about putting rescue pets on the front cover of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. I hate that word "pet," but let's not digress.

My ears perked up and my mind started racing. Wow! That's cool, I thought.

I have family and friends that have been rescued, but I can't say I've felt like they must feel, but I can say I always like to help when I can. One of the reasons I like Bill is that he's kind of like that as well.

I always wait until my buddy and I are alone to express myself, because most people won't understand me. I knew the drive home would be the perfect time to talk. When Bill and I left the office that day, I couldn't stop bending his ear about an idea I had. I wanted to write this issue's Publisher's Note. I know I'm not a publisher, but I see things no one else at *Mount Pleasant Magazine* sees, so to speak. I also know my buddy Bill. He really likes creativity and interesting ideas, so I thought I might have a chance. Besides he's always asking me to do things, like sit, stay and heel. His favorite thing to say, when he wants me to come, is "Yo, Charlie." That's my buddy Bill. As you can see from our photo, he's kind of out there. Don't you think we look cool? If you'd like to send us a photo of you and your buddy, go to MountPleasantMagazine.com/petphotos.

That's my story, but I still have to give you the inside poop (Sorry: dog joke) about this issue's awesome front cover. As soon as the news got out that Caitlyn was going to be on our cover, we started getting requests from around the country from people asking us to send them a copy of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. They all want to know how Caitlyn is doing. Isn't it terrible what happened to her? If I ever meet the guy who did this to her, I'm going to put my pearly whites right in his you know what and never let go. Sorry. I'm normally not like that, but I'm sure you'd like to do the same.

The front cover of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* is adorable, and I hope it will convince more people to think about adopting a rescue animal. My buddy Bill and his family found me three-and-a-half years ago. I feel lucky that we instantly became friends, and our friendship has grown stronger with every passing day. People talk about unconditional love from their pet. Well, it's a two way street. I certainly feel that from my buddy Bill.

Not everyone is as lucky as I am. If you are looking for a pet to shower with unconditional love, please consider adopting a rescue pet. I've gotten to know the rescues on our front cover. They are great pets and have become very close to their new families. So what are you waiting for?

Come by the office sometime and say hi, and thank my buddy Bill for letting me write his Publisher's Note. Maybe he'll let me do it for every issue of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.



Photo by Anthony Macchio.

Here's me and my buddy Bill. We're kind of hard to tell apart, aren't we?

MOUNT PLEASANT

MAGAZINE

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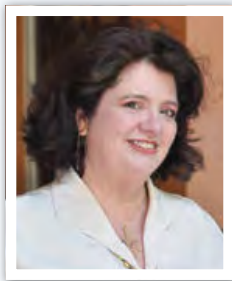
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From the Managing Editor

ONCE, WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE, my best friend Alice told me a story about one of our favorite professors, Dr. Paul Rice. She said that after she admitted to him that she ditched his American Literature class to go on a concert road trip, he replied that “Some of the best lessons in life are learned outside of the classroom.” I never forgot that remark, simply because it was, and is, so true.

Education should be our lifelong goal – not just something that happens throughout those early years from kindergarten until college graduation, only to be forgotten when we enter “the real world.” They say that the day we stop learning is the day we die, and I agree.

For example, I was amazed during the production of this issue, our annual education edition, to learn the enormous love that residents of Mount Pleasant, the surrounding islands and the Lowcountry as a whole have in their hearts. Following the tragic shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church, my own heart has been uplifted by the outpouring of compassion and belief in unity that we share.

This is also our pet issue, and our cover was photographed by Cassandra Richerson and Steve Richerson of Cassandra Michelle Photography. Special thanks goes out to Jeff and Wesley Kennedy, owners of Henry & Eva on Coleman Boulevard, who provided our picnic props, as well as to my team members who helped during the shoot.

Y’all will notice the adorable face of Caitlyn on this cover, who is doing better than ever thanks to the Charleston Animal Society and Mount Pleasant’s own Veterinary Specialty Care. Caitlyn is joined by Louis, another lucky dog who was saved through the CAS and VSC after being impaled by a tree branch – plus a few other awesome doggies and kitties who have been rescued by readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. Turn to page 24 and read their “tails” of finding each other.

So, yes, this issue is stuffed with content that will heighten your opinion of humanity. Everywhere I look, local residents are doing extraordinary things – marching the Ravenel Bridge to promote peace; writing Pulitzer prize-winning articles; teaching life lessons to children; designing aircraft for Boeing; cooking with ingredients native to our Southern heritage; sustaining a family business through the generations and the list goes on and on. What do these people have in common? I’m willing to bet it breaks down to one thing: a relentless thirst for knowledge and growth.

Welcome to the School of Life, dear readers. May we never graduate but always remain its students, humbled by the lessons we encounter every day.

Please enjoy this issue, and continue to promote peace in East Cooper and beyond. 🐾

Yours,
DENISE K. JAMES
Managing Editor



Mount Pleasant Magazine Managing Editor Denise K. James, left, with photographer Cassandra Richerson and Caitlyn.

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Our Contributors



Joe Semsar is a lifetime resident of Mount Pleasant. Semsar currently works as a business management consultant with Deloitte Consulting LLP, supporting organizations to become more productive and profitable. Semsar earned a BA in Political Science from Clemson University and an MPA from

the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government. Semsar is a Teach For America alumnus, and a former Teacher of the Year recipient. He is a member of East Cooper Baptist Church and the Charleston County Republican Party.

Forrest Parker led the culinary crews of seven outlets as executive chef at Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, one of the world's largest and most distinctive resorts. He and his family decided to relocate to Charleston to be with loved ones and to enjoy the city's booming culinary scene.



Parker is inspired by the Old Village Post House, where he is the chef, along with the history of Southern food and the stories of those who crafted it. He's included Southern ingredients and elements in his cooking throughout his career and enjoys exploring new twists on classic cuisine.

Natalie Caula Hauff is a former court reporter for The Post and Courier. She helped produce "Till Death Do Us Part" before leaving the newspaper to take a job as a media relations coordinator for Charleston County government. She is also a freelance writer who contributes articles to the Faith & Values section of the Post and Courier. She previously worked as a reporter for WCIV-TV in Mount Pleasant. She is married to Patriots Point Public Information Officer Christopher Hauff.



Interested in contributing to *Mount Pleasant Magazine*? Email your contact information (name, phone, mailing address) and one sample of work you have created (or a link to your work online) with the subject "Aspiring MPM Contributor" to Editor@MountPleasantMagazine.com.



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Notes from Friends

We love feedback from our friends, whether it comes from our Facebook page ([facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine)) or by email, snail mail or MountPleasantMagazine.com. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

Awesome cover shot!

-Cathy Walker

via Facebook message

Love the beautiful Semsar family on the cover!!

-Addie Lee Fults

via Facebook post

Thank you, *Mount Pleasant Magazine* and Tommy Hartnett, for the touching tribute to the late Gov. James Edwards.

-Active Republicans of Charleston County

via Facebook post

I am Les Orr's father, Conrad's Gran Pops in Texas. We are proud of our transplanted son and family.

-Conrad Orr

via MountPleasantMagazine.com

Correction:

The artwork for the article "They Already Came, So Let's Build It" in the May/June 2015 issue of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* should have been credited to local artist and illustrator Dale Watson.



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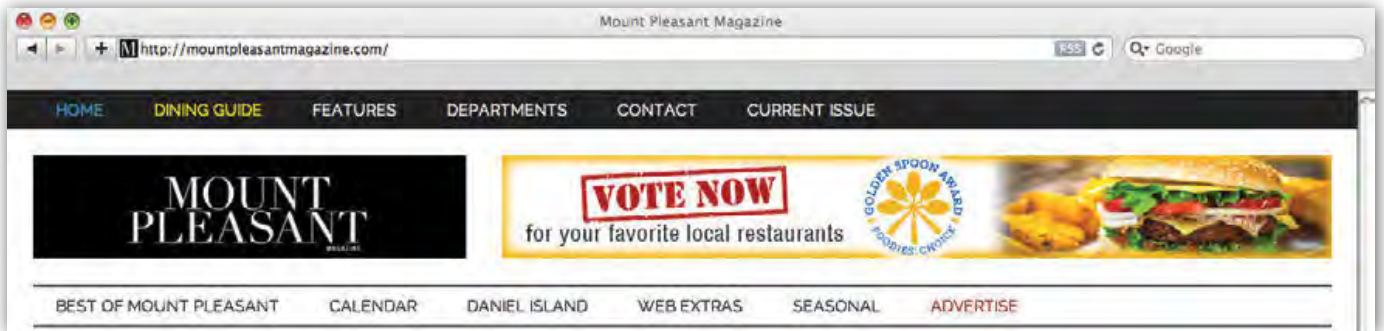
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VISIT WWW.MOUNTPLEASANTMAGAZINE.COM FOR MORE THAN WHAT YOU SEE IN THE PRINT MAGAZINE: more stories, more photographs and more fun stuff in general.

We received more beautiful responses than we had room to print in this issue regarding the Bridge to Peace event on the Ravenel, so visit MountPleasantMagazine.com/BridgetoPeace for even more photos, remarks and heartfelt sentiments from your Lowcountry neighbors. It's wonderful to know that even in the face of tragedy, East Cooper and the surrounding areas of the tri-county will band together and stand proud.

Don't forget to check out SullivanIslandMagazine.com, where you can learn more about this idyllic island and read one of the newest publications in the *Mount Pleasant Magazine* family, *Sullivan's Island Magazine*.

And, we had such a great time publishing our pet issue that we're ready for you, our readers, to submit even more fun pictures and facts about your pet to Mountpleasantmagazine.com/petphotos for a chance to show off your cuddly kitten or devoted dog in a future issue of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. Your dog, cat or parrot deserves its 15 minutes of fame!







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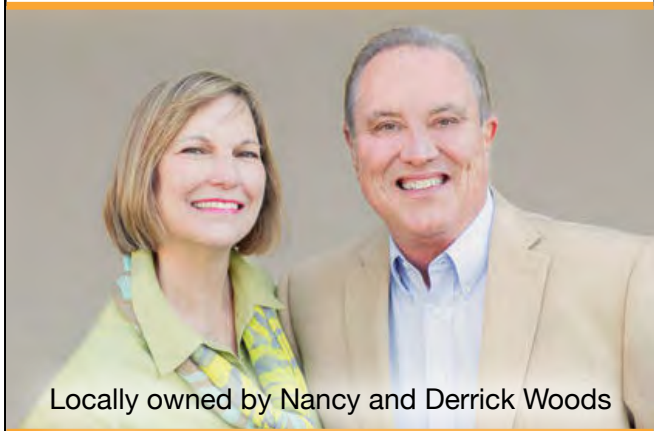
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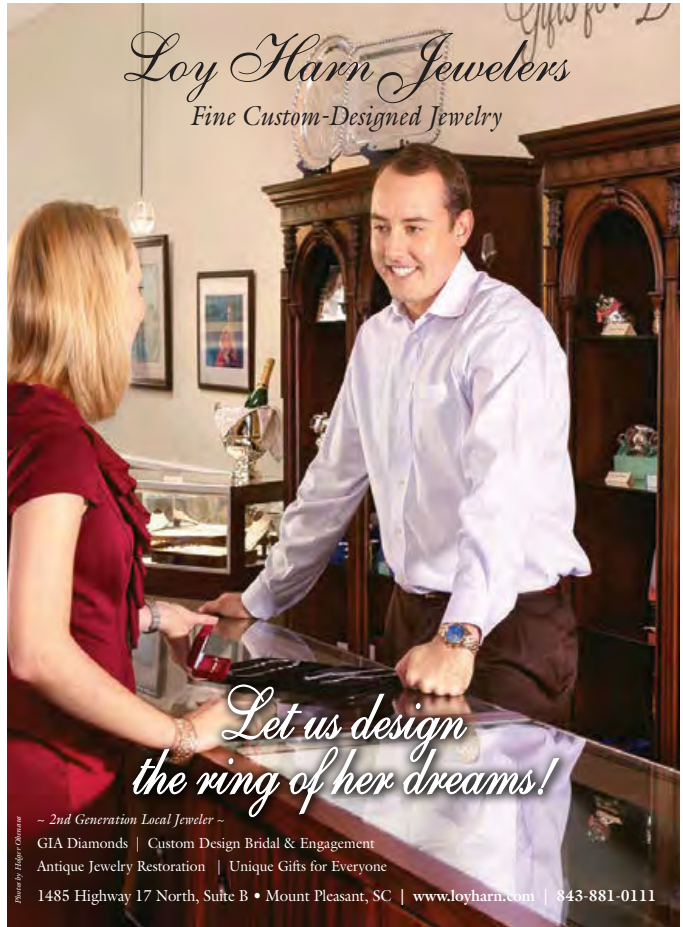
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Photo by Brian Sherman.

TAILS OF TRIUMPH FROM PETS AND OWNERS

Editor's note: For our pet issue, we asked Mount Pleasant Magazine readers to share stories about their beloved rescued pets. Here are the sweet "tails" we received from the owners about their four-legged family members. If your own household has room for more love, consider adopting an animal this summer – these readers can vouch for the rewarding experience.

Open Your Heart and Your Home

These and many other animals are waiting for you at the Charleston Animal Society. Visit CharlestonAnimalSociety.org for more information.



BOOTS - This amazing cat wants a second chance with an affectionate family.



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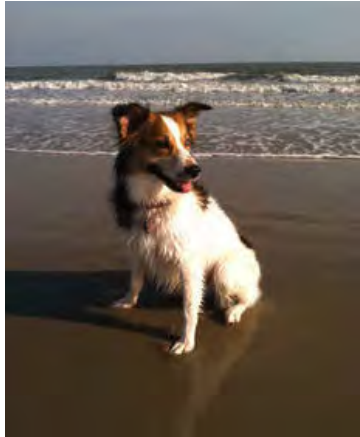


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TAMARA MCKINNEY
Darcy the Pup

My name is Tamara McKinney, and I wanted to submit my Darcy pup! A little about Darcy: She is 3 years old, and we have had her since she was 4 weeks old. We rescued her from a backyard breeder in Sarasota, Florida. She was living in a filthy house, being mistreated by small children. She had a broken leg at 5 weeks old and has recovered and is now better than ever. She is an Australian shepherd/border collie mix and weighs 28 pounds. She has a great personality and is super smart, sometimes too smart for her own good! She loves Frisbee, the beach, going for walks in downtown Charleston and going swimming. As you can see, she is a very photogenic girl! This photo was taken last September at the beach at the Isle of Palms.



BECKY ZIEGLER
Dory the Dog

My golden retriever has a “story.” I didn’t personally rescue her, but I adopted her from Lowcountry Golden Retriever Rescue. A sheriff saw two young boys kicking her around like a soccer ball in an alley. The boys were arrested and let out on \$1,000 bond with a slap on the wrist. She was just a 3-month-old puppy. She had terrible mange, too. A shelter employee (animal control officer) nursed her back to health and LGRR fostered her before I adopted her at 6 months. We lost a beloved family dog a few weeks before a co-worker sent me Dory’s pic and story. I wasn’t ready to adopt so soon, but she has taught me so much, and I am so grateful!



Today, she lives the life and she is all retriever! She loves the beach and is definitely a water dog. Digging holes and chewing on any stick she comes across are also favorite pastimes. She loves any stuffed toy (her

“baby”) and carries them in her mouth everywhere she goes. She looks forward to her walks when I get home from work to go explore with her shepherd “rescue sister,” Stella.

We appreciate everything more – the beach is more fun and neighborhood walks are great because we meet so many folks who can’t resist her cuteness! She is a ray of sunshine in our lives! For me, in particular, she pulled me out of a lingering depression over losing my beloved dog, Mandy. So you can say, she “rescued” me.

She has inspired me in recent years to give dogs a voice. I want to help dogs who are homeless, neglected or abused. I have volunteered by processing adoption applications for Canine Pet Rescue, volunteered in the dog room for the Charleston Animal Society and fostered three precious labs so far from Lowcountry Lab Rescue. Dory has been instrumental in bringing foster dogs out of their shell. She teaches them the ropes and how to play and be a dog. Knowing what some rescue dogs go through, it’s incredible the resilience they have, and their ability to trust again is admirable.

I really believe in my heart that dogs are a gift from heaven above! When I think of the depths of their love, devotion and faithfulness to us, it is like a reflection of God’s love for us, a true reflection when you see “dog” spelled backward.

RALEIGH ALGAR
Books the Cat

It was a cold day, definitely in the 32-degree range, with a great deal of sleet. My family and I pulled up to the Johns Island Library to get some books and movies for this cold day. We live in Mount Pleasant, but a crazy bunch of circumstances ended us up on Johns Island. So we hopped out of the car, and my husband spotted a tiny white kitten. As I got out of the car, he said, “I guess you will handle getting the kitten while we go inside?” There was never a discussion over getting this kitten in the car and never one about keeping him. It was assumed. I went to scoop him up, and there was a commotion and he ran under a car. Just then, my husband came back out for the library cards and went to the window of the car he was under because they had



Tips from Local Vets

On Handling Stray Animals

VCA Charles Town Animal Hospital
- Dr. Janet McKim

CATS

If the kittens are too young to open their eyes, leave them alone because the best care comes from the mom – if the kitten is located in a safe area.

10 to 12 weeks of socialization (petting, holding, letting them recognize your scent). When the kittens start to eat food on their own, grab them.

DOGS

Offer them dog treats, and don't demand anything of them.

Drop a leash when dogs begin to trust you, and take them to the Charleston Animal Society. They evaluate and habituate the dog for adoption.

Advanced Animal Care - Dr. David Steele

If you bring an animal into your home, the animal is probably stressed.

Provide a quiet room or area for them with food and a bed. Only one or two people should handle the animal.

Tidewater Vet - Dr. Cara Daniel

Did you know that fleas can hatch in as little as two or three weeks or as long as several months? That means that eggs brought into your home during the warmer months can cause infestation problems when you least expect it – in the winter.

Check to see if a stray animal has a microchip, which could lead to an owner. Veterinary offices, shelters and rescue groups can check. A dog in Arizona that went missing for two months was found 1,800 miles away in Wisconsin and was reunited with his owner thanks to his microchip!

Patrick Veterinary Clinic - Dr. Paul D. Patrick

A vet will make sure there aren't health issues and make sure the animal receives proper vaccinations.



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just started the car to leave. We told the man there was a cat under his car. He hopped out and we all found the kitten clutching the top of the tire in the wheel well. He could not have come any closer to his own demise. So we scooped him up and took him home. His name is Books and he will turn 1 soon! He is a big, healthy, handsome and sweet boy. He has grown up in our home of three children (2, 4 and 6) and our golden retriever puppy, Penny, who will be 1 any day now, too – and also our older, blind cat, Zoe, who doesn't love him as much as the rest of us.

GERALLYN GRASSY
Pants the Cat

Here is a picture of my pretty "Pants." He is 4 years old, and we rescued him from a bad situation. He was found, at 2 to 3 weeks old, in between two houses, with no mommie around and a severe animal bite on his head and neck area. I was called to

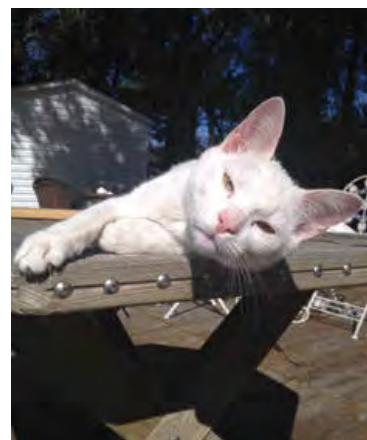


see if I could help. He was malnourished, very skinny and wounded. We brought him home, and I honestly didn't think he would make it through the night. I was at best "fostering" him until he was well enough to be adopted to his forever home. My daughter (15 at the time) and I took turns bottle feeding all day and during the night. We nursed his wounds with antibiotics and cream. He is a miracle and made an amazing recovery. We were calling "her" sassy pants because the vet told us they thought he was a girl. Weeks later, he was healthy and thriving, and it turns out Sassy Pants is a boy. We dropped the sassy, and he became "Pants." At 8 weeks old, he was healthy and ready for adoption. My daughter cried and begged to keep him, as we of course were in love. I gave in: This is known as "foster failure." Pants is a happy, healthy, neutered 4-year-old and loves his "forever" home, and we do think he is grateful. He constantly keeps us entertained, and even when he plays and bounces off the walls at 4 a.m., we still love and adore him. Pretty Pants is here to stay!

JUSTINE PURVIS
Olaf the Kitten

I wanted to share a photo of Olaf with *Mount Pleas-*

ant Magazine. I adopted this precious kitten from Advanced Animal Care of Mount Pleasant in October. He was found malnourished and dumped behind a business off Clements Ferry Road. I am so lucky to have this little guy in my life. He's so much fun to be around, and he's so curious!



He is 11 months old. He is all white and that is why he is named Olaf. He loves to be cuddled. He has dog siblings that he's always chasing around the house. He gets along very well with his furry siblings. He often acts like a dog. He's very alert of new guests in my home. He likes to go outside with the dogs during play and potty breaks. He's very vocal when it comes to affection and feeding time. It's a joy to have him around since he is such a curious and playful cat. There's never a dull moment with Olaf.

FAITH BLACKBURN
Louis the Dog

I was fostering Louis the dog, and now I am adopting him.

I've always loved animals. When I moved here and discovered the big yard, I started fostering dogs. I'm a registered nurse, and I can take care of dogs who have special needs. I've always fostered through Charleston Animal Society – they call me when they have a need. I've driven to Pawleys Island before to get nine puppies who were getting ready to be euthanized.



The thing that means the most to me is that after rehabilitation, I know they're going to a forever home to have a great life. I personally pair up the animals I foster with homes; none go back to the shelter. Yes, I fall in love with them, but knowing where they go makes it easier.

Now is the time to reach out to people about fostering and adopting animals. People's minds and hearts are open. 🐾



Photographer: Carrie Liz Gabbott Jewelry: Dee Ruel

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Caitlyn has become a pop culture favorite overnight, alerting people everywhere to the prevalence of animal abuse and the importance of taking a stand for our furry friends.



The Dog Days of Summer

HOW CAITLYN STOLE MOUNT PLEASANT'S (AND THE WORLD'S) HEART

Story by Denise K. James.

Photos by Cassandra Michelle Photography.

SNOOPY. ODIE. SCOOBIE. MARMADUKE. BENJI. LASSIE. AND NOW CAITLYN. WHAT DO these pooches have in common? They're household names for various reasons. Just weeks ago, Caitlyn was just another dog in an abusive situation after her owner at the time wound electrical tape tightly around her muzzle, cutting off the flow of blood to her tongue and making eating and drinking impossible. After a neighbor discovered the dog and a photo of her face went viral on the Internet, Caitlyn became a pop culture favorite overnight, alerting East Cooper – as well as people everywhere – to the prevalence of animal abuse and

the importance of taking a stand for our furry friends.

I had the pleasure of meeting this sweet pup, thanks to the folks at the Charleston Animal Society, who took Caitlyn into custody and sought prompt medical attention on her behalf through Veterinary Specialty Care in Mount Pleasant. The day I met her, she'd recently emerged from massive reconstructive surgery with Dr. Henri C. Bianucci and was resting comfortably with her tender muzzle and tongue on their way to healing. Stuffed animals as well as notes of love and encouragement from the world over surrounded her comfortable bed. I petted her soft fur, grateful that her life had been saved.

She isn't the first dog to be rescued through the group effort of animal lovers. Dr. Bianucci also helped Louis, a curious canine who fell on hard times when he was impaled by a tree branch.

"We were standing in the parking lot, and I was helping Louis get into the car with Kay (Hyman), and she let me know Caitlyn would be here the next day," said the doctor.

Dr. Bianucci, along with Hyman, director of community engagement for the CAS, and Joe Elmore, CEO for the CAS, spoke about the "silver lining" that came from Caitlyn's suffering – more specifically, the awareness raised for animals through extreme abuse cases.

"I believe people have been compelled by her story to see violence and abuse against an innocent dog," Hyman remarked.

"Caitlyn is a remarkable story of survival. There is so much violence against humans and cruelty toward animals in our society. One is linked to the other. However, there is

also an abundance of care and concern," said Elmore.

Dr. Bianucci stressed the significance of Caitlyn being found by a neighbor and the importance of keeping an eye out in hopes of curbing abuse.

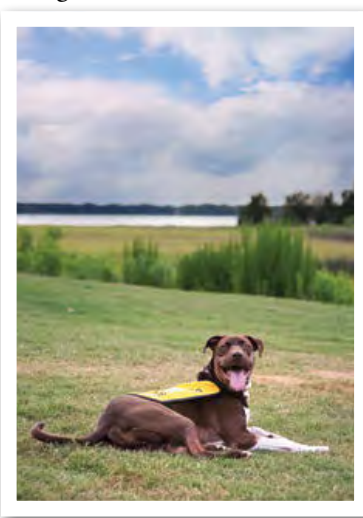
"It takes a community to care – someone to recognize when an animal needs help," he said.

"The photo of Caitlyn's muzzle was shocking. I knew it would make an impact on the public – but I never guessed how much. My daughter's boyfriend currently lives in London, and he said that everyone around his office was talking about Caitlyn."

After countless online photos and social media updates of how she's slowly regaining health East of the Cooper, people are captivated by how marvelously this dog has bounced back. Members of the *Mount Pleasant Magazine* staff saw it personally when we asked if Caitlyn could be one of our "cover pets" for this issue. Everyone was amazed and pleased at her progress – she was even at peace with the cats who showed up for the photo shoot.

"It's definitely a good thing that this trauma happened to her while she's young," Aldwin Roman, director of anti-cruelty and outreach at the CAS, pointed out. "She's been able to heal better, even psychologically. Dogs are forgiving. They're like children – they just want to love and be loved."

I couldn't help but think: Here is proof that people have love in their hearts. Perhaps, starting with Caitlyn, we could learn to give it more freely. 🐾





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Homeward Bound

JOURNEY'S STORY

By Journey the Puppy.

Editor's Note: Journey is a 6-month-old Australian shepherd puppy who was adopted by Mount Pleasant Magazine writer Cullen Murray-Kemp and his girlfriend in March and moved from the Upstate to the Lowcountry. This is Journey's story, in his own words.

ONE NIGHT MY THREE BROTHERS and I were minding our puppy business when an inviting scent wafted within striking distance of our astute nostrils. As I perked up my head, the scent began to grow stronger and even more appealing. Suddenly the garage door opened and a strange man and woman ma-

neuvered their way inside. They were smiling and opened their arms as if to summon my brothers and I. At first I was hesitant because my instincts told me I should always be wary around strangers, but my curiosity overwhelmed my caution, and I followed my brothers to the strange yet aromatically-alluring couple.

The guy fascinated me. As soon as I squirmed into his

lap, I knew that my love could fill any void he was feeling. When my brothers tried to nudge me out of the way and break my bond with my newfound friend, I showed them my teeth. They got the picture and quickly backed away.

After cuddling and playing for a while, the guy scooped me up into his arms and walked me out of my old house. I could hear my mom yelping, and I felt really sad.

The guy and girl, who I would soon realize were my new parents, were as enthralled with me as I was with them. Once we left my old home, we sat in a moving and shaking box for a few hours, stopping to pee only a couple times before we reached our destination.

We arrived at their home, and, although I trusted my new parents, I remember being frightened by the situation.

That night I slept cozily in mom and dad's bed. They seemed to be upset when I peed on them, so I decided it would be best for all of us if I answered the call from nature by aiming toward the other end of the bed. Come to find out, not only am I not supposed to pee in their bed, but I'm also not even allowed to pee in their house. This



seems a bit hypocritical though because both mom and dad pee in the house whenever they get the urge.

As the days rolled by, I began to get more comfortable at my new home. I learned how to "sit" and how to "paw." I've also trained my parents to recognize when it's time to feed me and take me on walks.

My favorite place to visit is this wondrous place my parents call "the beach." At the beach, there is water to swim in and this funny smelling dirt that I really enjoy rolling in. I also love the rumbling box my parents call "the car." It's a great place to catch up on my sleeps, and I don't have to worry about anyone going anywhere without me. Mom and dad even gave me my own spot that they call "crate," where I now sleep every night.

Every day when my parents get home, I am so thrilled that I jump into their arms and douse their faces with sloppy licks and sopping wet love. When I get excited like this, I wag my butt so fast that everyone started to call me "Butt Butt." I prefer my real name, but I can live with Butt Butt for now – at least until I find a cute girl puppy to impress. 🐶

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Our Lowcountry Skyline, 10 Years Later

THE RAVENEL BRIDGE

Story by Pamela Gabriel.

Photo by Vince Streano for HDR.



WHEN THE ARTHUR RAVENEL JR. BRIDGE opened to traffic on July 16, 2005, it followed a weeklong celebration that rivaled the three days of festivities when the first Cooper River Bridge opened in 1929. Pedestrians were permitted to walk the bridge for two days early in the week. A gala was held on the deck of the USS Yorktown. There was a black tie concert. One of the most spectacular events was the bridge lighting ceremony, which took place on July 14. The \$250,000 fireworks demonstration featured simultaneous exhibits from each side of the massive towers and a third from between the towers. Other displays were sent skyward from four barges in the Charleston Harbor. One of the most memorable spectacles featured lights

Photo by Vince Streano for HDR.



cascading down from the bridge decking in a waterfall effect. More than 60,000 fireworks consisting of 20,000 pounds of explosives echoed across the Cooper River, lit up the sky above and reflected in the waters below.

The official opening ceremony took place on the roadbed between the two towers on a hot Saturday and featured a long list of state and local dignitaries, including both U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and James DeMint and retired U.S. Sen. Ernest “Fritz” Hollings. Following the opening remarks, the first cars traveled across the new span.

Perhaps no one was more pleased to see the first cars travel across the new bridge than Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley. For years, Riley envisioned an eight-lane bridge with a pedestrian and bicycle lane, only to be told it could not be built. He was adamant that the job eventually could be completed.

The original Cooper River Bridge opened in 1929 and was renamed the Grace Memorial Bridge in 1943. It was an adventure to navigate its 20-foot-wide roadbed and steep curves, and the bridge was also functionally obsolete and potentially dangerous. The three-lane Silas N. Pearman Bridge opened next to the Grace Bridge in 1966, but increased traffic due to the rapid growth of the area, especially in Mount Pleasant, soon rendered this structure insufficient for daily commuter traffic.

There was some nostalgia for the old bridges, but, once the Ravenel “graced” the Cooper River and commuters were no longer faced with daily traffic tie-ups, locals embraced the new bridge. The biggest hazard now associated with the Ravenel is tourists taking pictures of the magnificent structure while speeding across its eight lanes.

THE VISION BECOMES A REALITY

• Charleston Mayor Joe Riley

After 10 years, Joe Riley is still enamored with the Ravenel Bridge. He readily admits that it exceeded his expectations and is “more beautiful, more elegant” than he envisioned.

“The scale of the bridge works perfectly in the large expanse of water, not at all overwhelming,” he added.

The biggest surprise to the longtime mayor of Charleston is the success of the pedestrian/bicycle lane, which he insisted on during the design stage.

“It’s become a destination spot. Day and night, people



are walking or biking,” he noted.

It has also spirited a movement for more pedestrian/bicycle paths, not only in Charleston. Other cities now want lanes “like they have on the bridge in Charleston.” It just goes to prove, he said, “Build it and they will come and use it.”

Despite the increased growth of the area, especially East of the Cooper, Riley does not think the bridge will need to be replaced any time soon.

“Eventually the use and availability of public transportation will ease traffic concerns,” he prophesized.

The bridge was designed to support a light rail system.

Looking back over his 40 years at the helm of Charleston, where does Riley place the completion of the Ravenel Bridge?

“Right up there,” he said without hesitation.

PUTTING RETIREMENT ON HOLD

• *Director of Engineering Bobby Clair*

Bobby Clair, a Charleston native, was looking forward to retirement after working for more than 30 years for the South Carolina Department of Transportation. He agreed to stay on for two more years to help with the groundwork for the proposed new bridge and then to take over the reins of the entire project as the director of engineering. He was asked to handle the job because he was familiar with the various local and state bureaucracies. He insisted on having the authority to make all major decisions, a necessity because time was certainly a factor on this project. Early on, only half the construction costs were certain, and some aspects of the bridge – the pedestrian/bicycle lane, for example – were in jeopardy if all the funding was not approved. Fortunately, the money became available, and the bridge was completed a year ahead of schedule.

It would appear that the most difficult task would be building a new bridge while keeping two existing bridges open to traffic. However, the biggest challenge was constructing a bridge that did not negatively impact adjacent neighborhoods. Generally, roadway construction work is done at night to have the least impact on traffic but, in this case, the vibrations and pounding were disturbing nearby residents.

