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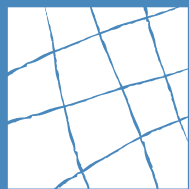
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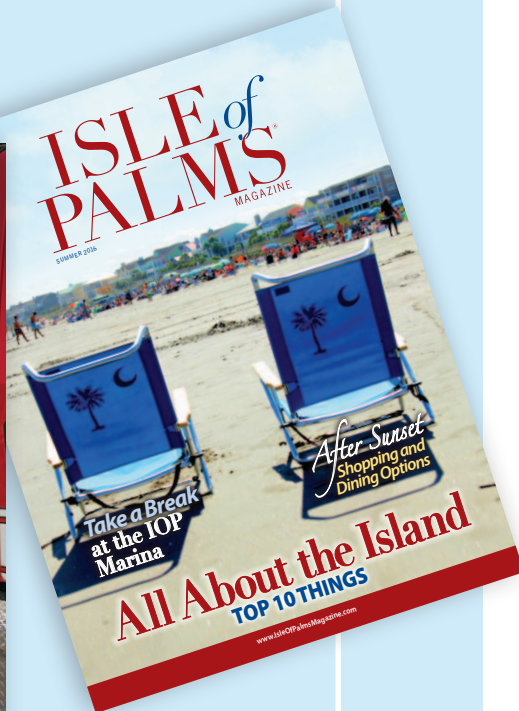
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A recent survey conducted by the Citadel generated 3,773 responses. The feedback proves advertisers are receiving results for their marketing investment. These are the outcomes of the survey.

WHAT DO OUR READERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT MOUNT PLEASANT MAGAZINE?

- 87%** read the magazine to learn what's going on around town.
- 86%** agree the magazine strengthens their connection with Mount Pleasant.
- 84%** actually visited the restaurants featured in the magazine.
- 67%** attended an event after learning about it in the magazine.
- 67%** have lived in Mount Pleasant for more than 10 years.
- 66%** discussed with or forwarded an article to a friend or family member.
- 65%** read the magazine to learn about new businesses.
- 64%** enjoy reading the magazine for its local history articles.
- 60%** eat out 2 to 3 times a week.
- 60%** collect each issue of the magazine.
- 46%** have made a purchase after reading the magazine.

WHAT DO OUR ADVERTISERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT MOUNT PLEASANT MAGAZINE?

- 100%** say their clients enjoy picking up the magazine in their business.
- 90%** advertise because of the direct mail and grocery store distribution.
- 85%** have been advertising for at least two years.
- 71%** have been in business for 10 years or longer.
- 62%** say they will continue their advertising in the magazine.
- 33%** say they probably will continue their advertising in the magazine.

WHAT DO OUR ADVERTISERS LIKE ABOUT ADVERTISING IN MOUNT PLEASANT MAGAZINE VERSUS OTHER PUBLICATIONS?

- They hear people say they saw their ad.
- The presence of the magazine around town.
- The magazine seems to be dedicated to the end result and is concerned about its advertisers.
- The magazine is easy to work with and presents our business in a professional manner.
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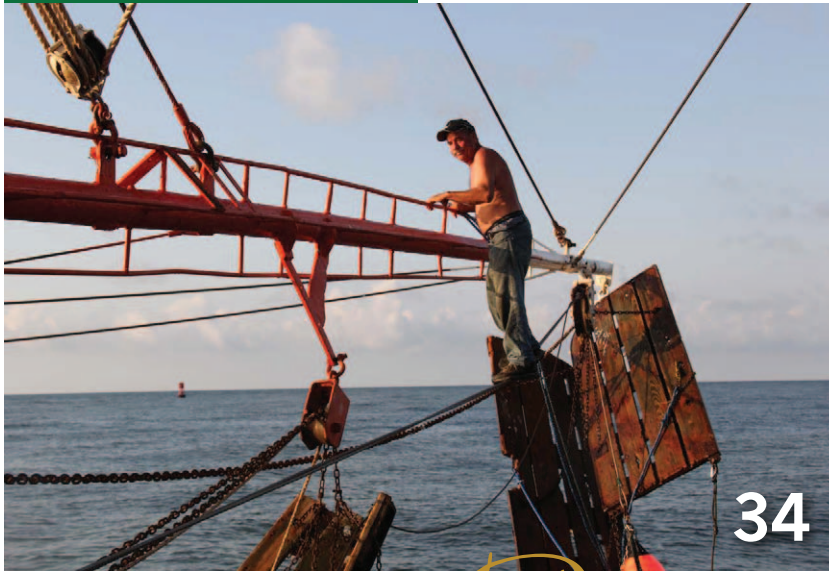
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CHARLIE'S PUBLISHER'S NOTE

H EY EVERYONE! I'M EXCITED TO BE WITH Y'ALL AGAIN. For those who missed last year's pet issue, *Mount Pleasant Magazine* Publisher Bill Macchio, my close friend and owner, let me write his publisher's note in honor of the occasion. My name is Charlie Macchio,

and I'm a non-shedding, hypoallergenic GoldenDoodle. I have unconditional love for my buddy Bill and totally enjoy working with him on his magazine. The incredible passion he has for publishing is so contagious that it makes my hair curl and tail wag.

But enough about me. Let's talk about this issue. I'm one of three four-legged contributors here at *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. Piper is another four-legged member of this group. He is loved and owned by art director Dana Coleman. And our third member is Jelly Bean, who works from home along with managing editor Brian Sherman.

Here's a recent photo of me and Piper hanging around the office; Jelly Bean couldn't attend the shoot. As you can see by the picture, Piper is a lot smaller than I am. However, his size doesn't stop him from expressing himself.

You should have seen all of us as we read submissions for East Cooper's Favorite Pets. They really tugged at our hearts. It was quite the scene: two grown dogs and one pup all crying our eyes out as we read what people said about their four-legged family members. If you don't shed a few tears when you read about Argos, your heart is made of dog biscuits. The fellow dog we persuaded our editor Denise K. James to feature on the cover is CC Bloom, a Jack Russell terrier who saved her family from a house fire. It's an amazing story that includes the Awendaw Fire Department.

After much debate – and even though dogs obviously rule around here – Piper, Jelly Bean and I chose a variety of pets. We picked Brownie the chicken, Daisy May the potbellied pig and Eureka the crested cockatoo. We even decided to include a couple of cats – Gizmo and General Sumter. I have to admit, we were disappointed when we discovered more people in America own cats than dogs. For proof, check out *Pets By The Numbers* on page 63.

Bill wanted me to tell you what else was in the July/August edition, but, to be honest, I really don't care. We dogs are too excited about all our new four-legged friends we met, as well as our two-legged friend Eureka.

I've already approached the team with some ideas about next year's pet issue. If you would like to read more submissions beyond what was printed inside this issue, visit www.ReadMPM.com/ECpets. Until next July/August, remember it's always "Be Nice to Your Pet Day." 🐾

Sincerely yours,
Charlie Macchio



MOUNT PLEASANT MAGAZINE

Vol. 6, Number 4
July/August 2016

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From the Editor

I'M WRITING THIS AS A BRAND new Mount Pleasant homeowner! Yep, I just purchased my own little piece of East Cooper right before this issue you're holding went to press. The process of finding, financing and closing on my own place was nothing short of a roller coaster – but I learned a lot along the way from a variety of people.

Throughout the odyssey of buying property, I've also been working on our July/August edition, which is our education issue as well as our pet issue. Call me crazy, but it seems like whatever's going on in my actual life always ties into the magazine. For example, I recently spent eight days house-sitting for my friends on Daniel Island. They have a montage of animals, from dogs to snakes, which kept me entertained as I read over your engaging, touching submissions for the East Cooper's Favorite Pets feature.

It was a tough call figuring out which pet would grace the front cover, but I have to say the Jack Russell terrier CC Bloom took the cake, or the dog treat. CC

Bloom woke her owners, Kieran and Barbara Mays, pictured on our cover, from a house fire inside their former home in Awendaw, essentially saving their lives. The Mays family, now residing in Mount Pleasant, is joined by two town of Awendaw firefighters: Battalion Chief Paul Kondor, left, and Engineer Bobby Hodge. Shot on location by Jenn Cady on a sunny day, the cover is a reminder that pets can serve as our heroes, lifting our spirits and aiding us during a crisis.

This issue is brimming with features that will teach you about what's going on in the area, how to keep Mount Pleasant's beloved traditions alive, which dental professionals are enhancing our smiles, what committees are working to make housing more affordable and more.

And let's not forget my personal favorite of all our supplements, the Independent School Directory. We're fortunate to have a number of awesome schools throughout the tri-country – many featured in this issue – and each has a different way of enabling students to be their best.

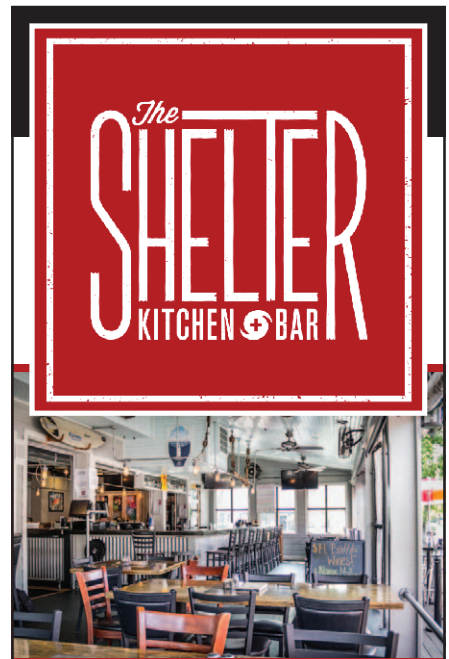
In fact, the whole issue is a smorgasbord, in my opinion, and you'll finish these pages feeling satisfied, not to mention smarter. It's summer, so I have to give a shout-out to all our seasonal editorial interns as well: Alexandra Kent, Samantha Sullivan and Alyssa Zapinski. I couldn't have done it without them. And even though they're all years younger than me, I've learned a lot from them. As my pal Preston says, life is irony.

Until the weather cools off and the days shorten, we hope you enjoy the issue and that you keep an open mind to new ideas. 🐾

Yours,
DENISE K. JAMES
Editor



CC Bloom with owners Kieran and Barbara Mays and Awendaw firefighters Battalion Chief Paul Kondor and Engineer Bobby Hodge.



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Calendar of Events

JULY 15TH



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(Recollections)

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Where: The Windjammer

Time: 8:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.

If you're musically diverse and enjoy a mix of punk, garage rock and a little country, Cracker is your band. Touring after the release of their newest album, you'll find this band jammin' it up at the Windjammer. **More information:** www.the-windjammer.com/wp/event/cracker-2



30TH DRIVIN N CRYIN WITH THE HIGH DRIVERS

Where: The Windjammer

Time: 9 p.m.- 1:30 a.m.

If you prefer to stick with old school rock and roll, you need to check out Drivin N Cryin. They're basically a time machine back to the 90s. **More Information:** www.the-windjammer.com/wp/event/drivin-n-cryin



AUGUST 5TH - 6TH



HOOTIE AND THE BLOWFISH

Where: Volvo Car Stadium

Time: 7 p.m.

You know them, you love them and you do not want to pass up a concert like this. It will be a night you won't forget at the Volvo Car Stadium. **More information:** www.volvocaropen.com

13TH SHAGGIN' ON THE COOPER

(Vinyl Daze)

Where: Mount Pleasant Pier

Time: Gates open at 7 p.m.

Live music from local bands will be performed all summer at the Mount Pleasant Pier. All ages are invited to jump on the dance floor and enjoy the harbor under the stars. **More information:**

www.ccprc.com/1175/Shaggin-on-the-Cooper



17TH TRAIN W/ANDY GRAMMER

Where: Volvo Car Stadium

Time: 7:30 p.m.



They're responsible for getting "Drops of Jupiter" and "Hey, Soul Sister" stuck in your head for weeks on end, and now they're coming to Charleston with

Andy Grammer. Need we say more? **More information:** www.volvocaropen.com



19TH NEEDTOBREATHE

Where: Volvo Car Stadium

Time: 7 p.m.

One of the most well-known and talented contemporary Christian bands, NEEDTOBREATHE, is on tour after the release of their newest CD, "Hard Love."

If you want a night filled with gospel choir choruses, pop anthems and a hip-hop beat, they've got you covered. **More information:** www.volvocaropen.com



20TH HALF RUBBER TOURNAMENT

Where: Recreation Department - Isle of Palms

Time: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

If you're a fan of this traditional Carolina game or just need to let out your competitive side, the Half Rubber Tournament is a no-brainer. **More information:** www.iop.net/half-fubber-tournament-2016-08-20



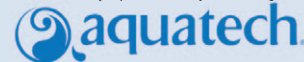
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SEPTEMBER 10TH



CAST OFF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Where: Mount Pleasant Pier

Time: 7 a.m.

The Mount Pleasant Pier offers a beautiful view of the water and great fishing. Grab your rod, some bait and you're off to see who can reel in the best catch. **More information:** www.ccprc.com/2038/Cast-Off-Fishing-Tournaments

SHAGGIN' ON THE COOPER

(The Sneakers)

Where: Mount Pleasant Pier

Time: Gates open at 7 p.m.

Dust off your dancing shoes. Local bands will be performing all summer at the Mount Pleasant Pier. All ages are invited to jump on the dance floor and enjoy the harbor under the stars. **More information:** www.ccprc.com/1175/Shaggin-on-the-Cooper

9/11 HEROES RUN

Where: Along Seven Farms Drive

Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

This event honors the sacrifices made by the heroes of 9/11 and welcomes runners and walkers of all levels and all ages. **More information:** www.danielisland.com/event/911-heroes-run



17TH SCOTTISH GAMES AND HIGHLAND GATHERING

Where: Boone Hall Plantation

Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Whether you're looking to experience Olympic type competition or Scottish music, the Scottish Games and Highland Gathering will offer that and much more. **More Information:** www.boonehallplantation.com/events_scottish.php

THE LUMINEERS

Where: Volvo Car Stadium

Time: 7 p.m.

When you hear "The Lumineers," most likely you start singing their hit song "Ho Hey." This alternative band has been everywhere from the Grammys to "The Hunger Games" soundtrack. This is sure to be an unforgettable show. **More information:** www.volvocaropen.com

23RD PROHIBITION – THE PARTY FOR A CAUSE

Where: Southerly Restaurant and Patio

Time: 7 p.m.-11 p.m.

Go back in time to the 1920s with The Party for a Cause. You'll enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, jazz music, swing dancing, a silent auction and an open bar. It'll be a roaring good time! **More Information:** www.eastcooperspeakeasy.com/party-details

25TH TASTE OF CHARLESTON

Where: Boone Hall Plantation

The name says it all. This three-day event features more than 50 of Charleston's favorite restaurants, including beer and wine. There will also be live music, the Waiter's Race, and the Kid's Kitchen Slideshow. A portion of all proceeds will go to various charities.