Clair said the toughest aspect of this problem was building “neighborhood trust,” a job handled through outreach programs, training and employment opportunities and public education. Local residents received on-the-job training in fields such as welding and concrete work, obtaining skills that would last long after this project was completed. Even local high school students participated in summer training programs.

Ten years after the bridge was completed, Clair still hasn’t retired. He is currently working for a design/build firm that is planning a replacement for New York’s Tappan Zee Bridge, which will have 16 vehicle lanes plus a pedestrian/bicycle lane.



RAVENEL BRIDGE TIMELINE

1929 – The Cooper River Bridge opens and is later renamed the John P. Grace Memorial Bridge.

1966 – The Silas N. Pearman Bridge opens.

1979 – The bridges are declared “functionally obsolete.”

1995 – The Grace Bridge rates a 4 on a bridge inspection – out of 100 possible points.

1996 – Arthur Ravenel Jr. is elected to the South Carolina Senate, after campaigning for a new bridge.

1997 – The South Carolina Infrastructure Bank Act, spearheaded by Ravenel, is signed to help finance large transportation projects.

1999 – The South Carolina Highway Commission and General Assembly name what will be the new bridge after Ravenel.

2001 – Ground is broken for the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge.

2002 – Foundations for the bridge towers are in place.

2004 – One hundred twenty eight cables are hung from the towers.

2005 – The last slab is laid in the roadbed.

2005 – The bridge is opened and dedicated on July 16, one year ahead of schedule.

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LOOKING BACK

• Arthur Ravenel Jr.

Despite being stricken with Guillain-Barre syndrome six months prior to the opening of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, its namesake was able to participate and share his homespun stories. He was a bit upstaged when a ship passed under the bridge and blew its whistle. Mention his of his illness caused him to add, "I thought I was going to die" but then quickly with a chuckle, "I didn't."

The proposal to name the bridge in Ravenel's honor, which came from State Sen. Ernie Passaulaigue, a Charleston-area democrat, was a complete surprise, Ravenel said. Asked how he would like to be remembered 50 years from now, he stated, "He's the guy who got the bridge built."

Ravenel was involved with the bridge project early on when he ran for the state Senate at the urging of Mount Pleasant Mayor Harry Hallman. He later served on a committee along with Charleston Mayor Joe Riley and others to work out the details for getting the bridge designed and built. The committee crossed political lines but Ravenel said everyone was focused on the same goal – getting the bridge built.



A long list of dignitaries were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony that opened the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge in July 2005.

"There was no acrimony," he commented. "We sure laughed a lot and everyone was happy with the result."

The committee studied every aspect of the bridge, including seismic and hurricane testing.

"The one thing we didn't consider was icing (a problem in the winter of 2014) but I doubt we will see that again for a long time," Ravenel said.

The design/build method was selected as the best choice for the bridge, Ravenel pointed out but then added, "There is no provision in state law for this so we may have built the bridge illegally." Another chuckle.

He's only received one complaint about the bridge: "A gentleman called me to say his wife didn't like the bridge because it was too high. I told him to tell her I would have it lowered 35 feet just for her." 🐼



FACTS ABOUT THE BRIDGE

Opened: July 16, 2005.

Designer: Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas of New York City.

Architect: MacDonald Architects of San Francisco.

Contractor: Built by Palmetto Bridge Constructors, a joint venture of Tidewater Skanska USA and HBG Constructors Inc./Flatiron Structures Company.

Owner: South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Cost: \$632 million.

Length: 3.5 miles.

Main span: 1,546 feet long – the longest cable stay span in North America.

Height: The towers are 572 feet tall – the cable stays measure 560 miles.

Clearance: One hundred eighty six feet, with a 1,000-foot channel.

Construction: Three-and-a-half years – completed a year ahead of schedule. During peak construction, there were more than 1,000 workers on the project.

Materials: Three hundred cubic tons of concrete, 50,000 tons of reinforced steel and 40,000 tons of structural steel.

Traffic: Eight lanes of traffic plus a 12-foot shared pedestrian/bicycle lane.

Resilience: The bridge can withstand a Category 5 hurricane and a magnitude 7.3 earthquake.

Pedal to the Metal



THE RAVENEL BRIDGE'S WONDERS' WAY

Story by Kalene McCort.

ON MOST POSTCARD-WORTHY days, you don't think twice about slipping on your sneakers and taking a stroll or bike ride on the Ravenel Bridge's Wonders' Way. Weather permitting, it's not uncommon to see hundreds taking in all this 2.7-mile pedestrian and

bike path has to offer. Seeing the side of the bridge peppered with enthused cyclists, joggers, runners and walkers making their way over the Cooper River has become an expected and welcomed sight.

It's difficult to imagine not being able to journey down this intrinsic part of our skyline by foot or bike. However, the original building plans for the Ravenel Bridge didn't



Citadel professor and avid cyclist Donald Sparks was one of the leaders of a coordinated effort to include a walking and biking path on the Ravenel Bridge. His constant companion is his dog Alp.

Photo courtesy of Donald Sparks.



The original plans for the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge didn't include a walking and biking path.

include such a path. Thanks to the concerted efforts and tenacity of multiple citizens who were willing to stand up for what they believed in, we have access to this path today. The man at the center of this hard-fought victory was Citadel Professor Don-

ald Sparks, who has made countless weekly bike rides since its completion 10 years ago.

“When I heard they were not going to include a bike path in this project, I thought that was crazy!” said Sparks. “It was a coordinated effort by many groups. But I suppose I took on the cheerleading role.”

An avid cyclist, Sparks saw the potential for a multi-use path, not just to give people a car-alternative method to get from Mount Pleasant to the Peninsula but for the environment. Fewer cars means less pollution in the Lowcountry.

“I grew up in Greenville and rode my bike to school as a kid,” said Sparks. “Riding my bike today allows me the same freedom to get from place to place. I like that it is part of a healthy lifestyle and it is just so easy.”

Getting South Carolina’s Department of Transportation to agree to incorporate a bike path into the Ravenel Bridge plan wasn’t so easy. The Charleston Bicycle Advocacy Group, now Charleston Moves, sped full force into good old grass-roots activism in 1999 with a record-breaking campaign. Collaborating with the Sierra Club, Earth Force, the Coastal Conservation League and Community Health Partners, they set out to send a very powerful message to those who needed to hear it.

Flooding the area with “Can’t Wait to Bike The New Bridge” bumper stickers, T-shirts and postcards, Sparks and company were determined not to be silenced. Thirty thousand postcards were sent to Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley’s office. The overwhelm-

ing amount of public support for the project was evident. Riley jumped onboard early on and Mount Pleasant Mayor Cheryl Woods-Flowers quickly followed suit.

Once the politicians were in favor of the project, Charleston Moves boldly took out a half-page newspaper ad thanking the Department of Transportation for the bridge’s bike path before it was even a done deal. Creating a buzz paid off big time for the \$12-million project.

On his days off, Sparks can be found pedaling from his downtown Charleston home to Sullivan’s Island to grab lunch at Poe’s Tavern. Oftentimes, Sparks isn’t making the journey solo. Hitched to the back of his bike you’ll find a small carrier occupied by Alp – a 25-pound beagle who seems to enjoy the ride as much as his owner.

“She’s sporty. She’s a character,” said Sparks.

While Sparks never doubted that the bike and pedestrian lanes would be used, he is often overwhelmed by their popularity.

“I’m consistently surprised with just how many people you will find out there on a daily basis,” said Sparks. “It’s very gratifying to see the use.”

When asked what advice he had for individuals trying to implement change in their city, Sparks responded: “Educate yourself. We spent much time corresponding with engineers and transportation specialists all over the country to discover what would be the most successful route to go. Reach out to your friends. There is strength in numbers.” 🐕



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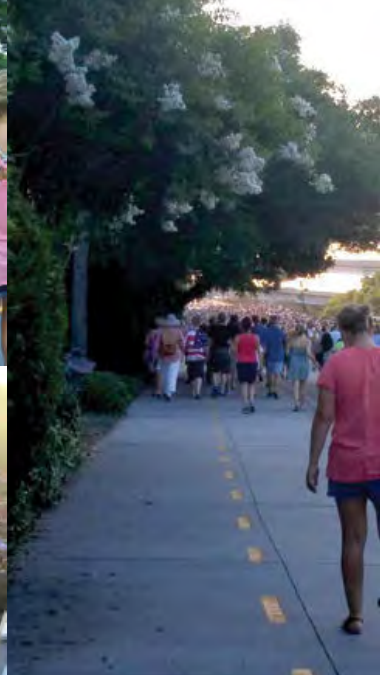


Remembering

The Bridge to Peace

Editor's Note: On Sunday, June 21, 2015, thousands of people – East Cooper residents included – marched the Ravenel Bridge to promote peace following the horrific Emanuel AME Church shooting the previous week. All ages, races and demographics were present to share a singular vision of hope and peace throughout the Lowcountry and the world. Mount Pleasant Magazine is proud to share a few photos from our readers, submitted through [Facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine). For even more inspiring responses, check out MountPleasantMagazine.com/bridgetopeace.

"On the Mount Pleasant side of the Bridge to Peace event, I saw teenagers, young parents and families and older couples gathered in support of their community. I saw people giving out cold bottles of water. I saw people picking up trash on the road. A teenage girl with a peace sign on her shirt was handing out glow necklaces and gave them to my two young children. There were so many people, it was hard to get close to the bridge, but those in the back formed two lines on each side of the street, and we stood hand in hand. #charlestonunity"



"After the walk, we saw these touching sidewalk chalk tributes."



Quinn Knight was supposed to spend "a couple of days" in Kauai but ended up staying for a month-and-a-half.



Have Board, Will Travel

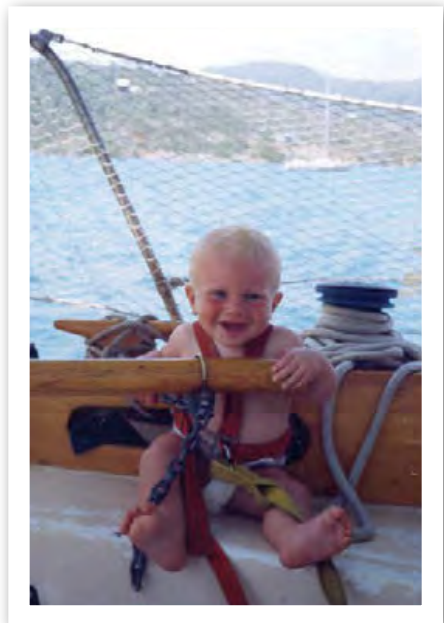
Quinn Knight Has Surfed the World Over

*Story by Cullen Murray-Kemp.
Photos courtesy of Quinn Knight.*

QUINN Knight, a Mount Pleasant resident, sipped casually from his Havana Mule (a Moscow Mule with tequila) and began to talk. His words seemed stress-free and comfortable, as if he had not just gotten off a nine-hour shift at the neighborhood Parrot Surf Shop. Comfortable in his own skin could be a classic cliché that would describe Knight. At his core, he's as free as they come. It's not a stretch to say that in what probably will be the first quarter of his life, he has traveled and experienced far more than most of us will in our entire lives.

THE EARLY YEARS

Quinn Knight was born in Minnesota, but, when he was just one month old, his family packed up their boat and headed down the



Quinn was born in Minnesota, but, when he was just a month old, his family moved to Tasmania.

Mississippi River. Later, they would sail across the Atlantic Ocean to their future home of Tasmania, Australia. The journey would end up lasting the first five years of Knight's life.

"I guess I was pretty much born a traveler," he said with a chuckle.

He spent his earliest days helping his dad spearfish and attempting to leap from the sailboat and into the deep blue sea.

"My parents became so annoyed that my dad constructed a harness to restrain me from jumping into the ocean as a toddler," he reminisced.

When he was a teen, Knight and his family relocated to Mount Pleasant. At the time, he was up-and-coming in the skateboard circuit and receiving much attention from sponsors. But one day while skating Knight fell and seriously injured his back.

"After about a year's worth of MRI procedures, I realized that I had a herniated disc in my spinal column," said Knight, attributing his love for surfing to the difference between falling into the water and falling on concrete.

Over the next few years, Knight saved money by working at Parrot Surf Shop whenever he wasn't surfing



Quinn spent his earliest days helping his dad spearfish and trying not to fall off the boat.

or in school. In 2013, he graduated from the College of Charleston.

"I had saved up some money at the time so I decided to take a trip," he explained.

NICARAGUA: 18 DAYS

On his trip to Nicaragua, Knight

tagged along with a few skate and surf buddies, including Big Wave Tour surfer Will Skudin. The group wanted big waves, and that's what they got.

"One day, when the surf was really giant, we paid local fishermen to let us use their Panga boat," said Knight.



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The crew boarded the small fishing vessel and challenged a massive “9-foot shore break.”

“It was mayhem,” said Knight. “The locals were referring to the waters as ‘mar feo’ or ‘ugly ocean’ that day.”

The surfers charged ahead through waves that were crashing over the boat.

“At one point our boat was literally vertical as we mounted a massive wave just before it broke. We almost killed ourselves that day,” Knight remembered.



When Quinn was a teen, he and his family relocated to Mount Pleasant.

EAST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES: TWO MONTHS

After Nicaragua, Knight spent a couple of months traveling up and down the East Coast, “sleeping on couches at friends’ houses and friends of friends’ houses,” he said.

“That’s what I really love about the skate/surf life. It’s a community. Anywhere you go in the world, you can find skaters and surfers and make friends immediately.”

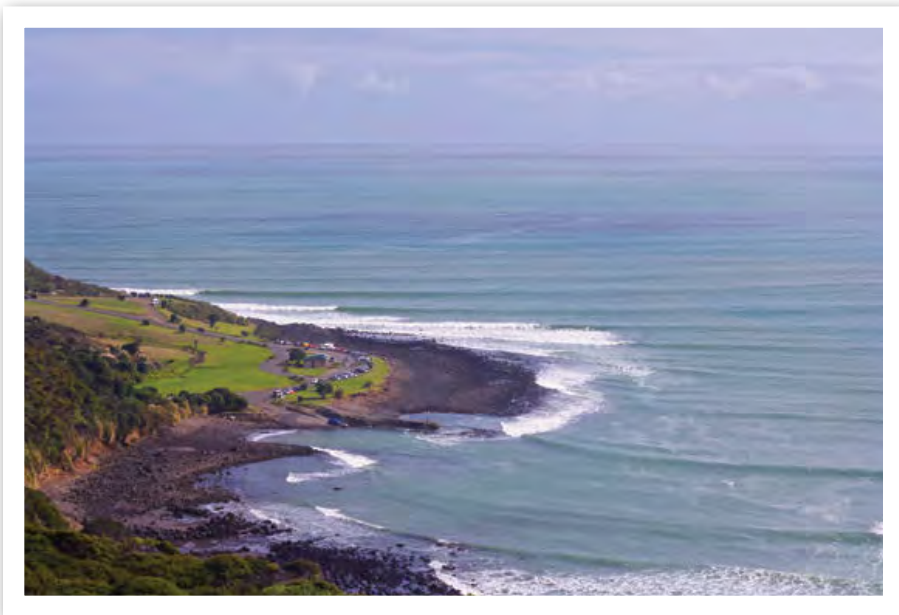
PUERTO RICO: TWO-AND-A-HALF MONTHS

The day after Christmas in 2013, Knight flew out of Charleston to Puerto Rico to meet a friend who

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Quinn enjoyed chasing the surf up and down the coast in New Zealand.

runs a surf school and agreed to shack Knight up for a few days. He spent most of his time “bumming around” because the surf was “the worst waves in the history of Puerto Rico.” But

lack of surf did not mean lack of fun for Knight, who recalls stealing paddle boards from the surf school with a buddy and paddling over a mile off shore to go spearfishing.

CALIFORNIA: ONE WEEK

“I pretty much just stopped in Cali to finagle a cheaper flight to Hawaii,” he explained.

KAUAI: SIX WEEKS

On Kauai, Knight met up with a friend he went to Moultrie Middle School with who now lives on the island.

“I was only supposed to be there for a couple days, and I ended up staying for a month-and-a-half,” he said.

It became clear why he was reluctant to leave Kauai as he told tales of meeting surf icons such as Laird Hamilton and surfing secret spots that “he shouldn’t have even brought up.”

OAHU: ONE WEEK

“I was sleeping in a hostel on



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the North Shore and got ravished by bed bugs,” remembered Knight. “I did end up getting the hostel at half price, so it wasn’t all bad.”

NEW ZEALAND: THREE MONTHS

By the time Knight arrived in New Zealand, he had contracted a staph infection from the bed bug wounds. Despite his poor health, he insisted that he was still enjoying himself – chasing the surf up and down the New Zealand coast in a rental car, completely alone.

“I did get to surf New Zealand’s most famous wave in Raglan,” he boasted.

One morning, Knight woke up with a huge cyst on his neck and finally went to the doctor, who reported that he had 16 open wounds and a serious blood infection. Being quite ill and in a foreign country where he knew no one, Knight followed up a week of bed rest with a ticket to his home away from home.

TASMANIA: SIX WEEKS

Once he reached his former home, Knight spent some time recovering and visiting with his “crazy uncle” and other family members. Realizing he would need to do a lot of traveling to visit all the surf spots



Because the surf was “the worst in the history of Puerto Rico,” Quinn spent most of his time there “bumming around.”

Australia had to offer, Knight bought an old red Subaru for \$150. With the help of a mechanic cousin and a few YouTube tutorials, he was able to get the car in running condition and take off by himself up the coast of Tasmania.

“That trip was very cold and lonely. All I ate were fish that I caught and some rice,” he recalled.

Within a couple weeks, Knight made it to Davenport and caught the ferry over to Melbourne.

MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, BYRON: NINE MONTHS

Once in Melbourne, Knight didn’t waste much time hopping into his \$150 Subaru and heading up Australia’s East Coast along the Great Ocean Road. He would drive for days without seeing another car. As he approached Great Otway National Park, he drove over a hill and laid eyes on the biggest waves he’d ever seen.



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Quinn nicknamed his red Subaru The Red Dragon because the suspension was shot, and sparks shot out of the back end every time they went over a bump in the road.

“I stayed at that camp for three days just watching the waves. Because I was completely alone, I didn’t even try to surf and risk drowning. I was just in awe watching the ocean,” he said.

Knight then circled back around Australia’s southern tip and headed to Sydney and on to Byron. On his journey up the West Coast, he woke up in unbearable back pain that was undoubtedly related to his former skate injury. He was laid up on a hostel couch for a month. Fortunately, he had the opportunity to hang with locals and make friends with the people of Byron.

“I ended up getting a job as a bus driver from a surfing friend I made,” he said with a laugh.

On his birthday, two months after his back pain re-emerged, Knight bought a long board and took to the coastal Australian surf. One day later, he dislocated his shoulder while surfing.

“It was one of the worst pains ever because I was still in my wetsuit when it happened and was barely able to get my shoulder back into place,” he grimaced.

BACK ON THE ROAD AND HOME TO MOUNT PLEASANT!

Knight’s journey continued when he received an Instagram message from a friend who wanted to take a road trip. Sticking to his cardinal rule – “never say no to an opportunity” – Knight agreed and they set off in his Subaru that he’d nicknamed the Red Dragon. The suspension was shot and every time they went over a bump in the road, a spark shot out the rear end.

“I’m always amazed when I think about how many thousands of miles I drove in a car that I got for \$150,” Knight said with a smile.

As afternoon turned to evening at the bar on Coleman Boulevard, Knight’s stories continued to entrance me. He went on about picking up hitchhikers in the Outback, nearly running out of water, car troubles and a particularly crazy Aussie birthday party.

So how did it all end?

“Well, I sort of just ended up in Melbourne again because of car troubles. Then one day I broke my last surf board, shaved my head and went home.” 🐉



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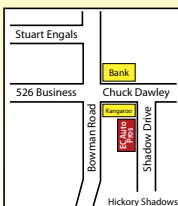
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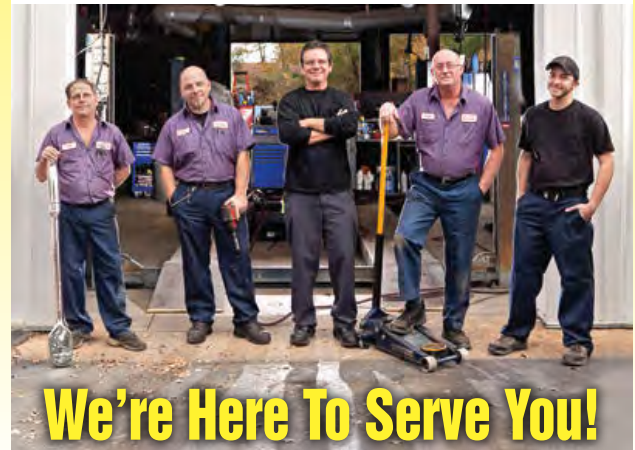
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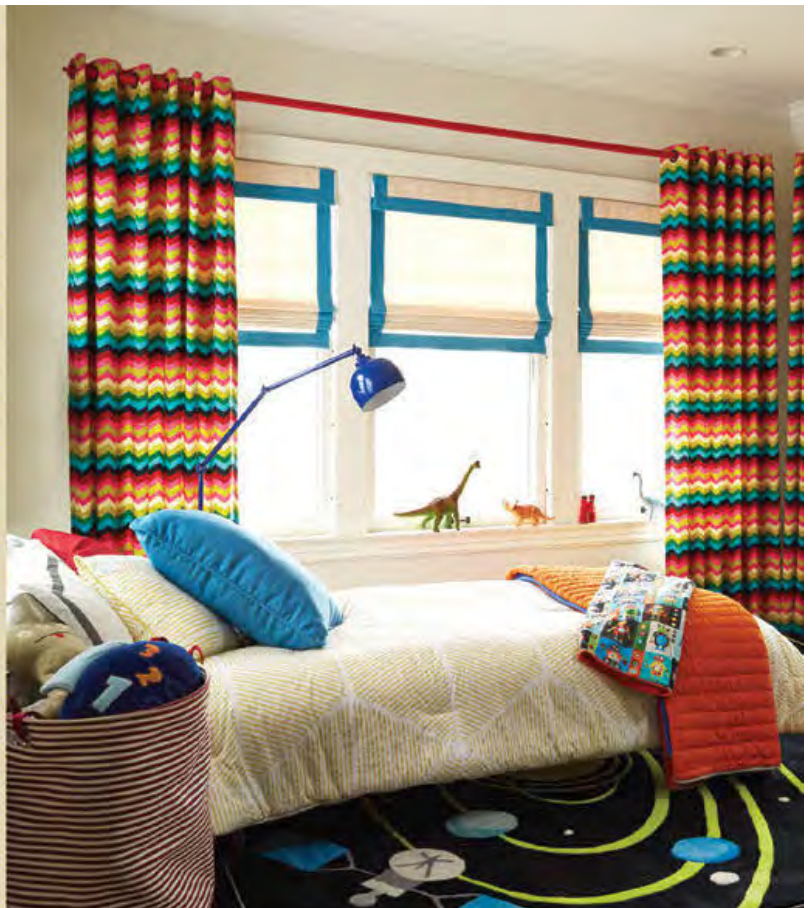
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The Winners' Circle



Photo by Alan Hawes.

Front row: The reporters who worked on the Pulitzer Prize winning piece: Left to right: Doug Pardue, Jennifer Berry Hawes, Natalie Caula Hauff and Glenn Smith. They were joined by Post and Courier Executive Editor Mitch Pugh and former Editorial Director of the Center for Investigative Reporting Mark Katches.

A LOCAL JOURNALIST REFLECTS ON EARNING THE PULITZER

Story by Natalie Caula Hauff.

Editor's note: *The Post and Courier, the Charleston area's daily newspaper, won its first Pulitzer Prize since 1925 this year. East Cooper residents Natalie Caula Hauff and Jennifer Berry Hawes were among the four reporters who contributed to the series that earned the coveted award for the newspaper. Hauff describes what it was like.*

WE WERE ALL STILL IN awe as we stood outside the steps of Columbia University's Low Library in New York City, where we had just been awarded the greatest honor in journalism, the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service.

As we prepared to leave, a greater accomplishment was realized, one none of us were quite sure would ever really happen.

"The state passed the legislation. It's done," yelled Doug Pardue, one of four reporters who wrote "Till Death Do Us Part" for *The Post and Courier*, a series about domestic violence in South Carolina.

I exchanged hugs and high fives with my teammates Pardue, Projects Editor Glenn Smith and Reporter Jennifer Berry Hawes. Ten months of hard work had paid off.

"It was gratifying and I was happy to see that our work had done something meaningful to help victims and help stem this horrible crime," Pardue said.

After we published our series of articles and national attention was directed to the Palmetto State's deadly record of women killed by men, the state Legislature started working on passing its first piece of significant legislation aimed at curbing the statistic that kept us on the list of deadliest states.

The Pulitzer board called the articles "a riveting series that probed why South Carolina is among the deadliest states in the union for women and put the issue of what to do about it on the state's agenda."

The legislation passed the day we were awarded our Pulitzer Prize, on May 28, 2015.

"It was such an honor and so humbling to have won this award and be placed in such esteemed company," Smith said. "It was even more gratifying to have won the award on the same day the reform bill passed in the Legislature."

HOW IT ALL STARTED

In September 2013, the Violence Policy Center released its annual report of states with the highest rate of women killed by men. South Carolina was at the top of the list, with a rate more than double the national average.

Smith, a veteran crime reporter for *The Post and Courier*, wrote an article about the ranking, as the newspaper had done in years prior, but this one got him thinking. He discussed the situation with some of the editors as well as with Pardue, who worked on special projects.

"As we talked more about it, we came to realize South Carolina had topped this awful list three times in the past decade and had been among the deadliest states for women for 15 years," Smith said. "We decided it was imperative that we take a deeper look and figure out what was driving this violence in our state."

It was the beginning of a project that would grow much larger than any of us imagined. Glenn asked me to join the team. I had been covering the crime and court beat for the newspaper for a little more than a year, so I had some experience working with data research and analysis.

Jennifer Berry Hawes, a features reporter with a knack for narrative story-telling and highlighting the humanity behind the numbers, also joined the team.

We started with some basic information from several annual reports published by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office – the names and ages of women killed by men in the last 10 years, including a brief synopsis of how they died.

With the assistance of the Center for Investigative Reporting, which provided training for the data analysis, editorial support and funding for graphics, we expanded the database so we could identify patterns and, we hoped, figure out solutions.

We researched every case and picked them apart: the time of day the women were killed; whether the perpetrators had prior criminal domestic violence charges or convictions; the weapons they used. After several months, we started





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The staff of *The Post and Courier* erupt in cheers after hearing that the newspaper was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for the series, "Till Death Do Us Part," written by Glenn Smith, Doug Pardue, Jennifer Berry Hawes and Natalie Caula Hauff.

interviewing women who were survivors of domestic violence and family members who had lost loved ones, and their stories were intertwined with the brutal statistics we'd collected. The articles began like this:

"More than 300 women were shot, stabbed, strangled, beaten, bludgeoned or burned to death over the past decade by men in South Carolina, dying at a rate of one every 12 days, while the state does little to stem the carnage from domestic abuse."

RECOGNITION

The articles were published online in August 2014 and ran as a series for five days in print, and the topic of domestic violence in South Carolina was suddenly thrust into the spotlight both locally and nationally.

April 20 was the day we had been anxiously awaiting.

In the newsroom, everyone gathered around the big screen televisions and watched the announcement.

"I felt nervous but mostly it just seemed surreal," Hawes said. "I saw the publisher, owner, board chairman and all the editors file into the newsroom and thought this was either going to be an amazing moment of my life – or one of the most embarrassing."

"The Gold Medal for Public Service goes to *The Post and Courier*." The words resonated through the newsroom as cheers erupted and people embraced each other, some in tears. Later, as we celebrated, it was difficult not to cry. It's a dream come true for all of us.

"I was ecstatic and so happy my wife Judy was there to share the moment with me, hug me and keep me from collapsing in a puddle," Pardue said. "It was a lifetime achievement." 🍷

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LOCAL DESIGNS APPEAR ON AMC'S MAD MEN

Story by Denise K. James.

Photos by Cassandra Michelle Photography.



Megan Hewitt, the owner of Shrimp and Grits Kids, was surprised to learn that her clothing designs had been spotted on episodes of "Mad Men."



ONE FINE AFTERNOON A FEW months back, local designer Megan Hewitt received a phone call from a sales representative at her children's apparel company, Shrimp and Grits Kids. She was amazed at the good news that her rep – an ardent fan of AMC's television show "Mad Men" – had spotted Megan's clothing designs in a recent episode. Though Megan was not a regular viewer of the show at the time, she knew enough to be excited – and to promptly tune in and "binge watch" the entire series. Today, post-

series-finale, Megan not only appreciates “Mad Men” but revels in the fact that her homegrown designs found a national audience.

“I’m obsessed with the show now,” she admitted. “I love the aesthetic.”

The classic look that Shrimp and Grits Kids is known for caught the eye of “Mad Men” costume designer Janie Bryant as early as season two. Megan suspects that Janie and her team likely performed a simple Google search for “traditional boys’ smocked outfits” or something similar and stumbled upon her website. Baby Gene, Don and Betty’s love child from the end of season three, ended up wearing several of the Shrimp and Grits Kids outfits – five total throughout the show.

“It’s interesting,” mused Lauren Fairbanks of Stunt & Gimmick’s, the advertising firm that represents Shrimp and Grits Kids. “The folks at ‘Mad Men’s’ costume design had been using Shrimp and Grits Kids since 2010, a time when the company was only 3 years old, and the show was fairly new as well.”

Megan started Shrimp and Grits Kids after leaving her job as an art teacher when her daughter, 10-year-old Ella, was just a year old. Fast forward to the present, and Shrimp and Grits Kids has found a wider fan base – the storefront and warehouse located in the Watermark community of Mount Pleasant are testaments to that.

Megan grew up on Sullivan’s Island and attended Sullivan’s Island Elementary School. She enjoys owning a business that is family-owned and operated with the help of her husband, Pitts, and brother, Mike. Favorite designs that honor the Southern aesthetic have included Carolina blue crabs, Edisto alligators, the Morris Island Lighthouse and the Charleston pineapple.

“I’ve always incorporated a lot of Lowcountry scenes into my designs,” she explained. “I love the traditional look.”

“When Megan and Janie finally talked, they agreed the Shrimp and Grits Kids designs were a great fit for ‘Mad Men,’” Lauren pointed out.

Both ladies mentioned that they’ve noticed more traditional, rather than trendy, styles resurfacing for children.

“It’s kids dressing like kids,” Lauren said. “And it’s classic – the equivalent of a little black dress on a woman.”

Though the show is over now (sniff), Lauren and Megan agreed that it’s great to get Charleston on the national style map – and with an Emmy award-winning show at that.

“I love period pieces,” Megan commented, citing other television shows such as “The Goldbergs.” “Being a clothing designer, I enjoy creative costuming.”

“It’s great to see a local clothing company getting that kind of exposure on the national level,” Lauren added. 🐼



The classic look that Shrimp and Grits Kids is known for caught the eye of “Mad Men” designer Janie Bryant as early as season two.





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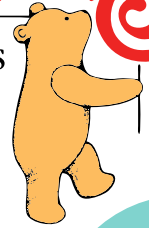
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Danny Causey has been cutting hair at his barbershop in Mount Pleasant for half a century.

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A CAUSE(Y) FOR CELEBRATION

*Story by Bill Farley.
Photos by Brian Sherman.*

THE TRADITIONAL BARBERSHOP AS we know it has only been in existence since the early 20th century, and Causey's at Sea Island Shopping Center in Mount Pleasant has been in business for just about half that time.

One of the last remaining barbershops in the Charleston area, Causey's opened its doors in 1965 after Danny Causey, a electrician's assistant at the time, went for a haircut while nursing a scalp wound he'd picked up from an overhead nail while on the job. His barber suggested that a satisfying and potentially less dangerous living could be made by cutting hair. Danny didn't have to be told twice.

"I looked around. There were two old men playing checkers and my barber friend was listening to the radio and talking sports. I thought, 'Hey. I like all those things!'" he joked.

Soon thereafter, he and a partner opened their first tonsorial emporium on the site of a former trailer park where Ben Sawyer and Chuck Dawley boulevards now converge.

That partner soon moved on, but Danny Causey is still at it, along with his wife, two sons and one daughter-in-law. Though the Causeys have a second location in Mount Pleasant on Houston Northcutt and a third



Beth Bolcholz has been a stylist at Causey's since 1989. Jessie France has been a customer at the local barbershop "since the 20th century."

in North Charleston, their first Mount Pleasant store remains their flagship.

Anyone who has ever visited the original Causey's knows one long-time customer's observation is on the money: "It's like walking into Floyd's Barbershop on 'The Andy Griffith Show.'"

The chairs are all taken, and the waiting area is full as well. A TV natters softly on its stand. Newspapers and magazines cascade from side tables. College and pro

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pennants, sports memorabilia, odd trinkets, family photos and more festoon the four walls to the ceiling. Throughout it all, the clip of scissors and the buzz of shears blend with the familiar chatter of the customers and their barbers. To one side stands a sister and brother, no older than 6 or 7, licking away at ice cream cones. Danny Causey learned early on that the way to convince rambunctious kids to sit still for their haircuts was “to bribe ’em.”

He likes having happy kids around, but even more he likes to serve Citadel cadets, members of the military and senior citizens, offering all of them a generous discount.

“They’re the folks who kept me in business when I first opened the shop,” Causey recalled, pointing out that he decided to take a stab at barbering just as untold numbers of American men decided to grow their hair long and forgo regular trims.

A serious sports fan, Danny Causey lists among his favorite moments witnessing Jack Nicklaus win his last Masters and Tiger Woods his first, and attending scores of USC, Clemson and Braves games. He’s even put together bus trips to Turner Field in Atlanta for as many as 200 of his friends.

On his bucket list is visiting the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, which

he’ll do this summer when one of his favorite players, pitcher John Smoltz, is inducted. Another goal is to cut the hair of 10 men over the age of 100. He’s barbered six so far, and his scissors are sighted on a seventh.

Asked to describe Causey’s, Danny suggested, “It’s like a social club without any dues.”

Men, women and children are all welcomed and made to feel at home. Raised voices over religion and politics are neither expected nor tolerated. No reservations are taken, so the rule is always first come, first served.

Even as traditional barbershops slowly vanish from the American landscape, Danny Causey anticipates his family continuing his namesake business.

Asked if he’d change anything about his past 50 years – he’s also been married to his wife for the same five decades – he answered, “I wouldn’t have lived my life any other way.”

Floyd Lawson and the folks in Mayberry would be proud. 🍷

On Aug. 30, from 1 to 5 p.m., Causey’s will reinstate its 1965 haircut price of \$1.00, with all gratuities going to East Cooper Meals on Wheels and Windwood Farm Home for Children. First come, first served ... of course!



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What's Up, Dock?

MORE PUBLIC ACCESS FOR SHEM CREEK

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, FOLKS HAVE been able to enjoy access to great vistas, fishing and strolling at Shem Creek Park. Now their experience at Mount Pleasant's iconic waterway is about to get even more interesting.

The town has plans for increasing public access to the dock space behind Vickery's Restaurant, Shem Creek Inn, the Low-county Scuba dive shop and Mt. Pleasant Seafood. Currently, use of the creek-side

BY MARY COY

docks is mostly limited to patrons of those businesses and owners of the charter boats who rent space there. The new project will connect those privately-owned docks to the park's existing 2,200 feet of boardwalk. A small bridge will be added over Jones Creek, which empties into Shem Creek, allowing pedestrians to walk all the way around the marsh in one continuous loop.

Rial Fitch and Billy Simmons, the Mount Pleasant businessmen who own the docks, have granted easements that will allow the town to replace the fixed portion of the existing docks while retaining the floating docks for their own commercial use.

"It's a great opportunity to demonstrate how private and public sector partnerships are able to work toward a much larger shared benefit," said Kevin Mitchell, planning engineer and project manager for the town.

Town Councilman Elton Carrier agreed, explaining that "the current owners benefit from getting the new docks and improved pilings. They still own the property, but the ease-

ment gives permission for the town and public to use it."

"Red Simmons (Billy's brother) and I wanted to do it 30 years ago," Fitch explained.

Back then, the men even had the notion that the town



The town of Mount Pleasant is getting ready to increase public access to Shem Creek. When the project is completed, people will be able to get to the creek from four different locations.

should construct a walkway near the bridge on Coleman Boulevard to connect the two sides of the creek. At the time, Fitch said, they were told their idea wouldn't work. So when town officials recently asked them to strike a deal to join the docks of Shem Creek Park to their private property, they were happy to comply. Carrier, chairman of the Recreation Committee and a member of the Finance, Planning and Economic Development committees, said, "It was always a long-range plan, but we just needed to wait until the money was available. Eventually, the Department of Transportation will replace the Shem Creek

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bridge, and a redesign will allow a safe walkway over to the other side, too.”

The work slated for this year is Phase II of the Shem Creek Park project. Since construction bids haven’t been accepted yet, the final cost of the project hasn’t been determined.

“When the town bought the property for Phase I of the park years ago at a cost of \$6 million, there was some controversy,” Carrier remembered. “But if we hadn’t done that, there would be another office building there today.”

Bayview Acres resident Annie Stone, whose home backs up to the marsh, said, “I’m all for allowing access to the water for more people rather than just the privileged few. I love seeing people running and biking on the docks. The town spared no expense at building the park’s boardwalks, and, if they do something of that caliber, it will be good. We have a boat which we can get under the small pedestrian bridge that crosses over Jones Creek near Vickery’s, so I don’t see a problem with building another bridge of that height.”

Jared Alverson, the general manager of Vickery’s, is also pleased with the plan.

“I think it will be good for the area’s businesses, and it will make our restaurant more accessible,” he said.

Craig Strickler, regional director of operations for Charlestowne Hotels, the group that manages Shem Creek Inn, said, “The hotel’s guests frequently ask how they can get to the town’s dock, so this is definitely a positive thing. We love our location and love progress, so we are making plans to improve the hotel to keep pace.”

When Phase II is finished, people will be able to access Shem Creek Park from four locations: Coleman Boulevard, the dive shop, Vickery’s and the existing entrance at the public parking area. The project is slated to be completed by next year. 🐼

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BY JOE SEMSAR

SINCE BOEING OPENED ITS DOORS in North Charleston in November 2011, the airline manufacturing juggernaut has captured the attention of local news organizations, elected officials and the general public. The 787 Dreamliner program, housed adjacent to the Charleston International Airport, sits on approximately 141 acres and boasts a beautiful campus

that employs thousands of Charleston-area residents.

Boeing's economic impact on the region can be seen in its breathtaking manufacturing facilities, millions of dollars in new wages sloshing around the local economy and the many young, talented locals who have committed to building a life in the region because of career opportunities with Boeing.

Aside from South Carolina's economic environment, its right-to-work policies and the incentive package provided to Boeing by the state, another core reason



Since its arrival in the Lowcountry, Boeing has pumped millions of dollars into the local economy.

Photo courtesy of Boeing.

Boeing selected South Carolina as the home for its second 787 Dreamliner program was the Lowcountry's skilled workforce. The state's nationally ranked public universities and the capacity for local technical colleges to roll out customized training aligned to the region's needs attracted the large airline manufacturer to Charleston. In the words of

Mount Pleasant Mayor Linda Page, "We have created an environment conducive to attracting global corporations because of our hardworking, competent workforce."

In accordance with Boeing's initial incentive package, the company pledged to create 3,800 jobs and invest \$750 million over seven years. Boeing has delivered by offer-

ing hometown talent across myriad industries long-term career opportunities. Mount Pleasant Town Councilman Mark Smith spoke about the rise of manufacturing jobs in the Charleston area.

"As a direct result of Boeing's decision to locate in the Lowcountry, manufacturing employment in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties will continue to grow by more than 14 percent by 2024," he predicted.

Across East Cooper, Boeing's full-time employees and contractors play an integral role in the community. Some are new to Mount Pleasant, but many grew up in the area, went to high school here and have come home because of the attractive career opportunities that have flowed out of Charleston's emergent aerospace industry. Page, who travels across the Southeast for her auction company, has been to many communities where opportunities for young people do not exist. That's why she sees Boeing's decision to locate in South Carolina as a game changer.

"My whole life, it seemed that you had to be a professional or own a small business to do well in Mount Pleasant," Page said. "Now you can live in the community where your friends and family and church reside, because we have thriving industries and educational programs supporting those industries – like Trident Tech's ReadySC program and Clemson's new aeronautics program. All of this started with Boeing."

We interviewed three hometown Mount Pleasant residents who now work on Boeing's North Charleston campus. All three left home after college to pursue careers elsewhere but returned to Mount Pleasant to work for Boeing.

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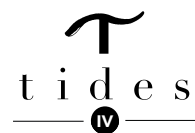




Photo courtesy of Boeing

Boeing's Dreamliner program sits on approximately 141 acres and employs thousands of Charleston-area residents.

ASHLEY HOLBROOK

Hometown: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

High School: Bishop England.

College/major: University of Georgia/Political Science

Current residence: Off of Long Point Road.

Boeing job title: Director of state and local government relations.

Tenure at Boeing: Started in August 2010.

Responsibilities at Boeing: I serve as the Boeing Company's director for state and local government relations for the state of South Carolina. I manage government relations programs that support the missions and strategies of Boeing business units located in South Carolina.

Path to Boeing: I was sitting in Sen. Jim DeMint's office in the fall of 2009, as excited as the rest of South Carolina that Boeing had announced it would be locating its second 787 assembly line in North Charleston. I thought about how much fun it would be to get to introduce South Carolina to Boeing and Boeing to South Carolina. I researched their government affairs offices and applied when I saw an exciting position open up. The rest is history.

Favorite aspect of her job: The employees at the Boeing Company do amazing things all day, every day. I love that my job allows me to tell their story and make the outside world as proud of them as I am.

Favorite part of Boeing's campus: I'm very fortunate that my office overlooks the factory. I love to watch the parts of the airplane come to the site as separate pieces and leave the factory as a beautiful 787 Dreamliner ready for its first flight.



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Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

High School: Wando High School.

College/Major: Clemson University/Construction Science Management - The Citadel/Project Management.

Current residence: Off of Long Point Road.

Boeing job title:

General contractor overseeing construction of new Boeing facilities as a KBR superintendent.

Tenure at Boeing: I have worked on construction projects on-site at Boeing since the spring of 2014.

Responsibilities at Boeing: I am a superintendent with KBR overseeing million-dollar construction projects at the Boeing North Charleston campus. Specifically, I have supported the 88-19 North expansion, which is a clean room with minimal particles in the air where fiber is wrapped onto plane barrels. I also supported projects with the mid-tower renovation, an office building with offices, break rooms and conference rooms. I'm now managing the development of the Autoclave 2, a facility where carbon fiber is adhered to the planes through what looks like big, industrial sized ovens.

Path to Boeing: I was on a project in Celina, Ohio, overseeing the development of a 400,000-square-foot distribution center. This project ran through an awful winter in Ohio, and I literally thought about getting back to Charleston on a daily basis. I now understand the motivation for the massive amounts of migration from Ohio to South Carolina. We literally had a full-time snow plowing team on-site because it was 15 below zero every day for a few months. Juxtapose that with Mount Pleasant – that'll put things in perspective for you. With Boeing's arrival in South Carolina came many construction opportunities, and KBR thankfully sent me home!

Favorite aspect of his job: I appreciate being able to see the fruits of my labor. The construction industry is perfect for me in that I get to work outside with a diverse group of people to build something that is tangible and will likely house thousands of jobs for the foreseeable future.

Favorite part of Boeing's campus: The action. There is



always so much going on out there. It's like its own little city. From the thousands of employees to the spectacular buildings, I love being on campus because it's energizing.

WES WILSON

Hometown:

Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

High School: Wando High School.

College/major: The Citadel/Environmental Engineering - Auburn University/masters in Civil Engineering.

Current residence:

I live off of Highway 41.

Boeing job title:

Site civil/structural engineer and major project manager.

Tenure at Boeing: Joined Boeing in May 2011.

Responsibilities at Boeing: I serve as the Boeing Company's site civil/structural engineer and major project manager. I manage major project planning, engineering and construction within Boeing South Carolina's Facilities Shared Services Group.

Path to Boeing: I was working for Sloan Construction in Greenville, South Carolina, as a project engineer on major highway infrastructure projects worth over \$33 million, and I got a call from Stall High School's principal, Mr. Wilson, who works with Boeing on the development of Stall's robotics program and is also my dad. He had learned that Boeing was hiring facility engineers at their 787 assembly plant in North Charleston. After a brief sanity check with dad, I researched the job online and applied when I saw an exciting position open up.

Favorite aspect of his job: The employees at the Boeing Company do amazing things every day. I love that my job allows me to serve the Boeing Company and supporting infrastructure in planning, engineering and construction to build the future of the most advanced airplane manufacturing factory in the world.

Favorite part of Boeing's campus: The Boeing South Carolina site is vast and impressive and has multiple campuses. As a civil engineer with a natural enjoyment in planning and land development, it's difficult to have a favorite part – I love it all! 🏠





Left to right: Billy, Bubba and Will Simmons are carrying on the Simmons Seafood Tradition.

The Simmons Family Sells Seafood by the Seashore

AND HAVE FOR GENERATIONS

Story by Denise K. James. Photos by Preston Maile.

I MET WITH BILLY SIMMONS, HIS SON Bubba, and his grandson, Will – They’re all named William Simmons, thus the clever array of nicknames – recently for a midday meal on Shem Creek. We ordered sandwiches and Southern sweet tea, then I settled in to hear their interesting stories about East Cooper as

it used to be.

Billy’s grandfather, Yonge Simmons, was mayor of Mount Pleasant between 1916 and 1920 and again between 1921 and 1928 – thus Yonge and Simmons Streets in old Mount Pleasant bear his name. Yonge’s son, Hugh Simmons, began the Simmons Seafood business in earnest, starting with a little

grocery store on Sullivan's Island that serviced loyal locals with fresh, seasonal items.

"We started that store in 1939," Billy Simmons said. "My family moved to Sullivan's Island, and we lived right above the grocery store."

What was it like during those precious early days of East Cooper? Friendly, according to Billy, and a lot of fun.

"We didn't have television on the island," he mused. "We would play kick the can in the streets for an hour-and-a-half and never have to move out of the way of a car!"

The popularity of the island grocery store, which Billy described as "a community gathering place," spurred those who enjoyed shopping there in the 1940s to suggest that the Simmons family start carrying fresh shrimp. Not one to let down his customers, Hugh began purchasing shrimp from local boats – Moultrieville Boats – and quickly learned the joy of the trade.

"He bought a 26-foot boat and started shrimping himself," Billy remembered. "Then, around 1944, he built the shed on Ben Sawyer – a place we could harvest the shrimp, pack them and sell them."

But with the boom of the industry, the Simmons family soon discovered the dock on Ben Sawyer Boulevard was already too small, particularly for larger boats. Their next move was to buy property on Shem Creek: Moultrie Fisheries, named for the Moultrieville boats, which stood where Red's Icehouse is today. By then, Hugh and his family had phased out the grocery store in favor of opening a new Simmons Seafood on the causeway between Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island. Hugh's wife, Ella Simmons, who previously managed the grocery store, took the reins at the new location.

"We were selling in two places," Billy explained. "The Ben Sawyer dock and the causeway store."

I found it interesting that Hugh and family chose to focus on seafood rather than a comprehensive grocery store, but Billy said the evolution felt natural and sensible.

"We ate a lot of seafood," he said with a chuckle. "And we decided we could make a better living with it."

In 1970, Billy took over his father's business on the causeway, and Bubba joined the team since he "was old

enough to start learning." Meanwhile, Red Simmons, Billy's brother, managed the Moultrie Fisheries location on Shem Creek. One of the fonder memories of that era for Billy was watching his young son drag 20-pound buckets of shrimp across the floor.

"He couldn't pick the buckets up, but he could drag them over to me, and I'd lift them to the countertop," he chuckled.

Before long, the Simmons Seafood location evolved yet again, into the iconic brick building that graced the causeway for years. Bubba was helping out regularly, and his neighborhood friends from East Cooper were eager to snag a few hours of work in the store. Billy obliged.

"Kids back then were great help," Billy declared. "They had no phones and no credit cards!"

What kind of seafood was available in the store? Everything, according to Billy and Bubba – from shrimp and flounder to shark, whiting and bass. A good portion of the inventory was stored on ice so that customers would have fresh seafood during the chillier months.

"We used Taylor's Frozen Foods & Cold Storage on Wolfe Street at the time," explained Bubba. "We had a room in there with our frozen catch, and we could get through winter. They used to have 300 pounds of ice in that building."

Helping carry on the tradition now is Will Simmons, son of Bubba, grandson of Billy and great-grandson of Hugh. Will keeps himself busy working at the family's current Isle of Palms location with his father and attending business classes at the College of Charleston.

All three – Billy, Bubba and Will – maintain that learning the craft of business within a family environment is best, and they all believe in a hyper-local product, even in today's mass-market society

"To us, the word local still means what it used to," Bubba pointed out. "People can see the boats on the Isle of Palms from our store there, and I point them out and say, 'that's local.'" 🦞



Will Simmons works at the family's Isle of Palms location while attending classes at the College of Charleston.



Photo by Heather Grillo

At one time, the Bradford, a cross between the Mountain Sweet and the Lawson, was the preferred watermelon of the South.

Lost Flavors Found

UNEARTHING OUR CULINARY ROOTS

Story by Forrest Parker.

MANIACAL AND SEEMINGLY HALF-crazed, Glenn Roberts bursts through the back kitchen door.

“I’ve got to be across town in 15 minutes. Here,” he blurts, handing me a small bag of rice the size of contraband. “That’s all I could get you – it’s about a cup.”

He turns to leave, then spins back, quiet for a moment. “It’s Nostrale,” he says. “The manifests here date to 1748. What you’re holding is about \$30,000.”

And like that, he’s gone.

Nostrale translates roughly to “our rice,” and the prevailing thought is that it may be the great grand-daddy of Vialone Nano, perhaps the greatest of Italian risotto rices. The mere

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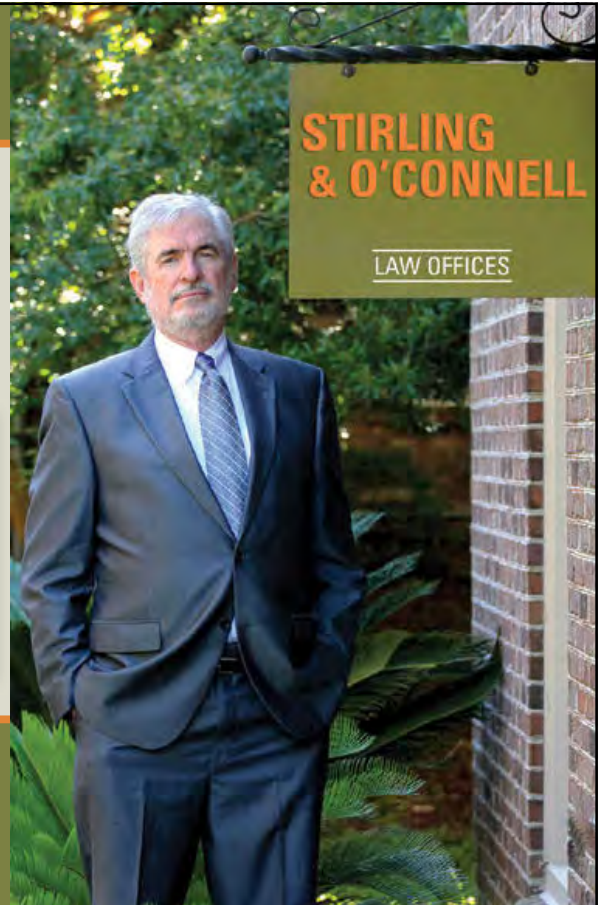
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The Carolina African runner peanut, left, is small but earthy, sweet and infinitely nutty.

fact that I'm left holding a bag of \$30,000 rice is astounding enough but pales compared to its potential. A victim of my own insatiable curiosity, I look into the efforts of the Carolina Gold Rice Foundation. So on a Friday afternoon, between morning private dining functions and a full book for supper service, I find myself making that same hectic crosstown trip for the CGRF meeting. Surrounded by doctors, intellectuals and agricultural specialists, I'm so in over my head it's not even funny. I learn how farmer scientists are pursuing a study of agricultural anthropology to discover whatever became of that 1748 Nostrale rice. Along the way, there's discussion about bee colony collapse disorder, Antebellum plantation infrastructure, repatriation of the fabled Purple Ribbon sugar cane variety on Sapelo Island and the restoration of Lowcountry indigo, a mainstay in 18th century textiles.

"This is my office," says Dr. Brian Ward, motioning toward the Clemson Organic Research Extension fields. "I spend more time in the fields every day than I do indoors, and it's been that way for 20 years."

Highlighting the traditions of our shared South Carolina history, Brian and his team are at the vanguard of research and restoration of these lost flavors. He shows me three types of farro growing, a variety of wheat unseen since the 19th century, and a grafting operation to save watermelons from disease.

"I can grow most any seed you give me," he states, pointing out that he's most proud of his peanuts.

As the story goes, in 2012, Dr. David Shields of the University of South Carolina was able to track down the sole remaining seed samples of the Carolina African runner peanut, widely considered to be extinct. He was given about 20 seeds, roughly half of what was left in existence. The seeds went to Ward, who is now at the tail end of a project to grow them out.

"Next year, we expect the seed to be released to growers. You'll be cooking with them in your own kitchen," he says.

I'd had my ear to the rail on this and a few similar projects going on in the Lowcountry, and a simple email inquiry began a discussion that continues to this day. I've been blessed to cook with and taste these ancestral peanuts. They're small, half the size of what you're used to, but they're the quintessence of



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Photo by Heather Grillo

The Bradford watermelon hasn't been commercially harvested since 1922, but Nat Bradford works tirelessly to find alternate uses for his family's melon.

peanut – very earthy, sweet and infinitely nutty. When you taste them next year, you'll see exactly what I mean.

Nat Bradford's in the process of moving his family back to the family's ancestral seat of Sumter, South Carolina, when he stops by to see me on a clear May morning. His Bradford watermelon seeds are due to go into the ground next week, but he's made a special trip to Charleston just to hand me some mason jars.

"Tell me what you think," he says. "And be honest. Brutally honest."

You might have heard the story of how Nat's great great-great-grandfather crossed the legendary Lawson watermelon with the Mountain Sweet watermelon in the 1840s. By the time of the Late Unpleasantness, the Bradford was the preferred watermelon of the South, so much so that growers routinely poisoned or, later, electrified their melons to discourage theft. With the advent of truck farming in the early 20th century, the Bradford became a dinosaur. Unwieldy at a 30 pound average, and prone to bursting due to its high water content, the Bradford didn't meet with modern industrial standards and was last commercially harvested in 1922.

But learning that his family's namesake was thought extinguished, Nat emailed Shields, whose own search for the seed had been fruitless. And so began the effort to repatriate the Bradford. Nat grows out the melons to provide clean water sources in the third world. He works tirelessly to find alternate uses for his family's melon. He reduces the juice down to watermelon molasses, a popular alternate sweetener in the 19th century. He pickles the inch-thick alabaster rind with a concentrated agro dolce spice and a long finish redolent of fresh watermelon. His pickle and molasses are both otherworldly, but I don't want to embarrass him.

"Not bad," I say. "They don't suck."

Between you and I, I'll say this: You'll never taste a better watermelon.

Cuisine, it is said, is driven by 80 percent ingredients and 20 percent technique. As a father, husband and chef, what I find more often than not is that if the story is compelling, we tend to sit up and really notice the flavors. In these and many similar instances, it's not that the story ever went away – we're just learning to be better listeners. These days, it all feels like a dream. My restaurant is not a temple of high gastronomy – it's a simple neighborhood restaurant doing some good things. Maybe that's the point. If this seemingly esoteric research results in a tasty supper here, perhaps it's just a matter of time. What's next? A return to Georgetown caviar, hearts of Palmetto, native chestnut and local heirloom sugar cane?

It is indeed a great day in South Carolina and a fantastic time to be a chef. The outlook is tasty. 🍷

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As Lucy Beckham prepares for her new job, she relaxes on the patio of the Center for Advanced Studies on the Wando High School campus.

Creating a Vision

LUCY BECKHAM TAKES ON NEW GOALS

Story and Photos by Brian Sherman.



Wando High School was built to accommodate 3,000 students when it opened in 2004. The school has already exceeded its capacity by about 1,000, which is why 29 trailers are now used as classrooms.

LUCY BECKHAM LOOKS BACK ON her past with great pride and forward to her future with an equal dose of optimism. During her 17-year tenure as principal of Wando High, the school more than doubled in population, claimed a myriad of state and national honors in academics, sports and numerous other areas and added the Center for Advanced Studies to its bustling North Mount Pleasant campus.

Now Beckham, who was cited as the National Secondary Principal of the Year in 2010, is leaving Wando High School behind and moving on to face another major challenge – sort of.

She didn't go far when she started her new job as executive principal of the county school system's District 2 – her office will be only a few hundred yards away from Wando's main building in the Center for Advanced Studies. She already has a wealth of experience that will serve her well in her new position. Her main responsibility will be to lead the team that determines what East Cooper's new high school will look like, which educational opportunities it will offer its students and how it will partner with Wando High School.

The yet-to-be-named school, slated to open in 2020,

will be built at the former site of Wando High, where Mathis Ferry and Whipple Road converge.

When Beckham took the reins at Wando in 1998, the school had around 1,900 students. The current high school, built to accommodate 3,000 students, opened its doors in 2004 with 2,500. That number is expected to bulge toward the 4,000 mark when school starts in August. In addition to the main building, which is barely more than a decade old, and the Center for Advanced Studies, the current Wando campus is home to 29 trailers that have been hauled in to serve as classrooms.

"We were slightly overcrowded. Then we became horribly overcrowded," she commented. "We thought Wando would top out at 3,000 students, then drop back to around 2,800 and that would be its permanent size."

Beckham was tasked with doing something about the problem of too many students and not enough space. She was intimately involved in planning Wando's North Mount Pleasant campus – and, later, the Center for Advanced Studies – a job that prepared her for her current challenge.

"In 1998, I never dreamed we would grow to the point where we'd have a second high school. But we came together as a team. We created a vision for a large high

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When Lucy Beckham took the reins at Wando in 1998, the school had around 1,900 students. That number is expected to bulge toward 4,000 when school starts in August.

school that would work well and serve the students,” she commented.

Though finding enough space to fill the needs of 4,000 or more students might be a major issue, Beckham insisted that size also can be a great asset.

“Because the school is so big, we can offer incredible educational opportunities,” she said. “Wando is a 21st century, cutting edge, hands-on learning high school.”

She pointed out just a few out of the extraordinary opportunities that have emerged for Wando students during her tenure: nine engineering programs; a nationally-recognized biomedical science program; a robust ROTC program; a highly-touted Fine Arts Department; 22 Advanced Placement courses; and programs in cyber security, auto mechanics and health sciences. Some of these courses are taught at the Center for

Advanced Studies, which also features cosmetology and photography labs and a film and TV studio.

Under Beckham’s tutelage, Wando High School has been different in other ways as well. For example, students are encouraged to take four elective courses toward a major.

“A small high school can’t offer all this. They have one or two choices for electives. Our kids have many choices. That keeps them interested and more engaged in school. Wando has an individual graduation plan for each student.”

Will the new high school offer every subject now available at Wando? Maybe, or maybe not, according to Beckham. She said that’s one of the decisions a committee consisting of a diverse group of community representatives will help her make.

“Our greatest challenge is finding a way to have both schools be

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absolutely superior,” she said. “The new school will expand opportunities in East Cooper. We need to make it work for the kids. We need to have more opportunities, not less.”

So what is Beckham most proud of during her 17 years at Wando? Is it all those academic awards claimed collectively and by individual students? Maybe the state championships in baseball, boys basketball and soccer and girls volleyball and soccer? Possibly the accolades earned by the school’s marching band?

All of the above are important, of course, but the success of individual students is paramount in her mind.

“I’m proud of our students and their journeys as they move toward graduation and beyond,” she explained. “I’m always proud to see them succeed. With every opportunity we have offered, the kids have risen to the challenge.”

She pointed out that in South Carolina, high school students need 24 credits to finish high school. The Wando High School class of 2015 averaged 31 credits. Another statistic that sets Wando apart from many other schools is that 63 percent of the students in the class of 2015 are on their way to four-year colleges, while another 31 percent will attend two-year institutions of higher learning. Two percent enlisted in the military, while the final 4 percent went straight into the workforce.

Beckham’s new job description goes beyond planning for the new high school. She also will help East Cooper’s elementary and middle schools study how subjects are

taught from kindergarten through high school. And, for now at least, she’ll continue to work with Interim Principal Dr. Sherry Eppelsheimer and the administrative team at Wando.

“Dr. Eppelsheimer will run the day-to-day operations of the school, but I will be here to help her,” Beckham explained. “I’m still ultimately responsible for Wando High School this year.”

“I am turning over the controls of the airplane, but I’ll be close by to serve as the navigator in case there are any problems,” she added.

Though she might have a few reservations about leaving the job she has held for 17 years, Beckham said she looks forward to playing a role in making both schools, new and old, outstanding places for students to thrive. With five grandchildren currently in



Wando High School has claimed a myriad of honors and awards during Lucy Beckham’s 17-year tenure as principal.

Wando’s feeder system, three on one side of town and two on other, she has a vested interest, both personally and professionally, in making certain both schools follow the example set by Wando.

“Mount Pleasant is my home. I feel like this is work I’m supposed to do,” she said. “I really care about how this story ends, and I decided I wanted to be involved in it. This job is appealing to me because I want to make sure Wando High School continues to soar.”

She answered a question many people might be asking at this point: No, she won’t be serving as principal of the new school. For now, that’s how this story ends. 🐼

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A globe is the central focus, its surface covered in a mosaic of various national flags. Visible flags include the United States, Australia, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, and others. The globe is set against a solid blue background and sits on a grey stand.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Mount Pleasant's Thriving
International Population

Story by Pamela Brownstein.



WHAT MAKES MOUNT Pleasant and the rest of the Charleston area so attractive to people from across the United States – from the lovely climate to the friendly residents – also draws folks from around the globe. At the grocery store or on the playground, it is common to hear different languages being spoken. The international influence on the local dining scene is apparent with restaurants specializing in everything from Asian to French to Mexican to Italian.

According to the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the estimated number of foreign-born persons living in Mount Pleasant from 2009 to 2013 was 4.3 percent – approximately 3,220 of 74,885, the 2013 estimate of the town's total population.

Some come for a job, some come for a relationship, but those who stay find it easy to embrace the Southern hospitality and natural beauty and opportunities the area offers.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

When Philippe Pain met his wife in Paris in 1977, he said, "It was just like in the movies." He was a Parisian art student and volleyball player. She was an American



student. He was 22 when he moved to the United States and worked as a chef and caterer across the Northeast.

In March 1995, Philippe was working in New Hampshire when he visited Charleston for the first time. He was so taken with the gorgeous weather and the beaches that several months after the trip, he quit his job and moved to South Carolina.

He stayed with a friend who lived in Mount Pleasant, then rented a house several doors down and eventually bought a home in the same neighborhood.

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"I love it," he said of the place he has lived for 20 years, "because it is so close to everything, like Shem Creek and shops, and I like to ride my bike a lot."

Tall, trim and friendly, Philippe, now 60, is bespeckled with distinguished silverish hair. He owned a catering company called The French Connection for many years in Mount Pleasant and currently works at Trader Joe's.

"I'm their wine guy," he said.

He believes in the importance of civic involvement and participating in elections.

"You have to be involved in local politics because it affects every part of your life," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, the communications director for the town of Mount Pleasant, Martine Wolfe-Smith, also grew up in a small town in the South of France. She said that the town's website, www.tompssc.com, can be translated into seven languages through Google Translator. She also cited language-based courses at Trident Tech as a resource for learning or improving communication.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Tamara Palmer wears a small, light brown jacket over a collared white shirt and slender black pants. Her chic outfit doesn't seem to fit her roots – the small Ukrainian farm village where she grew up. Tamara, 50, is animated and flashes her big smile often.

She described her hometown as "flat; lots of gardens and farm animals; cold in the wintertime."

In 1986, her home was four miles from Chernobyl when the nuclear plant suffered a meltdown. Her daughter, Inna,



was only 4 months old at the time. In 1996, her daughter started experiencing skin problems, and Tamara came to the United States to seek treatment at a hospital in Pittsburgh. She thought the visit would only be temporary, but she decided to stay and make a new life in the United States.

She remarried, had two daughters, and her husband's job brought her family to Mount Pleasant, as fate would have it, on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We didn't know what was happening because all our televisions were packed up," Tamara recalled.