More information:

www.boonehallplantation.com/toc.php

OCTOBER 1ST



ISLE OF PALMS CONNECTOR RUN AND WALK FOR THE CHILD

Where: Isle of Palms

Time: 8 a.m.

If you're a marathon enthusiast, we've got one more for you. This non-profit 5K and 10K race goes across the Isle of Palms Connector and supports the prevention of child abuse in the Charleston area. **More information:** www.ioprunc.com

ONGOING EVENTS

JULY 18 - SEPT. 27 Tuesdays

MOUNT PLEASANT FARMERS MARKET

Where: Moultrie Middle School

Time: 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m.

Stroll through the market to find a bounty of just-picked vegetables and fruits, stunning and fragrant flowers and local seafood, plus fresh-cooked meals, baked and canned goods and locally produced snacks, while enjoying live music and family-friendly activities. **More information:**

www.comeonovermp.com/index.aspx?nid=110

JULY 17 - OCTOBER Sundays

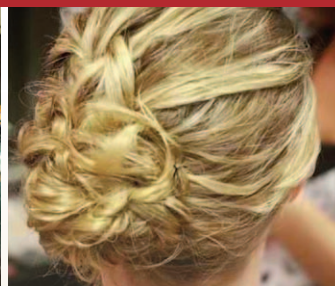
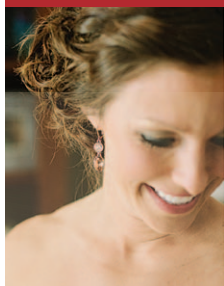
NORTH MOUNT PLEASANT FARMERS MARKET

Where: Rusty Rudder

Time: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Rusty Rudder Mount Pleasant hosts a North Mount Pleasant Farmers and Craft Market featuring items from local vendors along with live music. **More information:** www.facebook.com/North-Mt-Pleasant-Farmers-Market-at-The-Rusty-Rudder-960721070686696

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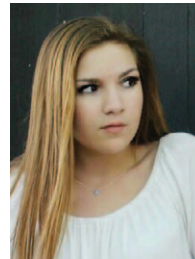


Alexandra Kent was born and raised in Mount Pleasant. After attending Christ Our King School, she continued her education at Bishop England High School and is currently a junior at Clemson University, studying Graphic Communications. When she is not glued to a computer screen trying to learn new techniques for her designs, she enjoys cooking for friends and family, photography and shopping the latest trends in fashion. She hopes to one day work for a magazine, creating artistic layout and design and incorporating her love for fashion and travel.

Mike Sigalas is the author of six cultural-historical travel books on the Carolinas and the American South. In this 20s and 30s, he taught English at a number of colleges, including The Citadel, California State University and The USC. His other writing includes numerous produced plays and comedy sketches, poems, songs and various



online travel articles for Orbitz and HomeandAway.com. He is the proud father of two sons. His current projects include a love story set in 1930s New York City and the South Carolina Upstate, and a film noir screenplay set in 1990s Charleston. Reach him online at sigalasm2020@gmail.com.



Samantha Sullivan will begin her sophomore year at Wando High School in the fall. She is on staff at the *Wando Legend* and is a freelance writer for multiple online publications. She hopes to pursue a career in print journalism.

Alyssa Nicole Zapinski is a senior at the College of Charleston. She is studying creative writing with hopes that she will one day work with publishing companies and author books for young adults. In her free time, she loves to read out loud with her fiancé, try new foods, attend plays, travel, keep up with her lifestyle blog and spend time with her friends and family.







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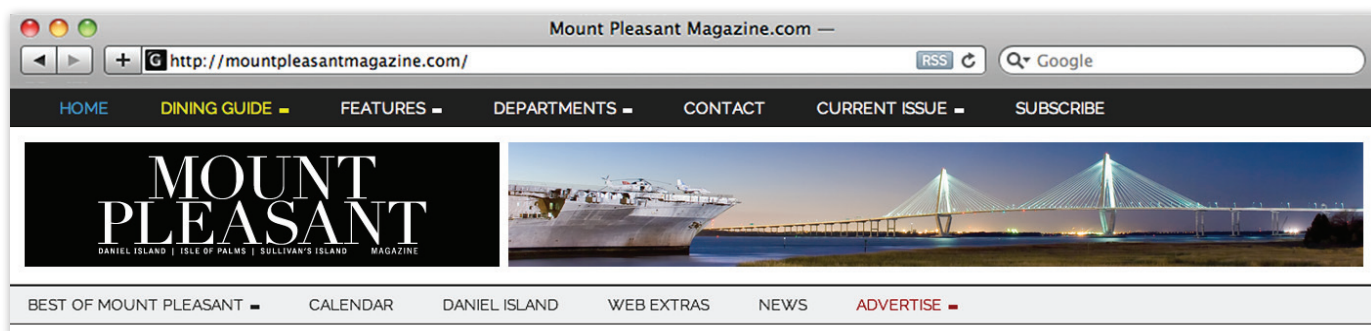
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Cast your votes for your favorite restaurants with the **2017 Golden Spoon Awards at GoldenSpoonAwardsrestaurant**. The deadline is Aug. 1, so hurry! The winning restaurants will be published in our September/October issue. We're not limiting you to just East Cooper either – you and your friends can cast votes for any spot in the tri-county area.

In honor of Smile Week in August, this issue is ready to help you say cheese. Our **Oral Health Professionals Directory** is available online at www.chsdentists.com. Plus, our **Independent School Directory** is live at MountPleasantMagazine.com/schools/. Know someone moving to the area? Give them a helping hand by sharing these directories.

This summer, we've really upped our **Pinterest** game (www.pinterest.com/mountpleasa0093). Not only that, but you can follow snapshots of Mount Pleasant on our **Instagram** (@MountPleasantMagazine) and join our online **Facebook** Community (www.facebook.com/groups/MPMCommunity). 🍷

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Notes from Friends

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

Derek Vann appears in your May/June issue of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* as a 2016 Favorite Dad.

FYI: His daughter, Sophia, has been my I-Beam student for the last four years at Whitesides Elementary School. The I-Beam mentoring program has a student with reading difficulties meet with an adult mentor for one hour each week during the school year. You start with your student in the second grade and continue with them through fifth grade. For a half hour, the student either reads to you or with you, or you read to them, depending on their ability. The last half hour is spent going to lunch with them in the school cafeteria to socialize. Sophia is in the fifth grade and final year of her I-Beam program with me. I've known her mom, Saritta, for awhile now and just met her dad, Derek, last week at a school musical that Sophia was participating in. Matthew was with them also. I'd met him before since he used to attend Whitesides before advancing to middle school.

They're a wonderful family, and I was happy to see Derek nominated as a 2016 Favorite Dad.

Thank you,
Al Bradshaw-Whittemore

Thank you for publishing the short essay about my wife, Beth Ann DeRycke Chaconas, on page 20 of the "Mom & Dad" edition of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. Beth Ann's recognition was well deserved; it absolutely made her Mother's Day!

Beth Ann has received many compliments. Best of all, her mom and brothers and sisters and extended family from upstate New York have fallen in love with your publication. I wonder why?!

Your follow-up of my online submission was incredible. You are fast, efficient and professional.

Since we are practically neighbors, I will stop by your office one afternoon for a quick introduction. It would be my pleasure to meet you.

Thanks again for the best Mother's Day gift ever!

Appreciatively,
Paul Chaconas :)



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Notes From Friends

"Moving Forward: Something is About to Happen on Highway 41"

Editor's Note: In our May/June 2016 issue, we published a feature written by Brian Sherman about the proposed improvements on Highway 41. Our social media fans and followers had a lot to say about the topic – in fact, it was one of our most shared and commented-upon stories EVER – so we decided to print a few here.



Michael E. Collins: Right – 526 was a picnic last night!!!

Kathy Bannister: Spent 2½ hours on 41 from 17 between 5 and 7 p.m.

Bob Edwards: Finally!

Denise Melton Kepecs: Was just cursing this road today! Hope this all pans out quickly and easily.

Amanda Marie Cecilia Martin: Put a circle or light at the road leading to Sonic.

Paul Irwin: Widening 41, new bridge. All funnels into Clements Ferry Road. What a mess that is on a daily basis.

Alan Langston: Not sure any of it is the answer. Why not use the electrical line easement that runs just beyond Highway 41 on Highway 17? This could be built at less cost and quicker than a widening project and could feed existing arterial routes.

Mitch Chisholm: Improving Highway 41 should greatly support a lot of new development. Lots and lots of rural property just waiting. Think of the tax revenue that will spin off from those new homes. The newcomers will be happy to get away from rude people and ice and snow.

William J. Hamilton: We cannot and will never build enough roads to move all the traffic from all the places those roads open to development. If we shave five minutes off of a commute, someone will build a new development three miles further out into the countryside where nobody will care. All of this pushes more traffic into our urban core, where there is no more room for more roads. Transit is the only way out of the problem: www.busec.org.

Jeanne Snow: What happened to the suggestion by Mayor Riley years ago regarding a monorail system for future transit problems? Road expansion opens up plans for additional development and added traffic burdens. Years late, dollars short as usual. Always been a huge problem since the onset of major growth.

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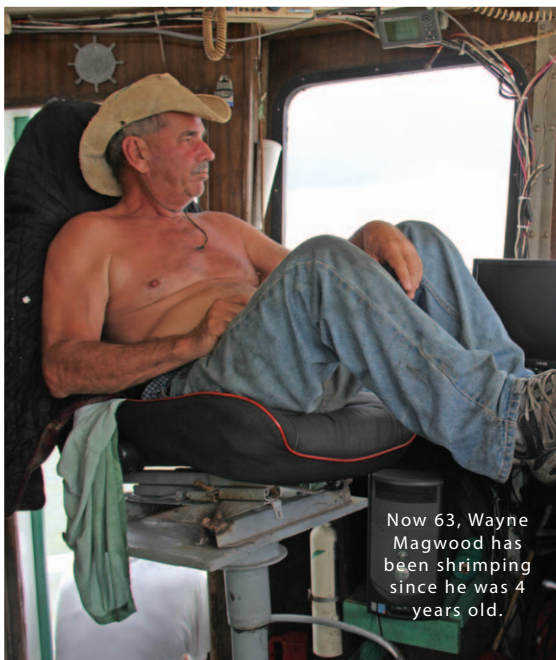
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SAILING INTO THE SUNRISE

Shrimping On Shem Creek

By Brian Sherman



IT'S ANOTHER STEAMY, SULTRY Saturday morning along the Carolina coast. The blazing June sun has not yet shown its glowing face above the horizon, but Captain Wayne Magwood has already been on the water for a few hours, preparing to repeat a ritual that has ruled his life for nearly 60 years. Before long, he and his crew of two will guide his 68-foot boat, "Winds of Fortune," to his "secret spot," where they hope to find a bounty of the tasty crustaceans that have defined Mount Pleasant's Shem Creek and the menus of Lowcountry restaurants for interminable decades.

As he has done since he was no more than a toddler, Magwood is looking for shrimp, and he and his crew are hoping for a haul that for a day at least will bring

Captain Wayne Magwood has been at the helm of "Winds of Fortune" since 1986.



Photography by Brandon Clark

back memories of when shrimping was a lucrative business for the hardy souls whose boats slept in the creek each night and returned to the open water every morning.

That's where "Winds of Fortune" is headed as the sun rises, but not long after its nets are in the water, a cable snaps, hurling one net into the sea and on its way to the ocean floor.

"If it ain't one thing, it's two," the captain said. "There's not going to be any shrimping today. There won't be any profit. Zero. But you got to laugh. If you don't, you'll cry."

Instead of shrimping, "Winds of Fortune" circled the area where the net, a \$1,000 investment, went down. After a few hours, Magwood chose to make his way back to Shem Creek to re-rig the boat. He and his crew returned on Sunday, hooked the net and marked its location. The



sea was too rough to bring it in, but the captain said they would retrieve it sometime soon.

Wayne Magwood grew up on his dad's boat. Now 63, he was just 4 when he started shrimping with Clarence A. Magwood Jr., better known as "Junior" or "Captain" to those who lived in Mount Pleasant long before Shem Creek was lined with restaurants and expensive homes. The younger Magwood bought his first boat in 1976 and named it "Scottie and Sherryl," after his brother and sister. Ten years later, he purchased "Winds of Fortune."

At one time, the captain said, he and his relatives owned seven shrimp boats and a seafood business on Shem Creek, but today, only "Fortune" remains in Magwood hands. He admitted that shrimping, one of the most dangerous professions, has taken its toll on his health and well-being, but he added that he has no regrets about the path he chose for his life.

"It's in my blood. I just enjoy the outdoors and the salt air and being my own boss," he said. "But this boat is getting old and I'm getting old. It's time for me to take it easy. I can't go like I used to. My mind says go, but my body says no."

Magwood still plies his trade virtually every day of the week, except when winds of 30 mph or more convince him to stay home. In the past, he has traveled as far away as Cape Canaveral, Florida, and Norfolk, Virginia, in search of shrimp. On his best excursion ever, he said, he hauled in 10,000 pounds of shrimp in a single day. That was 20 years ago, when one of his crew, Vinnie Vierra – who is also his stepson and still earns his living on "Winds of Fortune" – thought he made so much money that he no longer needed a steady job.

"He made \$4,000 in one day and quit," Magwood remembered. "Two weeks later, he wanted his job back."

Vierra is still part of Magwood's crew today, as is Oliver "Gil" Young, but much has changed since the shrimping industry's heyday on Shem Creek. The captain said a decent haul now is 500 pounds a day, and with competition

from farm-grown and foreign shrimp, he can sell his catch for only about half of what he got back in the 1980s.

Meanwhile, fuel costs are much higher than they once were, government regulations are stricter and, even worse, bad luck apparently is following Magwood around this year. His boat's propeller suffered damage after striking an object in the water, and during a trip to test his nets before the start of the season – which generally runs from around May 1 to around Dec. 31 – his engine cracked a head. He was hit with a \$12,000 repair bill and missed the 2016 Blessing of the Fleet and the first two weeks of the shrimping season. Then there was the snapped cable and the temporary loss of his net.

Life on the water was much more profitable when Magwood purchased "Winds of Fortune" for \$160,000 in 1986.

"I had \$100,000 in the bank. I borrowed \$60,000 and paid it off in three years," he remembered. "I've been broke ever since."