Although much has changed for her – and for her adopted country – since that time, Tamara has worked hard to make a life for herself and her family. Today, her oldest, Inna Lebedin, works in Charleston as a graphic designer. Her teenage daughters – Ariel Miller, 17, and Emily Miller, 15 – attend Wando High School.

It's no surprise that someone who speaks Russian, Ukrainian and English values the importance of good communication. She believes that "communication is a big part of and a key to success in life, whether succeeding

in business or personal relationships.”

Tamara said, “I like Charleston because it makes me feel like I am home through friendly people and culture. It’s a little melting pot that I like.”

A BRAZILIAN IN THE LOWCOUNTRY

The beauty and allure of Karin Saner’s native city, Rio de Janeiro, still remain close to her heart, but today this Brazilian is pleased to call Mount Pleasant home.

A true international woman, Karin’s father was German and her mother Chilean, and this culturally diverse background comes in handy at her job as the front desk agent at The Vendue Hotel in downtown Charleston.

“I love to meet and interact with people all over the world,” Karin said. “My perspective will always offer advantages because I consider myself a true citizen of the world.”

Her experience in the hospitality industry started when she was 18 as an international flight attendant for the German airline Lufthansa. She was a hostess at an internationally renowned restaurant in New York City when she met her American husband, Paul J. Saner. He is a chef, currently working at the Morgan Creek Grill on the Isle of Palms. They lived in St. Croix, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where their son, Patson Mann Saner, was born, until they moved to Mount Pleasant in 2007.

Karin admits that when she arrived in the area, it was hard to find a job in her field, and she felt discouraged at first. But she added, “Now I am so grateful to have been faced with this challenge and am happy – very happy – to say that now I realize, understand and humbly accept that it takes time to become part of this very oh-so Southern city.”

“Wherever I go, I carry the German way of professionalism plus an added bonus of Brazilian resourcefulness, creativity and genuine love of life in all its aspects,” Karin said.

Even though she speaks five languages – Portuguese, Spanish, German, French and English – Karin revealed that communication can still be a struggle, especially mastering the nuances of English words that are spelled different but sound the same. But she said language is also a constant source of humor in her family.

“Are you kidding me?” she joked. “My husband and son keep having the best laughs of their lives making me say words and laughing about my pronunciation!”

She said the best part about living in Mount Pleasant is “the safe, friendly and efficient town feeling.” 🐼



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The local support and popularity of USAMP is immense, with more than 5,000 club members ranging in age from 5 to 18.

YOU GOTTA HAVE GOALS

THE UNITED SOCCER ACADEMY MOUNT PLEASANT

Story by Cullen Murray-Kemp.

Photos courtesy of the United Soccer Academy Mount Pleasant.

WHETHER WE WERE kicking the ball around a vacant field with the neighborhood kids or executing a double-bicycle-kick leading to a goal and an ESPN SportsCenter top-10 play, most of us played soccer at one point or another in our lives.

My soccer pinnacle came when I was 10 years old at our annual Thanksgiving game in Maryland. I was assigned goalie duty and swore to guard that netless metal rectangular shape protruding from the dirt (the goal) with my life. With my face in the dirt, I instinctively lifted my leg, blocking the rebound shot and saving the game. I couldn't help but smile through blood and tears as my teammates rejoiced around me.

The game's beauty and allure bring people from all walks of life and from every corner of the world together. It touches the lives of players and fans at all levels. Even here, on our home field of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, we are seeing memories created and a community amalgamated under United Soccer Academy Mount Pleasant.

USAMP has been around for decades and navigated through many phases of development. Most recently, the organization broke away from its Columbia affiliation to create



Last year, 23 college scholarships were awarded to USAMP athletes.

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its own brand and localize the program to Mount Pleasant.

“Because of the way the club and Mount Pleasant are developing,” said USAMP Executive Director Matt Job, “we felt the timing was right to become independent.”

The local support and popularity of USAMP is immense, with more than 5,000 club members ranging in age from 5 to 18. Aside from being the club’s technical director, Matt Parmer is also one of the highly-certified club coaches.

“Our mission is to help our kids maximize their talent and potential to compete at the highest level possible,” said Parmer, who currently coaches a 14-and-under team that is in the top 16 teams in the country.

USAMP Director of Coaching Kian Brownlee said that because of the club’s deep roots in the world of soccer – including connections to the U.S. National Team – USAMP kids have the opportunity to take soccer as far as they want.

“It also doesn’t hurt that the same guys who are coaching The Charleston Battery (a local professional soccer club) are coaching our under-10 kids team,” Brownlee added.

Sitting down with Job and USAMP club ambassador and “soccer dad” Jim Hirni, I was able to access a parent’s unwavering fondness of what Job and company have created at USAMP.

“When my daughter Carolina came to East Cooper in 2009, she was timid and shy. Through USAMP, she has developed into an outgoing athlete who starts for the Porter Gaud JV soccer team as a sixth grader,” boasted Hirni.

As Hirni and I were discussing the program, Job pulled up an Instagram photo of the current state champion Wando varsity girls soccer team.

“Every one of these girls is a USAMP club member,” Job said with a smile.

In fact, last year there were 51 college athletic scholarships given to Charleston area athletes in all sports, 23 of them to USAMP athletes.

In addition to generating scholarships for college-bound athletes, USAMP also offers scholarships of its own to kids whose families can’t afford the club’s fees.

“Last year we gave out more than \$30,000 in club scholarships,” said Job.

Local business owner Anja Stief has a son, Kemp Stief,

11, and daughter, Ella Stief, 9, who play in USAMP.

“My kids really appreciate the advanced coaching and higher level of competition. When your children love the sport and are successful, growing and advancing, it is easier to understand the financial time and commitment,” said Stief, who spends four days a week with her kids at games and practices.

“The club is preparing them for high school and college level athletics,” she added.

A few months ago, Job presented each Mount Pleasant Town Council member with their own USAMP jersey while simultaneously revealing the new logo and mission.

“I was proud to learn that USAMP paid the town over \$70,000 for the use of the fields and necessary staff last year,” said Councilman Mark Smith, who chairs the Economic Development Committee.

Smith also mentioned the nearly \$3 million of annual revenue that the club generates from tournaments and events that is a great boost for the Mount Pleasant economy. Next year, the State Cup will bring more than 70 teams to East Cooper.

“We are trying to continue to bring people to the area and revenue to the town by way of soccer,” said Job.

One challenge that the town and USAMP face is a lack of practice space. The club primarily plays at Patriots Point and Carolina Park, but, with kids participating in increasing numbers – there will be 6,500 members by 2016 – finding a place for all of them to play is a challenge. The town has allocated resources to improving the drainage at five fields that will allow them to be used even when it is raining.

Another option that Smith is open to is turf, but, at a cost of up to \$1 million for a turf field, the price tag might be more than the town can afford.

Ultimately, Smith is excited to have USAMP partner with the town and is happy that USAMP is now an independent organization.

“We love the new name but also love the tag ‘New name, new look, same club.’ We couldn’t help but point out, most importantly, that we are the same hometown – Mount Pleasant,” Smith said. 🐾



USAMP has deep roots in the world of soccer, including connections to the U.S. National Team.

The Little Library That Could

Sullivan's Island's Edgar Allan Poe Branch

A LIBRARY IS LIKE THE HUMAN heart because size has no bearing on how much love – in this case, for books and knowledge – it can hold. Take, for example, the Edgar Allan Poe Branch of the Charleston County Library System, located on Sullivan's Island. Although the Poe Library isn't massive, I spent quite a busy afternoon there learning its history, speaking with the knowledgeable staff and signing up for an upcoming program or two.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

The Edgar Allan Poe Branch of the CCLS is a historic building; as Battery Gadsden, named after Brig. Gen. Christopher Gadsden, it was at one time a part of Fort Moultrie. Following World War II, the federal government turned the series of batteries over to the town of Sullivan's Island, and the Edgar Allan Poe Library was dedicated in March 1977. The library closed for renovations following Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and opened again in 1992, to the delight of residents and visitors.

"It's really all about the people here," commented Delores Schweitzer, manager of the Poe branch. "That's the part of my job that I love."

According to Schweitzer, the branch has seen an increase in action over the last year or so with the arrival of the new Sullivan's Island Elementary School – yet it's always been a busy place, with programs both for children and adults and steady circulation numbers.

Recently, the Poe Library has taken on a few new adult programs. Among them is Aging Gracefully, a Friday morning series started in September 2014 and focusing on older members of the Lowcountry population who might be seeking advice and proactive ways to spend their golden years. Schweitzer commented that the Greater Charleston

Aging in Place Council speaker series was well-attended in May and June, and she looks forward to other interesting events in the fall after a short summer break.

A second program implemented this year is the Local History and Local Living speaker series. Held on Saturday mornings, the program offers topics tailored to Lowcountry residents and visitors such as a National Poetry Month celebration last April with poet Jim Brueggemann and a lecture on "The Enigmatic Sgt. William Jasper," given by CCPL Historian Dr. Nic Butler in June.

But my personal favorite new program, naturally, is

the Adult Memoir Writing Workshop on Monday mornings, which Schweitzer made sound quite enticing – though y'all know my arm doesn't need much twisting for me to write.

"It's a laid-back atmosphere," she said of the workshops. "It's a great storytelling environment. We give the participants a prompt, and then they have the chance to share what they write. I try to keep prompts fun and open-ended."

As far as kids' programs go, you won't find a shortage at Poe, thanks in part to Kathi MacGregor-Ouzts, the branch children's specialist. All summer long, youngsters have the opportunity to participate in everything from summer reading challenges to making crafts and even learning about honey bees. And stay tuned for fun fall activities as well.

After a thorough chat with Schweitzer – as well as with library assistant Connie Darling, who is in charge of the Beachlovers Book Club and the popular mahjong nights – I found myself engrossed in Poe's cozy fiction room, running my finger along the well-loved book spines and finally settling on a novel to take home. I also renewed my library card for the year. Nothing is a hassle at the Edgar Allan Poe branch, with all those smiling faces coming and going.

Mine included, of course. 🐼



The Edgar Allan Poe Branch of the Charleston County Library System was once part of Fort Moultrie.

Photo courtesy of the Edgar Allan Poe Library.



A New Direction

**SULLIVAN'S ISLAND COUNCIL FEATURES
FOUR NEW FACES**

*Story by Brian Sherman.
Photography by Rick Walo.*



IT WAS OBVIOUS WHEN THE VOTES WERE COUNTED THAT THE RESIDENTS OF Sullivan’s Island had decided to take the town’s government in a new direction. None of the four winners have served before on the Town Council, while both incumbents were denied another term.

Though Sarah Church, Mark Howard, Rita Langley and Bachman Smith IV all are new to the Council, none of them are entering the realm of unpaid public service for the first time. They all have given their time and talents to various boards, causes and organizations, both on and off the island of around 1,900 permanent residents.

They agree generally on the major issues they must deal with in the coming years as they strive to balance their efforts to maintain Sullivan’s Island as a laid-back, residential town with the island’s ever-growing popularity. And they all agree that there’s no place else they’d rather live.

SARAH CHURCH

“We’ll see how thick my skin can get.”

Sarah Church is the only new member who won’t be on the Council for four years. She’ll serve the final two years of the term originally captured by Pat O’Neil, who was elected mayor after the death of Mike Perkis. She grew up on Sullivan’s Island, graduated from Bard College in Upstate New York and lived in New York City, Los Angeles, Charleston and Mount Pleasant – and traveled through Asia – before returning to her roots.



“We moved back six years ago when our oldest daughter was ready to start elementary school,” said Church,

who also attended Sullivan’s Island Elementary.

Since making her way back to the island, Church has served the town and school district in several ways, including on the Board of Zoning Appeals, as Sullivan’s Island Elementary School PTA president and on the School Improvement Council.

Church, 43, had never before sought a political posi-

Sarah Church on the Issues:

Accreted land:

“We need a management plan in place.”

Parking:

“Some kind of managed parking plan is critical.”

A new direction:

“The Council had reached a point of gridlock. We couldn’t get anything done. People were frustrated because nothing was happening.”

tion. She said she is leaning toward seeking re-election in two years – maybe.

“We’ll see if they eat me alive or not. The Town Council gets a lot of scrutiny. We’ll see how thick my skin can get,” she commented, adding that she has no political aspirations beyond the Council.

What does the future of Sullivan’s Island look like in Church’s mind?

“Whatever we shape it to be,” she said. “We can put our heads together with a fresh perspective and make some progress.”

“We’ve been able to obtain a unique lifestyle,” she went on to say. “It’s residential, not a beach town, and we have one of the best schools in the state. All these things work to make this a very special place to live.”

MARK HOWARD “A moment of maturity.”

Mark Howard, 63, has lived on Sullivan’s Island his entire life – except the time he spent at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina – but it wasn’t until recently that he experienced what he called “a moment of maturity.” He decided it was his responsibility to get involved, so he started attending Council meetings. His efforts to land a seat on the Council fell 32 votes short in 2011, so he served on Sullivan’s Island’s Design Review Board prior to his successful Council campaign this year.



Howard, a landscaper by profession, said one of his first priorities will be to change the law that reduced the number of readings for an ordinance to pass from three to two.

“The Council was trying to streamline its workload and get things moving, and they did a great job,” he commented. “But there’s not enough time to notify the public. That’s cutting 30 days out of public input.”

Howard is aware that as a member of the Council he might have to make unpopular decisions. As an example, he cited the plan to regulate rental property on the island.

“It wasn’t popular with some people, but it was wise in the long-term,” he remarked.

Howard said he probably won’t seek another term on the Council, but he would like to deal with topics besides the obvious issues of parking, growth and accreted land.

He cited the construction of Sullivan’s Island’s new Town Hall, which was scheduled to get underway in June, as well

Mark Howard on the Issues:

Accreted land:

“The new Council needs to put together a management plan for accreted land.”

Parking:

“We need to get ahead of IOP and deal with it ourselves.”

A new direction:

“It was a wave election. The people were saying ‘Let’s give the new mayor a new Council and see what they can do.’”

as financial help for the Battery Gadsden Cultural Club and the Island Club.

Howard said one of his goals as a member of the Council will be to maintain his hometown as a single-family residential community.

“We have great natural resources and a great school,” he pointed out. “It’s difficult to improve Sullivan’s Island.”

RITA LANGLEY “We’re not making any more beach.”

Rita Langley experienced the wonder of democracy firsthand, and it affected the way she will serve the people of Sullivan’s Island during her four-year term on the Council.

Langley, a native of York, South Carolina, arrived on the island in 1991, and, a year later, she and her husband decided that living in a monument to history would be an excellent idea. They bought the Post Quartermaster building, located next to the old Town Hall on Middle Street, and have been renovating it ever since.

She found out a few years ago that developers wanted to build condominiums in the neighborhood when one of her friends happened to attend a Council meeting. That’s all it took for Langley and others to launch what she described as “a crusade all around town.” Members of the Council listened to their constituents and the condo plan was squelched. It was “democracy at its best.”



“If an issue influences a specific neighborhood, I’ll talk with the people who live there to get their opinion,” she said. “We’ve got to get better at communicating.”

Langley, who is 63 and taught gifted and talented students for 30 years, had never before run for political office. She retired six years ago, but, until this year, continued to teach one day a week.

In addition to the major issues facing the Council, she

Rita Langley on the Issues:

Accreted land:

“It’s been going on for 20 years. The whole thing has to be looked at again.”

Parking:

“Congestion is an issue because we’re so popular. Everyone is moving here.”

A new direction:

“The people wanted new leadership. I don’t see it any other way. We needed a change.”

said the town should consider providing financial help for the Island Club and pointed out that major work must be

done on the sewage treatment plan. She added that zoning changes might be necessary as well, asking, “What do we want the commercial district to look like in 20 years?”

As for the future of Sullivan’s Island, she said it looks bright but crowded.

“Property values are going to continue to go up. We’re not making any more beach,” she said.

BACHMAN SMITH IV

“Today’s issues are not tomorrow’s issues.”

Bachman Smith IV used to joke about someday being the mayor of Sullivan’s Island. He never acted on his political aspirations, however, until he decided that “perhaps there’s something I can do for the island.”

Smith, now 45 and an attorney, grew up in downtown Charleston,



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but his parents owned a home on Sullivan's Island.

"I've been on and off the island since I was 10," he said. "I loved the island as a kid, and I love it now."

Smith, who has lived on Sullivan's Island with his wife and children for the past four years, did his undergraduate work at the University of the South in

Bachman Smith IV on the Issues:

Parking:

"Congestion is one of the prices you pay for living in Sullivan's Island."

A new direction:

"There was frustration with the way things were going. It was time for a change."

Infrastructure:

"The water treatment and wastewater facilities must be addressed, and the new town hall might need a new roof in 20 years. We need to be ready for that."

sity of South Carolina.

With his teaching career behind him, he said he longed to do something meaningful. He remembers hearing a story on the radio about domestic violence. He Googled the subject, found My Sister's House and became a volunteer and later a member of the board. He also was a member of the board of the South Carolina Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, chairing the state chapter in 2014.

When he left the board of both organizations, he had the time to dedicate more of his volunteer work to Sullivan's Island.

"Now seems to be the right time," said Smith, who was on the island's Board of Zoning Appeals for two years. "I'm happy to work in a community that is small enough where I can make a difference."

Smith cited accreted land, the town's water treatment and wastewater facilities, parking and long-term planning as issues he and his fellow Council members will have to deal with. He warned, however, that "Today's issues are not tomorrow's issues. At one time, the dog leash law was big and the new school was big." 🐕

Sewanee, Tennessee. After eight years as a high school English teacher, he earned his law degree at the Univer-

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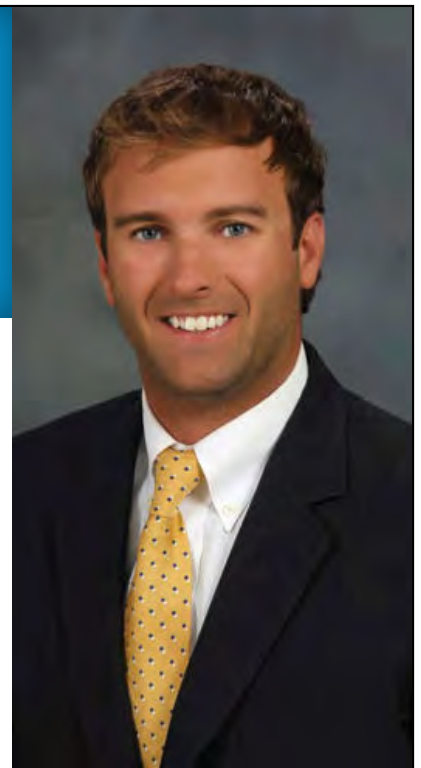


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Built to Last

1702 I'On Ave. is the newest and largest home on Officers' Row. Other than the lighthouse, it is the tallest structure on Sullivan's Island.

OFFICERS' ROW ON SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

Story by Denise K. James.

Photos courtesy of Dunes Properties.

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND IS LOVED FOR its peaceful seashore and historical sites such as Fort Moultrie. But other pockets of the island are beautiful and certainly worth visting as well. Officers' Row is one such area, a neighborhood built at the turn of the 20th century to house military officers during World War I and World War II. Today, you can take a stroll up I'On Avenue on a sunny day and, surrounded in natural beauty, soak up the ambience of these stately homes. Though they share a similar Charleston elegance, and they all were beautiful beachfront homes more

than 100 years ago, each has its own story.

The newest home on Officers' Row, at 1702 I'On Ave., is also the largest. Built in 1905 and referred to as the base commander's quarters, it is the tallest structure on Sullivan's Island other than the lighthouse. George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff during World War II, lay his head at this address for a handful of months in 1933. The house was converted in the 1950s to be used as a private residence.

I recently walked into 1702 and scarcely knew what I was in for. The beauty of the building arrested me, from the grand and wide entrance to the high, pressed metal ceilings and walls and floors of cypress and heart pine.



The stately home at 1738 I'On Ave. was built in 1900.

There's a mood that permeates and inspires me to do just what the house was made for: open all of the French doors to the Sullivan's Island air and walk out onto the wraparound porches, perhaps settling into a rocking chair at some point to look out at the live oak trees in the

yard and the neighbors strolling along I'on Avenue. This is a place that slows the mind – encourages us to believe in the idea that it's sufficient just to be alive, to spurn distractions and drink in what makes the world more good than evil.

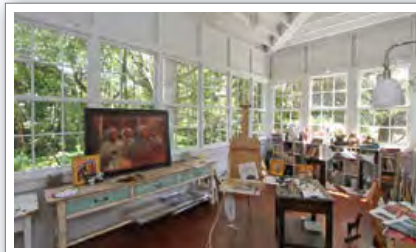
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The home at 1702 I'On Ave., left, has been a private residence since the 1950s. The home at 1738 I'On Ave., right, has more than 2,000 square feet of wraparound porches, plus 300 square feet of screened-in porch.

There's updates, of course – including two bedrooms, four-and-a-half spacious baths and a kitchen that begs to be filled with savory scents. Still, the classical beauty of 1702 is worth seeing on its own, modern bells and whistles aside.

A bit up the street is another stunner: 1738 I'On Ave., built in 1900 and also one of the original officers' quarters for Fort Moultrie. With more than 2,000 square feet of wraparound porches – plus 300 square feet of screened-in porch – and five fireplaces, it's not difficult to imagine turning my chin up toward the sun in the summer or reading a work of literature near sputtering flames during winter.

I also can't help but be jealous of the peripheral breezes that blow through these homes, thanks to the abundance of doors and porches.

"Years ago, before air conditioning, these French doors helped the beach breeze flow throughout the entire home," explained Tim Reese of Dunes Properties. 🏡

If you can picture yourself in one of these historic homes, then you're in luck. Both are currently on the market. 1738 is offered by Tim Reese, and 1702 is listed with Betty Poore, both of Dunes Properties. For more information, call 843-886-5600 or visit DunesProperties.com.

1738 Ion Avenue

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THIS TOO SHALL PASS

Tending to the Ben Sawyer Bridge

*Story by Brian Sherman.
Photos by William Quarles Photography.*



Above: The Ben Sawyer Bridge swings open approximately 20 times a day during the summer months. Below: Veronica Fabers is one of the bridge's six tenders.

THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS BLINK FROM GREEN to red. A loud warning bell clangs as the gates, two on each side of the Ben Sawyer Bridge, slide from vertical to horizontal, bringing traffic between Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island to a halt. The bridge tender peers out of the control room windows, and checks real-time cameras, making certain no cars or pedestrians are in danger. It's time for the bridge to swing open, creating a path for a boat to continue its aquatic journey north or south along the Intracoastal Waterway.

Though it might seem like an eternity to impatient drivers, bikers and walkers anxious to make their way on or off the island, the entire process, from the time the lights change until traffic is moving again, takes only six minutes. But people who have somehow developed the impression that the job of a bridge tender consists of eight hours of sitting around enjoying the view, interrupted by a few six-minute adventures a day, have it all wrong, according to Veronica Fabers. For the past five years, her office has been a green building high atop the bridge.

"It's beautiful up here, and there's always something to do," said Fabers, who will turn 45 later this year.





Much of her eight-hour shift is spent waiting for boats to call to ask that the bridge be opened or taking care of paperwork. She also spends time on the platform outside of the control room, watching the traffic on the waterway and on the bridge or honing her skills as a photographer. The green building is, of course, air conditioned and equipped with a bathroom.

It's not that she has all that much free time during her shift, usually Monday through Wednesday one week and Monday through Thursday the next. The bridge swings open whenever a boater contacts her by radio, usually around 20 times a day during the summer. On weekends and federal holidays – New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's birthday, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas – the bridge opens every hour, on the hour, from 9 a.m. through 7 p.m.

Before and after, boaters can ask for the bridge to swing open, even if it's in the middle of the night. Fabers explained that a bridge tender is always on duty. One of six tenders on the Ben Sawyer Bridge, she has worked the other two shifts – 4 p.m. to midnight and midnight to 8 a.m. – to fill in for co-workers who are taking time off.

So how do bridge tenders decide if a boat is tall enough

to require the bridge to open? They don't, according to Robert Pinckney, project supervisor for Drawbridge Services, the company the South Carolina Department of Transportation hired to handle the operations of the bridge. The boater has to make that call.

"It's up to the boater whether the bridge opens," said Pinckney, a retired SCDOT employee who supervises the Ben Sawyer bridge tenders. "Sometimes a boat will come up close to the bridge, and the boater decides the bridge needs to open. Then they'll back off a little bit until we open it."

Pinckney said the clearance below the bridge is usually 25 to 35 feet, depending on the tide.

He pointed out that bridge tenders must have good eyesight and a good general idea of how machinery works. They must pass a written test, complete preliminary training and take a refresher course each year. And, Pinckney said, they must be able to move around and climb steps. Fabers agreed that going up and down the steep flight of metal stairs from the road to the control room might be a problem for some people. And the thought of sitting atop a bridge that swings open 20 or more times a day could be a deal-breaker for potential bridge tenders as well.

"This isn't for seasick people," Fabers commented. "No people who might get motion sickness can be up here."

Pinckney, citing safety as the most important aspect of his job, said maintenance crews visit the bridge regularly, and a major inspection is on the schedule once a year, which probably is one reason Faber said she has experienced few mechanical problems during her five years as a bridge tender. She said most issues can be handled with a phone call to the maintenance crew.

Mother Nature has the potential to create more difficult problems, however. Faber pointed out that once the bridge had to be de-iced. And, Pinckney added, a plan is in place in case the Ben Sawyer Bridge is threatened by a major storm. Local residents will remember that the bridge, originally built in 1945, suffered severe damage and was temporarily out of service when Hurricane Hugo swept through coastal Carolina in 1989.

Pinckney said despite the weather, the bridge tender will remain on duty unless the governor declares a state of emergency and a mandatory evacuation of Sullivan's



Veronica Faber's office is a green building atop the Ben Sawyer Bridge.

Island, a situation he termed a "lockdown" or a "tiedown." He added that if there is "closure," the tender stays in the control room and vehicles will be able to use the bridge, but it won't swing open for boats to pass.

Fabers pointed out that during her five years on the job, she has never had to leave the control house because of

inclement weather.

According to Pinckney, the Ben Sawyer Bridge is one of six swing bridges along the South Carolina coast. The others are Little River and Socastee in the Myrtle Beach area; Ladys Island and Harbor River near Beaufort; and the Wando Bridge, which connects Charleston County and Berkeley County along Highway 41.

After five years, Fabers apparently has settled into her job high above the Intracoastal Waterway. She doesn't anticipate seeking a new position any time soon.

"I love being by myself," she said. "And it's a cool job. We'll see." 🐼

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LANDLOCKED *and* SHELL-SHOCKED

David J. Price Remembers Hurricane Hugo

Editor's Note: As hurricane season is upon us again, we remember Hurricane Hugo and the destruction it brought. Below is a story about Sullivan's Island resident and police sergeant David Price, who shared how the storm affected him and his family. This article was originally in Hurricane Hugo Magazine, which was produced by the publisher of Sullivan's Island Magazine in 1989.

IF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND POLICE SGT. DAVID J. Price could erase a period of his life, he would most certainly eliminate the last two weeks of September and the first two weeks of October 1989.

During those four weeks, Price lost 99 percent of his worldly possessions, protected a devastated jurisdiction, shared the grief and sorrow of his fellow residents on Sullivan's Island and worried about the well-being of his estranged wife and three children, who lived in the San Francisco Bay area.

Another man would have said, "Enough is enough." Price didn't.

"I'm not hunting for any glory," he said during a routine patrol of Sullivan's Island. "I'm just an ordinary person who, like many others, lost everything during the hurricane."

The destructive powers of Hurricane Hugo, which struck the Charleston area on the night of Sept. 21, were initially underrated by many locals, including Price.

"This was my second hurricane. I rode one out when I

lived in Hawaii back in '79, but it wasn't as powerful as Hugo. I underestimated what it would do, but I guess we all did," he said matter-of-factly.

The son of a minister, Price lived in a number of states throughout the country. He came to the Sullivan's Island Police Department after a two-year stint with the Estill Department. A member of the Sullivan's Island force for four years, he was the only one of the five officers who lived on the island at the time.

"We had a hurricane tracking map on the office wall, and we didn't use it for show. We had been pinpointing it (Hugo) and followed it closely on the news. But, on Wednesday (Sept. 20), we got the word from the Emergency Preparedness officials to evacuate the island."

"My immediate thoughts were of long traffic lines, the people who had been here for many years and would



Sgt. Price had been a member of the Sullivan's Island Police Department for four years when Hurricane Hugo hit.

STORY BY ANDY SOLOMON.
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL MACCHIO.



Sgt. Price was “in a state of shock” when he saw the Ben Sawyer Bridge, which connects Sullivan’s Island to Mount Pleasant, dangling in the Intracoastal Waterway.

be forced to evacuate and folks who couldn’t leave. I knew we would have problems,” he added “We went through the streets and used the loudspeakers to say: ‘Mandatory evacuation; leave immediately.’ I must have said that a million times.”

“There were several senior citizens I knew that could not get off the island by themselves, so I went and helped them move to the Moultrie Middle School shelter. I was really concerned about getting them to safety,” he said.

Thursday morning, Price and his fellow officers were positioned by the Ben Sawyer Bridge, informing travelers that they would not be allowed on the island. He later patrolled the area and convinced local surfers to depart the Station 22 beach, which was enjoying Hugo’s lone benefit – great waves for surfing. During his rounds, Price occasionally stopped by his apartment on Station 20 to pack several things into the trunk of his police car. He knew he wouldn’t be spending the night in the comfort of his home.

“We had plans to stay in the police station as long as possible (Thursday night) and then move into the I’ On Avenue bunkers. When the chief (Jack Lillienthal) and I saw the wind lift a truck and then heard there was the possibility of a 30-foot surge, we left for Mount Pleasant. By midnight, we were on the causeway after crossing a shaking bridge,

but we couldn’t see in front of us. It was hard to keep the vehicle on the road. Chief made us wear life vests before we left the island. At first I thought it was silly, but I was glad we did. It was a great decision.”

Price stayed with friends in Mount Pleasant but recalled that he still couldn’t relax. The ripping sound of the wind, the cracking of trees and the scratching of the roof shingles kept him wide awake, and he later went outside during the calm of the hurricane’s eye. He could see stars, but quickly returned inside when the wind began to pick back up.

Later, although it was still dark, Price made an attempt to return to the island. Boats, debris and fallen telephone poles blocked his path on the causeway, but he eventually got as far as Toller’s Cove. Price said he was “in a state of shock” when he witnessed the Ben Sawyer Bridge dangling in the Intracoastal Waterway.

Several island officials were the first to take a boat to the island.

“Chief and the fire chief were in the first boat, and I’ll always remember them telling me, ‘You won’t believe this. It’s something.’ I began to think of how long it would take for the island to recover – how the senior citizens would manage and if most residents would pack up and leave.

“Late Friday afternoon, I went to look at my apartment. I was actually scared to open the door. My hand

Sass Schirmer’s HURRICANE TIPS

1. Don’t wait until the last minute to make sure your insurance is up to date.
2. Have an evacuation plan in place, and make sure the entire family knows the plan.
3. Make sure you have a first aid kit - check out the Red Cross for a detailed list of items you’ll need.
4. Have canned food, batteries, flashlights, water and nonperishable items in a bin along with important documents such as emergency contacts, birth certificates, insurance declarations pages and cash. Banks and ATMS will be closed.
5. Invest in storm shutters or boards for your windows.
6. Move all contents in the house to the center of the house to prevent damage, and bring anything that can be picked up by wind inside.
7. Have emergency phone numbers available, and make sure your children know them.
8. Fill the gas tanks of your vehicles.
9. Turn off all appliances, propane tanks and gas lines.
10. Make sure you have tools and supplies to secure your home when you leave – hammers, boards for windows and extra keys.

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was shaking, and I couldn't get my key in the door. I had to force the door to get it open. Then I saw it. I was dumbstruck. I saw everything turned over and mud everywhere. It was a hollow feeling to see all your possessions ruined. All of the rooms were trashed.

"I had a footlocker with photos of the kids and my paperwork in it. I walked over to it and hesitated before opening. After I lifted the top and saw it was full of water, I began to cry. I literally bawled like a baby. It was bad enough to have lost my furniture, but to have lost those photos nearly killed me. I immediately left and couldn't go back in there. I was glad to have my work to get my mind off what I had lost," he admitted.

Price was responsible for helping to keep people off the island. Although there were no problems with looters, the police did have to contend with scavengers. Price exterminated four copperhead snakes in one day, using "Old Betsy" (as he calls his pistol) and ran another one over with his car.