The world has changed in other major ways for the Shem Creek fishing industry. For one, Magwood pointed out that the creek once served as home base for 70 or more boats, a number that



Wayne Magwood prepares to put a net in the water. It wasn't long before a cable snapped, sending the net to the ocean floor.

has dwindled to barely a dozen today. And back in the 1980s and 1990s, trucks were waiting on the docks to transport shrimp to processing houses. Today, Magwood moves much of his catch through social media. When he has shrimp to sell, the word goes out on the Team Magwood Facebook page.

"A truck would pick up the shrimp for processors in Alabama and Mississippi, head them, pack them, freeze them, box them up and sell them back to grocery stores in the Lowcountry," Magwood said. "Now everyone is on their own to sell their shrimp."

Though life as a shrimper has grown a little less bearable since Magwood captained his first boat at the age of 16, he does have fond memories and good stories to tell about his time in the business. For instance, he likes to talk about Oliver Young's little brother. Clarence Maurice "Reesie" Young was only 12 when they lost their father to a shrimping accident. He persevered, however, and became

Oliver "Gil" Young
has been working
with Captain
Magwood off and
on since he was a
teenager.



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a football and wrestling star and also started his own T-shirt business while he was still in high school.

One day someone from the Charleston Harbor Pilots Association called Magwood. The government was “encouraging” the group to do something for a person of color. Did Magwood know anyone who might benefit from the group’s largesse?

The captain got the association in contact with the young athlete/entrepreneur and eventually the group gave him a scholarship to the Maine Maritime Academy. Local shrimpers took up a collection so he could buy cold-weather clothing and other necessities. He graduated from the academy and today is a harbor pilot in Norfolk, Virginia.

“That’s a good success story,” Magwood commented.

Local shrimpers in general and Magwood in particular also played a role in establishing the Blessing of the Fleet,



Two days after losing a net, Gil Young, Wayne Magwood and Vinnie Vierra were back on the water, hauling in around 1,000 pounds of shrimp.

now an annual event at Memorial Waterfront Park in Mount Pleasant. In fact, Magwood said the Blessing, held in Charleston in the beginning and later at Alhambra Hall, was his idea. He pointed out that local shrimpers needed some good publicity at the time.

“The shrimpers were getting a bad name. We had a bad reputation. People said we were raping the sea,” he com-

mented. “We wanted to show that we do good things, too.”

The benefactor of the first Blessing of the Fleet was the local Meals on Wheels program.

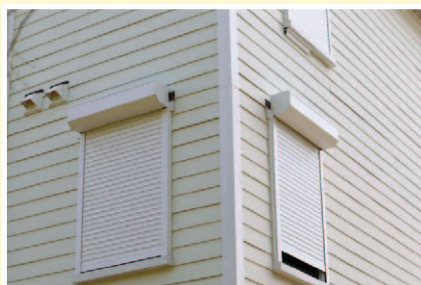
Through the good times and bad, Captain Wayne Magwood has no regrets about where his life has gone. He said shrimping “helped me buy a couple of dozen cars and put four kids through college.” And he does relish the fact that people refer to him as “Captain.”

“After 50 years, I think I earned the title,” he said. 🦞

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FUNDRAISER SUPPORTS SHEM CREEK FISHING FLEET

By Pamela Brownstein

AT THE HEART OF MOUNT Pleasant – a rapidly growing town still trying to reach that delicate balance between unfettered development and stubborn preservation – lies Shem Creek. This unique area is home to a working community of fishermen who for generations have trawled the waterways and lived off the bounty found along the South Carolina coast.

Although these local boat operators have weathered storms throughout the years, economic obstacles such the ever-increasing cost of living and competition from overseas have made it difficult for many of them to stay afloat financially.

Grace Edwards, whose husband runs a shrimp boat out of Shem Creek, saw these struggles firsthand. In response to their modern problems, she said the fishermen banded together and started looking at the needs of all the boats. In 2012, they

formed the nonprofit Shem Creek Fisheries to support the Shem Creek commercial fishermen, their families and crew members.

Last year, Edwards partnered with Karen Boals, owner of Karen's Korner Frame and Art Gallery in Mount Pleasant, to spearhead the Chics of the Sea Fundraiser – a one-day event filled with music, food and original artwork donated by local artists and sold at a silent auction.

Their efforts, through ticket sales, personal donations, silent auctions and raffles, enabled them to raise enough money to meet their goal of providing 11 life rafts, one for each boat, at about \$3,000 per raft. They also were able to provide new inflatable life jackets and flares to the crab boats.

"Our guys deserve to have the best equipment. This was

a way to get them something they needed," Edwards said. "Hardly any of the boats even had a life raft before this."

Boals said she got involved because she wants to support the hardworking people who live and work on



Local artist Abigail Wedlake stands by the mixed media mermaid piece she created that appears on T-shirts for the Chics of the Sea Fundraiser.

their boats.

"I believe we need to keep the boats at the creek in the creek," she said.

The second annual Chics of the Sea fundraiser will be held on Sunday, Aug. 14, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Harborside East, with live music by the East Coast Party Band, fresh Lowcountry boil (made with local shrimp, of course), live mermaids, raffles, an art auction and an open bar. Last year, 200 people attended the event, and this year there is a 300-person limit.

The goal of the 2016 fundraiser is to equip the Shem Creek fleet with a maritime navigation safety communications system. This updated technology, a Coast Guard requirement, makes it easier for large ocean-going vessels to spot small fishing boats. It also makes the small boats easier to locate in case of an emergency or rescue situation.

Local artists donated one-of-a-kind pieces that have been created especially for this year's event, in a variety of mediums – from jewelry to metal sculptures to paintings – that will be available at the silent auction. The original mermaid piece by Abigail Wedlake, which appears on

T-shirts, will also be raffled off.

Many local businesses have donated items, in addition to artwork, Boals said. She added that the organizers of the event are grateful for the sponsors and to the community for the outpouring of generosity.

"Really, it's all about supporting local small businesses. More people are getting on the bandwagon for buying local seafood, local produce and local artwork, and that really makes a difference in the community," she said. 🐚

IF YOU GO:

What: Second Annual Chics of the Sea fundraiser

When: Sunday, Aug. 14, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Harborside East, 28 Bridgeside Blvd., Mount Pleasant

Details: Tickets are \$75 in advance, \$100 at the door and include open bar, music, food and fun for a good cause. Tickets can be purchased online at the Shem Creek Fisheries Facebook page and in person at **Karen's Korner Frame and Art Gallery, 1405 Ben Sawyer Blvd., Suite 101, in Mount Pleasant.**

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Veggie Tales



Photos courtesy of Douglas M. Heath and Family.

HEATH FARMS IN MOUNT PLEASANT

By Denise K. James

ONCE UPON A TIME, THE MAIN thoroughfares of Mount Pleasant were not gateways to the beautiful neighborhoods we recognize today but expanses of fertile land where hardworking farmers grew scores of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and other staples of

Southern produce. It was, of course, long before I moved to this area – even before I was born – but, as I spoke to Douglas M. Heath about the industry that sustained his family for decades, I could almost picture it.

The original Heath family – made up of Alva M. Heath and his wife, Iva Lee Heath, as well as sons Douglas, Alec, Clayton, Marvin and George and daughters Gloria, Diane,



Left: Douglas M. Heath's family began farming in Mount Pleasant in the early 1950s.
Right: Douglas L. Heath with his grandparents, Alva and Iva Heath.



Joye and Cindy – established themselves in the heart of East Cooper as farmers of produce and grain from the 1950s until the 1990s. Douglas, Alec, Clayton and George were instrumental in the business – but they also had a little help from their friends, as the song goes.

Born in Georgia and raised in Mount Pleasant, Douglas recalled his earliest days when his dad worked for Seaboard Coast Line Railroad as a fireman and “would travel between Savannah and Charleston.” A new opportunity awaited the family when Iva’s uncle, who owned the land now known as Wakendaw Lakes, needed help farming and broached the idea of a partnership with Alva. The rest, as they say, is Mount Pleasant history.

“We initially worked out of a four-room shack located where Stuhr Funeral Home is now,” Douglas Heath said.

“We started out with one mule – a huge mule named Julia – plus a very small tractor and a sled. We’d load the sled and drag it around.”

Back in those days, the 1950s, both Mathis Ferry and Bowman Road were dirt roads, according to Heath. And even the site of the former Wando High School building, at the corner of Mathis Ferry and Whipple roads, was nothing more than a lush grove of pecan trees. The Heath family, making good use of the available land, farmed among those very pecan trees until the school was built in 1973.

“Where the Live to Play swimming pool and tennis facilities are now, that’s where our largest packing

house was from the late 1960s on,” Heath explained.

“Our original packing house, located where Riverwood Apartments are now, had been burned, and the second one was built at 1503 Mathis Ferry Road. The house and shed are still there.”

Eventually, Douglas Heath’s son, Douglas L. Heath, was introduced into the family business. He and his mother, who taught at Wando High School, were original Warriors.

“I’ve lived here all my life,” the younger Doug Heath remarked. “Not many people know how Mount Pleasant used to be.”

Students from the new Wando High School as well as from Bishop England High School, proved to be a welcome source of labor for the Heaths. Even maintaining the packing house was entirely too



much work for the family to accomplish alone. Business was thriving, and Alva and sons stayed busy farming many areas along Mathis Ferry – the current sites of I’On, Olde Park and Point Pleasant, to name a few – as well as along Long Point Road and in McClellanville.

“We would hire at least a hundred local students to help us pack,” Douglas Heath remembered. “We would also hire locals from Snowden as our tractor drivers. And we’d have crews from Immokalee, Florida. We had a number of migrant workers helping as well. When the crews would leave Mount Pleasant, they’d head up the Eastern seaboard and continue working other farms.”



Alva Heath's sons helped him run the business. Left to right: Alec, George, Douglas and Clayton.

According to the Heaths, helping out at the packing house, which was 230 feet long by 100 feet wide, was a coveted form of summer employment from mid-May until July. Boxes of tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, beans, cabbages and more were prepared to be sold in different areas of the region. Produce from Heath Farms was available at the juncture of Ben Sawyer Boulevard and Rifle Range Road in an open air market, at the downtown Charleston market and even as far away as in Columbia, in what Douglas Heath called “a natural progression” of business.

Then, in 1983, Alva Heath passed away, and plans changed. In an effort to scale back but still honor the family's legacy, Douglas Heath, his brothers and their immediate family members decided to open a produce stand at 1503 Mathis Ferry Road, known as Heath Farms Fresh Produce. The business was a true family effort and remained a cornerstone of Mount Pleasant culture until the early 1990s.

“My two sisters-in-law – Clayton's

wife, Sally Heath, and Alec's wife, Jeanie Heath – ran the produce stand, which was about 60 feet by 30,” Heath remarked. “We still farmed, but we did it on a smaller scale. The one thing we knew back then was work.”

Today, Douglas Heath and his remaining family members are no



longer in the produce industry, but East Cooper residents can still view the brick house where the Heaths lived, plus the packing shed and the slab of concrete where the produce stand was near the corner of Mathis Ferry and Whipple roads. Meanwhile, Douglas Heath now lives in Seaside Farms and enjoys a more leisurely pace of life.

And probably a salad for nostalgia's sake every now and then. 🥗

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Diny Adkins and
Anneke Pop.

Photos by Brian Sherman

HATE IS A DIRTY WORD

Love, Peace and Diny Adkins

AT THE TENDER young age of 4, Diny Adkins was forced into a caldron of unspeakable horrors. She emerged from the living hell foisted upon her for the crime of being a Jewish child in occupied Europe before and during World War II with uncommon optimism and a rare obsession to make the world a better place to live.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

Separated from her family, Adkins survived two Nazi concentration camps, sadistic nuns, shrapnel wounds and living on her own in the forest, subsisting on little more than grass. She watched as her best childhood friend was murdered by a German soldier, and she witnessed people trampled to death desperately fighting over bits of food. Even after World War II came to an end, her life was torn asunder by the untimely death of her son, mother and husband.

Despite the tragic events that have plagued her life, her heart is void of hate; she seeks no revenge on those

who have wronged her. Instead, she preaches love and peace to all who will listen. If that sounds a little like the outlook of a flower child of the 1960s – well, Adkins looks the part of a refugee from the 1960s.

Inspired by a doll she has lost and found three times in her life – a present from her grandfather – her belief in angels and in the innate goodness of mankind, she spreads her message of optimism at schools, churches, synagogues, colleges, conferences and retirement homes in the Lowcountry and throughout the nation, charging only for her expenses. Now 78 and a resident of The Palms of Mount Pleasant for the past eight years, she was born Jewish but later baptized as a Catholic. She tells her avid listeners about her experiences during the Holocaust, but she also talks about subjects such as bullying and the danger of firearms.

Her goal is, quite simply, to make the planet a better place for all.

“There is so much hatred in this world. I wish everybody could hold hands and be peaceful,” she said.

“There are still good people in the

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world. I tell kids to try to be nice to each other. If you have a disagreement with someone, talk it out, give each other a hug and say ‘now we’re friends.’”

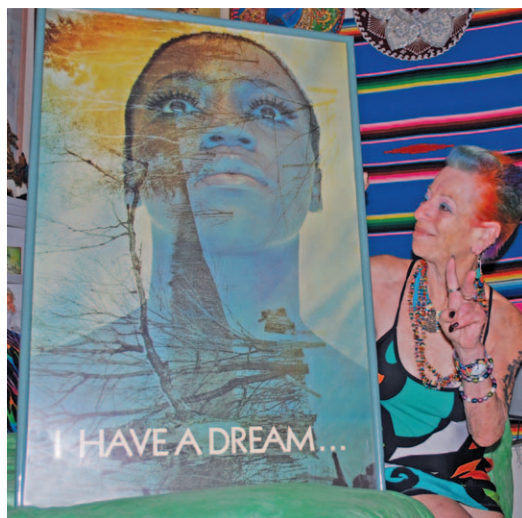
Adkins resides in what should be a spacious apartment at The Palms, but virtually all the space in the three cluttered rooms is taken up by mementos of her past. Much of it has nothing to do with World War II Europe – relics of her life in the United States include posters and photos featuring icons of the 1960s and 1970s, among them John Lennon, Martin Luther King Jr., the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Crosby, Stills and Nash. A self-proclaimed hippie, she wears a peace symbol around her neck and has multi-colored hair: blue, green, red – whatever suits her fancy at the time. She has tattoos and wears a stud in her nose. She has been a governess and she worked on a cruise ship, and she once hitchhiked from Montreal to San Francisco.

Born in Bussum, Holland, Adkins was separated from her parents as a 4-year-old. She lived in the woods for a while, then in a home where a Christian family was hiding Jewish children from the Nazis. A nun later took her in, but her lot in life didn’t improve much. She lived in a filthy, rat-infested closet and ate only tulip bulbs and grass. She said on her birthday, the nun gave her a small piece of sugar beet. She was beaten

and mistreated in other ways, but things got worse for the young girl when the nun turned her over to her brother, a piano teacher. He kept Adkins in his attic, sexually abused her and eventually turned her over to the Nazis, who shipped her off to the Westerbork concentration camp. She spent time at Amersfoort, another camp. On a train on the way to Auschwitz, some adults, apparently cognizant of

the fate that awaited those who made it to the infamous death camp, pushed her out of the cattle car’s small window. Nuns found her and took her in.

Though most of her family perished in the Holocaust, after the war, Adkins was reunited with her parents. She married an American soldier, though that didn’t last. Her second husband, Roscoe Adkins, served in Vietnam and died from the effects of agent orange. He was, according to Adkins, “the best man I ever met.” Her son committed suicide, and, not long after, her grief-stricken mother passed



Adkins’ apartment is cluttered with mementos from the 1960s and 1970s.

away as well.

Though the walls of her apartment are covered with memories of her life in the United States, her only memento from her childhood is Anneke Pop, the doll her grandfather gave her when she was 3. She lost the doll in one of the concentration camps, and twice more, and, at one point, gave up hope that she would ever be reunited with



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The Rolling Stones and the Beatles are among Adkins' favorites.

her childhood friend. But in 2013, a cousin discovered the doll on the Internet – a woman who lived just around the corner from where she grew up had put it up for sale. One night she was surprised and elated to find Anneke Pop on her bed.

“If you offered me a million dollars for that doll, I wouldn’t take it,” she said.

Adkins, who has been speaking to groups about the Holocaust since the 1980s, is a recipient of *The Post and Courier’s* Jefferson Award. She has received citations from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and she has written a book. “Can Forgive, But Cannot Forget” recounts her life in Holland and after the war and includes copies of letters she has received from children and adults and who heard her presentation. Proceeds from the book will help homeless and wounded veterans and the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Adkins, who doesn’t take her message to children under the age of 11, opens her presentations with a movie about the Holocaust. Then she talks about all the groups of people who were murdered by the Nazis. Six million Jews perished, but millions of Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, dark-skinned people, and those who were handicapped and with mental problems also were put to death.

“I would like to teach the world to all hold hands together, no matter what their religion,” she said. “We need to love each other more.”

At 78, life is not all sunshine and blue skies for Diny Adkins. She has been through therapy and has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress syndrome. She still suffers from flashbacks, panic attacks, nightmares and claustrophobia, all a result of what she went through as a child.

Despite it all, she refuses to hate.

“To me, hate is a dirty word,” she said. 🐼



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Photos courtesy of Prentice Brower.

WATER IS OUR COMMON BOND

The Lowcountry Maritime Society

THE BODIES OF WATER THAT RUN through the Lowcountry sometimes feel like old friends. We become familiar with their ebb and flow, twists and turns and rocky oyster beds. For many, these streams, creeks, inlets and harbors provide a livelihood. The

Lowcountry Maritime Society is an organization built on the belief that access to the water, and the many traditions that coincide with coastal living, should be reachable to all. Through summer camps and school programs, they bring the joy of life at sea to others, one boat-building venture at a time.

BY KALENE MCCORT

"I've enjoyed working with local schools. They are such an important and inspiring part of our community," said Prentice Brower, executive director of the Lowcountry Maritime Society. "I am very passionate about this area, the water and everything that comes with it, and I love being able to share and celebrate that with others."

The Lowcountry Maritime Society works with kids that often have little exposure to life on the water. Through their innovative boat-building program, children are able to complete a project, start to finish, with the end result being

a cool vessel all their own. While the process of sketching out plans and measuring allows them to utilize their science, math and engineering skills, the real fun starts when they get to actually take their creations for a row.

"I love witnessing the transformation and engagement of our students' progress from day one to the day we launch the boats they build," said Brower. "That moment, when students, and often their parents, get out on the water on the boats they have built – that's a pretty amazing scene."

Teachers of students enrolled in the programs have praised the Lowcountry Maritime Society with not only helping their pupils grasp educational concepts but with allowing them to find a sense of peace. Problems or stress they may be dealing with in their lives seem to vanish once they are out on the water.

"We want to help connect our community, engage our children and preserve our region's identity. Education is at the core of our mission," said Brower. "We believe that education through hands-on, tangible and relatable experiences is key to engaging students. It ignites passions and builds self-awareness."

While during the school year the Lowcountry Maritime Society offers boat-building programs, come summer-

time they expand into even greater territory. In late July, campers will not only draw and construct boats but also explore the Port Royal Sound. Through naturalist activities, ecology, arts and boat safety courses, campers gain a greater understanding and confidence around the water. Rowing out on the Chechessee River, they begin to truly see all their hard work pay off.

"The response has been incredible," said Brower. "We started this program with a few guys taking time to go to Sanders Clyde Elementary each afternoon to teach boat building. We had never done it before, and we

and taking in postcard-worthy sunsets. He feels fortunate to be able to offer similar experiences to children who otherwise would never have the chance.

"We're able to provide a unique opportunity both for ourselves and our students. The process isn't short," said Brower. "As the boat begins to come together, the students get a fresh wave of excitement. Then we prime, then we get to paint, then names go on. As we get closer to launching, we start talking about the water more and students get more excited."

Brower and his team would like



weren't sure how it would go."

Brower was basically born and bred for his job. His childhood was one splashed in salt water and epic views. From teaching sailing at the age of 15 to being a crewmember of Charleston's own Carolina Girl yacht, his experience in boating runs deep.

"My father took us kids cruising in the Northeast. We sailed from Bermuda back to the states and all over," said Brower. "We also had a little 13-foot Boston Whaler when I was young."

When he wasn't on dry land, Brower could be found exploring the waterways rich with wildlife

to start implementing these types of programs throughout the Southeast. Seeing the positive impact it has had on local children has inspired him to take additional steps to reach more kids in need of quality time spent on the water.

"We believe the water is our common bond; it's what makes our region unique. It is our identity," said Brower. "I'd like to see communities from Georgetown to Savannah celebrating our common culture and heritage. Eventually we'd like to see our programs throughout the region."

*To learn more visit us online,
lowcountrymaritime.org.*

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EACH YEAR SINCE ITS INCEPTION in 2011, the Mount Pleasant Business and Community Expo has risen to a new level, attracting an increasing number of attendees and regularly reaching its 70-booth capacity. This year is no different for East Cooper's biggest networking event.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

As has been the case since the beginning, booths are selling quickly for the Expo, which is sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Business Association and will be held at the Omar Shrine Convention Center on Patriots Point Boulevard. In fact, Expo Co-chair Frank Frazier expects all 70 booths to be accounted for long before the Expo doors swing open on Sept. 22. This year, the Expo Committee, co-chaired by Susan Spearman, is concentrating on making the event bigger and better than ever by attracting a larger crowd than the 1,000 people who attended in 2015.

"We can't simply rest on our laurels," said Frazier. "We have to work hard every year to make the Expo a success, and that's exactly what we're doing. Our goal this year is to attract 1,500 attendees, which will be our largest crowd ever."

There is no admission charge to attend the Expo. Booths sell for \$400, with a \$50 discount to members of the Mount Pleasant Business Association.

The format for the Expo will remain as it has for the past four years. The doors open at 2 p.m., with the happy hour beginning at 5 p.m. on the convention floor. Attendees will listen to live music and continue to meet with vendors until the Expo closes at 7 p.m. And they will be able to purchase

beer and wine to go along with food provided free of charge during the happy hour, courtesy of local restaurants Sticky Fingers, Burtons Grill and Jimmy Johns.

"The Expo provides a great place to do business in a casual, fun atmosphere," said Spearman. "It's always been an outstanding event, but we're constantly working on ways to make it better. It's East Cooper's premier networking opportunity."

"The Expo provides great exposure for any business," she added. "We draw attendees from all over the tri-county area. You have the opportunity to meet a large number of people from Mount Pleasant and beyond learn about local businesses that have a lot to offer."




Photo by Brian Sherman.

Mount Pleasant is playing an expanded role in this year's Expo, which will serve as the culmination to the town's annual Business Appreciation Week. In addition to serving as a community sponsor, Eric DeMoura will hold his Administrator's Mobile Office Hours from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Linda Page's monthly Coffee with the Mayor is set from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Local residents are encouraged to drop by and visit with the town's administrator and chief executive.

The title sponsor for the Expo is the law firm of Clawson and Staubes. Other community sponsors include Windwood Family Services, iHeart Media, Nelson Printing, Advanced Hearing Care and The Rawlings Bolig Frazier Group at Merrill Lynch.

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.



A New Generation of STEM Learners

LAING MIDDLE SCHOOL EXCELS NATIONWIDE

WORKING WITH 3D printers and digital cutters in a fabrication lab might sound a little intimidating, but, for the students at Laing Middle School, it's a part of their day-to-day curriculum. Laing recently was ranked among the top 10 STEM Education schools in America – and the top three STEM Education middle schools in the country as well.

BY SAMANTHA SULLIVAN

So what does STEM mean? It stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and it's taken on a life of its own at Laing Middle School. After six months of brainstorming, Laing's faculty reinvented the program and introduced a "whole school" approach.

"How we have it framed is that it is embedded in everything we do and is not something separate," said Principal Jay Whitehair.

Three main pillars form the foundation of STEM Education at Laing. Engineering is used to teach the students

the process of problem solving. It helps middle schoolers think through issues and come up with the most logical and efficient way to resolve them. Technology, meanwhile, is more than just iPads and smartboards. It's all about the nuts and bolts and innovative procedures that keep the wheels turning in the business world. The final pillar is technological literacy. This means that students are expected to do more than just read, write and speak. They need to be able to comprehend the world around them, and they need to know how products are made and how businesses are run. In short, they need to know how things get done.

These three pillars are the foundation of a fully immersed curriculum. The STEM Education principles even are evident in classes such as Language Arts, where the students incorporate the information they accumulate through STEM into the framework of their studies.

Over the course of this school year, for example, students were instructed to research the most viable form of renewable energy for the future and to write an argumentative essay about it.

"The idea of providing hands-on opportunities means

that they will be more invested and more likely to understand the concepts that they learn, which is going to impact them in their daily lives. So I think that's essential and it brings engagement," Whitehair commented.

STEM Education is not just useful for teaching information but also to impart important lessons to students about communication, teamwork and other "soft skills." These are inherently taught through the hands-on activities that the students participate in. Another way Laing is different is that students don't have individual desks. Instead, they work at community tables where they are expected to collaborate and learn as a community, rather than in isolation. This method of learning mirrors the real world and demonstrates the necessity for a basic understanding of interpersonal skills.

STEM Education not only helps prepare students for the outside world but also exposes them to a myriad of careers and possible opportunities they otherwise would not be exposed to. STEM Education is not targeted to a specific group of people, but, as of right now, professional fields that depend on science, technology, engineering and mathematics are severely lacking in minorities and women. Whitehair said Laing acknowledges the problem and is working hard to ensure that the school helps create a new



Three main pillars form the foundation of STEM Education at Laing: engineering, technology and technical literacy.

generation of STEM learners that includes and welcomes women and minorities.

"There are some stereotypes about the STEM field that we are really looking to break down," Whitehair said.

Laing is participating in a Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce pilot program that is introducing career academies in middle schools to catch kids early and help them discover their passions and interests. Innovations like these are signs that the program is constantly evolving and changing.

The skills that the students learn translate to success at the middle school level and beyond.

"My hope is that it allows them to be engaged in the learning process and prepares them for high school and beyond and makes them college and career ready. I just want to provide that foundation," Whitehair said.



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Flying Through Charleston: The New Zipline Adventure

THERE'S AN ADVENTURE AROUND every corner in the Charleston area, and one more recently arrived on the scene. Charleston Zipline Adventures, which opened in June, is guaranteed to get your adrenaline pumping.

Owners Andrea and Matthew Canberg decided to create their zipline wonderland out of their love for everything outdoors and desire for friends and families to create amazing new memories. Together they have spent more than 25 years working outdoors – guiding whitewater rafting trips, leading hiking groups through the mountains and traveling the world.

BY ALYSSA ZAPINSKI

So what can you expect to find at Charleston Zipline Adventures? Your first step is to make sure you reserve a spot online. Once in the park, you'll be immersed in an oasis of trees and adventure. After check-in, it's off to ground school, where instructors teach you everything you need to know about ziplines and safety. Then it's time to start zipping!

With the Zipline Canopy Tour, you'll be flying through

the trees, between platforms and towers and crossing a 120-foot sky bridge, finishing up with a grand finale zip of 750 feet. The further along the line you go, the faster, longer and more thrilling it gets.

The Kids Zip, for ages 5 and up, ranges from 25 feet in height to ground level, with two zipline circuits - one for beginners and one that is slightly more challenging. Plus, parents can relax and watch from the wraparound porch nearby.

Standing 60 feet high, the Rock Climbing Wall is the tallest climbing wall in the Lowcountry.

Charleston Zipline Adventures has all you need for outdoor fun and adventure. 🌲

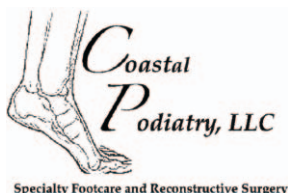
Charleston Zip Line Adventures is located just five miles North of Mount Pleasant in Awendaw. Reserve your spot today at www.charlestonziplineadventures.com.



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THE 2016 FAVORITES

Stories and photos submitted by our readers.

To see all the stories and photos submitted by East Cooper residents, go to ReadMPM.com/ECpets.

Editor's Note:

For this year's pet issue, we asked our loyal *Mount Pleasant Magazine* readers to submit stories about their favorite four-legged best friends. From comedic chickens to heroic pups, all of you shared heartwarming stories of loyalty, bravery and genuine love, and we saw some of the best pets in the Lowcountry.

Ready to find your lifelong best friend? Consider adopting an animal this summer. The stories below make evident the amount of love they can bring into your life.

Beau Evans –

Argos the Australian Cattle Dog

Argos has been my best friend for almost a third of my life. During that time, we have had some amazing adventures, and he has made me a better person. We have canoed down the Green River in Utah for 80+ miles and



backpacked in the Southeast for many more. He has been in the shotgun seat for more than 10,000 miles as I commuted back and forth to Florence for work. On the weekends, we lived on a sailboat and he learned how to jump in the forward hatch and climb up the stairs to get out. He is constantly on patrol for the sound of splashing water, whether it be breaking on the bow or driving through a puddle. Argos retrieves the ball with the best of them, either on Sullivan's or diving off a dock. He has presided over the girls I dated and helped me propose to my wife by carrying the ring on his collar. When my twins were born, he welcomed them into my home and protected them while we ran around trying to keep the house together. He is an old dog now and is suffering from lymphoma. Despite that, he continues to show me how I should live. No regrets for what was undone yesterday and no anxiety of what is to come tomorrow. We tried chemo but the treatment was worse than the disease. So for these next few days, he will maintain his position as the best friend I've ever had and then will leave this world on his own terms while feeling good. He is a unique soul that I pray to meet again in heaven.