The destructive powers of Hurricane Hugo, which struck the Charleston area on the night of Sept. 21, 1989, were initially underrated by many locals.

He added that the National Guard did an excellent job and assisted area law enforcement personnel. He was grateful for the Guard's around-the-clock work.

By Tuesday, Sept. 26, officials began to allow residents to return to the island on ferries from Shem Creek.

"I knew people would be frustrated, but many folks were cheerful and polite. I think they were genuinely happy to be back, and I'm sure many were hiding their actual fears. I just listened to them. Even if they complained, I just listened. Sometimes listening is the best medicine, and it was this time," he said. "In most cases, I could relate to what they were going through since I just went through it myself."

Price came to grips with his personal losses and tried not to think about them. Instead, he concentrated on his work.

"It's just a job. I didn't do anything heroic," he said of his days following the hurricane. "I just did what I was supposed to do." 🐍

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From Imagination to Reality

Seneca Construction

I'VE SEEN A LOT OF HOUSES SINCE becoming the editor at *Mount Pleasant Magazine* and *Mount Pleasant Home*, but there's always something particularly exciting about exploring a brand new work in progress and witnessing the fresh handiwork of a custom builder such as Seneca

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Construction. Sure, historic homes are beautiful and typically come with an interesting story or two – but custom new construction can offer things that an older home simply can't. I recently caught up with Tom Garian of Seneca at one of his newest homes in The Harbour subdivision of Dunes West, and, I can tell you, there's nothing like seeing a house emerge from a vision to reality.

This home, nicknamed "The Yachtsman" for its position on deep water located on beautiful Yachtsman Drive, is designed as a five-bedroom home with an option for a sixth. Most of the bedrooms, not just the master, boast French doors that open to a beautiful balcony – on both the upstairs and downstairs levels – with plenty of Lowcountry sunlight and a marvelous view of Wagner Creek, the golf course, clubhouse and neighboring docks.

"This floor plan was designed to take full advantage of the views in this area," Garian explained, walking me from room to room.

Downstairs, the main master suite features a closet you could practically rent out to a friend, plus a lavish bathroom complete with gorgeous hardwood floors and separate his and hers vanities.

"We're installing hardwood floors throughout the house except in the children's baths and laundry areas," he explained.

The optional sixth bedroom is on the lowest level of the house. It's perfect for an older teenager, mother-in-law or nanny. Featuring a separate entry and its own laundry room, this space is private yet easily accessible from the elevator,

which serves all levels.

And let's not forget the most important aspects of any home: the kitchen and living areas. These spaces in "The Yachtsman" are flooded with natural light, thanks to ample windows, beautiful coffered ceilings and extensive molding. I could easily picture myself hosting dinner parties or just curled up with a book of poems; either would fit the scene beautifully.

In business since 1981, Seneca Construction is known for building custom homes but also specializes in additions, sunrooms and remodeling. Recently, Seneca has seen an increase in demand for detached garages, guest cottages and accessory dwelling units.

"One thing I like to emphasize to buyers who are searching for a custom builder is that Tom fully backs his product," remarked Gail Young, the Carolina One Realtor who represents the property.

"He's known to take such good care of his houses for the new owners that they often return to him later. One owner, for example, commissioned him to build an additional garage," she added.

"I'll often meet with an architect for custom touches, such as the gables you see on this home," Garian pointed out. "Each custom home features unique details that appeal to those with exceptional taste."

The Yachtsman Drive home is one of a handful of custom homes built in the Dunes West subdivision by Seneca Construction, and both Garian and Young feel confident folks will like what they see.

"This is what people desire out of custom new construction," Young pointed out. "Plenty of space and access to the water – it's what Lowcountry living is all about." 🍷

For more information, contact Gail Young at 803-814-9885. To learn more about Seneca Construction, visit www.SenecaConstructionLLC.com.



Photo by Chris Haslett at FloorPlanOnline.

"The Yachtsman," located on deep water on beautiful Yachtsman Drive, is designed as a five-bedroom home with an option for a sixth.



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WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER Julie Clark got word from the property manager at Wild Dunes that a new owner was in need of design advice, she was happy to help. It's in her wheelhouse, after all – in her capacity at Aiden Fabrics, Clark routinely assists Lowcountry residents with everything from fabric selection to finishes.

BY JULIE SPRANKLES

What Clark didn't realize, however, was just how quickly she'd see her design expertise realized.

"I went out and met Meg, and she literally had an hour. That was it," Clark recounted, laughing. "And the big wow was when she asked, 'Can you get this accomplished in three weeks?'"

This, Clark discovered upon discussing Meg Baird's needs, was the proverbial whole shebang.

"She told me, 'Julie, I want to do it all, from A to Z. I want a new kitchen. I want new bathrooms. I want new flooring. I want paint, lighting ... everything,'" said Clark, who put in a couple of calls to Aiden Fabrics vendors to make sure they were available before she committed.

That hour also proved to be the only window Baird had to meet with local contractors, so in the span of their time together, she chose one. Then she once again turned to Clark, saying, "I live in Atlanta; can I pay you guys to handle this? Again, A to Z?"

To kick things off, Clark first helped pick out new flooring. Then she pulled together a color story, all in less

than 48 hours.

"Then I called her and asked, 'Can you just come down and look at this real quickly?' She did, and she said, 'I love everything. Go with it.'"

And with that, Clark was off to a running start. Demolition began and, once the dust cleared, the designer got to work selecting the kitchen cabinets, countertops, lighting fixtures, lamps, window treatments, bedding and all other "soft goods" – and making sure they were all delivered and installed.

In keeping with the Wild Dunes unit's function as a vacation rental, Clark opted for a color story that invokes the breezy, beach-side feel of the Carolina seaboard.

"I ended up going with a lot of your turquoise and coral colors, as well as greens, blues and cooler tones," she explained. "My thought process was when someone comes on vacation, this is a new environment for them. They want to feel like they are relaxed and at the coast."

The end result is a space Clark feels is inviting and captures the essence of the area:

happy, bright and coastal. Baird – whom Clark describes as a "dream to work with" – couldn't agree more.

"When I bought the unit, it was in great distress, and I was working on a really tight time table to have it renovated and furnished," Baird said. "It was just a seamless operation and quite a transformation. Julie did a really great job. It was a wonderful experience!" 🍹

Like the sound of this? Call Aiden Fabrics at 843-216-0008 or visit AidenFabrics.com for more information.



Photo courtesy of Aiden Fabrics.

The end result of Meg Baird's condo is a space Clark feels is inviting and captures the essence of the area: happy, bright and coastal.

A photograph of a modern outdoor deck. Two wooden lounge chairs with light blue cushions are positioned on a light-colored wooden deck. In the background, there are large, dark-framed windows and a door, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The scene is bright and airy, suggesting a high-quality outdoor living space.

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BY JOHN TORSIELLO

“Our agency is more than a sales location. We are trusted advisors that you can count on to give you the best advice possible. The advice you get from our agency team is something a 1-800 number is not going to be able to do for you.”

Bradley's agency offers a wide variety of insurance and retirement products through Allstate, “and a few other companies we broker for if an Allstate product is not available.” Bradley has been an exclusive agent for Allstate at The East Cooper Insurance Agency since 1998. Prior to

that, he worked in his father's Allstate agency, learning the ropes for two years.

“I have three full-time employees, and we are looking to bring another agent to the team this year. Our team is very driven to make customers happy with their coverage decisions.”

Bradley attended Bishop England High School and earned a degree in Political Science from Clemson University. He has lived in the Lowcountry all his life.

“In the 18 years I have been an agent in Mount Pleasant, I have seen this town boom. The diversity of this town is what makes it such a uniquely special place to live and work,” he said. 🏡

Bradley's office is at 1039 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite 6. To learn more, visit www.allstateagencies.com/philipbradley or call 843-881-2886.



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"We provide excellent service customized to the client's needs. What this means is we are problem solvers, in addition to providing high-quality legal services," he said.

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

Pearce explained, "Every closing is like a puzzle because everyone's situation is different, and there are collateral issues which our clients need us to help them navigate through. Some people are selling houses in other locations and have issues with the timing of their sale and then their purchase. Some people have very limited availability to participate in their transaction. Some people are in foreign countries. Throw in a very volatile lending environment in underwriting and the closing process, and you have a perfect storm brewing. Meanwhile, you have a small crowd of people all counting on you to coordinate the different aspects and get it done on a certain day at a certain time. Buyers, sellers, real estate agents, insurance agents and lenders are all counting on us to bring it together successfully."

Pearce practiced civil litigation at Hood Law Firm from 1992 to 1999, where he focused on construction defect litigation, and "the whole gamut" of personal injury cases. He was a junior partner at Hood but was unhappy in the litigation world. So, in 2000, he joined Buist & Byars, LLC, and began his career in real estate law. He was a partner at Buist, Byars, Pearce & Taylor, LLC, before leaving to start

his own firm in May 2007.

"We are focused on our clients and referral base, always trying to tweak our process to accommodate current conditions," Pearce observed. "We don't want to do every closing in town but seek a high-quality client and referral base, and, in turn, we provide a high quality of legal services. We don't want to take on more than we can handle. One thing we do say around the office is, 'We don't just get it done; we get it done right.'"

Pearce is the firm's sole partner, while Ryan Patterson is an associate attorney and Debbie Barrineau and Kelley

Sassard are closers. Meredith Lacour has been the firm's receptionist/junior closer/administration manager and was recently promoted to handling more pre-closing and post-closing matters.

Pearce, a resident of Mount Pleasant for over 25 years, said the town always has been a great place to practice.

"Obviously, there has been a lot of growth and so there

has been a lot of closing service needs. We also work with developers and builders, and that is a lot of fun, as well as rewarding. And I live only two-and-half miles from my office, so that is a plus," he explained.

Pearce Law is "shoring up" its current client and referral base by planning to add another closer and also a receptionist.

"Generally, the plan is to grow organically rather than by brick and mortar," Pearce said. "We don't want to be on every corner like a fast food chain but rather prefer to focus on our quality of work and excellent service. If we do that, the rest of it will take care of itself." 🍷

To learn more, visit www.pearce-law.com or call 843-972-0860.



Photo courtesy of Pearce Law Firm.

Left to right: Front row: Debbie Barrineau, senior closer; Meredith Lacour, assistant closer. Back row: Ryan Patterson, associate attorney; Kelley Sassard, senior closer; Dixon F. Pearce II, attorney.

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AV Lifestyles

DAVID SMITH, CO-OWNER OF AV Lifestyles of Charleston, said what has made his firm so successful in such a short period of time is an emphasis on customer service and being “small and agile.”

Smith, the former owner of Audio Tech Services, and Trevor Van Etten, whose company was called Innovative Theater and Sound, merged their companies at the end of 2014.

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

Both had been in business for eight years. The purpose of the merger was quite simple – to offer more options and provide better customer service.

“Service is what separates us from others,” said Smith. “Anyone can supply products, but we supply a custom designed end-user experience with an emphasis on customer service. We have six employees, and we are a small company so that we can ensure that our quality doesn’t slip.”

AV Lifestyles is a custom home audio and video integration firm providing professional installations, high-performance products and the highest level of customer service.

“We specialize in home automation control systems, smart home technologies that make our clients’ lives easier,” Smith remarked.

The company offers two home automation systems – Control 4 and Savant. They design and install media rooms, central vacuum units, lighting/climate control and multiroom audio video distribution systems.

“We have a wide variety of products to meet any budget,” Smith pointed out.

When a prospective customer walks in the door at AV Lifestyles, the first step is a meeting to plan every detail of the proposed project. After the project is designed, all

preliminary plans are submitted to the client for approval. Once the work begins, communication is key to success, according to Smith. He added that programming and orientation also are important components.

“We take the time to instruct clients on their new system and make any customization changes,” said Smith. “Quality control and service are vital. We periodically check in on our clients to answer any questions and tweak the system for years of optimal performance.”

Smith and Van Etten are smart businessmen. They know products can be purchased anywhere.

“Our customers rely on us to not only provide quality products, but, more importantly, to design and implement proven systems that fit their AV lifestyle,” Smith pointed out. “We have built our reputation by providing great service that consistently exceeds our clients’ expectations and demonstrates our commitment to excellence and quality.”

Smith said his firm’s installation team consists of “highly trained individuals” with lengthy experience in the AV industry. They strive to be clean and quiet, providing the customer with a “stealth” installation experience, whether the work is taking place in a home or an office.

He added, “The relationship we build will carry well beyond the completion of a project, because our service extends well after the sale, making sure the client always has someone to contact if they need assistance. We take ownership of our systems and address our clients’ needs in a timely manner, resulting in a completely satisfying experience.”

To learn more about AV Lifestyles, visit www.myavlife.com or call 843-277-0059.



Photo courtesy of AV Lifestyles of Charleston.

AV Lifestyles of Charleston specializes in automation control systems, smart home technologies that make their clients’ lives a little easier.

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LARRY LAVENDER AND HIS partner, Jake Williams, have seen a most satisfying growth of their business, Affordable Spray Foam Insulation, since they founded the company five-and-a-half years ago.

“I was in the construction trades most of my working life and got into the spray foam insulation business about 11 years ago,” said Lavender, a born and bred Charlestonian. “I was working for one of the bigger foam insulation companies in the area, and, when they went out of business, I thought that since I was doing this every day and running a crew, why shouldn’t I be doing it for myself. So Jake and I teamed up, and we have been doing very well competing against national companies.”

Williams has a military background, as well as experience in private commercial shipping by air.

Lavender said that as far as he knows, he and Williams have the only spray insulation company in the area whose owner is on-site during the entire process. He also is a licensed spray foam contractor.

“It’s definitely a plus having an owner on-site, someone who has a stake in the job being done right. We have an A rating with Angie’s List and with the Better Business Bureau,” he explained.

In addition to Lavender and Williams, the company employs two other workers. The firm handles between 15 and 25 clients a month, and jobs are usually completed within a day or two. About 85 percent of the work is retrofitting existing buildings with foam insulation, while the remaining 15 percent is in new homes.

Lavender and Williams pointed out that the spray foam insulation their company uses outperforms fiberglass insulation and becomes a superior air barrier. Since clients can save up to 50 percent on their monthly electric bill, spray foam pays for itself within four-and-a-half to five years, has a high R Value – a measure of the capacity of a material to impede heat flow, with increasing values indicating a greater capacity – prevents air, moisture and gas infiltration, helps reduce moisture and mold, enhances the overall building stability and deadens sound.

Open cell insulation, a sponge-like material that has an R Value of 3.5 to 3.7 per inch, is the least expensive option in the company’s spray foam insulation line.

Closed cell insulation is also more useful than traditional insulation and has a higher R Value than open cell insulation: 6.4 to 6.8 per inch. It also inhibits mold, mildew and odors and can strengthen the structural integrity of the home.

Green cell insulation is an open cell insulation product made from a variety of green products such as soy, sucrose or other green organic compounds instead of petroleum. It is a great product for those who want to be more environmentally friendly while still claiming all the benefits of open cell insulation.

The word “Affordable” in the company’s name is not without

significance, according to Lavender.

“While spray foam insulation has been mostly used in higher-end homes, it is starting to trickle down to homes in moderate price ranges as homeowners become more educated about its benefits and its relatively short pay-back period.” 🐼

To learn more, contact Larry Lavender at 843-270-1846 or Jake Williams at 843-693-8080, or visit www.insulationcharleston.com.



Photo courtesy of Affordable Spray Foam Insulation.

Jake Williams and Larry Lavender teamed up to establish Affordable Spray Foam Insulation, now a thriving company.



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Ask the Experts

Thinking Outside of the Box

Gracen Watts at Gateway Mortgage Group

AFTER HER HUSBAND MARK PASSED away in 2009, Gracen Jennings Watts believed she had reached rock bottom in her life.

But six years later, rebounding from her personal loss and reasserting herself in her career, Watts, a lender for Gateway Mortgage Group in Mount Pleasant, believes she has returned to a good place.

“After an eight-year run as the owner of a mortgage

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

brokerage in Davidson, North Carolina, my husband and I decided to move to our two-bedroom condo at Folly Beach. I closed my business and went to work for Wells Fargo. It was 2008, and times were tough. Being new to town, banks offered leads that helped me get by in those lean years. Six years later, I felt like it was time to get back to my mortgage roots. It feels like home again,” she explained.

Watts, who is remarried to home builder Curt Watts, has two children: Cooper, 12, and Emmy, 3. She started

her career with a large national home builder in 1996.

“I got a feel for the lending side of the business and decided mortgages were a great fit for me. I love my job because it’s different every day, and my customers really appreciate what I do for them. I’m an expert at making things work and thinking out of the box,” she said.

Gateway Mortgage Group opened in Mount Pleasant in a temporary one-room office on Bowman Road in January of this year.

“We’ll be moving to a permanent location near the bridge in mid-July. Gateway Mortgage is new to the Charleston Area but not to South Carolina,” Watts said. “We have branch offices in Myrtle Beach, Beaufort and Bluffton.”

On her choice of where to do business, she added, “Mount Pleasant is great for business. There is so much new activity here and the people are fantastic.”

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Their Dream Came True

The Simersons Relocate to Mount Pleasant

TRACY SIMERSON BROUGHT HER Appalachian twang and her family from Asheville, North Carolina, to the beautiful town of Mount Pleasant.

“We were living in Anderson, South Carolina, but my husband and I both wanted to live on the coast where we could raise our children on the water,” said Tracy. “Everything then just sort of fell into place. I acquired a position at Roper Hospital where I could continue my social work, and we moved right away.”

With two children in tow, 14-year-old Maleah and Connor, 11, the newly-married couple set their sights on a location with a well-regarded school district.

“We first moved to Summerville, which we love, but the traffic is so bad that it takes me an hour-and-a-half to drive 22 miles to work downtown. I just don’t want to be on the congested roadways anymore, so Mount Pleasant seems to be a wonderful solution that we are looking forward to,” Tracy said.

Jeff Simerson, who met Tracy while attending Marshall College, was a yeoman in the Navy for six years and was also on the dive team. He was stationed in Kings Bay, Georgia, but that wasn’t his first taste of life along the Eastern Seaboard.

“I spent my summers in Myrtle Beach at my uncle’s beach house, and it has been my dream since I was a little boy to live on the coast,” said Jeff, who added that choosing the Charleston area wasn’t difficult. “It’s an honor and privilege to live where men fought and died for the freedom we have today.”

He currently is a marketing representative for Pruitt Hospital and plays on his church softball team.

“I do believe in divine intervention,” said Tracy. “We are a blended family, and each brought a child with us from our previous marriages. We began this new life together and then decided to move as well. We have been

blessed with everything coming together. I am even able to begin a master’s program here this fall with USC, our son has joined the Boy Scouts and our daughter has been on the JV cheer squad at Summerville High.”

The Simerson family found an attractive home in Crown Point, just off Rifle Range Road. In addition to cutting their commuting times, their new home gives their middle schooler the opportunity to attend the highly-rated Laing Middle School.



The Simerson family, Maleah, Tracy, Connor and Jeff, recently made Mount Pleasant their new home.

“I believe children need a strong middle school to guide them more smoothly into high school,” Tracy explained. “Our daughter is switching from Summerville High School to Wando High School, and, while it can be a bit scary, we believe all will go well for her at Wando.”

For the Simersons, finding a home in the perfect location proved to be a challenge.

“House hunting was very difficult once we decided to pursue the Mount Pleasant area. It took three months to locate a home because real estate near Laing Middle School is so hot right now. The school is extremely popular and in demand. Houses would go on the market and be sold within hours,” remarked Tracy.

Their advice for other newcomers is to allow enough time to find a home in the right location – then take the time to enjoy your new surroundings.

“Get out and enjoy the scenery, the plantations, antique marts and festivals. There is always so much to do,” Tracy said. “We look forward to camping, fishing and traveling the waterways.”

Even better, Jeff’s parents, Faye and Jack, also recently moved to the Lowcountry, and together they are making new family memories.

“My mother has been my biggest cheerleader all my life,” said Jeff. “I feel like it’s my responsibility to look after both my parents, and I’m working on getting them even closer to us in Mount Pleasant.” 🐾

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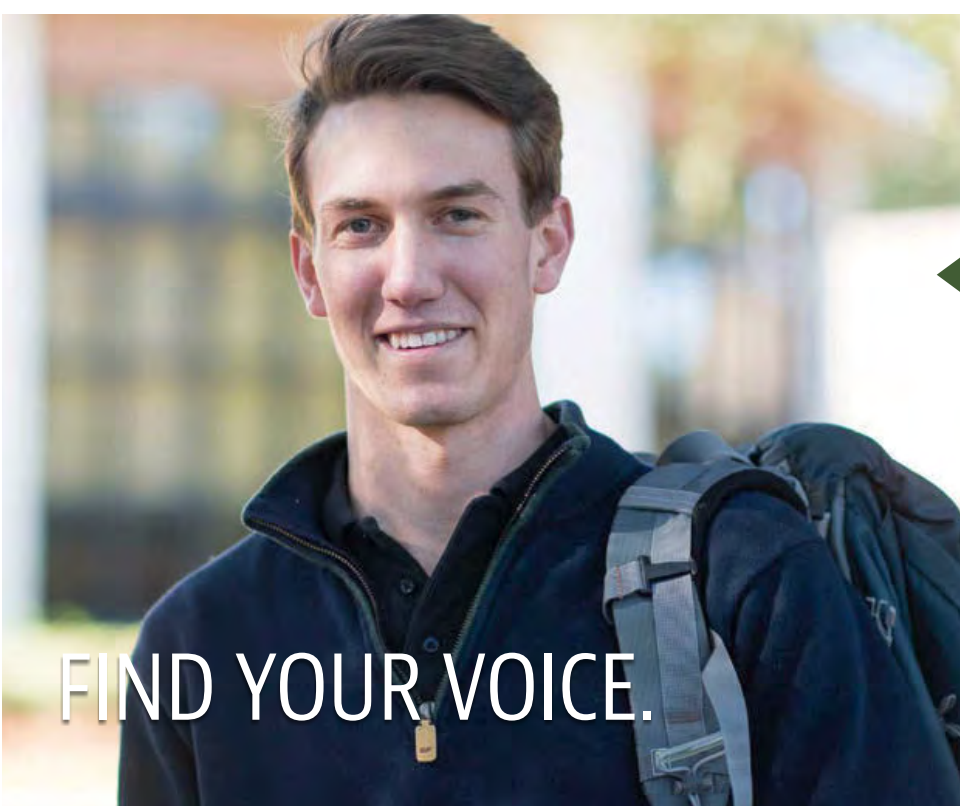
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Education and Camaraderie

THE TRI-COUNTY ADMISSIONS COUNCIL

THE CHARLESTON area's private schools vie with one another to attract students, but the competition is much more friendly than fierce. In fact, many independent schools in the Lowcountry help each other out in an effort to find the right fit for each family that chooses not to send their children to public schools.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

The cooperation is rarely more evident than when members of the Tri-County Admissions Council get together to share ideas, discuss best practices and learn from guest speakers.

TAC was established in 1987 by the admissions directors of seven private schools: First Baptist School of Charleston; Porter-Gaud; Mason Preparatory School; Ashley Hall; Pinewood Prep; Trident Academy; and Bishop England.

"It was a way for us to have some communication so we could talk about and promote independent schools," said Debbie Mack, a longtime TAC member who has been in admissions at First Baptist School for three decades. "It's a great group of people. The camaraderie is great for all of us. The schools are competing, but not in a negative way."

The group now includes 16 active members, the originals plus Addlestone Hebrew Academy; Charles Towne Montessori School; The Charleston Catholic School; Charleston Collegiate; Charleston Day School; Coastal Christian Preparatory School; Northside Christian School; Northwood Academy; and Palmetto Christian Academy.

TAC members pay an annual membership fee to cover expenses such as advertising and receptions, but, otherwise, it is strictly an all-volunteer organization. Current officers include President Lynn Kornya of Mason Prep; Vice President Ken Hyde of Porter-Gaud; Treasurer Nicole Bailey of Pinewood Prep; and Secretary Kit



Brownell of Bishop England.

In the beginning, meetings were held at restaurants, but, for the past decade, they have been hosted by schools. The group now meets three times a year, usually in January, May and sometime in the fall. In addition to discussing issues with fellow admissions directors, they hear from guest speakers on subjects such as marketing and changes in the SATs.

Brownell and Mack both pointed out that one of the most important reasons for admissions directors to communicate is so they will be able to place students in the school that best fits their specific situation. For example, some schools that are members of TAC only serve students up to the eighth grade. At that point, families must decide whether they want their children to remain in a private school and which high school to choose.

"There are families out there for all of us," Brownell said. "We try to do our best for people who want an independent education."

Lisa Shimakonis, admissions director at Palmetto Christian Academy in Mount Pleasant and a member

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of TAC for the past five years, agreed that cooperation among the area's private schools is good for the families served by those institutions of learning.

"If a school has a specialty that would help a family, say for instance Trident Academy, I can make a phone call and help that family out," she explained. "We all want new families, and our job is to showcase our schools, but we're all here to serve the families of the Charleston area.

Everybody helps everybody, and that supports independent private schools."

"The organization benefits students because we can look at which school would best meet a child's needs. A student might not be a good fit for our school, or there might be certain sports that we don't offer. We can help children get connected to the school that fits them best," Mack remarked.

Education and camaraderie also are important aspects of the Tri-County Admissions Council. For Brownell, who has been in admissions at Bishop England for nine years and has served as secretary of TAC for the past four years, learning about what other schools are doing is the

highlight of the TAC meetings.

"I like being able to meet with colleagues of my own profession. I like to be able to ask, 'If this happened, what would you do?' I really appreciate having that dialogue when we get together, especially if I'm up against a problem or something I want to change," she said.

"It's good to be able to talk things through," added Shimakonis, who has been admissions director at

Palmetto Christian for almost eight years.

Mack pointed out that TAC serves as a support system for admissions directors, making their busy professional lives just a little easier to deal with.

"There are times when we all get frustrated. Sometimes it's good just to be able to talk about our frustrations with our job. It's always nice

to know that someone else is going through the same thing," she said.

All three admissions directors agreed that the Tri-County Admissions Council has served a useful purpose over the past 28 years.

"It's a good group," Shimakonis said. "What we do is meaningful." 🐾



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Not Only to Succeed but to Thrive

PALMETTO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WALKING INTO Palmetto Christian Academy, located on Egypt Road in Mount Pleasant, I'm immediately struck by the strong sense of joy that flourishes through the

halls. Smiling children walk single file down the corridor to break for recess. A modern-day pop song can be heard coming from the gymnasium, and, when I go in for a closer look, I discover a physical education class perfecting their dance skills. While academics are of top priority, it's obvious this school knows how to have fun.

"To be in Christian education is to be about something bigger," said Headmaster Mike Lindsey. "Not only does every student graduate with a significant college prep education, it's our responsibility to shape the hearts and characters of young people so that they can truly embrace who God intends them to be."

With graduates going off to Ivy League universities, it's clear just how dedicated PCA is to prepping future generations for life beyond the classroom. Since opening in 1992 as an outreach of East Cooper Baptist Church, this institution has motivated students to think deeply, critically and biblically. The SAT test scores are consistently in the top percentile across the country – proving that the curriculum and instruction offered is invaluable.

Advanced placement classes allow students to rack up college credits before they even graduate from high school. Twenty-seven students in the class of 2014 earned nearly \$1 million in college scholarships.

"The education process doesn't conclude after graduation," said Lindsey. "We want graduates to continue to re-examine the question, 'What will I do in this life

that is of value?'"

From numerous service opportunities in which students give back to the community to a wide array of sports, theatrical performances and top-notch arts programs, there are countless chances for self-expression. Encouraging each student to find his or her passion, PCA allows individualism to flourish.

"It is so rewarding," said Lindsey. "Even the challenges are rewarding. Nothing compares to being able to touch so many people's lives."

While the student body is exuberant about being a

part of a school that offers a wide variety of academics and extracurricular activities, the teachers are also quite pleased to be the very heartbeat of PCA.

"Year after year, our feedback from staff is always excellent," said Lindsey. "Palmetto Christian Academy is truly a place where teachers love to be. We would not exist without this

supportive community of people."

To kick off the school year right, PCA hosts a retreat for high school students so they can build relationships in a camp-like setting. Through team building activities and shared meals, bonds are strengthened, adding greatly to the family-oriented atmosphere of PCA.

"Our goal is to help our students find the best fit for higher education," said Lindsey. "Whether they are scientists, authors, theologians, athletes or mathematicians, the Lord has prepared a perfect place for them."

Cultivating the next generation of lifelong learners, PCA truly nourishes each relationship with every student to ensure achievement at the university level. From small class size to individualized attention, students are given the support they need not only to succeed but to thrive. 📖

For more information on Palmetto Christian Academy, log on to www.palmettochristianacademy.org or call 843-881-9967.

Photo courtesy of Palmetto Christian Academy.



While academics are a top priority at Palmetto Christian Academy, it's obvious that fun is important as well.



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One Hundred Years of Tradition and Progress

BISHOP ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

IT'S REMARKABLE HOW MANY families have shared the privilege of obtaining a solid education from the largest Catholic high school in South Carolina over the last 100 years – from mothers and fathers to aunts, uncles, siblings and children. Some of these alumni of Bishop England High School – or “BE,” as the school is affectionately known – are even perpetuating the legacy by serving on faculty and staff. Essentially, it seems none of the graduates touched by this institution have forgotten the experience.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Consider Barbara Bianchi, a proud member of the Bishop England faculty for 35 years. Not only did she graduate from the school herself – and send her three sons to follow in her footsteps – she has had siblings, nieces and nephews with whom she shares the Fighting Bishop pride.

“There are several families similar to mine here,” said Bianchi. “The school maintains a lot of tradition. Nineteen of us who serve on faculty and staff are alumni.”

From its inception in September 1915 with just 67 students, Bishop England has made premier secondary education within a Catholic environment a reality for many Lowcountry residents. The school began its journey in downtown Charleston, first as part of the Cathedral School on Queen Street and then making its home for many decades at 203 Calhoun St. It has been in its current location on Daniel Island since 1998. Named for Bishop John England, the first in the Diocese of Charleston, the school has prospered to almost 800 students today.

Life at Bishop England High School in earlier years was quite different, according to both Bianchi and Kit Brownell, the school's director of admissions. Changes in technology have made education a different animal, but even that iconic green and white uniform that Bishop England students are seen wearing around town has witnessed its share of evolution.

“I remember in the wintertime, we girls had this wool skirt,” Bianchi recalled. “It felt like a horse blanket! And we didn't have air conditioning, so it was hot in August and May.”

Brownell and Bianchi were both on the Relocation Committee when Bishop England made the great migration from the Charleston peninsula to Daniel Island. Both ladies said that moving everyone out to the larger campus and into one spot has been beneficial.

“Now we have our own ball fields, our own auditorium and other facilities,” Brownell pointed out.

Naturally, the Daniel Island campus is well-equipped to handle whatever nuances in learning have developed in recent years. Current students are able to use their own

tablets or laptops, thanks to the school's “bring your own device” policy.

“Technology has certainly been a big boon,” affirmed Bianchi. “I remember when we got our first computers. Nick Theos, our principal at the time, was a proponent of new resources.”



Bishop England is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. Artwork courtesy of Bishop England High School.

Bishop England's anticipated 100-year celebration will take place the weekend of Sept. 25 through Sept. 27. Everyone from current Principal Patrick Finneran to the school's faculty, staff and student body is looking forward to the festivities, which include a football game Friday night, a picnic Saturday, a dance Saturday evening and a special Mass Sunday.

“This is a celebration of the many parents, teachers, staff and students who have carried on a tradition of excellence,” Finneran affirmed. “Bishop England High School will continue to be a beacon of Catholic education in Charleston for the next 100 years. I would like to thank everyone for supporting the school and ask that you continue to keep our parents, teachers, staff and students in your thoughts and prayers.” 🙏

Find out more about Bishop England High School by calling 843-849-9599 or visiting www.behs.com.



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The Learning Spiral: A Shape for Success

ASHLEY HALL

THE STUDENTS AT ASHLEY HALL are building quite a foundation, not only for their professional futures but also for the next class. This unique campus is made up of faculty and staff who are dedicated to empowering girls from an early age and teaching them to make connections during their coursework and beyond.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

“One of the distinctive aspects of our campus is known as the Learning Spiral,” noted Paula Harrell, director of marketing

and communications. “We have worked hard to develop a dynamic curriculum that serves students from 2 years to 12th grade. Our program beautifully builds upon itself and provides a solid foundation on which a personalized education experience can be built.”