Hunter Shaw –

Reesie the Chocolate Lab

Reesie is unique for many reasons. I watched her be born on my birthday, and she was given to me by my close friend who died a few months later in a car crash. She brings so much love to our family. She wants to do everything that we are doing, right down to eating at the table (which we let her do occasionally). My mom loves pretending to put makeup on her when she's putting hers on or helping carve a pumpkin. She loves modeling for



pictures, the beach, swimming, tricks, road trips, cuddling and tug of war. She waits for us to say blessing before she eats her food. I actually believe she thinks she is human. But most importantly, she helps put a smile on my mom's face. My mom has an incurable nerve illness called trigeminal neuralgia, which, according to the medical field, is the most painful condition known to man, so to us Reesie is unique and a special blessing.

**Mary Claire Morgan –
Brownie the Chicken**

My name is Mary Claire Morgan. I'm 8. I love chickens. Chickens are funny animals with great personalities. My favorite, Brownie, loves to be hugged and loved. She knows she's beautiful and likes to show off her feathers. Most chickens are, well, chicken. But not Brownie. She's brave. She recognizes me when I'm in the distance, and she knows my voice. She gets excited to know that I'm coming to get her to give her a big hug.



**Kieran Mays –
CC Bloom the Jack Russell**

There is never a dull moment in our lives with CC Bloom. After having a stroke in 2012, she has been my constant faithful companion. She woke me up in time to crawl out of a window when my house was burning down. She lets me know every morning that there are creatures outside ready to invade my home, and she fearlessly tracks them down and chases them away. She rests her head on my knee while I'm eating, making sure to gobble up anything I may let drop from my utensil, and she always licks the bowl clean, leaving it ready for the dishwasher with no hard crusty stuff. I never have to worry about snakes, rats, insects or other vermin as CC makes a sweep



of the yard a few times a day to keep me safe from intruders. CC stands guard at my chair making sure the other dogs don't get too close so I won't trip and fall on them. CC loves to swim, boat ride and give kisses. I truly love my little darling CC Bloom.

**Missy Johnson –
Tides Sinatra the Basset Hound**

Tides Sinatra is so special. From the tip of his nose to the end of his tail, he is nothing but love and kisses. I adopted Tides from the Carolina Basset Hound Rescue three



years ago, when he was 4 months old. Actually, he picked me. Tides was all over me when we went to see the puppies for the first time. Of course, his standout feature is his ice blue eyes (hence the name Tides and Sinatra, because my husband said that people used to call Frank Sinatra "Old Blue Eyes") that lock on your heart. His sweet, friendly manner gives Tides a never-meet-a-stranger approach. He's a total clown and, even at 3 years old, is still all puppy! He loves to go for rides and enjoys playing at all the local parks, beaches and pet friendly spots around town. Everyone that meets him loves him, and he is my constant shadow and guardian angel. I lost my big dog, Wy, a few years ago and it feels like Wy sent Tides to watch over me here while he watches from heaven. Tides even does things that only Wy did, like squeaking toys, sleeping on my feet and staying by my side everywhere I go. Wherever I am, Tides is! I am so blessed to be a part of Tides' world. ... he even has a growing social media popularity on Instagram and Twitter as Life of Tides and Facebook as Dogs for the Paws. He is an advocate for all fuzzy kids in need and works as a volunteer for his basset rescue. I worked in the pet industry as a graphic designer and Tides was my co-worker, so that's how he became known through social media. He is the social houndster of the Lowcountry.

**Angi Duckwall –
Malaika the German Shepard**

Malaika is a handicapped German shepherd that uses a wheelchair. She was born with a spinal deformity that limits the use of her legs, but that doesn't slow her



down. She was rescued through the Southeast German Shepherd Rescue's Phoenix Program for dogs who have medical conditions and might otherwise be euthanized in general shelters.

**Matt and Michelle Vitelli –
Joey the Shih Tzu**

Joey was abused as a young puppy. He came to live with our family around the age of 2. Because of his past, he suffers from severe anxiety. Last year I (Joey's mom) was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent brain surgery. Joey

seemed to know that he had a job to do, and he took it very seriously. He stayed by my side during recovery while I regained my vision, hearing and learned to



walk and do basic things again. Now, a little over a year later, we are adding a human baby to our family! Joey, once again, knew – even before we did – that something was going on, and he has become my little protector.

Through our love for each other, we both have recovered and are leading wonderfully happy lives.

**Jaimie Hough –
Daisy May the Potbellied Pig**

Well, she's a potbellied pig for starters. And she is the coolest pig in town. She can shake, turn around, high five (it's actually a pretty low five) and she is potty-trained to go outside. She cheers us up when we are down and she



loves her brother, our hound dog, Jackson. She also absolutely loves to go on the boat. We call her our "Bow Hog."

**Ashley –
Gizmo the Maine Coon Cat**

Gizmo has the quirkiest personality. Sometimes I swear he thinks he's human! He loves to eat popcorn and sit up right on the couch with the rest of the family.



**Teresa Smith –
General Sumter the Ragdoll Cat**

Sumter loves walks with me, preferably in his carriage, but I also walk him on a leash. We were even on the news



a couple of years ago when we ran into Bill Walsh on the beach at Fort Moultrie. That's as close to Fort Sumter as he will ever get since, unfortunately, no pets are allowed there.

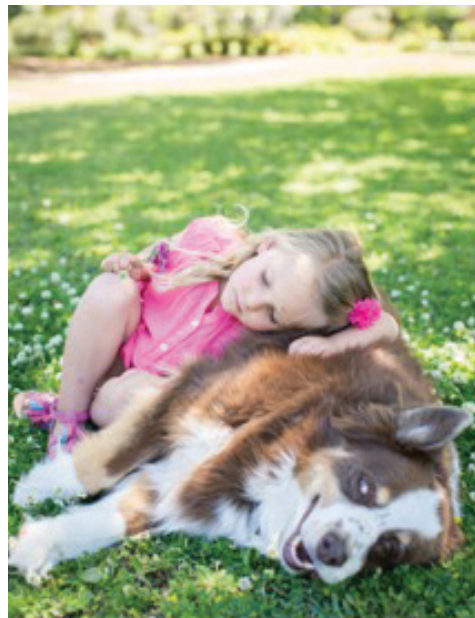
**Tami McCune –
Tucker the Jack Russell**

Tucker and I found each other almost three years ago. I rescued him from a shelter in North Carolina, but he actually rescued me, also. He is a loving, dedicated friend who loves the beach, his many toys and a good nap underneath his favorite blanket. He travels with me to sales calls across both Carolinas, where my clients are always eager to see him.



**Cara Heule -
Porkchop the Australian Shepherd**

Pork Chop is the most attentive, sensitive and sweet guy. Since my daughter was born, he took her on as his responsibility to look out for and keep safe. Pork Chop is selfless, and his greatest joy is to feel like he is helping or protecting in some way.



**Kristen
Haynes -
Eureka the
Sulphur
Crested Cockatoo**

Eureka is one very cool bird. He does all sorts of tricks, like stretching his wings up and out ("Be an eagle!"), rock and roll (head bobs to music), waves "he-woo and bye-bye" (with his feet or wings), shakes hands, dances, sings and loves to entertain! He goes for daily walks in the neighborhood or on the beach, lets kids pet him and also visits various assisted living centers as a pet therapy bird. The residents love petting his soft feathers and seeing his tricks – it really brightens up their day!



Hadley Shaw - Bond the English Labrador

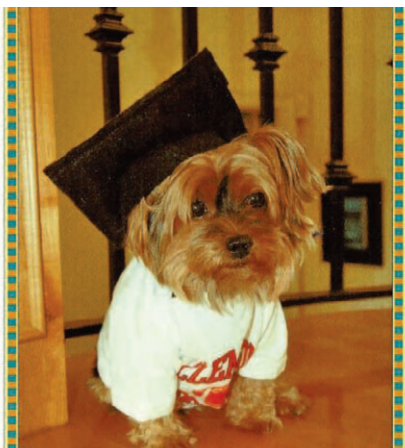
Bond (007) is unique because he is only 2 years old and he is old soul. He is so laid-back, yet he loves me and my younger brother and sister. He was brought to us on



Christmas, and his name was chosen as my daddy is from the UK and loves James Bond films. We thought an English Lab should have an English name.

Jenny Atkinson - Tiny the Yorkshire Terrier

She was a tiny dog but always acted like she was a



lab. She went to Clemson and graduated with high honors! Seriously, she went with my daughter to school up at Clemson for a semester! Proof in the picture! Go Tigers!

Frank & Lisa Moore - Tiny Bubble the English bulldog

Tiny Bubble was the smallest in her mommy's litter, but her personality is larger than life! Everyone loves "The



Bubble"! She is so kind and thoughtful. We snapped this picture of her praying for the families the night of the AME shootings in Charleston. She has also entered the Beautiful Bulldog Contest at the Citadel, and she won first place for costume design, while her mom won "Miss Congeniality"!



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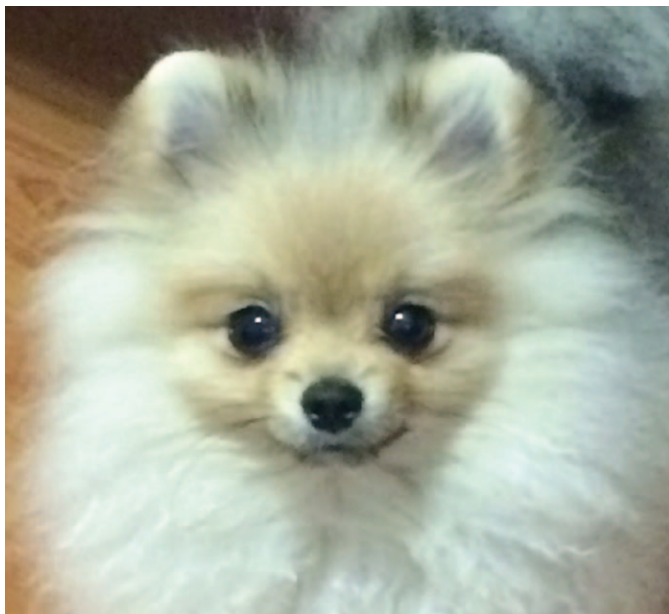
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**Linda Hanf –
Missy Hope the Pomeranian**

Missy Hope had a rough beginning. Her mother tried to destroy her (bit her several times). She was removed from her mom and hand-raised, thus the name “Hope.” She is a joyful girl and loves life. 🐾



PETS BY THE NUMBERS

The Southeast holds the highest number of industry establishments – **22.1%** of pet stores are estimated to be in the region.

Number of vets and vet technicians = **2,450** in the state of South Carolina.

In **1985**, the Boykin Spaniel was named South Carolina's state breed.

The **top** breed of dog is, no surprise, a Labrador retriever.

The **top** breed of cat is the Persian cat.

65% of cats are allowed to sleep on their owner's bed, whereas only **39%** of dogs get permission.

Owners typically spend **\$100 million** a year on cat treats and **\$1 billion** on dog treats.

Did you know that more people own cats than dogs? Approximately **86 million** people own a cat, while **78 million** have a dog.

One of the best ways to adopt a pet is to visit a shelter or rescue. About **2.7 million**, or **21%**, of animals are adopted this way.

78% of dog owners allow their pups to hop in the car for a ride, but only **8%** of cat owners try to get their feline friend out-and-about.

95% of Americans admit to buying their pets Christmas gifts.

It's not just cats and dogs in your neighbor's backyard: the Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition estimates that as many as **7,000** tigers are kept as household pets.



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They transcend their animal status and truly become an integral member of the family. One business in Mount

BY KALENE MCCORT

Pleasant is making sure their lives are granted meaning in a way

that honors their memory to the fullest. For 130 years, McAlister-Smith has been a trusted name in funeral service. Bringing the same level of professionalism and dedication to their pet cremation services, they continue to exceed expectations as they provide final care for these special members of our families as well.

"Since we were the only funeral home in the area to offer pet loss services, we didn't know what to expect," said Elayne Smith, reflecting on their beginning stages in 2008. "What we found was a significant unmet need which has led us on an incredibly meaningful and gratifying journey over the past eight years."

Getting to help families cope with the loss of their pets, big or small, is something Smith feels honored to do. As an animal lover herself, she understands the heartache people experience.

"One of my favorite parts of my job is when people share pictures of their pets with me and tell me stories about their unique personalities," said Smith. "The love you can see in their eyes and hear in their words touches me deeply. It is a gift for me to be able to experience that."

McAlister-Smith doesn't stop at the memorial but offers pet owners grief counseling to help them cope

with the loss of their best friend. Understanding the sorrow can be overwhelming; McAlister-Smith's staff is always available to lend an attentive ear and plenty of comforting words.

"Our goal is to help pet parents understand their options, whether that's a paw impression made of clay, a man-made diamond created from a portion of cremated remains, a memorial service, a memorial blanket or pillow, a piece of jewelry created with a pet's unique paw or nose imprint, a lock of fur, a unique urn engraved with a pet's

name, earth-friendly options, art glass with remains blown in, memorial jewelry, wind chimes, outdoor markers, grief support groups or individual counseling," Smith said.

McAlister-Smith has helped thousands of families lay to rest their furry friends. Highly recommended by veterinarians and animal rescue groups, McAlister-Smith is truly a leader of the pack.

Loyal and always quick to

problem-solve, their reputation is one of pure excellence.

"We currently serve about 1,500 pet parents a year, a number that has been growing each year," said Smith. "We have locations in Mount Pleasant, James Island, Goose Creek and West Ashley, and are available 24/7. We work with all veterinarians, so please request us by name."

After that final game of fetch, you can count on McAlister-Smith to be there.

"It is truly an honor to walk with people through some of the most difficult of their days and to have the privilege of caring for those they loved most in this world. We take that very seriously," Smith concluded. 🐾

To learn more, visit www.mcalister-smith.com or call 843-722-8371.



Promoting Pet Health

Tidewater Veterinary

LIKE A LOT OF KIDS, DRs. CARA Daniel, Helen Smith and Nora Schmidt dreamed of being veterinarians when they were young.

Unlike most of the rest of us, they actually realized their dreams.

"It may sound like a cliché, but I was always interested in becoming a veterinarian as a child. When I was in high school looking at my career options, I kept coming back to veterinarian," said Dr. Daniel.

BY ANNE HARRIS

The doctors of Tidewater Veterinary have vast experiences from all over the world.

Dr. Smith was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa. After moving to the United States during high school, she went on to attend the University of Georgia for both her undergraduate and veterinary studies.

The coolest experience Smith had during her studies?

"While I was a student, I shadowed and worked with a wildlife veterinarian and was able to help sedate and relocate rhinos in South Africa," she said.

Dr. Schmidt has lived in Germany, the U.S. Virgin Islands, California and New York. She earned her doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Cornell University in 2005. Since then, she has spent several years in emergency practice and has worked at general practice clinics as well, including three years on the Air Force Base, working with both military working dogs and civilian pets.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Clemson University, Dr. Daniel went on to earn her doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Daniel also studied a more non-traditional

method of treating her patients, becoming certified in veterinary acupuncture after completing a course in small animal acupuncture at the Chi Institute.

All of this not-so-average experience fits together perfectly with the mission of Tidewater Veterinary.

"We like to get to know our patients and their owners. Instead of waiting until a pet has a problem, we try to focus on wellness care to prevent problems or catch them early," Dr. Daniel said.

The clinic practices integrative veterinary medicine. The doctors and staff incorporate natural and complementary therapies into conventional diagnostics and therapies, when appropriate. In addition to acupuncture, the practice

offers laser therapy as a less invasive alternative to surgery or medication for certain conditions.

A trip to Tidewater Veterinary doesn't stop when a patient walks, or scampers, runs or leaps, out the door. The doctors' goal is not only to help their patients feel better but also to teach the owners how to keep their furry family members living the healthiest lives possible at home.

The Tidewater team prides themselves on being a patient-centered practice. Striving to make each experience a great one, the team listens to the client and evaluates the patient completely before coming up with a diagnostic and treatment plan that all parties are comfortable and happy with.

As Dr. Daniel put it, "We love seeing the bond our patients have with their owners and being a part of keeping that bond strong through promoting their pet's health."

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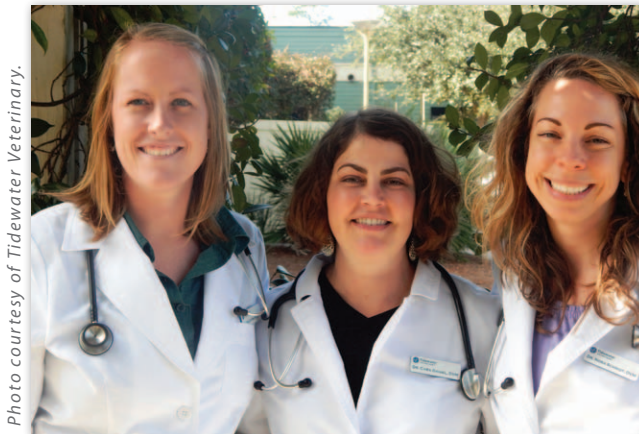


Photo courtesy of Tidewater Veterinary.

Drs. Helen Smith, Cara Daniel and Nora Schmidt dreamed of being veterinarians when they were young. Now they are.

The Cut of Their Jib



WANDO HIGH'S SAILORS COMPETE AT NATIONAL LEVEL

*By Jeramy Baker.
Photos by Rick Walo.*

IN APRIL, PARENTS OF THE WANDO High Sailing Club drove to Lake Norman to watch their teenage sailors compete in the South Atlantic Championship Regatta.

"Lake Norman is famous for its fickle wind," said Wendy Ando, mother of Wando skipper Austin Ando. "The race committee wanted them to sail for as long as possible that first day. So they had them race for 12 hours. That's a long time to be on the water."

Not many people know how exhausting competitive

sailing can be. In low-wind conditions, sailors have to throw all their body weight into rocking and rolling the boat so it'll trim closely around a buoy. Few grown men could do that for 12 hours straight. And these are just kids.

But the Wando sailors are exceptional. Under coaches Becky Bestoso and Jen Chamberlain, this team has grown accustomed to the demands of sailing. For five hours each week, the team practices maneuvering two-man dinghies around Charleston Harbor. Every practice they are focused on a single goal: sailing faster.

These kids don't goof around. Last year Wando placed



fourth at the divisionals. This year, if they could manage a top-three finish, they'd earn a spot in the national competition, which meant more to them than ever before. This year, the nationals would be hosted by the College of Charleston, and they would be held in Charleston Harbor, Wando's practice waters.

The Wando sailors lowered their boats into Lake Norman and drifted to the starting line. They raced for a dozen hours and rocked and rolled through 20 individual races. At the end of the day, the Wando Warriors had a tentative hold on first place, but there was still another day of racing remaining, and only a few points separated Wando from the next four teams.

"One race could kill them," Wendy Ando said. "Anything can happen in sailing. Anything. You can be on the course, and then the wind shifts suddenly and the boat stops and you lose your lead."

The Warriors were nervous that night. The teams in second, third and fourth place were all members the South Points region, which has consistently dominated the South Atlantic Championships. These teams have more money

and better boats than Wando. They go to more regattas. They are more used to winning.

The wind on Lake Norman had been behaving suspiciously, so the race committee chose to start the second day of races an hour earlier than scheduled. The sailors woke, ate breakfast and drove to the lake before sunrise. A light breeze held for the first few races, and Wando suffered a string of bad finishes. Shorecrest Preparatory School, the fifth best sailing school in the country, was within two points of overtaking the Warriors.

"And then," Wendy Ando said, "before that race was over, the wind died. It just shut off."

Wando skipper Cameron Guise caught one last gust of wind and rode it to a strong finish. After 24 races, the Wando Warriors were still in first place. The wind was gone and the Warriors had become the first North Points team to cinch the South Atlantic Championship. They would be racing in Charleston Harbor one last time this season, at the nationals May 14 and May 15.

Three weeks later, more than 100 high schoolers from across the country gathered on a dock under the USS



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Yorktown. The kids wore lifejackets with school emblems ironed onto the backs – a spartan helmet, a mustang, a crimson “W.” They unfurled their sails and floated to the course along Crab Bank. Bestoso felt confident.

“Any time you’re hosting an event, you’re advantaged. Not only do you know the waters, but you feel more comfortable. You’re not waking up in a hotel room and driving to a place you’re unfamiliar with. It’s a good feeling to do it at home,” she said.

“Last year it was a South Points team that won; it was someone from our district. I’m not going to say we can win a national championship, but knowing that our district can be on top gives me hope.”

The parents had brought lawn chairs and they collapsed them along the shore. Through binoculars they found the boat they were rooting for.



“We’re number 17,” one parent said to another. “We just tacked. And it looks like we just extended our lead by three – maybe four.”

The boats swerved around buoys throughout Saturday and Sunday sessions. When the regatta ended, Wando had finished in ninth place among 20 teams, not bad for a group that three years ago was struggling through divisionals. The sailors were elated.

Asked about the future of her kids, Coach Bestoso beamed with pride: “This is the second year in a row we’ve made it to nationals. I’m pretty sure there are many more to come.” 🍷



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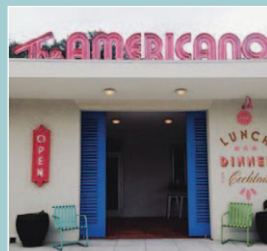
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On Board

**Mount Pleasant Residents
Spur Skate Park Project**

*By Mike Sigalas
Photos by Quinn Knight and courtesy of CCPRC*



Mount Pleasant residents Shannon Smith and Tom O’Roarke were among those wielding spades on groundbreaking day.

WHEN SK8 CHARLESTON — THE Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission’s sprawling new skate park – opens later this year, Mount Pleasant resident Shannon Smith will be there, along with husband Mark and their children, Audrey Indigo 13, and Johnny Otis, 7.

When Shannon helped launch the movement to create the Lowcountry’s first full-sized skate park, Johnny was years from being born, and Audrey was just an infant. And a first-class park similar to those routinely found in Florida and on the West Coast was merely the dream of a handful of Charleston skating enthusiasts. Their story of persistence, problem-solving and alliance-building provides an inspiring example for the would-be movers and shakers among us – whatever our hobbies or passions.

“Politics and money,” Smith said, explaining the major obstacles that stood between aspirations of a Lowcountry skate park and the park’s actual construction.

To start with, the general public doesn’t always view skaters in a positive light, and this created a sticky political problem.

“People see kids hanging out and get the idea that skaters are deviants,” said Brian Shipper, who owns Odyssey Board Shop and for two years fought town planners to open a private skate park of his own in Mount Pleasant – without success. “They don’t get how for many kids in the city – kids everywhere – skating keeps them out of trouble. It gives them something to work toward. It’s a tough sport.”

So where did people skate?

“Random places,” said skater and Parrot Surf Shop employee Alex Mulhern,

adding that the presence of skaters in back lots and on side streets only fed the negative perception of skaters as miscreants on wheels.

For their part, Smith and her family used their drained family swimming pool and drove over to Johns Island to

Charleston for a park \$1.5-million park and proposed to help pay for it with privately raised funds. Though they found sympathetic ears in the Recreation Department's Laurie Yarbrough and Deputy of Parks Operations Matt Compton, the city's leaders ultimately balked at helping



skate at Hank's. Ackerman Park in West Ashley offered the region's skaters a small, designated "skate spot," but none of these came close to the actual large-scale parks that, by 2000, were already being erected across the country. In 2003, Smith started a small grass-roots organization to try to bring a skate park to Charleston, but things really gained momentum when she joined forces with Ryan Cockrell, who organized the nonprofit PourItNow. Cockrell, she said, is "a great go-getter when it comes to speaking with all of the official-type folks." Soon, Smith recruited other "very inspirational and dedicated individuals" to make up the nonprofit's Charleston board.

"Everyone shared their skills for the purpose of getting this park," Smith said. "Celeste James was crucial in her expertise of finance and her connections through the food and beverage world, which allowed us to have successful fundraisers and reach a different crowd. Cecilia Janson managed the books. Lindsay Gagne kept the minutes. Others – Steve Aycok, Jack Abbot, Bubber Hutto, Josh McFadden, Mark Bily – aided in innumerable ways."

In addition, Smith credited former College of Charleston World Literature Instructor Jill Conway, whose position as a Charleston County School Board member and as a college teacher were key to helping PourItNow connect both to the student body and to politicians sympathetic to the cause.

In 2006, PourItNow submitted plans to the city of

fund or provide the land for the park. Yarbrough and Compton did contact Tom O'Rourke, executive director of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission, who, like Smith, is a Mount Pleasant resident.

O'Rourke, former director of the Mount Pleasant Recreation Department, came to understand PourItNow's vision. The need for a designated skating spot became



self-evident as the years passed, highlighted by recurring confrontations between skaters trying to hone their craft and law enforcement officers charged with keeping the streets and sidewalks safe for pedestrians and motorists. But the wheels of government turn slowly. Desperate skaters, tired of being banned from public property, took

things into their own hands. In 2009, they began building their own skate park on an abandoned, contaminated industrial site between Braswell and Milford streets in the Charleston Neck, on property owned by the Magnolia Company.

For a while, it seemed that skaters had found a refuge. None of the local work crews seemed bothered at their presence, and the police didn't bother them. One local contractor even began donating excess concrete from various jobs, and the skaters learned how to create their own ramps and bowls. Inspired by the post-apocalyptic ambience and with a nod to non-skater T.S. Eliot, they called the place "The Wastelands." In early February 2010, however, the Magnolia Company, citing liability and safety concerns, shut down the skaters' haven.

That, of course, was bad news, but good news was on the way. A few months later, O'Rourke announced that his fellow commissioners had agreed to budget \$2 million to



create a massive park on land along Morrison Drive, north of Huger Street, in the state-owned right of way below the Ravenel Bridge. It was high time, he acknowledged, to provide a world-class facility for one of the county's long underserved demographics.

North Charleston-based Hightower Construction received the contract to oversee the park's construction, and it quickly subcontracted with Florida-based Team Pain to design and build the park's skate-related elements. The skate-savvy knew that the addition of Team Pain to the project meant the city was not taking half measures – TP stands at the top of its field, having built more than 60 concrete skate parks across the United States and as far away as Belgium.

In the six years since, however, several other obstacles have delayed the project. In 2012, after the Ravenel Bridge site ended up proving unworkable, a second location was selected at 1549 Oceanic St., also in the Neck. Adjacent to



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Interstate 26, it sits on 3.3 acres of high ground amid 22 acres of adjoining Ashley River marshes.

A former dumping ground for a concrete company, the site soon proved to have problems with soil stability. Hightower spent three years preparing, testing and repairing the soil, and, in October 2015, a formal groundbreaking ceremony finally was held. Though it rained that day, spirits were high, and, fittingly, Shannon Smith, Ryan Cockrell and Tom O'Rourke were among those wielding spades.

For now, Charleston's skaters eagerly anticipate the park that has eluded them for so long. As Parrot Surf Shop's Alex Mulhern put it, "Everyone's way hyped up. Everybody wants to get in there and skate as soon as they can. They're all just waiting for the county to do what they need to do and open the doors."

Asked to provide advice to devotees of other activities who would like to see a public facility built for their use, Smith offered simple advice: "Start a grass-roots organization, and remember: Being persistent pays." 🍷

ABOUT SK8 CHARLESTON

Boasting 32,500 square feet for skating, SK8 Charleston ranks as one of the largest parks on the East Coast. It features a nearly 300-foot-long street course, a 200-foot snake run, a pro bowl and a minibowl. In addition to the restrooms and snack bar, the park will include a small pro shop and will eventually offer skateboarding lessons and workshops. For more information on SK8 Charleston, visit www.ccprc.com/1725/Skatepark.



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MOUNT PLEASANT

By Bill Farley

DEPENDING UPON YOUR PERSONAL point of view – and where you live in town – the two-word phrase “affordable housing” can be as welcome an expression as “summer breeze” or as off-putting as “tornado warning.”

That’s because this seemingly innocuous label says all the wrong things to many people. Calling it “work-force housing” puts a more positive spin on the concept, although that characterization makes it sound like some-

thing out of the old Soviet Union.

In point of fact, despite what fears some might have, affordable housing does not mean big-city-style, government-funded “projects.” Nor does it signify low income shelter prone to gangs, drugs and crime.

There are several ways to define what constitutes housing that is affordable, and one handy criterion is the federal government’s standard – that which can be rented or owned with a monthly payment that amounts to 30 percent or less of a household’s gross income.

Because of that 30-percent benchmark, two things are immediately evident. One is that it's not likely any affordable housing will be going up in, say, Beverly Hills or Palm Beach. The other is that, based on income levels East of the Cooper, any affordable housing would have to command a pretty significant rent or mortgage payment.