A proven educational philosophy, the Learning Spiral creates cohesion between younger and older students as well as between different subjects.

Ashley Hall is made up of four main schools: the Ross Early Education Center (2 to 5 years and co-ed), Pardue Hall (kindergarten through 4), Lane Hall (5 and 6) and Jenkins Hall (7 through 12).

“Our program features an integrated curriculum,” Harrell remarked. “This is carried out through all divisions, with upper school students learning from an intermediate school project, or an observation made by young students in the EEC catching the attention of a lower school class. The different schools visit each other’s classrooms regularly.”

And the coursework is threaded together as well. If, for example, the Pardue Hall girls are mapping constellations in their science classes, they’re simultaneously drawing stars in art class and learning to say the terms in French class. Everything has a purpose, according to Harrell, and a classical approach with plenty of language, literature and history is important at Ashley Hall.

This isn’t to say that Ashley Hall isn’t progressive. On the contrary, the campus emphasizes STEAM – science,

technology, engineering, art and mathematics – and encourages girls to learn a variety of complex subjects, including computer coding, which the girls of Lane Hall were doing the day Harrell and I spoke.

Students at Ashley Hall now also have the privilege of learning from girls from around the globe. The international boarding program is the foundation of the school’s signature Global Studies Program. Girls from other countries attend Ashley Hall and live in the Rutledge House for Global Studies, a beautifully renovated historic home located at 179 Rutledge Ave. in downtown Charleston.

“We want to introduce our girls to the world and the world to our girls,” Harrell explained.

Recent graduate Tiffany Dye, who is headed to the University of Georgia this fall and grew up in Mount Pleasant, credits her time at Ashley Hall with helping her determine a career path in education.

“I had a lot of amazing teachers at Ashley Hall,” she said. “I also participated in Chucktown Squash, a program out of the College of Charleston where you play squash with elementary kids and then tutor them. I also went on a mission trip to Thailand and enjoyed teaching there.”

Tiffany agreed that Ashley Hall’s approach to education has engaged her throughout her years at the school and taught her the importance of “the roots of things.” She also values the feminine power that the faculty and staff passes along to students.

“Jill Muti (the head of the school) instills a motto in us – that no matter who you are, you can do whatever you want. I think being a woman today is powerful,” Tiffany commented.

Thus is the message Ashley Hall is sending to the world. 🌍

To learn more about Ashley’s Hall, visit www.ashleyhall.org or call 843-722-4088.



Photo courtesy of Ashley Hall.

The curriculum at Ashley Hall provides a solid foundation for a personalized education experience.



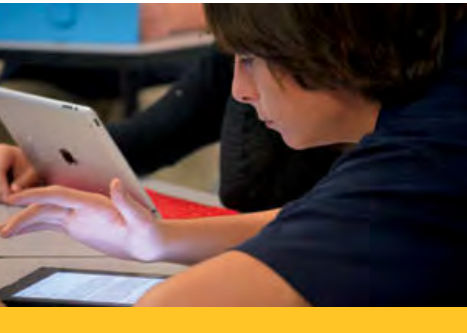
CHARLESTON COLLEGIATE

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Project Based Learning

Students will explore real world problems and challenges using creative thinking, problem solving, and teamwork. From fifth graders using homemade catapults in a competition to learn about mathematical averages to seniors creating career-based products during their Exhibition of Mastery, our students are applying their knowledge to 'real world' scenarios, creating a deeper understanding of the world around them.



Financial Literacy

We believe that incorporating financial literacy into our curriculum prepares students for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in their future. Understanding the importance of mathematics while you are creating your own business or being exposed to personal finance while working on a budget are key components that will translate into success in everyday life.



Artistic Expression

Our Fine Arts Program ties all of our academic courses together using the 'cross-curriculum learning' approach to deepen comprehension of all academic areas. Students are able to act out novels they are studying in English class, create artwork based on the time period being studied in history, and apply their technology skills while filming and editing commercials. From filmmaking and graphic design to painting and sculpting, our students' appreciation for the Arts extends beyond a textbook.



Leadership through Outdoor Education

Charleston Collegiate's beautiful 30-acre campus includes an Outdoor Education Center with nature trails, a tidal swamp with dock, kayak program and low ropes course with team building elements that are unique to our campus and curriculum. Students have opportunities to study a history- and science-based curriculum as well as learn risk management concepts, effective communication skills, group dynamics and survival skills in an outdoor classroom setting.

Congratulations to the class of 2014 and 2015 on their College Acceptances!

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Bard College
Brevard College
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Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
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Georgia Southern University
High Point University
James Mason University
Lynn University
Mercer University - Honors
Miami University
Mississippi State University
Newberry College
North Carolina State University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Presbyterian College
Purdue University
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Savannah College of Art and Design
South Carolina State University
Southern Methodist University
Temple University
Tulane University
Union College
University of Alabama - Honors
University of Alabama
University of Arkansas
University of California - Davis
University of California - Irvine
University of California - Santa Cruz
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University of Tennessee
University of Tulsa
University of Virginia
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Winthrop University

Sharpening the Creative Edge

CHARLESTON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

ONLY A SHORT DRIVE FROM the hustle and bustle of downtown Charleston lies one of the area's best-kept secrets, Charleston Collegiate School. Not only is the campus nestled in a quiet, unique setting, its curriculum is one-of-a-kind in the Lowcountry.

Instruction is modeled after the Harkness method used at Phillips Exeter Academy. According to Head of School Hacker Burr, "This is a round-table technique that has been shown to be

more effective than the traditional 'stand and deliver' way. The teacher is the coach and the students are the workers. This encourages critical thinking so that genuine learning can occur."

Polls have revealed that innovation and creativity are the greatest keys to success in business.

"But kids often begin to lose that creative edge around the third grade," Burr explained. "Here, it is fostered through project-based and collaborative learning all the way through high school. That is one of our major pursuits."

Bridging the connection from school to the real world also enhances learning at CCS. For example, a micro-farm allows students in the early grades to grow food that is not only served with the lunches on campus but also sold at local farmers markets. In middle school, students focus on careers through job shadowing, guest speakers and internships. Entrepreneurship is emphasized in the upper school, where students are required to construct a business plan which they present at a competition sponsored by YES Carolina, an organization encouraging youth entrepreneurship.

"One of our students recently won the state competition and placed nationally, while another has recently been named SC Entrepreneurship Student of the

Year," Burr said, adding that every senior graduating from CCS is accepted to a four-year college.

Because of its physical setting, the students have the additional opportunity of interacting with the physical world. The 30-acre campus includes a forest, nature trails and an outdoor classroom planned and built by the students. Leadership and team building are practiced through techniques often used by adults at corporate retreats.

The school offers students the opportunity to compete in basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, tennis, soccer, golf, volleyball and sailing. Last year, the boys' varsity basketball team won the state championship. But the school has been gaining recognition in the community largely for its unique approach to learning.

Another attribute of the school, which has 250 students, is the family atmosphere.

"A former student recently told me something he really missed when he left here was that family-type feel," Burr explained. "But we have been growing over the last several years. I am often asked by parents how big we will get. I say when I don't know every student's name, it's too big."

Burr predicted enrollment will be capped at a maximum of 400 to 450 students.

Diversity is an important component of the real world, and with a 35-percent minority population, CCS is the most diverse co-ed, non-sectarian, pre-K-12 independent school in the Southeast. Need-based and academic scholarships are offered, thanks to private donors. And with the convenience of the school's own bus service, students come from all over the Charleston area, including East of the Cooper, Summerville, downtown and James Island.

"The students are learning some of the most important real-world skills that we could ever teach," Burr concluded.

To learn more, visit www.charlestoncollegiate.org or call 843-559-5506.



Photo courtesy of Charleston Collegiate School.

Charleston Collegiate School bridges the connection from school to the real world.

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First Baptist does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, national or ethnic origins in the administration of academic, scholarship, educational and athletic policies.

First Baptist School of Charleston:

ACHIEVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

DEBBIE MACK, DIRECTOR of admissions at First Baptist School of Charleston, has more than 30 years of experience in education. Along with Head of School Thomas Mullins and a devoted faculty and staff, she recognizes the importance of educating the mind, body and spirit.

Located in the heart of historic Charleston in the original walled city, FBS was established as a mission of the First Baptist Church of Charleston. Presently a private, 2-year-old through 12th grade school, FBS

offers an independent, co-educational college preparatory curriculum to tri-county area students, as well as to international students.

Mack explained that even though FBS is a private school, “The tuition is less than some of the other area private schools because our founder believed we should offer a quality college preparatory education at an affordable tuition that the average family could afford.”

As a member of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Independent Schools and the South Carolina Independent School Association, the school provides academic excellence with a Christian perspective, as intended by its founder, Dr. John A. Hamrick Sr., more than 65 years ago.

FBS provides an academic learning environment that includes religion classes, fine arts, music, drama, dance, physical education and athletics – competing in the SCISA athletic program – as well as technology in the classroom. Mack relayed that “One hundred percent of our students go on to colleges and universities around the country and abroad, and last year’s seniors earned \$4.3 million in scholarship offers.” With a success rate that shows that

approximately 80 percent of students who enter in pre-school continue through 12th grade, graduates have gone on to enjoy careers in law, medicine, education, science, religion, the arts and sports.

Additionally, students and faculty attend weekly chapel services, whether for a worship experience or an assembly that addresses a life lesson. FBS encourages a spiritual commitment to completely round out its students.

With a diverse student population and with families with multiple students enrolled, FBS’ goal is “To produce young ladies and gentlemen, civilized scholars, athletes and artists who will lead tomorrow.”

Mack continued: “Students are challenged in a nurturing environment, and, with an overall average teacher-student ratio of 1 to 11, the 63 teachers and 500 students focus on honors, advanced placement and dual credit classes taught on our campus.”

If you are interested in enrollment for your child, contact Mack. Admission is based on current and past academic performance, as well as on successful performance on the entrance testing, which is a combination of a standardized achievement test and tests created by teachers.

“We do rolling admissions, and, as long as there is space available, we will continue to accept applications for admission on a first come, first served basis,” said Mack.

Deftly and professionally utilizing all those years in academia, Mack and the administrators and faculty at FBS can ambitiously guide and nurture your students to achieve their dreams.

First Baptist School of Charleston is located at 48 Meeting St. in Charleston. For more information about the school, call 843-722-6646 or visit www.fbschool.org.



Hamrick Hall is named in honor of Dr. John A. Hamrick Sr., founder of the school.

Photo courtesy of First Baptist School.

Nothing but Growth

CHRIST OUR KING-STELLA MARIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

After starting out on Sullivan's Island in 1950 as part of Stella Maris Catholic Church, Christ Our King-Stella Maris Catholic School has done nothing but grow. Currently, four East Cooper entities support Christ Our King-Stella Maris – Christ Our King Catholic Church, Stella Maris Catholic Church, St. Benedict Catholic Church and St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Parish.

BY VALERIE SMITH

As the largest Catholic elementary school in the area, Christ Our King-Stella Maris currently enrolls around 600 students, from 4K to eighth grade. It has operated on a president-principal platform for three years, meaning that the president of the school supervises the fundraising, marketing and overall business aspect while the principal is in charge of academics, kids, teachers and programs.

“President John Byrnes and I work very closely together in partnership,” remarked Principal Susan Splendido.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accredited Christ Our King-Stella Maris and named it a

National Blue Ribbon School in 2009. Additionally, the school has been certified for its International Baccalaureate Middle School Program since 2011, and was just re-certified in the spring of 2015.

“The IB program challenges students not only in traditional core classes but trains them to connect the courses with the real world,” said Splendido.

Christ Our King-Stella Maris is entering its second year with a resource program to accommodate students with mild learning disabilities. Splendido said that she and the rest of the staff are “excited” to provide such improvements in academic offerings to students.

“Eighty percent to 90 percent of our students go on to Bishop England, while a few spread out to The School of the Arts, Academic Magnet and Wando High School,” she added. 🙏

To learn more, visit www.COKSM.org or call 843-884-4721.



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Preparing for the Real World

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

The University School of the Lowcountry, located in Mount Pleasant, had a goal when it opened in 2007: To teach children by utilizing weekly field trips.

“Each student participates in around 30 field trips a year,” remarked Head of Schools Jason Kreutner. “Interaction with and service to the community are hallmarks of our program.”

BY STACY DOMINGO

With an 8 to 1 student to teacher ratio, the field trips around the Lowcountry and beyond give the students firsthand knowledge of the world around them. From learning about faiths from religious leaders to assessing accretion and erosion at area beaches, the world is their oyster.

“Our students are motivated, curious and high-achieving,” said Kreutner. “We have a positive, uplifting presence in the Lowcountry through service and sharing of cultural opportunities. We also had seven state-recognized Duke TIP Scholars this year in our seventh grade.”

Serving third through 12th grades, the school believes that students who are educated about and prepared for the world can form their own decisions about the issues of

the day. For example, University School students met with candidates from the major political parties before conducting their annual exit polling of voters in November.

All University School students in grades three through eight learn Spanish, Mandarin and Latin. Students in grades nine through 12 have greater flexibility in their choice of languages to study.

“We are the only school in the state that has students receiving high-level instruction in three languages at the same time,” Kreutner explained.

Students from all over the Lowcountry attend the University School, which offers significant opportunities for earning high school credit in middle school and college level courses in high school.

“We wouldn’t do our students justice if we didn’t teach them about the world beyond the school’s campus,” Kreutner said. 🌍

To learn more about the University School of the Lowcountry, visit www.uslowcountry.org or call 843-884-0902.

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For learning by doing



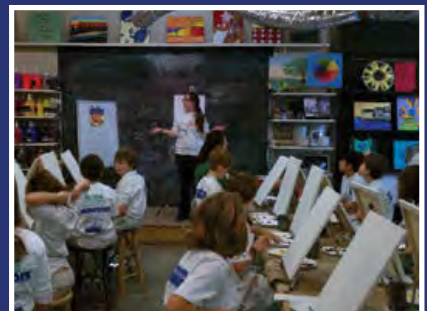
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is an independent, non-sectarian, progressive school for high-achieving students in grades 3 - 12.

USL seeks to develop self-confident, passionate, and empathetic learners who will make a positive difference in the world.



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Not a Numbers Person?

TRY MATHNASIUM

MATHNASIUM OF MT. Pleasant, serving the Charleston area, including Daniel Island and surrounding communities, has been helping students with math by offering year-round tutoring and homework assistance to students in grades two through 12.

An international franchise with approximately 700 centers worldwide – and ranked in the top 100 by *Entrepreneur Magazine* – the Mathnasium Method was created by founder Larry Martinek, who has 40 years of teaching experience. The concept is simple: Add fully individualized instruction and one-on-one teacher-student contact; subtract homework and stress; and multiply by personal success and achievement. These efforts will equal math success.

Approaching their first anniversary, Mathnasium of Mt. Pleasant owner Tony Deshan said, “The thing that makes Mathnasium unique is the method.”

Deshan further stated: “We are not exclusively remedial and enjoy when students are gifted and want to be challenged and get ahead, and our methods and diagnostics can actually target specific skills a student is missing, like simple sequencing or borrowing when subtracting.”

A few of the students currently enrolled at Mathnasium of Mt. Pleasant had this to say: Brooke B. (5th Grade) - “The instructors are very nice and help you understand what you are learning and make you feel proud of your work. Mathnasium has helped me improve a lot in school this year.”

Eli B (5th grade) wants students to know that “Mathnasium makes math fun. I already loved math, but Mathnasium made me love it even more.”

Deshan commented that “Both students have been attending Mathnasium of Mt. Pleasant for around six months and have seen a dramatic increase in their MAP test scores. Students who attended Mathnasium for at least three months last year saw an average increase in their MAP scores of 12 points.”

The Mathnasium Method involves assessments that determine a student’s needs and which continue throughout a student’s instruction period to ensure progress and skill retention. Students are taught by specially trained instructors who implement a student’s customized learning plan designed to teach the concepts needed to master math. Continuous monitoring and checking each student’s progress have shown measurable improvement in math skills, attitudes, school progress and confidence. Mathnasium also uses mental,

verbal, visual, tactile, written, attitude and self-esteem techniques and proprietary materials and instruction to teach elementary, middle and high school students.

Deshan affirmed that “Mathnasium helps a wide variety of students from the elementary level all the way up through high school and helps each student reach their personal goals.”

Deshan, who has six instructors on staff, added: “We have more

than 18,000 pages of material available, so whether students are seeking support or enrichment, we are able to assist them in building a math foundation, master computation and problem solving with whole and rational numbers and understand number sense, which makes sense for all students.”

Mathnasium of Mt. Pleasant is located in the Belle Hall Shopping Center. For more information, call 843-352-7125, or visit www.mathnasium.com/mtpleasant.



Photo courtesy of Mathnasium of Mt. Pleasant.

Mathnasium helps a wide variety of students from the elementary level all the way up through high school reach their personal goals.

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AS PARENTS, WE UNDERSTAND THE value of obtaining a college education in today's competitive workforce. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a typical college graduate earned \$11,749 in three months of 2011, nearly three times more than a high school dropout's salary of \$4,026.

Paying for college still remains a challenge. A recent Christian Science Monitor article reported the average tuition for a public, four-year state school rose 5 percent in 2012 to \$8,655 per year. And, at private institutions, students need a staggering \$39,518 per year. In the past five years, tuition costs for private schools have increased 13 percent beyond overall inflation.

There are options to help ease the financial burden, including state and university scholarships, financial aid packages, special college savings plan and low-cost loans.

Here are some steps to make the whole process as painless as possible.

- **Improve your credit score.** Establishing good credit can help you secure the low-cost loans you may need.

- **Plan for the unexpected.** Estate planning and the right kinds of insurance will help protect your child's college plan.

- **Save early.** Maximize resources by choosing the right college savings plan.

- **Ask relatives to help.** Ask relatives to contribute money to your college fund.

- **Encourage your children to save.** Teach your kids to start saving for college early by putting aside a portion of their monetary gifts.

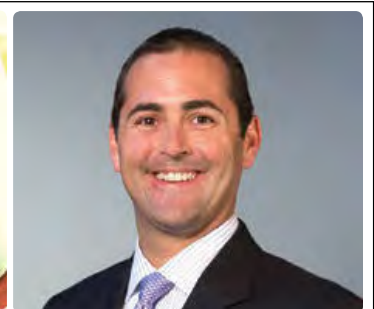
College is a major investment in your child's future. Do as much early preparation and research as possible. It may also be beneficial to consult an experienced financial professional who can advise you based on the specifics of your situation. 📌

This article was provided as a courtesy by Thomas P. McCarty, an agent of New York Life. To learn more, contact McCarty at 843-549-9576 or tpmccarty@ft.newyorklife.com.



#22

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A Little Song and Dance

THE MUSICAL THEATER CENTER

ONCE UPON A TIME, THREE creative ladies met one another through various circumstances. All were trained in the arts of music, theater and dance, and all shared the vision to make the world a better place through performance.

Eventually, The Musical Theater Center was born from this passion, and there was much rejoicing.

The venture between owner Allyson Lewis and artistic director Courtney Sarre – including Professor Laura Turner

from the College of Charleston as the musical director – has now thrived for several years, beginning with Allyson initiating Once Upon a Ballet, the parent company, 11 years ago. At that time, Allyson and Courtney were friends and colleagues who'd previously worked together in Washington D.C. As fate would have it, they both ended up in the Lowcountry and eventually recruited Laura – plus many other gifted staff – for the project.

“When I started Once Upon a Ballet, we didn't have this studio – we built it in 2008 – and I was renting space from churches and working out of my car. It was very grass roots,” Allyson admitted with a chuckle.

The concept of The Musical Theater Center allows students to study dance, music and performance theater in one place – a program unique to the area, since few children's theater troupes are built around a dance studio.

“When I looked back on my own career, I realized it was important for dance and theater to cross; it makes us more well-rounded as performers,” Allyson explained.

“We are developing Renaissance kids,” Laura pointed out. “They'll be better speakers and problem solvers – and they'll know how to manage their time and work with others.”

The Musical Theater Center has three levels of

performance troupes – players, junior company members and company members – depending on age and experience. Earlier this year, students from The Musical Theater Center were awarded an Excellence in Acting Award at the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta for their 15-minute selection from their upcoming “Shrek the Musical JR.” They've also been asked to perform for the American Alliance of Theater Education this August. And every other year, older students have the opportunity to visit the Big Apple and work with adult musical theater professionals.

“We've had an exciting year,” emphasized Courtney.

“Between November 2014 and August 2015, we will have put on a total of eight musical productions. We've had five students accepted into the Charleston County School of the Arts this year – and we're excited that the Footlight Players have welcomed us into their theater for the 2015-2016 school year!”

When Allyson, Courtney and Laura aren't on the road with their talented proteges, working

within the Charleston community is important as well. The Musical Theater Center recently gained nonprofit status, an evolution that all three ladies are excited about, given their desire for greater outreach. Applying for artistic grants in an effort to work with children who might not have the financial means on their own is something they feel is vital.

“So far we have been able to offer \$19,918 in scholarships this year alone,” Courtney said. “We've also reached more than 5,000 children with our performances for local schools.”

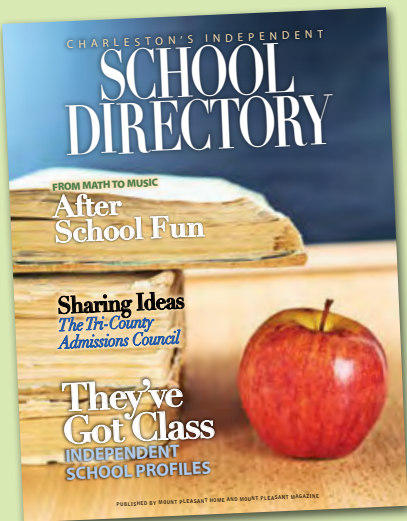
Upcoming shows for next season include “Legally Blond JR,” “The Little Mermaid JR,” “Lion King JR,” “Aladdin JR” and “A Year With Frog and Toad.”

Learn more about The Musical Theater Center by calling 843-216-6671, emailing troupemtc@gmail.com or visiting www.musicaltheatercentermountpleasant.com.

Photo courtesy of The Musical Theater Center.



The concept of The Musical Theater Center allows students to study dance, music and performance theater in one place.



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CharlestonPhysicians.com is another excellent place to learn about oral health professionals across the Charleston area because the site offers listings for every single oral health professional in the state of South Carolina. The site

is host to cutting-edge editorial about medical practices and professionals and is a member of the South Carolina Medical Network, a group of resource websites that can provide you with information to help you make an educated decision about local health care.

On CharlestonPhysicians.com, you will find almost all of your questions about oral health care in the Lowcountry answered, from dentists to orthodontists to periodontists to oral surgeons. Not only will you learn about your new dentist or orthodontist through the convenience of your phone – yes, we're mobile friendly – tablet or computer, you can also read up on what's next for oral health in the world of medicine.

The following pages profile some of the Lowcountry's top oral professionals. 🦷

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Smiles All Around

The South Carolina Dental Association Coastal District

BEFORE I INTERVIEWED THE president and past president of the South Carolina Dental Association's Coastal District – Dr. Robbie Lake and Dr. Scott Cayouette, respectively – I tried to imagine what a bunch of dentists might

talk about during those annual conventions. But soon enough I found out that there's a lot more doing than talking involved in this organization – more specifically, education and outreach for the betterment

BY DENISE K. JAMES

of everyone's smile.

Formed in 1869, the South Carolina Dental Association is a nonprofit organization and a chapter of the American Dental Association. The group consists of 1,944 dentists, about 77 percent of the dentists currently practicing in the state.

Regarding the outreach part of the SCDA's mission, Drs. Lake and Cayouette spoke of the Dental Access Days, also known as DAD, an annual program originated in 2009. The DAD program sends the dentists to different areas of South Carolina for two days to provide treatment to adult patients who otherwise might not be able to afford it. Different areas that have hosted the DAD program include Florence, Greenville, Columbia, Rock Hill and, of course, Charleston. Though the treatment is geared toward adults, the group often provides prevention services and education to children as well.

"It's fun and rewarding for the dentists and it's good for the patients," affirmed Dr. Cayouette. "Last year, over 1,500 patients came to our program in Rock Hill. We did extractions, fillings, crowns and root canals."

"I'm not a 5 a.m. person, but you have to be during the DAD days," admitted Dr. Lake. "But the event

energizes me. It's been one of the neatest parts of serving as president thus far."

Dr. Lake's presidency of the Coastal District – a term lasts for one year, beginning and ending with the spring convention – has been a great opportunity to get involved with other dentists in the state, he said, and embrace the

chance to give back, something he learned the value of from his father, who also was a dentist.

"My dad was a dentist and I practiced with him," Dr. Lake said. "He impressed upon me the importance of organized dentistry. He even took me to a few meetings and conferences so I could meet a few of the 'big dogs' at that time."

Speaking of big dogs, the annual spring convention was held in

Charleston this past April, and included 1,537 dentists and dental staff members. Dr. Cayouette was the chairperson of the 2015 event, which means organizing continuing education opportunities for the doctors and staff, as well as a large exhibition with different manufacturers and suppliers – yes, toothpaste brands included! There's also the popular silent auction fundraiser that helps raise money for dental student scholarships. Donated auction items have run the gamut from artwork to vacation packages.

"This was our first convention in Charleston since 2003," Dr. Cayouette remarked. "It's always a great experience."

I asked Dr. Lake whether he and Dr. Cayouette were friends before they passed the baton of presidency, so to speak, and he said they've become better friends.

"It's been great learning from these guys," he commented. "Scott and the others prepared me for this position. I knew it was time for me to step up and become involved. It's been interesting and challenging so far, and I'm glad I did it." 🦷



Photo by Dr. Gene Atkinson.

The SC Dental Association's DAD event is fun and rewarding for the dentists as well as good for the patients.

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“Smiling and laughing are the two biggest ways we express happiness to our family and friends, and so not wanting to smile or show your teeth is a big deal,” said Dr. Justin Garrett of Garrett Orthodontics in Mount Pleasant.

Helping people feel proud about their smile is Dr. Garrett’s goal.

“Think about being uncomfortable, being unhappy and what that does to someone’s personality. On the other hand, when we take a patient like that, and, over the course of a year-and-a-half, we build a relationship and we make them feel great about themselves when they smile, it’s this joyful experience,” he explained.

Dr. Garrett and his team help children and adults alike achieve a great smile, using braces and Invisalign. Garrett Orthodontics also offers AcceleDent, a technology that works along with Invisalign to shorten treatment time and give patients that great smile faster.

The technology involved in orthodontics is one of his favorite aspects of the work, said Dr. Garrett.

“I really love the technology. We do more Invisalign than anybody in town, and I like to be able to use my 3D scanner and computer to move the teeth,” he stated.

Dr. Garrett stressed that Invisalign can be used to achieve perfect teeth, even in difficult cases. Supporting him in his

mission are the members of his “super friendly” team.

“They care about people,” said Dr. Garrett. “I think that if you have people that truly care about others and want to do the best for them, everything follows from that.”

Also supporting him is his father, Dr. Steve Garrett, a practicing orthodontist in Virginia.

“The more I practice, the more I see that he’s also an incredible orthodontist, so I have a professional respect for him, too,” said Dr. Garrett. “He’s encouraging, supportive and dedicated.”

His father was a main factor in Dr. Garrett pursuing orthodontics.

“A lot of people you meet in dental school really love teeth, and that was always funny to me. I was a history major in college. I was interested in anthropology and philosophy, so sometimes I still laugh that I somehow ended up being a tooth doctor,” he related.

Speaking of his father, Dr. Garrett said, “He’s very in tune to how orthodontics can change people’s lives, and so that more than anything to do with teeth is what drew me to it.”

Dr. Garrett earned a degree in history from the University of Virginia and completed his prerequisites for dental school at the College of Charleston. He attended dental school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and then went to Saint Louis University, where he completed his residency in Orthodontics and earned a certificate in Orthodontics and a master of science in Orthodontics.

Mount Pleasant is home to Dr. Garrett and his beagle, Professor.

“I love Mount Pleasant. I feel like in the next 10 years, all the best parts of downtown are going to come to Mount Pleasant,” Dr. Garrett said.

He likes to travel, do CrossFit, and read (“I always have about seven to 10 books going at once”), and he’s active in the Seacoast Church. But most of the time, he’s changing his patients’ lives.

“I love asking patients once they get their braces off if they got a lot of compliments. The answer is always yes,” he said. 🐾

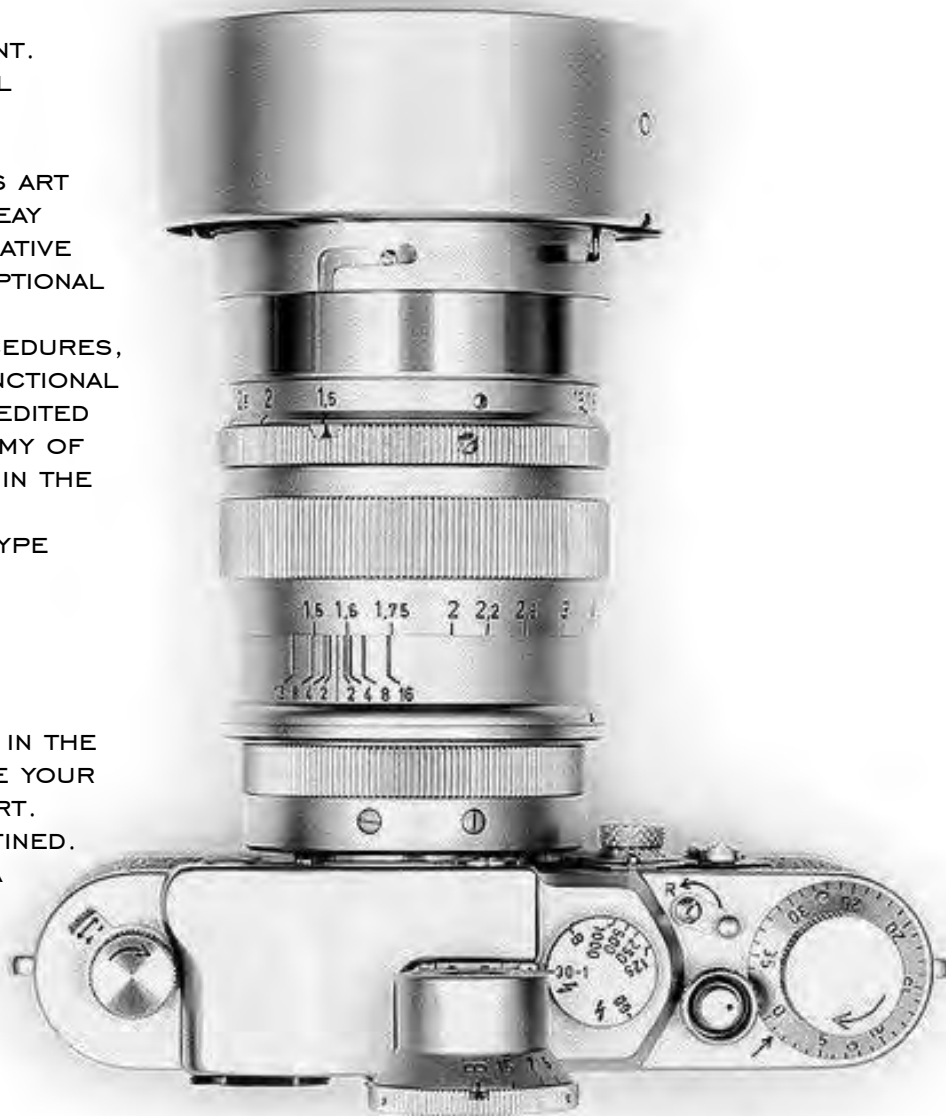
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Photo courtesy of Park West Dentistry.

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“The way we run our practice, it’s more of a family environment,” said Dr. Seay. “It’s not uncommon to see one patient the entire day.”

Patients don’t choose Park West Dentistry for convenience or insurance purposes, she said: “They come because they want something different. We are grateful that our patients value the time, skill and judgment we offer. They come for the experience, which has helped even the most anxious in our relaxing environment.”

Dr. Seay believes her dental team members are some of the best-trained in the area, due in large part to a focus on continuing education. She has her team complete CE continually, and she herself averages 128 hours of CE every year – way beyond the 14 hours the state of South Carolina requires.

Dr. Seay lectures nationally to dental groups on the clinical techniques she employs in her practice and is an accredited member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, one of only seven such dentists in South Carolina. After earning her bachelor’s degree in Biology at the University of South Carolina, Dr. Seay attended the New York University College of Dentistry, the first dental school to have an Esthetics Department. In her study of esthetic dentistry, she’s learned how to handle cases of trauma, full-mouth rehabs, complex occlusal rehabilitation and more. She opened Park West Dentistry in 2004 in Mount Pleasant, where she lives with her husband and four young children.