Right now, the town of Mount Pleasant is engaged in a study of the prospect of new housing being constructed that would meet that 30-percent-or-less benchmark, thereby offering workers with moderate incomes – those on the payrolls of the town, local hospitals and hotels and restaurants come immediately to mind – the opportunity to live where they make their living.

Established in March, the task force will be studying the

affordable housing issue while consulting with stakeholders ranging from Mayor Linda Page and members of the Town Council to developers large and small – and, of course, the general public. A comprehensive report is expected from

the task force by the end of this year.

Heading the affordable housing study is a familiar face to town residents. Thomasena Stokes-Marshall was a Council member for 17 years and was the first and only African-American to be elected to that body.

In a recent interview, she emphasized that “Mount Pleasant is not in the housing business.”

The focus of the task force will not be on funding affordable housing. Instead, members will examine the issue in the context of Mount Pleasant and making recommendations as to whether afford-



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able housing is feasible here, determine if there are suitable locations for such housing and figure out how to encourage developers to step up to the plate and include affordable housing units in any future plans they have for the town.

Stokes-Marshall, herself a Mount Pleasant native, said she believes “affordable housing contributes to our community’s overall quality of life.”

To that end, she is a proponent of any new moderate-income housing being located near grocery stores, doctors’ offices and public transit for individuals who can no longer drive a car.

“This isn’t an African-American issue,” she observed, “although certainly some African-Americans who already work here would benefit greatly from affordable housing.”

Affordable housing would also be attractive to young people just starting out, seniors seeking an opportunity to downsize and handicapped and special needs individuals whose financial situation might keep them from living in more affluent neighborhoods.

“There is no reason,” she said, “why anyone who has a decent job and who is working hard to support his or her family should have to pay 60 percent of their income to put a roof over their family’s heads. Yet that’s exactly

what would be the case if some of the workers who serve us in the public and private sectors tried to rent or buy in Mount Pleasant.”

Among the topics the task force will be addressing is the necessity for education. Stokes-Marshall wants the deliberations of the task force to be transparent and open to the public, and she’s hoping that at least one of the television stations serving the Lowcountry might partner with the committee and feature reports on “the faces of affordable housing.”

Another goal of the task force is to reach out to all developers who build in Mount Pleasant and to the local financial community to participate in the committee’s fact-finding mission.

“No matter how thorough our report,” she said, “there will no doubt be some resistance to our findings, mostly from NIMBYs (not in my backyard) living close by any locations we might suggest for affordable housing.”

“But at the end of the day, a true community is composed of a diverse group of people,” she added. “That does not exist to any significant extent in Mount Pleasant today. In-town, affordable housing could be one tool to rectify that imbalance.” 🍷

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Photos courtesy of Adam Von Ins.

Heart and Determination

Mount Pleasant Couples Take TV Challenge

FIGHTING YOUR WAY THROUGH muddy obstacle courses and repeatedly trying to scale a greased, Marine-style slip wall isn't exactly an ideal way to spend an afternoon. But for two Mount Pleasant couples, it's the ultimate cherry on top of their high-protein, low-carb shake. Adam Von Ins, Elea Faucheron, Stephanie Keenan and Stephen Siraco have built careers on pushing their bodies to the limit and then pushing some more. When the opportunity to

be contestants on NBC's "Spartan Ultimate Team Challenge" and potentially win \$250,000 presented itself, they couldn't pass it up.

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ly how different our fitness level was compared to obstacle races,” said Von Ins, who competed along with Faucheron, his fiancée. “After the Rugged Maniac, we both changed our exercise routines. I personally started by re-prioritizing my life and made my health number one in everything I did.”

Von Ins was motivated to change his lifestyle after he and Faucheron

in *Oblique Magazine*. When Keenan and Siraco presented the other fitness-centered couple with the opportunity to be on the show, which aired June 30, they couldn’t have been more stoked.

“We had just over four weeks before we were to arrive on location for competing and filming – barely enough time to make any drastic fit-



took part in Rugged Maniac, a race held at Boone Hall Plantation – which offered just a taste of things to come. He wouldn’t know it at the time, but his desire to increase his strength would ultimately prepare him for his experience in Atlanta, where an intense milestone in his career would be filmed.

“I built a mini-obstacle course in our backyard and decided to take on an aggressive plyometrics training program,” said Von Ins. “But at this time, we had no clue about the upcoming NBC Show.”

Von Ins and Faucheron had crossed paths with their fellow contestants when the four were featured

ness improvements,” said Von Ins. “So we went into Olympian mode!”

As luck would have it, prior to the show, Faucheron began to experience severe pain from tendonitis in her knee and elbow. In pure beast form, she pushed through with the help of area professionals.

“I received training advice from physical therapist Dr. Sarah Ellis Duvall, along with seeing local chiropractor Dr. Jodi Kennedy for dry needling and local massage therapist Nancy Montgomery,” said Faucheron. “Between the three of them, most of my training required rest, highly specific strength training exercises and moderation. The key was not

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to overtrain and make everything worse, so I had to go into the show with what little training I had prior to being accepted. I had only been running and participating in obstacle course races for a year.”

While all four local contestants obviously work out more than the average person, there were even some aspects of “The Spartan Ultimate Team Challenge” that made them question their endurance.

“While every obstacle was intense, the slip wall for sure topped the crazy charts,” said Von Ins. “The obstacle



leading up to the slip wall is the three-stage dunk wall. Here, I’m fairly certain they chilled the water. It truly felt like it was in the high 30 degrees.”

Von Ins experienced hypothermia while on location but made a speedy recovery. While their bodies were rendered exhausted from the daily challenges,

the reward and sense of accomplishment felt by each member of the Charleston Warriors truly made all those aches and pains worthwhile.

“The most rewarding aspect of this experience was the opportunity to witness how this course challenged every



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type of athletic body. Yes, how you train is important, but heart and determination are paramount, and yet there is always that third unknown element. Only one team can be deemed the winner,” said Faucheron. “Everyone else wins a once-in-a-lifetime experience, full of muddy stories and inspired focus for what is next for them.”

Being on the show not only strengthened their physical endurance but made them mentally ready for the many curveballs life throws our way.

“There are so many life lessons that can be learned,” said Keenan. “These races really do help you become immune to life’s obstacles. It makes you feel so young and alive to use your entire body and complete courses



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that make you want to cry.”

When they are not battling obstacle courses and competing for a substantial cash prize on a nationally syndicated show, you can find these couples working with others to ensure they truly embrace their healthiest selves by offering life coaching and physical training services.

“The obstacle course racing community is a special breed. We welcome uncertainty and pain,” said Siraco. “We find comfort in discom-



fort. Quitting is never an option for us. Besides, our team name is the Charleston Warriors. Warriors don't need motivation. They just need a mission.” 🏆

For more on the Charleston Warriors, log on to www.charlestonwarriors.com. To watch past episodes, log on to www.nbc.com/spartan-ultimate-team-challenge.



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Photos Courtesy of Andrew Wunderley.

Creating a Ripple Effect

CHARLESTON WATERKEEPER

WATER. IT MAKES UP around 70 percent of our body. Doctors recommend drinking at least eight glasses a day. And for folks in the Lowcountry, it acts as a source of constant entertainment. Whether taking the kayak out for a spin around Carolina tributaries or jumping in the Atlantic while visiting Sullivan's, our waterways take on the role of refuge, friend and undeniable refresher.

BY KALENE MCCORT

One local organization is making sure the H₂O stays at the quality it should in order to ensure ourselves and future generations many more days of carefree splashing and soaking. Since forming in 2008, Charleston Waterkeeper has created a ripple effect, influencing others to take action when needed. From hosting beach cleanups to doing weekly testing, they make sure our water is swimmable, drinkable and fishable.

"I've always been drawn to the water. Whether swimming, surfing, paddling or just mucking around in the pluff mud – it's always just felt like where I should be and what I should be doing," said Andrew Wunderley, who is

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most at home away from dry land.

While studying at the College of Charleston, Wunderley was moved by the concept that local bodies of water are there for public access, but it is up to the public to help maintain the integrity of those bodies of water. With a masters in Environmental Policy and a law degree, he brings a deep understanding and appreciation to his job as Charleston's Waterkeeper.




Andrew Wunderley

"Our waterways belong to all South Carolina citizens, and we all share a responsibility to take care of them," said Wunderley. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to be their champion and defender by serving our great community as its waterkeeper."

While Shem Creek is one of East Cooper's most loved bodies of water, with a bevy of restaurants overlooking it, according to Wunderley, it is in need of some TLC and healing. Over the years, the area around Shem Creek has grown at a great rate. Nearby roads, parking lots, houses and a variety of buildings direct rain and floodwater into the creek, and, as a result, pesticides, oil, grease and bacteria trickle in, compromising its overall quality.

"Shem Creek is such a beautiful and iconic tidal creek with a long and rich history. It has everything that makes the Lowcountry so special – great public access, fishing, crabbing, outdoor outfitters, an active commercial fishing fleet and all manner of recreational activity from paddling to swimming," said Wunderley. "Sadly, our water quality testing work shows Shem Creek doesn't meet its water quality standard for safe swimming."


Wunderley and his team are taking action to improve the quality of the water. Not only will this benefit those looking to enjoy an afternoon in the waves, but it will also help species that reside in the water all year long. Dolphins and manatees are often a welcomed sight in Shem Creek, but action is necessary to keep them coming back. And in order for local seafood to remain fresh, tasty and safe for consumption for years to come, a strategy must be implemented.



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“We’re advocating for a community-based watershed action plan designed to clean up and protect Shem Creek,” said Wunderley. “The plan will identify pollution sources and implement strategies to restore the creek’s water quality for recreational use.”

Wunderley is constantly in awe of the support he receives from neighbors determined to make a difference. Since the inception of Charleston Waterkeeper, folks have been quick to keep the nonprofit afloat by offering an extra set of hands and even donations of boats to use in the field.

“Our volunteers and supporters are a constant source of inspiration. It’s tremendously rewarding when local folks give their hard-earned time and resources to do good for our local waterways,” said Wunderley. “The capacity of our community to come together to solve problems shouldn’t ever be underestimated. It’s just great to see local folks get



their hands dirty and feet wet protecting and restoring their favorite tidal creek or river.”

“Learn about your local tidal creek or river. Understand its history. Paddle it. Clean it up. Swim in it. Fish it. Find out where you can harvest oysters. To know your local creek is to love it. To love it is to protect it,” said Wunderley. “Get engaged. Get involved. Volunteer for a clean up. Get dirty. Help build a new oyster reef. The rest will fall in place.”

When we all work for the greater good of our environment, there’s nowhere to go but upstream. To find out how you can get involved, log on to www.CharlestonWaterkeeper.com. 🐚

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SOUTH MOUNT PLEASANT Neighborhood Directory

HOMES IN SOUTH MOUNT Pleasant – south of the Isle of Palms Connector – have been selling rapidly since the first of the year. Two hundred thirty homes were sold from Jan. 1 through June 16 in the 22 south Mount Pleasant neighborhoods featured on the following pages.

The home that sold for the highest amount, \$4.5 million, was in Hobcaw Point. During that time, five South Mount Pleasant neighborhoods featured homes ranging from the mid to high \$200s. The price per square foot ranged anywhere from \$175 to \$371 – not too bad for views of Shem Creek or the Cooper River. The Old Village commanded the highest price per square foot. More on the Old Village is available at www.OldVillageMountPleasant.com.

It's not surprising that these homes are going fast. Belle Hall (www.BelleHallPlantation.com) Seaside Farms (www.SeasideFarmsHomes.com) and Long Point all are near

restaurants, salons, grocery stores and boutiques and are a short drive from Charleston County parks and the islands.

Furthermore, many of these communities have walking trails, swimming pools and playgrounds, and excellent local schools are nearby. If you are looking for a new home, Tidal Walk is among South Mount Pleasant's new neighborhoods, and it boasts an atmosphere similar to that of a private island. What more could you want? More new construction and exciting neighborhoods are available at www.MountPleasantHomes.com.



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Village Park is located in the heart of Mount Pleasant, SC. Nestled behind the Sea Island Shopping Center this beautifully designed, small neighborhood is surrounded by grand, old live oak trees and will feature lined brick streets and extensive landscaping. The central location allows for easy access to Downtown Charleston, Shem Creek and the beaches.

Village Park will consist of 12 single family homes and two duplex units. All homes have an open floor plan with multiple outdoor living spaces including porches and rooftop decks; and with seven custom floor plans to choose from, you are sure to find your dream home right here.

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VILLAGE PARK
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SUBDIVISION	# HOMES SOLD	MIN SALES PRICE	MAX SALES PRICE	MEDIAN SALES PRICE	MEDIAN \$/SQFT
Belle Hall	27	\$312k	\$1.1M	\$429k	\$229
Brookgreen Meadows	9	\$325k	\$608k	\$490k	\$274
Chelsea Park	4	\$325k	\$375k	\$337k	\$223
Cooper Estates	4	\$425k	\$848k	\$520k	\$243
Coopers Landing	7	\$292k	\$395k	\$345k	\$175
Creeside Park	5	\$577k	\$800k	\$775k	\$244
Glenlake	4	\$330k	\$384k	\$360k	\$180
Grassy Creek	4	\$490k	\$955k	\$803k	\$226
Harborage Shores	6	\$297k	\$384k	\$343k	\$233
Harbour Watch	4	\$910k	\$2.1M	\$933k	\$305
Hidden Cove	4	\$368k	\$565k	\$390k	\$180

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SUBDIVISION	# HOMES SOLD	MIN SALES PRICE	MAX SALES PRICE	MEDIAN SALES PRICE	MEDIAN \$/SQFT
Hobcaw Creek	5	\$540k	\$760k	\$600k	\$202
Hobcaw Point	4	\$580k	\$4.5M	\$685k	\$295
I'On	29	\$460k	\$2.3M	\$905k	\$310
Longpoint	22	\$273k	\$1.2M	\$504k	\$189
Old Mt Pleasant	19	\$291k	\$735k	\$427k	\$316
Old Village	23	\$549k	\$2.6M	\$1M	\$371
Parish Place	6	\$275k	\$455k	\$344k	\$202
Seaside Farms	9	\$363k	\$845k	\$550k	\$209
Sweetgrass	10	\$299k	\$430k	\$368k	\$185
Tidal Walk	19	\$376k	\$572k	\$475k	\$184
Watermark	6	\$526k	\$870k	\$714k	\$243

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~ Kathy & Mike Kristopik



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2) \$2,800,000	Nancy Hoy Carolina One Real Estate	Bill Johnson Disher Hamrick & Myers	101	\$2,600,000
3) \$2,495,000	Wendy Thrower & Bonnie Geer Charleston Preferred Properties	Cindy Nye Elaine Brabham and Associates	80	\$2,350,000
4) \$2,350,000	Nancy Hoy Carolina One Real Estate	Cyndy Burris Applegate & Company	4	\$2,300,000
5) \$2,400,000	Nancy Hoy Carolina One Real Estate	Nancy Hoy Carolina One Real Estate	82	\$2,275,000
6) \$2,250,000	Brian Mello Handsome Properties	Pam Bishop Carolina One Real Estate	58	\$2,125,000
7) \$1,795,000	Nancy Hoy Carolina One Real Estate	Paula Yorke William Means Real Estate	41	\$1,700,000
8) \$1,799,999	Shelby Nelson Drayton Real Estate	Ashley Severance Atlantic Properties	64	\$1,700,000
9) \$1,695,000	Mac Jenkinson & Beth Moore Carolina One Real Estate	Ashley Severance Atlantic Properties	68	\$1,605,000
10) \$1,595,000	Kim Meyer Keller Williams Realty Charleston	Brian Walsh Carolina One Real Estate	27	\$1,584,500

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The MUSC College of Dental Medicine

AND JUST LIKE THAT, THE dental profession is en vogue. Earlier this year, dentist was ranked No. 2 in *U.S. News & World Report's* 100 Best Jobs of 2016. (Orthodontist finished first.) It's a far cry from the pop culture depictions of dentists as idiosyncratic sub-doctors, and the

good both in terms of treating patients effectively and being in a field that was attractive to me," Dr. Painter said. "I view dentistry as a craft. It's a combination of art and surgery, and I love working with my hands. It made sense as the best way to put my passion and talent to use."