In the end, all of the training and study is worth it to be able to improve the quality of life for her patients.

“Many patients I treat are happy people, but, because they’re embarrassed or ashamed of their teeth, they hide it. After treatment, they come in with more confidence. It filters into different aspects of their life. It’s an exponential effect of how it really helps them. A smile is contagious.”

You only get one set of teeth for the rest of your life, so treat them well, said Dr. Seay.

“If somebody told you that you’d have one car for the rest of your life, how would you treat it? You want your teeth to outlive you, so treat them like that. It’s one of the only things you’ll care about when you’re well into your 90s, whether you have teeth to enjoy a good meal and smile. What you do today matters tomorrow,” she said. 🦷

Have you ever gotten broccoli stuck in your teeth at dinner? You know that short-lived feeling of having to hide your teeth with embarrassment when you talk and smile because you don’t want anyone to see? While that is only a fleeting moment for most, that’s what Dr. Amanda

Seay of Park West Dentistry in Mount Pleasant said life is like for many of her patients before they come see her.

Dr. Seay has a private practice with a focus on restorative dentistry that ranges from the fundamentals to fine art. She rebuilds her patients’ smiles through the use of veneers, crowns, dental implants, bonding and more. Her work is not just smile-changing, but life-changing.

“It’s an opportunity to make a difference. I can’t think of a time where life hasn’t changed for someone after treatment. They have a newfound confidence,” she beamed.

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BY ERIN DANLY



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Photo by Jenn Cady.

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solutions to those problems,” he said, adding that he regularly hears patients say that the experience was positive.

“We strive to not only give excellent surgical care here but also excellent patient care and empathy. Our goal is to make an overall negative thing into a positive experience and treat the patients with good customer service,” he explained.

Dr. Barefoot credits the members of his team, whom he described as “top-notch,” for their role in the success of the practice.

“I couldn’t do what I do without the people here with me. We have a great team in place. Someone can be the best in the world, but if the team surrounding them isn’t made up of solid people, it’s not going to matter much. The overall result is going to be diminished.”

Barefoot Oral & Facial Surgery provides a wide range of dental and medical treatment options, including dental implants, bone grafting, ridge augmentation, sinus lift and jaw surgery. The practice also treats a variety of other issues such as TMJ disorders, sleep apnea, impacted wisdom teeth and facial injuries.

The variety in the work is what appealed to Dr. Barefoot in the first place.

“In high school, I wasn’t sure exactly what I wanted to do, so I shadowed people and eventually found oral surgery. I felt like it was a good intermediary between dentistry and surgery because I could tailor things for what I wanted in terms of practice.”

Dr. Barefoot earned his undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, received his doctorate in Dental Surgery from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and attended medical school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he also did his residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He worked at a multidocor practice in Savannah for five years before moving to Mount Pleasant to strike out on his own.

So how is life in the Lowcountry so far? He and his wife and son are loving it, he said.

“There’s a lot going on here. We enjoy the beach and how pretty the area is.”

Looks like he’ll be calling South Carolina home for a while. 🏠

Dr. Matthew Barefoot is a newcomer to Mount Pleasant but not to the South. Born and raised in North Carolina, he also lived in Alabama and Georgia before calling South Carolina home. He came to Mount Pleasant early this year when the opportunity arose to take over an existing oral surgery practice.

As an oral surgeon, Dr. Barefoot helps patients regain function and appearance through surgery on the mouth and jaws.

BY ERIN DANLY

Having a positive impact on his patients’ lives is the best part of his work, he said.

“Some patients come in because they can’t smile or eat because their dentures are falling out of their mouth,” he said.

After they see Dr. Barefoot, the difference is remarkable.

“They’re like a new person, able to smile all the time and eat normally,” he said.

In his training and practice, Dr. Barefoot has done everything from reconstruction on cleft palates and faces disfigured from bullet wounds to everyday work such as dental implants. He admitted that not everyone is excited to see an oral surgeon.

“If someone is coming to see an oral surgeon, they’ve got some kind of problem. It’s fulfilling to me to provide

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menting a new ergonomic design throughout the office, adding a state-of-the-art call center and extending its hours to Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., which allows them to better serve their new and existing patients.

“Dentistry has technologically advanced more in the past 30 years than in the previous 100,” Dr. Rob Carimi, who joined Pleasant Family Dentistry two years ago, pointed out. “I see the dental field making continual advancements to make dentistry more efficient and comfortable for patients.”

New technologies at Pleasant Family Dentistry include CEREC, Six Month Smiles, sedation dentistry and DIAGNOdent.

CEREC, an acronym for Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics, is a durable ceramic material that matches the natural color of other teeth, allowing dentists to quickly and economically restore a patient’s damaged tooth.

“CEREC allows us to perform a restoration in just one visit,” said Dr. Lauren Callison, the newest dentist to join Pleasant Family Dentistry. “We also have Six Month Smiles, which is a practical and turnkey solution for adults with crooked teeth. By utilizing unique, clear brackets and tooth-colored wires, the system provides an alternative to adult patients who aren’t keen on traditional orthodontic treatments.”

Pleasant Family Dentistry offers its patients sedation dentistry, which is ideal for anyone who has high levels of anxiety, difficulty in getting numb, complex dental problems, the need to squeeze several procedures into a limited time period or a fear of needles and shots.

DIAGNOdent is a small laser instrument that scans a patient’s teeth with a harmless laser light that looks for hidden decay. Locating hidden decay before it destroys tooth structure is a major goal for the dentists at Pleasant Family Dentistry.

“We treat everyone from kids to adults, so our demographic is very large,” explained Dr. Callison who is excited to have Mount Pleasant as her home. “We can cater to everyone’s needs if they are nervous or just don’t know what to expect on their first visit.”

Nearly three decades ago, Pleasant Family Dentistry began with two dentists and a small staff in Mount Pleasant. Today, the office has matched the growth of the area by expanding to 23 staff members and four dentists.

“I have seen Mount Pleasant double in size over the last 26 years, and the area does not show any signs of slowing down when it comes to growth,” said Dr. Richard Jackowski, dentist and co-owner. “There are a lot of teeth moving to the area, and those teeth need maintenance. Even with fluoride in the water, we are still seeing cavities due to the processed foods that patients consume, along with poor nutritional habits.”

BY STACY DOMINGO

Dr. Jackowski, along with co-owner Dr. Gregory R. Johnson, are transplanted South Carolinians, as are many of their patients. From New York and Virginia, respectively, the two saw the same beauty and optimism everyone else is seeing in the Carolina Lowcountry.

“We love our town,” said Dr. Johnson. “We enjoy boating, jet skiing and paddle boarding in our beautiful waterways, as well as golf, music and walking downtown.”

To accommodate the area’s growth, Pleasant Family Dentistry is increasing from eight patient rooms to 14, two of which will be surgical suites. The practice also is imple-



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Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper

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She was awarded fellowship with the Pierre Fauchard Academy in March 2015 (Left). This honor is presented by invitation only to those who have made outstanding contributions to the dental profession and served their communities in an honorable way.



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Photo by Jenn Cady.

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and while in college she discovered her artistic skill. It was then that she knew that with her eye for fine details and passion for helping people, she could be a great dentist.

Dr. Dahlkemper went on to attend the School of Dental Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. Upon graduating with her DMD, she began taking courses at the prestigious Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies and focused on continuing her education in cosmetic procedures and neuromuscular dentistry. Dr. Dahlkemper has been consistently at the top of her class every step of the way, so it comes as no surprise that she was one of the youngest dentists in the country to earn a fellowship with the Las Vegas Institute. Just this year, she received yet another accolade: She was inducted as a fellow to the Pierre Fauchard Academy, an international group that recognizes leaders for their contributions to the field of dentistry and to their communities.

Dr. Dahlkemper arrived in Charleston by way of Washington, D.C. When she graduated from dental school, she was offered a position working for a busy corporate dental practice in the nation's capital. Within months, she was running her own office. She loved her work but longed for somewhere that felt more like home. She found that place during a weekend visit to Mount Pleasant.

In her off time, Dr. Dahlkemper loves hanging out on the beach and catching up on her reading – sometimes with a book suggested by one of her patients! She is involved in the community, supporting the Wando High School Band and the Chorale Arts Experience. She also works with East Cooper Community Outreach to bring dental services to those in need. But perhaps her most rewarding experiences are her mission trips abroad, including her most recent adventure in Ecuador with MUSC dental students through the Dental Community Fellowship.

“I love helping people,” she said.

That she does, with the assistance of her smile team, who embrace Dr. Dahlkemper's philosophy of “gentle dental care in a comfortable environment.” Oral sedation is available, along with relaxing extras such as lavender eye pillows, paraffin wax hand treatments and entertainment options such as iPods or cable TV.

“I can't think of a community I would rather be in. My patients are truly wonderful people who make my job more fun. How could I not love having a business here?” Dr. Dahlkemper asked. 🦷

Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper is passionate about caring for her patients. She sees them as interesting people with families, jobs and hobbies and wants the very best for each one. That passion spurs her to continuously further her education and keep up with the latest technology and journals.

“We take the time to get to know our patients.” Dr. Dahlkemper said. “We have a patient appreciation event in April every year.”

It is easy enough to meet Dr. Dahlkemper – make an appointment with her. Her practice, Water's Edge Dentistry, offers a full array of dental services to improve the health of your mouth and the beauty of your smile. Services range from routine cleanings to full mouth restoration and everything in between. She also provides TMJ therapy with the most advanced nonsurgical techniques and even treatment for sleep apnea or snoring.

Dr. Dahlkemper attended Allegheny College in Pennsylvania for her undergraduate education. There she earned two bachelor's degrees, in Biological Neuroscience and Psychology, and graduated with honors. She always knew she wanted to pursue a career in the medical field,

BY BARBARA MILLEN PATRICK

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Dr. Ana Gonzalez and Dr. Jeff Gardner discuss a patient's case at Smiling Oak Dentistry.

Photo by Brian Sherman.

DR. JEFF GARDNER DR. ANA GONZALEZ

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Patients at Smiling Oak Dentistry in Mount Pleasant started visiting Dr. Jeff Gardner in his new, 3,000-square-foot building in September 2014. The staff at the thriving dental practice has been upgraded as well, with the addition of another well-trained and highly-motivated dentist.

Dr. Ana Gonzalez, who recently completed her Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency at the Medical University of South Carolina, joined Dr. Gardner

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

at Smiling Oak in early July. The most notable difference for patients is that the practice is now open on Fridays. And, according to Dr. Gardner, he'll be in a better position to help people who count on him to ease their pain.

He explained: "In the past, we had to refer some procedures to other dentists. For instance, if a patient needed a root canal right away and my schedule was full, I could refer it to another dentist or wait a few days and do it myself. With Dr. Gonzalez in the practice, I can take care of it right away."

Dr. Gardner, who earned his dental degree at MUSC, is a strong proponent of continuing education, which is one reason he chose Dr. Gonzalez as his new associate.

"I feel very comfortable with my patients seeing her,"

Dr. Gardner commented. "She is a lifelong learner. I felt like she knew what she didn't know."

In addition to passing along his extensive knowledge of dentistry, Dr. Gardner hopes to teach Dr. Gonzalez about the business aspects of running a practice. He spent five years learning from his father, a dentist on James Island, before opening his own practice in Mount Pleasant.

"You don't find out about the business side in an academic setting, things such as hiring and firing, overhead, maintaining equipment and the financial part," Dr. Gardner said.

Dr. Gonzalez, who speaks both English and Spanish, earned her degree in Art History at the University of Miami and graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.

"Ultimately, I found my calling in dentistry, which blended form and beauty with function and health, a delicate combination of art and science," she commented.

Dr. Gonzalez joined a team that Dr. Gardner considers to be one of the keys to his success. The group includes hygienists Elizabeth Barron Morrison and Rebecca Runion and dental assistants Maria Trombley-Puffer and Anna Inabinet, as well as Lisette Glennon and Sarah Hunton. They help Smiling Oak Dentistry provide an array of dental services, such as routine cleaning, gum treatment, fillings, pulling teeth, dental implants, dentures, crowns, bridges and cosmetic services including veneers and teeth whitening.

Outside of his dental practice, Dr. Gardner plays in an adult soccer league and spends time with his hobby of metal detecting. His wife, Roberta Zeigler Gardner, is an orthodontist in Mount Pleasant, and their daughters, Sophie and Lydia, are students at Wando High School. 🏠



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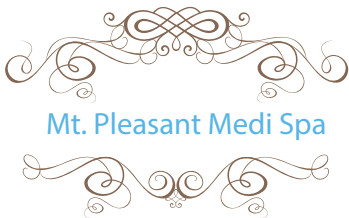


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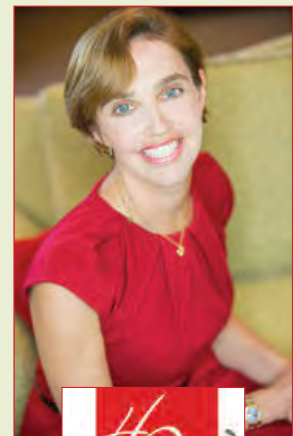


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bad, everything goes,” she said. “People don’t recognize how important the mouth is; it’s the gateway to your overall health. A lot of diseases start in the mouth. It’s the first line of defense.”

Gum disease, or periodontitis, is responsible for 70 percent of tooth loss in adults.

Dr. Lohse chose periodontics because it’s one of the specialties in dentistry that allows for continuity of care with patients.

“With perio, you get to follow them over time and develop more of a relationship with them,” she pointed out.

Originally considering becoming a physician, Dr. Lohse switched her attention to dentistry after realizing that her dentist was happy being a dentist. She also noted that, unlike doctors, who typically see people at their worst, dentists don’t.

“When you’re a dentist, you see people when they’re at their best, when they’re healthy,” she said.

Dr. Lohse attended the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey for her dental degree and then earned a master’s in Oral Biology from the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry and a certificate in Periodontics. She opened her solo practice after two years as an associate in another practice. She’s been in the Charleston area since 2001 and loves it.

“The food, the location, the beach. You can’t beat it. The sense of community in Mount Pleasant is amazing,” she said.

Another thing Dr. Lohse loves: her team. Together they work hard every day to take care of their patients’ oral health. Dr. Lohse keeps up with current research to find out what can affect her patients’ lives on a day-to-day basis. For instance, she now advises patients to pay attention to the abrasiveness of toothpaste, since it’s starting to show wear on teeth, and to use a basic pH mouthwash to counteract acidity.

That’s just one way Dr. Lohse expresses the care she has for her patients and why they responded so strongly when she told them of her cancer diagnosis.

“I try to relate to my patients as my family. I only want the best for them. I put a lot of myself into my treatment, and that shines through to them. Their health is my ultimate goal,” she said. 🦷

When asked about the best part of her work, Dr. Jennifer Lohse immediately responded, “Definitely the patients. I have the greatest patients.”

Many dentists say their patients are great, but Dr. Lohse can prove it. When she was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year, she was overwhelmed with their outpouring of support.

BY ERIN DANLY

“The handwritten notes, the flowers, the personal phone calls. Many came to visit me in the hospital. It’s been amazing. I had no idea how much I’ve touched my patients,” she said.

Although Dr. Lohse sees many of her patients just twice a year, she has a big impact on their lives. At her practice, Dr. Jennifer E. Lohse Periodontics and Implantology, which has locations in Mount Pleasant and North Charleston, she and her team provide specialized care in gum health (periodontics), such as painless laser treatment of gum disease, and dental implants (implantology), including a new type of implant that’s better able to mimic a molar.

Everyone knows the importance of keeping their teeth clean, but Dr. Lohse stressed the importance of paying attention to gum health, too.

“It’s not just the gums, it’s the bone underneath them. That’s the foundation of everything. So once that goes

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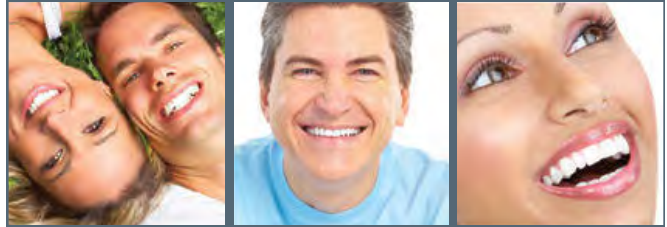
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young teeth, as well as cosmetic services such as veneers, implants and tooth whitening for adults. She believes in utilizing technology to help her patients achieve the absolute best results, using digital X-rays to minimize radiation and intra-oral cameras to capture a clear picture to diagnose oral issues.

Working with a great team has been crucial to the success of the practice. Dr. Garner knows there is no substitute for experience. Her staff averages 20 years of experience in tasks from cleaning teeth to solving insurance issues for patients.

"I'm very fortunate to have an amazing and talented staff. They're super with kids and great with all our patients. We have fun together doing outstanding dentistry. We try to make it a pleasant experience for all of our patients. Above all, we love to see our patients smile," she said.

Dr. Garner attended dental school at Creighton University in her hometown of Omaha, Nebraska. Following graduation, she was selected for an intensive residency program at Temple University in Philadelphia, where she earned an advanced degree in General Dentistry.

"Each year I devote 100 hours of advanced education to improve my expertise and learn the latest techniques and materials available for dentistry. Annually, I attend Dr. Frank Spear's hands-on workshops in Scottsdale, Arizona, for advanced techniques in dental occlusion and cosmetic dentistry taught by some of the finest dentists in the United States," Dr. Garner said. "I am also a member of the Seattle Study Club, a professional association of dentists for the advancement of dental excellence."

Dr. Garner lives with her husband, two teenage girls and 9-year-old lab "Buster" on Daniel Island. She opened her practice after her husband, originally from the Isle of Palms, retired from the Air Force and moved back to Mount Pleasant. As part of a traveling military family, she gained a lot of experience working as a managing and associate dentist for practices in Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado.

Dr. Garner loves what she does: "Dentistry is a rewarding career with many opportunities to make a difference in people's lives. I am very fortunate to work with such a great staff and care for so many wonderful patients. It is such a privilege having the trust of our practice families." 🦷

Dr. Cynthia Garner has been practicing dentistry, her love and her passion, for 20 years. Her goal is to help people feel good about themselves, and Garner Family Dentistry in Mount Pleasant is her pride and joy. There is nothing she enjoys more than the privilege of being her patients' dentist.

To Dr. Garner, each of her patients is special. Whether they are adults or children, she provides a customized treatment plan.

She does offer some tips that apply to all parents and their children, however.

"Brush with them. Floss their teeth when they're younger, because it's hard for kids to floss," she said. "And if your kid doesn't like to brush, have them do dry brushing. Get a little baby toothbrush and let them get used to putting it in their mouth. Make it a routine, twice a day. Make it part of their daily schedule."

Her best advice, though, is to set a good example to children by taking care of yourself.

Dr. Garner's dental practice on Chuck Dawley Boulevard offers a full range of family dental health care services, including checkups and hygiene visits, fillings, crowns, dentures, fluoride treatments, sealants to protect those



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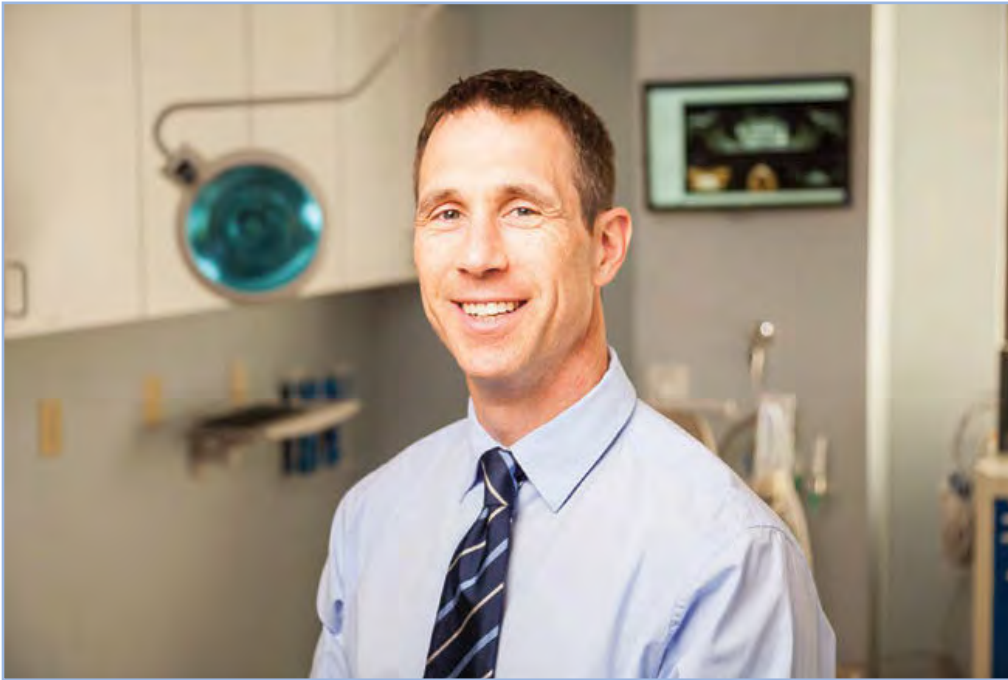
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Photo courtesy of Dr. Matt Dillard.



DR. MATT DILLARD DR. DONALD PHILLIPS

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I was an exciting summer for Dr. Matt Dillard, with both a new addition to his team and a new location. His new Mount Pleasant office on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard opened in July, complementing the practice's West Ashley location, and Dr. Donald Phillips, a dental classmate of Dr. Dillard, joined the practice as an oral surgeon, also in July.

“Both Donald and I are board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeons who have each been practicing for 12 years,” said Dr. Dillard. “We both trained at prominent programs and then served in the U.S. Navy.”

As an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Dr. Dillard performs surgery to correct and improve both functional and aesthetic issues with the jaw, mouth and teeth.

“It's rewarding to help our patients who can have very positive changes to their life, not just dentally but psychologically as well,” said Dr. Dillard.

Dr. Dillard and Dr. Phillips offer a full range of oral surgery and dental implant procedures, including sedation. Both locations have the latest technology in imaging and equipment.

Dr. Dillard is committed to a high level of continuing education, both as a lifelong student and as an instruc-

tor. Dr. Dillard is a BLS (similar to CPR) instructor and provides CE courses for local dentists to help them maintain their certifications. As a student, his focus is on the evolving field of implant dentistry, including the restorative side.

“While I don't restore the implants I place, it's extremely important to understand the restorative process,

which involves the actual crowns, bridges and dentures that can be attached to implants,” said Dr. Dillard. “Implant dentistry is a restorative driven process, meaning the patient's dentist and I plan the case with the end result – a new tooth or new teeth – in mind. The goal is to restore the patient's function and aesthetics with a long-lasting result that will still be going strong years from now.”

Dr. Dillard's father was a dentist, so he naturally looked to dentistry as a career path. After finishing his work at Clemson University, he earned his dental degree at the Medical University of South Carolina, followed by a four-year residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at The Ohio State University.

In 2003, he entered the Navy and was stationed in Okinawa for three years with his family. When he left Japan in 2006, he returned to South Carolina and was an associate before opening his own practice in 2011. He and his wife, Kristi, live with their three children in Mount Pleasant.

“We're an active family that enjoys the outdoors and sports. All three of our kids play soccer, and even I still get out there and try to kick it around,” he said.

Dr. Dillard and his team take pride in making a patient's experience a pleasant one.

“With implants, a lot of people think that the post-op recovery is very difficult, but, with newer techniques, they typically have very little discomfort. In addition, we handle the insurance and offer a variety of payment options to make treatment something patients can afford,” he said.

Ultimately, it's all about great patient care.

“Our practice is really about providing the best patient care experience possible,” Dr. Dillard commented. 🦷



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The dentists and licensed staff at Coastal Family have many years of experience. Assisted by an “outstanding” front desk team, the practice is able to serve patients from all walks of life. All three dentists agreed that appreciating the patient is important, so they focus on developing a strong “family bond” with each.

“How do we know that patients are happy? We provide a survey that gives us feedback so we can better serve our community,” remarked Dr. Watson.

He added: “Medical and dental treatment can be costly. Therefore we provide patients with options that are affordable. We also are in-network with most of the major dental insurances in our area.”

Coastal Family Dentistry has been serving the dental needs of patients in Mount Pleasant and the surrounding area since October 2007. The practice is made up of three dentists: Dr. Matthew Watson, Dr. Jim Sexton and Dr. Rick Clanton.

As a modern dental office, Coastal keeps up-to-date with the latest advances in dentistry.

“Instead of ‘gooey’ impression material, we use digital scanning. We also use digital X-rays, which expose patients to the lowest dose of radiation possible,” Dr. Watson pointed out.

A multidisciplinary practice, Coastal Family also provides preventive care, cosmetic and restorative treatment, implants, endodontic treatments and even oral surgery.



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Dr. Charles Anderson is a rarity in the fast-growing Charleston region: a native. He's a 13th-generation Charlestonian who grew up in West Ashley, to be precise. He moved to Mount Pleasant 28 years ago and brought his family dental practice,



Photo courtesy of Anderson Dentistry.

Anderson Dentistry, to Mount Pleasant 14 years ago.

He wants the whole family to develop good dental habits. Parents should encourage kids to take care of their teeth from a very young age, he said, and make it fun!

“If mama makes it fun, it becomes fun. If mama makes it a chore, it becomes a chore,” he said.

He also tells adults struggling to floss regularly to floss every day for 30 days to develop the habit.

DR. CHARLES ANDERSON

Anderson Dentistry

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Dr. Anderson earned a master's in Education from the Citadel and studied dentistry at the MUSC College of Dental Medicine. After 30 years in dentistry, he still loves it.

“My favorite part is enjoying the company of the people I work with, my staff and my patients,” he commented.

Many members of his staff have been with him a long time; two for 23 years each, and two more for over a decade.

“We are committed to excellence in all aspects of dentistry. We have a very friendly atmosphere, and we make you feel like family,” said Dr. Anderson.

He knows some people are reluctant to visit the dentist but promises to make it a good experience.

“We try to make it as pleasant as possible, as painless as possible and as much fun as possible,” he said. 🦷

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Virginia. He and his family moved south to Mount Pleasant, where he opened his practice and quickly got involved with the community. Nash Orthodontics sponsors local teams and school programs, and Dr. Nash and his family are active in their church.

Dr. Nash attended dental school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He chose orthodontics to help people, he said.

“People come in and they don’t have a great smile; they hide their face. After treatment, they’ve got a lot of self-confidence, their outlook on themselves has changed and so has how other people see them.”

He and his team do great work – they were voted Best Orthodontist in Mount Pleasant by Mount Pleasant Magazine readers in 2014 – and they have a great time doing it.

“We’re like a big old family. Coming to work is fun,” Dr. Nash said. 🦷

It should be no surprise that orthodontist Dr. Travis Nash had braces, as did his three children and his wife. A family full of great smiles is just one of the perks of the job.

At his practice, Nash Orthodontics, Dr. Nash helps patients from all over the Charleston area get great smiles using the latest in orthodontic care, such as clear braces and Invisalign. Braces have gotten a lot better since he had them, he said.

“Technology is better. Having braces is not as uncomfortable as it used to be,” he pointed out.

Originally from Arkansas, Dr. Nash fell in love with the coast while serving the Navy as an orthodontist in Norfolk,

BY ERIN DANLY



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 MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464



Dr. James E. Kelley of Kelley Orthodontics in Mount Pleasant has known what he wanted to do since the age of 9. You might say it's in his genes: both his father and sister pursued dentistry, too.



Photo courtesy of Kelley Orthodontics.

As an orthodontist, he enjoys the process of creating a beautiful, lifelong smile while getting to know his patients well.

“It’s fun for us to watch our patients grow up,” he said. “We have the opportunity to make a real impact on their lives through our treatment.”

BY ERIN DANLY

With two Mount Pleasant locations, off Johnnie Dodds Boulevard and in Park West, Kelley Orthodontics offers the latest in orthodontic care. Dr. Kelley attributes the

DR. JAMES E. KELLEY

Kelley Orthodontics

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Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
843-856-9323
www.kelleybraces.com

significant decrease in treatment times over the last decade to “advances in orthodontic wires and his use of self-ligating Damon brackets.” Dr. Kelley is an Invisalign preferred provider and also offers Clarity Advanced clear brackets.

Dr. Kelley did his dental and orthodontic training at the Medical College of Georgia and is one of only three board-certified orthodontists in Mount Pleasant. In 2011, he started a chapter of the Smile for a Lifetime Foundation, through which he provides orthodontic care free of charge to people who would otherwise not have access to treatment. The chapter already has awarded close to 40 orthodontic scholarships.

Dr. Kelley grew up outside of Atlanta – and, yes, he had braces as a child – and moved to his wife’s hometown of Mount Pleasant in 2003. When not at work, you may find him on the golf course or at the pool with his three children. ☺

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Photo courtesy of Periodontal Associates.

**DR. EDWARD T. MURPHY
DR. CHRISTOPHER CAPUTO
DR. J. DAULTON KEITH**

Periodontal Associates

115 Elizabeth St., Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

(843) 571-0853

www.charlestonperio.com

Periodontal Associates, located both in Mount Pleasant and Charleston, has experienced doctors who have practiced more than 70 years, collectively.

Beyond regular dental visits, a periodontist often becomes necessary when there is a need to examine the gums and bone surrounding the teeth, address gum recession or consider the use of dental implants.

“Periodontics deals with the health and support of the surrounding structures of the teeth,” explained Dr. Edward T. Murphy. “It is a common disease that is often asymptomatic. Early detection and prevention is key in predictability. In working with the patient’s general dentist, we are often able to provide an oral environment that will last the patient’s lifetime.”

Another focus at Periodontal Associates is dental implants, artificial roots that are placed into a patient’s jaw and hold a replacement tooth or bridge.

“Dental implants not only replace a tooth but prevent bone resorption that is secondary to tooth loss,” continued Dr. Murphy. “Replacing a tooth with a dental implant is often a simple and predictable method in minimizing bite collapse and the negative spiral toward a complete denture. Healing time is minimal and typically painless.”

To help with these issues, Periodontal Associates offers sedation dentistry, which eases the minds of patients who feel anxiety or fear when going to the dentist. Sedation helps the patient feel relaxed throughout the procedure, and downtime is minimal.

There are different types and levels of sedation available for patients, including intravenous moderate sedation, oral sedation or nitrous oxide, also known as laughing gas. Periodontal Associates utilizes on-staff certified nurse anesthetists to ensure the best in quality and safety. Patients are welcome to set up a consultation to determine which method of sedation would work best.

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DENTAL HEALTH TIPS

TOOTHBRUSHING TIPS

It is best to brush your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and replace your toothbrush every three to four months.

Throw away your toothbrush after dealing with a sickness – toothbrushes can have microbial buildup.

Overbrushing or brushing too hard erodes enamel and irritates the gums. It also increases sensitivity over time.

The neck of the toothbrush and shape of the handle are irrelevant and have little effect on the overall results.

It is important to brush all sides of the tooth: inside, outside and chewing surface.

Your toothpaste should contain fluoride, an active ingredient that fights against tooth decay.

Brush with cold water. Hot water comes from a tank and may not be clean or bacteria free.

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Photo by Jenn Cady.



Dr. Kari Ryan, left, and Dr. Kristi Dillard

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excellent service.”

Staying current with technology and materials is also important to Dr. Ryan.

“In addition to digital radiographs, we also have the newest technology to take digital impressions and fabricate your crown in the office in the same day,” explained Dr. Ryan, whose practice with Dr. Kristi Dillard has served residents in the East Cooper area for nearly 25 years.

“This CAD/CAM technology, or CEREC, eliminates a patient from worrying about wearing a temporary crown for weeks at a time and then having to come back in for a follow-up appointment,” said Dr. Ryan. “It’s the same strong material we would get from the lab, and the results are wonderful.”

Kari Ryan Dentistry also offers a full range of general and cosmetic dental treatments. As Dr. Ryan stated: “Our passion is taking care of our patients.”

Kari Ryan Dentistry, located off of Mathis Ferry, near the I’On neighborhood in Mount Pleasant, is a family practice geared toward taking care of the overall health and well-being of its patients.

“Patient trust and comfort are our highest priorities,”

BY STACY DOMINGO

said Dr. Ryan. “From a warm welcome at the front door to detailed

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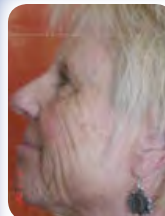
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Jan McBride, MD



DENTAL HEALTH TIPS

BEYOND BASIC BRUSHING

Try swishing water around your mouth after eating or drinking. This will help remove some of the food from in between your teeth and help prevent dental decay.

It is important to get enough calcium in your diet. Vitamin D helps absorb calcium in your body.

Vitamin C helps prevent against numerous dental problems. Try having a meal that includes citrus fruits.

Sugar-free gum washes away plaque acid, which promotes cleaner teeth and overall dental health.

Bleaching can irritate your teeth and gums. The best way to whiten your teeth is having a professional treatment done by your dentist.

Smoking is bad for your overall health. It is also the leading cause of gum disease. Quit smoking.

Nail biting is one of the major causes of bad alignment and crowding.



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Dr. Cason Hund's desire to be a dentist was a lifelong goal. Creating beautiful and healthy smiles gives him a sense of accomplishment and is itself the greatest reward.



Photo courtesy of Wando Family Dentistry.

DR. CASON HUND

Wando Family Dentistry

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843-972-9700

www.WandoFamilyDentistry.com

He grew up on James Island, earned his bachelor's from Clemson University and graduated with his doctorate from

BY BARBARA MILLEN PATRICK

MUSC. There he met his wife, Jessica, who will begin her Trident/MUSC Family Medicine Residency Program this July. The couple lives in Snee Farm in Mount Pleasant with their cat and two dogs. His hobbies include hunting, boating and spending time with family and friends.

"My team and I at Wando Family Dentistry are committed to providing quality, patient-centered dental care

with exceptional customer service for the whole family. We want our patients to feel at home as soon as they walk through the door and to leave smiling. We enjoy getting to know our patients and building relationships with them and pride ourselves in treating our patients as if they were our own family members and providing the very best care possible," Dr. Hund said.

Wando Family Dentistry offers general and cosmetic services from routine cleaning and maintenance to root canals, crowns, dentures and Invisalign straightening.

"Preventive care is most important," Dr. Hund said. "If you come in twice a year and practice good oral maintenance, you may never need major restorative work."

"I have a cohesive team that works and plays well together," he added. "We like improving smiles and like having fun along the way."

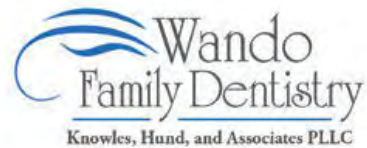
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EC EATS

East Cooper Dining Guide



SINCE I'VE STARTED LIVING IN MOUNT Pleasant again, I've been keeping a makeshift restaurant list in my smartphone, listing all of the seafood spots, coffee shops and delis that I've found myself a frequent patron of, lest I should be stuck uttering those dreaded words, "Where should we go eat?" But now there's something better.

Readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, rejoice! – we've come up with a handy guide to eating East of the Cooper whenever hunger strikes. East Cooper Eats is divided into five different areas of East Cooper: North Mount Pleasant, South Mount Pleasant, the Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Daniel Island. Many thanks to my contributing editor, Stacy Domingo and co-managing editor, Brian Sherman,

for their hard work on this project. Our goal is to keep you informed on the stuff that matters to you, including outdoor seating options and whether your furry children can come with you.

Everyone here at *Mount Pleasant Magazine* hopes that East Cooper Eats will help you find your favorite restaurants and then some. On the following pages, you'll discover a "taste" of each area – and you can find the entire East Cooper Eats guide, along with an interactive map, at our website, www.MountPleasantMagazine.com/ECeats.

Denise K. James
Managing Editor

SOUTH MOUNT PLEASANT

Bistro Toulouse has a modern interpretation of classic French dishes in a Parisian style bistro. Offering creative cocktails, fine wine and craft beer with exceptional service. Cuisine: French/wine bar • 1220 Ben Sawyer Blvd. • 843-216-3434 • www.bistrotoulouse.com • \$\$\$

Bricco Bracco focuses on home-style cooking. *Cuisine:* Italian/Seafood • 1034 Chuck Dawley Blvd. • 843-352-2294 • www.briccobracco.net • \$\$\$ • • *Best Italian Food Winner* -

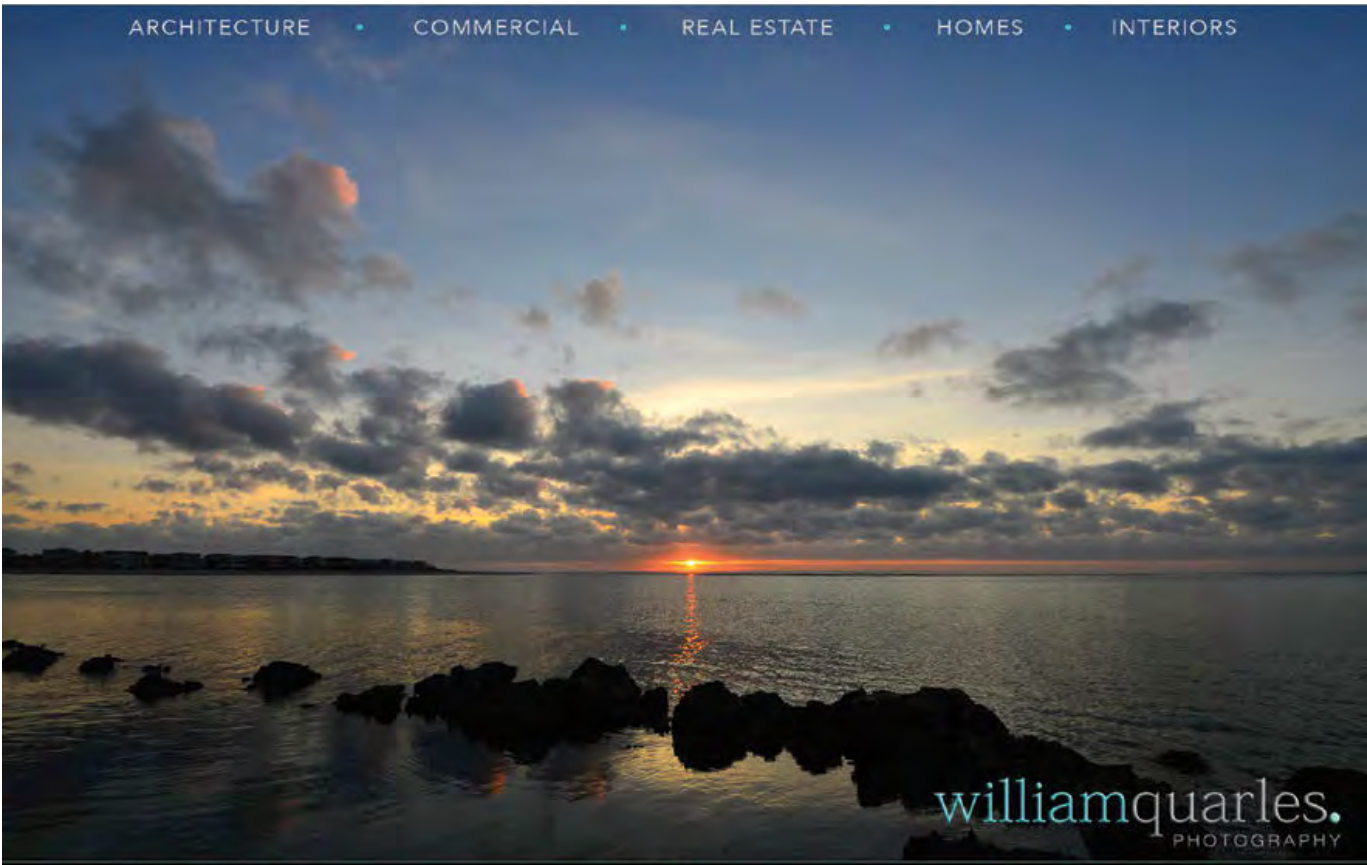
Momma Goldberg's Deli has operated for more than 37 years. Customers have grown accustomed to their delicious food made with the freshest ingredients in a relaxed, sociable atmosphere. *Cuisine:* Delicatessen • 230 Mathis Ferry Road • 843-352-7939 • www.mommagoldbergsdeli.com • \$

My Father's Moustache Eatery & Pub is where the past is

brought to life. The restaurant serves weekend brunch and English breakfast. Cuisine: English/American • 1405 Ben Sawyer Blvd. • 843-884-2425 • www.myfathersmustache.com • \$

Page's Okra Grill is local food for local folks. Our intent is to provide the best value Southern food in the Charleston area in an atmosphere that feels like home. Cuisine: Southern/American • 302 Coleman Blvd. • 843-881-3333 • www.pagesokragrill.com • \$\$\$ • • *Best Dessert/Best Breakfast/Best Shrimp 'n grits* -

Red's Ice House is a public gathering place at the water's edge, where locals and visitors gather, watch the boats go by and help celebrate, preserve and protect the rich and storied tradition of Shem Creek. *Cuisine:* American/seafood • 98 Church St. • 843-388-0003 • www.redsicehouse.com • \$ • • • *Best Bar Winner* -



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Tavern and Table is like neighborhood taverns of old. Located on Shem Creek, it's designed to be that local gathering place where friends and family get together for classic cocktails and spectacular food in an atmosphere as comfortable as your living room. **Cuisine:** Seafood/American • 843-352-9510 • www.tavernandtable.com • 🍷 • 🍴

DANIEL ISLAND

The Islander serves lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Serving inspired cuisine and cocktails, The Islander offers guests a taste of the good life in a casual tropic atmosphere. **Cuisine:** American/seafood • 160-B Fairchild St. • 843-388-6366 • www.holycityhospitality.com/the-islander • 🍷 • 🍴

Laura Alberts offers farm-to-table cuisine for lunch, dinner and Saturday brunch. Try their fresh, local Southern cuisine with an innovative twist on traditional Southern favorites. **Cuisine:** Farm-to-table/Southern • 891 Island Park Drive • 843-881-4711 • www.lauraalberts.com • 🍷 • 🍴

NORTH MOUNT PLEASANT

On Forty One values and celebrates its relationship with South Carolina farmers and purveyors. Through Chef Brannon Flories' longstanding relationships, On Forty One is able to offer truly local, fresh and seasonal cuisine. **Cuisine:** Southern/backyard dining • 1055 Highway 41 • 843-352-9235 • www.onfortyone.squarespace.com • 🍷 • 🍴 • 🐾

SOL Southwest Kitchen & Tequila Bar is locally owned and operated. SOL blends the bold flavors of the Southwest with Southern culinary influences • **Cuisine:** Southwest/fusion • 1101 Stockade Lane • 843-388-4302 • www.solmtplesant.com • 🍷 • 🍴 • 🐾 • *Best Cocktail* *Best New Restaurant Winner* - 🏆

ISLE OF PALMS

The Boathouse at Breach Inlet serves dinner nightly and Sunday brunch. Its Southern cooking draws from family recipes scrawled on cards in plantation kitchens to the modern locavore movement, relying on South Carolina's natural fresh abundance. **Cuisine:** Seafood • 101 Palm Blvd. • 843-886-8000 • www.boathouserestaurants.com • 🍷 • 🍴




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Long Island Café first opened in 1986. This hidden gem of a restaurant is open for lunch and dinner as well as brunch on Sundays. *Cuisine:* American/grill/French • 1515 Palm Blvd., Suite A • 843-886-8809 • www.longislandcafesc.com • 



SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

Dunleavy's Pub is proud to be a part of an endangered species, the family owned and operated business. *Cuisine:* American/pub • 2213 Middle St. • 843-883-9646 • www.dunleavysonsullivans.com •  • 


High Thyme is a favorite spot for the locals in the heart of Sullivan's Island, offering dinner as well as Sunday brunch and live music. Creative tapas, fresh seafood and a great wine list keep regulars coming back. *Cuisine:* American • 2213 Middle St. # C • 843-883-3536 • www.HighThymeCuisine.com • 

Home Team BBQ is a popular spot for delicious wood-fired chicken wings, extensive libation options and plenty of live music. You'll find a variety of dishes made from fresh ingredients, from starters and salads to tacos,

sides, sliders, sandwiches and wraps. *Cuisine:* American/barbecue • 2209 Middle St. • 843-883-3131 • www.HomeTeamBBQ.com •  • 

Poe's Tavern is located two blocks from the beach on beautiful Sullivan's Island. Named for Edgar Allan Poe, who enlisted in the Army and was stationed on Sullivan's Island, Poe's is best known for great burgers and drinks. *Cuisine:* American • 2210 Middle St. • 843-883-0083 • www.poestavern.com •  • 

Sullivan's Restaurant is a favorite hole-in-the-wall for home-cooked Southern favorites. Stop by after church on Sunday for scratch-made desserts and famous seafood platters. Open for dinner seven days a week, plus weekend brunches. *Cuisine:* Southern/home-cooked • 2019 Middle St. • 843-883-3222 • www.facebook.com/SullivansSeafoodRestaurant • 

The Obstinate Daughter is a name in homage to the Revolutionary War history of Sullivan's Island. Open for lunch and dinner as well as Saturday/Sunday brunch. *Cuisine:* Italian/pizza/seafood • 2063 Middle St. • 843-416-5020 • www.theobstinatedaughter.com • 



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More Expo-Sure for Your Business

Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo

ANOTHER HUGE CROWD IS EXPECTED for what has become East Cooper's biggest networking event of the year.

The fifth annual Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo will be held Sept. 24 at the Omar Shrine Convention Center on Patriots Point Boulevard, and, according to Expo Co-chair Frank Frazier, the event will be bigger and better than ever.

"This is the most robust Expo in the area," said Frazier.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

"As usual, we'll have a wide array of vendors and a large crowd of attendees. We drew around 1,200 people last year, and we expect to do better than that this year."

There is no admission charge to attend the Expo, which is sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Business Association. Between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., participants will meet with more than 70 vendors, network with business professionals from across the Lowcountry, win great door prizes – including an iPad – and enjoy free food provided by local restaurants.

From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., during the happy hour, attendees will be able to continue to network and meet with vendors on the convention floor. They'll also be treated to live music, and they'll be able to purchase wine and beer as well.

"This is Mount Pleasant's best networking event by far," said Expo Co-chair Susan Spearman of Nelson Printing. "I got a lot of business out of the Expo last year, and it was also a lot of fun."

"The Expo provides great exposure for any business because people attend from all over the tri-county area," she added. "You get to meet a large number of people from Mount Pleasant and beyond and learn about businesses

that have a lot to offer."

Those businesses represent a variety of industries, according to Frazier, from brokerage firms to banks, printers, IT companies, law firms, insurance companies and even bowling alleys – and many more.

Spearman said buying a booth, and the opportunity to meet with more than a thousand potential customers, is still a possibility. However, she pointed out that all the booths were sold for the 2013 and 2014 editions of the Expo, so any business interested in participating should contact her or Frazier right away.

"By September last year, we had a waiting list of people who wanted to purchase a booth, and we fully expect to sell out again this year," she commented.

Booths are selling for \$400, with a \$50 discount for members of the Mount Pleasant Business Association.

The Expo's title sponsor is the local law firm Clawson and Staubes. Community sponsors are the town of Mount Pleasant, Tony Pope State Farm and Windwood Family Services.

The Expo has continued to grow since it was established by

the Mount Pleasant Business Association, an organization with nearly 200 member businesses, in 2011.

"I feel like we're getting better and better," Frazier commented. "Others, such as the group in North Charleston, have tried to emulate us because we have been so successful." ❧

For more information on the Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo or to purchase a booth, contact Frank Frazier at 410-274-0023 or frank_frazier@ml.com or Susan Spearman at 843-509-5972 or susan@nelsonprint.com.



Stephanie Taylor of Hudson's Import Service talks with 2014 Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo attendee Joe Boccelli.

Look Before You Leap

The ThinkFirst Program

THE ODDS ARE THAT MOST people couldn't tell you the leading cause of death among children 1 and older. It's not disease or disaster or parental neglect. And even though traumatic injury to the brain or spinal cord doesn't always kill outright, it often leaves its victims with serious complications that can last a lifetime.

That's why the international ThinkFirst Program, which traces its roots back to the mid-1980s, came into existence. It's also why as director of its South Carolina Lowcountry chapter, Debbie Muntz-Pope, BSN, RN, CNRN,

BY BILL FARLEY

is so passionate about spreading its message. For ThinkFirst, prevention is the only "cure" for the devastations of motor vehicle crashes, violence, falls and sports and recreational mishaps among the young, and education is the most important tool in avoiding life-changing accidents.

Focused exclusively on impressionable and accident-prone youngsters, ThinkFirst tailors its programs to distinct age groups with specific risk factors to consider. In addition to presentations by trained health educators, the program utilizes teams of volunteer VIP (voices for injury prevention) speakers to relate their own stories of how brain and spinal cord injuries have altered their lives.

The ThinkFirst movement has grown rapidly over the years and now boasts representation in all 50 states, much of Canada and countries as diverse as Italy, Colombia and Jamaica. There are 154 chapters in all.

After a distinguished career at MUSC, Muntz-Pope "retired," only to take the helm of South Carolina's Lowcountry chapter, which initially covered Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties and now includes Colleton County as well.

A not-for-profit, the ThinkFirst National Injury

Prevention Foundation offers award-winning, evidence-based programs tailored specifically for targeted age groups. In the Lowcountry, these range from "Street Smart" and "Superhero" presentations geared toward kids at schools such as Belle Hall Elementary to anatomy lessons and classroom activities to help children develop a practical understanding of their bodies' limitations and vulnerabilities at Thomas C. Cario Middle School. At Wando High School, there are films, discussion groups and VIP presentations.

While the youngest students learn the importance of safety seats in cars through demonstrations as a part of the Boost 'em In the Back Seat program and teens are encouraged to ask significant questions of their trauma-surviving VIP speakers, middle schoolers need special attention. According to Muntz-Pope, it's not the tots who usually don't know any better or the teens who should who are the most at-risk group.

"One big issue with the pre-teens," she noted, "is their desire to ride their bicycles without safety helmets. They can't drive yet, but their hormones are raging, and they crave independence and mobility. They also think that they're invincible."

No matter which age group is being addressed, ThinkFirst team members work in formats from large group assemblies to interactive smaller workshops to encourage

their young listeners to think long and hard before engaging in risky behavior.

Updating the old adage that it's important to "look before you leap," Muntz-Pope and ThinkFirst convey to all three age groups that "We want your brain to protect your body."

The Lowcountry chapter of ThinkFirst welcomes new participants, both as health educators and VIP speakers. More information on how to become involved can be found at www.SCThinkFirst.org.



Photo courtesy of the Lowcountry chapter of ThinkFirst.

A not-for-profit, the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation offers award-winning, evidence-based programs tailored specifically for targeted age groups.

Worth a Thousand Words

Prism Photo & Framing

FLASH: YOUR DAUGHTER JUST graduated from high school. Click: The entire family made it home for Christmas dinner. Cheese: Those in the audience smile as the photo is snapped. Just about everyone enjoys traveling back to an unforgettable moment by reminiscing about a meaningful photo. And although traditional photography has changed drastically in recent years, many

BY VALERIE SMITH

photography enthusiasts still prefer to capture those special moments in time in a fashion that will survive for generations to come.

If that describes you, a visit to Prism Photo & Framing in Mount Pleasant might be in order. Owned by Larry Peterka, who has been in the photo processing business in the Charleston area for more than 30 years, Prism Photo advocates the importance of traditional photography. It's an old school, traditional lab that offers one-hour processing, and it's also one of the few places in Charleston that still processes color film.

Not a supporter of cellphone photos in general, Peterka said, "We try to educate people to think of their photos as something long-term. We want to help make a lasting memory for decades."

Peterka said he doesn't like cellphone photos because they alter the sport of picture-taking. He pointed out that cellphones are convenient in the narrow sense but are awkward for print-making and have quality limitations that discourage picture-takers from making hard copies of their photographs.

"I'm a dinosaur when it comes to photography," Peterka said with a chuckle.

At Prism Photo & Framing, the terms traditional and

experienced go hand-in-hand. The staff provides services such as duplicating and restoring photos, poster prints, transforming video tapes onto DVDs and scanning and archiving prints, slides and negatives.

The shop uses a chemical-based "wet" printer, which gives prints a traditional texture and the look and feel of a silver-based print. Meanwhile, the industry trend has gone toward inkjet printers that produce a print that is different than what consumers have expected over the years because photo printing is treated as a commodity by most chains, with little human intervention. At Prism Photo & Framing, however, an expert looks at every frame and adjusts color and density to produce a better print.

Prism is also a full-service custom framing shop and a Larson-Juhl Gold dealer. Peterka and his crew can turn your photos into tile pictures, coffee mugs, canvases and metal prints and take U.S. and foreign passport photos. And, if you want to drop in just to take a look around, Prism Photo has a large library of Charleston photography, harbor maps and vintage art deco posters.

"By evolving and offering these services, we have been able to merge traditional services with constantly changing technologies," Peterka explained.

"When people are satisfied with their good photos, it promotes excitement. Hard copy photos will survive time. Who knows how digital storage media will last through generations," he added.

In Peterka's mind, a great photo deserves great processing, which, he said, is exactly what you'll get at Prism Photo & Framing. 📷

Prism Photo & Framing is located in Moultrie Plaza on Coleman Boulevard in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.prismphotolab.com or call 843-971-0469.



Photo courtesy of Prism Photo & Framing.

At Prism Photo & Framing, the terms traditional and experienced go hand-n-hand. The business is owned by Larry Peterka.

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Meeting Your Fashion Needs

Butterfly Women's Consignment Boutique

STYLE ICON AND DESIGNER Coco Chanel once said, "Every day is a fashion show and the world is your runway." Amanda Rosen, the owner of Butterfly Women's Consignment Boutique, cherishes this sentiment. Since opening her boutique in 2008, she has helped hundreds of women transform into the trendsetters they were born to be. With high-end labels such as Louis Vuitton, Versace, Christian Louboutin, J. Crew, Michael Kors and Banana Republic, Butterfly Consignments keeps customers looking exquisite without taking a toll on their budget.

"It's very rewarding taking a woman who walks in not feeling her best and putting her in something beautiful and reasonably priced," said Rosen. "It's great to send her out beaming and feeling confident. That's what fuels the fire."

Growing up in Europe, Rosen was surrounded by a thriving world of fashion. Later, international travel would take her to exotic lands, where the culture culminated in showstopping ensembles.

"I fell in love with the colors, unique textiles and bold patterns," said Rosen, reflecting on her time spent in Southeast Asia, Turkey and Greece.

While a genuine passion for clothing fueled her career, Rosen was also motivated to reduce her own carbon footprint. Opening up a consignment shop would not only let her bring her love of labels to the masses but would allow her to do so in an environmentally sound way.

"It was equally important to me to create a business that didn't deplete the Earth's resources," said Rosen. "The Belle Hall Shopping Center is really a great location.

It's wonderful that it is made up of small independent storefronts as opposed to big chains."

When not keeping the women of Mount Pleasant looking and feeling their best, Rosen can be found inspiring women on the other side of the world. After a mission trip to Africa, Rosen became motivated to help impoverished young Kenyan women tap into their own potential. She is putting three teens through high school and has set up another young Kenyan woman with the necessary technical training to become a laboratory assistant.

"I credit my success to hard work, long hours and having a feel for color and fashion," said Rosen. "I want to continue to serve the people of Mount Pleasant to the best of my ability. We will keep bringing fabulous international fashion

to Mount Pleasant that customers wouldn't normally be able to find in the Charleston area."

With a stunning selection of luxury items from which to choose, Butterfly Consignments is the number one upscale boutique for all of your fashion needs. From chic office wear to dazzling gowns, the array of inventory is both impressive and satisfying.

Photo courtesy of Butterfly Women's Consignment Boutique.



From chic office wear to dazzling gowns, the array of inventory is both impressive and satisfying at Butterfly Women's consignment Boutique.

Even one-of-a-kind accessories can be found among designer handbags and stunning mixed-media paintings. Whether you need to find that perfect summer beach hat for a trip to Sullivan's or chandelier earrings for a night downtown, Butterfly Consignments has got you covered.

What are you waiting for? Escape into a world where commanding prints abound, and transform into the radiant fashion-forward individual you always knew you were. 🦋

Butterfly Women's Consignment Boutique is located in the Belle Hall Shopping Center on Long Point Road. To learn more, call 843-884-8577 or visit www.butterflyconsignments.com.

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Phipps Law Firm

EDDIE PHIPPS IS A MOUNT PLEASANT attorney whose offices are located in downtown Charleston. How the heck can that be? The answer is surprisingly simple. Expedience.

Born and raised East of the Cooper, both of Phipps' parents worked for the town. He is a graduate of Bishop England High School and was an officer in the Traffic Division of the Mount Pleasant Police Department for seven years. Phipps earned his undergraduate degree from Charleston Southern University while simultaneously working in law enforcement, went on to earn his law degree from Florida Coastal School of Law, passed the South Carolina bar and opened his practice on Coleman Boulevard.

So how did he wind up hanging out his shingle on King Street, near the corner of Queen Street, hard by the courts? Phipps was comfortable enough in his offices in Mount Pleasant until the building that housed his practice was sold. He knew he needed more space and adequate parking but couldn't meet his needs at a reasonable rent in his hometown. The Peninsula beckoned, with better space and on-site parking – and the rest is history.

But the homegrown attorney insists, "We're still a Mount Pleasant law firm. We're right over the bridge with plenty of parking. Mount Pleasant will always be home to me."

Now Phipps has plenty of room to accommodate two attorneys and a support staff of four. The move has also allowed him to comfortably expand the scope of his practice from criminal law – "everything from murder to littering," with a specialty in DUI cases – to include workers' compensation, family law and general business law.

Phipps still remains active in Mount Pleasant affairs, attending most Town Council meetings and participating in local politics, which isn't surprising for a native son whose mother served as clerk of court for 20 years and has

a courtroom named for her. Meanwhile, his father, after a long career with Mount Pleasant Waterworks, gave so much of himself to the town's recreation efforts that his name is one of two on the department's "wall of fame."

"I love the practice of law," Phipps said. "It's allowed me to do many other things."

Among those things, he's a part owner of King Street Grille and has become close with another part-owner, Pittsburgh Steelers' star quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

"I feel that my law enforcement background has been invaluable to me in my legal practice," he said. "For one thing, my training as an accident reconstructionist has been a real asset to me and my clients in motor vehicle cases. My years on the police force also helped me with developing people skills and learning how to de-escalate situations.

"In many respects, the real difference between law enforcement and my law practice is that officers on duty frequently have to make split-second decisions. Now I have the luxury of clients coming to me and me being able to give them the time to explain their problems and being able to think about what they've told me and do my research and due diligence before charting a course of action to help them."

Further, he noted, "In the law, just as it is in law enforcement, the number one task we have is problem solving. So there's not all that much difference in what we do. It's all problem solving."

Having grown up around lawyers and courts, Phipps always had an affinity for legal matters, and one day when he appeared in court in his role as a police officer, he observed an attorney he felt to be so incompetent that his immediate reaction was, "If this guy can be a lawyer, so can I." He never regretted that decision.

"We work hard. It's fun. I enjoy doing it," Phipps explained. "Every day is different. And we're helping people. Is there anything more I could ask?" 🍷

To learn more, visit www.phippsfirm.com or call 843-300-4444.



Eddie Phipps served with the Mount Pleasant Police Department before becoming an attorney.

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Direct Answers on Direct Pay Q and A with Dr. Timothy Wingo of Atlas Healthcare

Editor's note: Dr. Timothy Wingo of Atlas Healthcare would like to share with our readers a little bit about how his direct pay practice works and how it can save you and your family money. Here are a few questions he is commonly asked.

What is a direct pay practice?

A direct pay practice does not contract with Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare or private insurance companies. By eliminating costs associated with billing, coding, referrals, authorizations, payment delays, EIB reviews, claim denials, resubmissions, collection risks and other managed care costs, Atlas Healthcare can provide services for less than half the cost of a typical office visit, without the administrative hassles and bureaucracy.

Will Atlas Healthcare file my insurance claims?

No. We will provide our fees and billing codes, upon request, before any services are performed. Insurance carriers are not always willing to provide their allowable fees or disclose which billing codes they will cover. If this is the case, contact the South Carolina Department of Insurance at <http://www.doi.sc.gov>.

What if I need insurance forms filled out?

Atlas Healthcare does not fill out insurance forms. A copy of your medical records will be forwarded to the insurance company when a signed authorization to release your medical records is received.

What should I bring to my first appointment?

We require a picture ID, a complete list of your current medications with dosing instructions, allergies, plus any X-Rays and imaging reports.

Can I fill out my new patient forms before my first visit?

Please print and complete the New Patient Packet from our website. If you are unable to do so, arrive at least 30 minutes early for your visit.

What is the phone visit or "telemedicine" policy?

If you have a simple problem and understand the limitations of "telemedicine," Dr. Wingo will discuss your complaint with you. Discussion, documentation in the chart, and calling in medication to your pharmacy takes valuable time,

so a \$50 fee will be charged to your credit card.

How do I get a prescription refill?

The best time to request prescription refills is during an office visit. Dr. Wingo will provide enough refills to cover you until your next appointment. Documenting, calling and faxing pharmacies is time-consuming, so a \$20 charge will apply to refill requests due to missed or delayed appointments. Requests from the pharmacy to renew an expired prescription will require 24 hours to process. The \$20 fee will apply if a follow-up appointment is due.

What do I do in case of an emergency?

If you have a life-threatening medical emergency, call 911 immediately. Dr. Wingo can be reached after hours by leaving a message on the after-hours line, but only for medically urgent, non-life-threatening issues that cannot wait until the next business day.

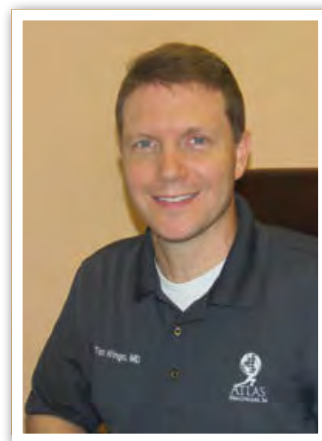
Will my medication be covered by my insurance?

Most medications are covered by insurance. If you have a plan that requires prior authorization for your medication, it may take longer to process, or out of pocket expenses may be higher. Prescription samples aren't available.

What if I have a chronic condition requiring medications that are controlled substances?

Dr. Wingo cannot prescribe narcotics or controlled substances on an ongoing basis. If these medications are needed chronically, we will refer you to the appropriate specialist. 🐾

To learn more, contact Dr. Timothy Wingo at 843-352-9353 or visit www.atlascharleston.com.



Our Mount Pleasant Neighbors

WE'RE SPENDING A LITTLE TIME WITH SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORS TO HELP YOU GET to know them better. Get to know *us* better by liking us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine. If you want to appear in Facetime or to suggest someone you find interesting, please email the name and contact information (email and/or phone number) to Facetime@MountPleasantMagazine.com.



Erin Haselkorn

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Charlotte, North Carolina.

Education: Bachelors in Communication from College of Charleston.

Employment: Analyst and public relations

manager for Experian Data Quality; co-owner of Benny Palmetto's Pizza.

Favorite reading: Easy beach reads by Mary Kay Andrews or Sophie Kinsella.

Favorite music: Lake Street Dive, Guster, Andrew Combs, Grace Potter, Jamestown Revival.

Activities: Traveling, choral singing, sitting on the beach, walking the Ravenel Bridge.

Interests: Live music, culinary arts, Carolina Panthers.

Likes: Getting the opportunity to have a lazy Saturday.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything." – Theodore Roosevelt



Scotty Frier

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Columbia, South Carolina.

Education: Attended College of Charleston.

Employment: Shem Creek Music Center.

Favorite reading: The Post and Courier.

Favorite music: Blues, classic country, Southern rock.

Activities: Playing guitar.

Interests: Basketball.

Likes: Golf.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "To play the blues, you have to live them. But when you play them, you lose them."- Buddy Guy



John Smith

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Hanahan, South Carolina.

Education: BA in Business from College of

Charleston.

Employment: Guitar instructor at Encore Music.

Favorite reading: The Bible, guitar player magazines.

Favorite music: Brian May, Jeff Beck, Larry Carlton.

Activities: Playing guitar, exploring new places.

Interests: Good music.

Likes: Spending time with my daughter.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Treat people how you want to be treated."



Hannah Jeffries

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Education: BA in History from Warren Wilson College.

Employment: Waitress.

Favorite reading: Historical and Russian novels.

Favorite music: Southern rock.

Activities: Running, drinking beer on the beach, watching "Jeopardy" with Dad.

Interests: American flag bikinis, handle bar mustaches.

Likes: Making jewelry.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "If you lay down with dogs, you will get up with fleas."

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