That explanation mirrors the sentiments of Dr. Tariq Javed, the College of Dental Medicine's dean of academic

and student affairs, who identified training, community service and research as three tenets of the college's mission.

"We are producing dentists who are competent but also have a heart," said Dr. Javed. "I believe we've been very successful. Our faculty and staff are pre-eminent. And our clinical facilities are very modern, very up-to-date. That's thanks to the state, MUSC, our alumni and benefactors."

NEW FRONTIERS

Based largely on a visceral combination of overheard grouching and personal pain, it's believed that most people view trips to the dentist as a necessary evil at best, in some cases to be avoided until oral maladies at last become truly unbearable.

The truth is that dental care is a critical part of good health and that tooth decay is the most prevalent chronic disease among both children and adults – despite being imminently preventable.

attitude couldn't come at a better time as studies continue to show a direct link between oral health and overall health.

In the Lowcountry – indeed, in all of South Carolina – no institution has done more to advance dentistry over the past five decades than the Medical University of South Carolina's James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine, which mints more than 70 new dentists each year, the majority of whom hail from the Palmetto State and embark on careers here.

One of those students is Rob Painter, a 27-year-old Greenville native who completed his doctor of Dental Medicine in May and is set to join a Charleston-area dental group this summer.

What would draw an obviously talented young man – more than 1,000 applicants vied for just 71 spots in Painter's class – to a profession that perhaps isn't viewed as the most glamorous in the medical world?

"I wanted to find the way that I could do the most

Photos courtesy of the College of Dental Medicine.



Above: Dr. Rob Painter discusses options with a patient. Below: No institution has done more to advance dentistry in the Lowcountry than MUSC's College of Dental Medicine.





Some of traditional dentistry's invasiveness and inconvenience – barriers for many people – may be on the wane with the continued emergence of digital dentistry, where high-tech methods are used in lieu of traditional techniques for restorations, surgical guides, implants and more. For patients, that often means both better outcomes and less time in the dentist's chair.

An example: Visual scanning is taking the place of cumbersome dental impression molds. Today intraoral scanners easily capture pictures and videos of a patient's entire mouth or even a single tooth. That information can be used to quickly and accurately create models for prosthetics such as bridges and crowns. In the case of the latter, patients can now have a crown installed the same day, instead of spending weeks with a temporary version.

"The digital aspect is one of the strong suits of our education," Dr. Painter said.

A FINAL HURDLE

Ongoing technological advancements are impressive and undoubtedly a boon for the general populace. Still, pockets of so-called dental health professional shortage areas remain. (That is, locales in which there is only one dentist for every 5,000 people.)

In South Carolina almost 80 such areas exist.

Dr. Javed said providing adequate care in such typically rural areas of the state is a complex proposition.

"Dentistry requires a facility outfitted with sophisticated dental equipment," he said. "That requires more resources and financial responsibility. It's like having an operating room: a surgeon can't do what he or she does without equipment. But if I live in a smaller town, that doesn't mean my care doesn't count."

Dr. Amy Martin, associate professor at the College of Dental Medicine, helps lead the Medical Oral Expanded Care (MORE Care) Collaborative, a statewide effort aimed at helping rural primary care doctors bridge treatment for dental conditions. In its first year, the program has benefited more than 10,000 children.

"Americans' health should not suffer because they live in rural areas," Dr. Martin wrote in a co-signed editorial that appeared in *The Post and Courier* this spring.

It's an issue that Dr. Javed and the college continue to monitor closely. In fact, a federal grant received through MUSC has helped fund MORE Care.

"Our students are sensitive to all people's needs," said Dr. Javed, who serves as a consultant to dental schools in the Middle East and Pakistan. "Especially the underserved." 🦷

ABOUT THE COVER

We teeth take on a lot – just think about it for a second. From your 8 a.m. coffee to your midnight snack, we're working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Some teeth stay with you for the majority of your life. Others, like me, only stay for a few short years before we're wiggled or wrangled out and placed under a pillow in hopes that we'll be replaced with a few dollars.

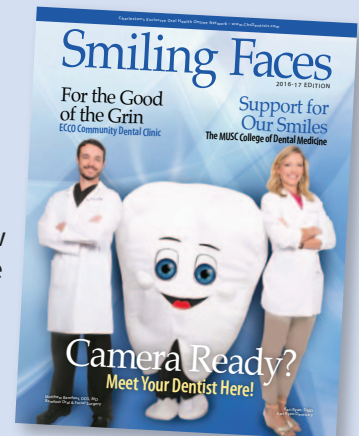
I got lucky, as I was swooped up from beneath a sweet little girl's pillow by an exquisite fairy with glistening wings and a wide grin, revealing two sets of perfectly pearly white teeth. She flew with me through the balmy Lowcountry air and dropped me off at my new home, Coastal Kids Dental & Braces, in Charleston, South Carolina. That is where my adventure truly began. Sure, I adored those few years filled with the excitement of ice cream in the summer and hot chocolate in the winter until finally being laid to rest under the pillow. But here was my chance to see the world.

I decided to embrace my new home in the dentist office. I observed the dentists as they worked tirelessly on perfecting everyone's smiles. I watched the children bounding through the door and sliding into the reclining chair, their excitement showing the gaps their baby teeth had left behind. I entertained them and befriended them all.

Then one day recently, I was extracted from my home for a mysterious adventure. I was put in a car trunk, excitement and anxiety washing over me. This time there was no winged enchantress to reassure me I was going somewhere marvelous. We arrived at a building where I met Dr. Matthew Barefoot and Dr. Kari Ryan. We stood beneath the lights inside Jenn Cady's photography studio, and I finally had my moment to shine. I couldn't believe I was the lucky tooth to grace the cover of *Smiling Faces*.

I hope you are as excited to read the dental section as I was to model for it. And remember to love your teeth, because we love you back.

Sincerely,
Mr. Tooth



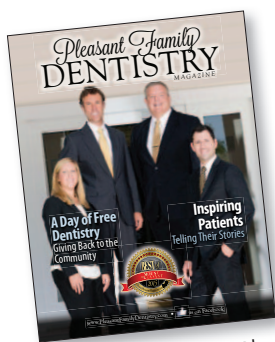


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Photo courtesy of Pleasant Family Dentistry.



Left to right: Drs. Lauren Callison, Rick Jackowski, Greg Johnson and Rob Carimi.

Most people know that there are significant health benefits to regular dental visits, but many fail to keep up with their semiannual preventive care appointments. Why? Lack of time and fear of the dentist are two major reasons.

The team at Pleasant Family Dentistry acknowledges these concerns and strives to alleviate them to give their patients the best dental experience possible.

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

“Our office is open nights and Saturdays to accommodate even the busiest of our patients’ schedules. We want to be available when it is most convenient for them,” Dr. Greg Johnson explained. “And we know that a large percentage of the population fears the dentist, so we offer a complimentary comfort menu with items such as warm blankets, massage chairs and hand moisturizing treatments to make our patients comfortable and relaxed.”

All the dentists at Pleasant Family Dentistry emphasize the benefits of regular dental visits and that taking a proactive approach to oral health can prevent many future issues.

Routine dental visits should begin as early as 2 to 3 years old. A dentist can identify possible congenital issues and begin preventive care at this time. Around age 6, the dentist can identify orthodontic issues and provide guid-

ance concerning a child’s oral care habits.

“It is important that parents monitor the time their children spend brushing and flossing and make sure they are eating a healthy diet with minimal processed sugars and acidic foods that damage the enamel,” Dr. Johnson said.

As individuals continue to age, they usually face dental issues such as declining gum health.

“Many periodontal problems are preventable,” explained Dr. Richard Jackowski, who added that it is necessary to have plaque and calculus removed at least every six months since brushing and flossing alone aren’t enough to maintain optimal oral health.

“Seeing the hygienist for polishing and plaque removal, occasional sealants and X-rays to detect cavities or bone loss are all routine procedures that benefit patients throughout their lifetime,” Dr. Jackowski continued.

“Dentistry starts with good oral hygiene, a good diet and good habits from a young age,” Dr. Lauren Callison pointed out.

Pleasant Family Dentistry incorporates the latest in dental technology to make sure its patients are getting the best out of each checkup.

“Digital X-rays use only a fraction of radiation that old film radiographs used, and their diagnostic quality is superb,” explained Dr. Johnson. “We also have cone beam technology that can take 3D pictures of our patients’ anatomy. Crowns and bridges can be done in one visit with CEREC technology, which saves patients time and travel.”

For patients who fear the dentist’s office, Pleasant Family Dentistry offers both IV and oral sedation in addition to laughing gas to make the visit easier.

“Routine checkups are important,” Dr. Johnson concluded. “Any oral disease is more easily treated if it is caught early. Patients run the possibility of pain and losing teeth if they do not have regular dental care. Most dental disease is not painful until it gets to a point where permanent damage is done.”



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Photo by Jenn Cady.

For Mount Pleasant dentist Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper, helping others is her top priority. She does so in her practice, Water's Edge Family Dentistry, in the community and beyond.

Dr. Dahlkemper and her team ensure that every patient who walks into their practice is treated like a member of the family. 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. Dr. Dahlkemper provides TMJ therapy with the most advanced nonsurgical techniques and even treats sleep apnea and snoring.

BY ANNE HARRIS

For Dr. Dahlkemper, the love of helping others doesn't stop in her exam room. She volunteers her time at the local East Cooper Community Outreach Dental Clinic and also travels to various countries abroad to provide dental care. She has been to the Dominican Republic and Ecuador and most recently returned from Peru on a mission trip with Dental Community Fellowship, where her group provided more than 900 dental services in a week.

Hard work is nothing new for Dr. Dahlkemper. She consistently graduated at the top of her class in undergraduate and dental school and was one of the youngest dentists in the nation to receive a fellowship from

the prestigious Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies. She was recently awarded a fellowship with the Pierre Fauchard Academy – an international group that recognizes leaders for their contributions to the field of dentistry and to their community.

Yet another thing that sets Dr. Dahlkemper apart from others in her field is her advanced education in treating sleep apnea and snoring. After doing a thorough examination of sleep studies, individual patients' anatomy, jaw and muscles, Dr. Dahlkemper uses a physiological approach to customize an appliance to help patients.

She makes an easy-to-use and comfortable device called MicrO2, which safely alleviates snoring and symptoms of obstructive sleep apnea. If patients have been diagnosed with sleep apnea or if they snore, the MicrO2 lower jaw advancement device helps them wake up with a better sense of rest and the energy they need to enjoy the day.

Specially trained dentists such as Dr. Dahlkemper play a key role in screening for obstructive sleep apnea. Then, partnering with medical doctors, the MicrO2 is provided to treat those suffering from this disorder.

In her spare time, Dr. Dahlkemper loves the outdoors can be found enjoying activities such as yoga, kayaking and spending time with dogs Kirby, Sully and Ditka. On her trip to Peru, she was especially excited to visit Machu Picchu and climb to the top of Huayna Picchu Mountain.

But it is her love of this community and helping those closest to home that mean the most to her.

"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?" she asked. 🌟



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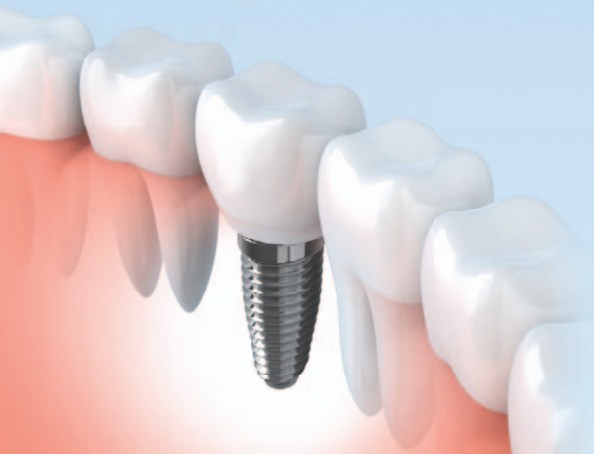
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Photo by Jenn Cady.



Most people don't look forward to walking into an oral surgeon's office, probably because it is likely that they are experiencing a problem that is causing them pain or discomfort. Fortunately for the patients who choose to visit Barefoot Oral & Facial Surgery, they will literally leave with a smile on their face.

Since opening his Mount Pleasant practice in January 2015, Dr. Matthew Barefoot and his team have made it their mission to put the focus on patient comfort. A small practice by design, Dr. Barefoot spends extra time getting to know his patients by name, explaining procedures and managing expectations.

Raised in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Dr. Barefoot completed his undergraduate studies magna cum laude at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He was drawn to oral surgery because it uses a combination of dental and medical techniques. He received his doctorate in Dental Surgery degree summa cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry, he became a member of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Society. He then earned his medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Following a general surgery internship and state-of-the-art

training in anesthesia, he completed his Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency at UAB.

A diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dr. Barefoot continues to obtain advanced training in various aspects of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Dr. Barefoot and his team manage a wide variety of problems relating to the mouth, teeth and facial regions. He practices a full scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery, with expertise ranging from dental implant surgery and wisdom tooth removal to corrective jaw surgery. This also includes techniques designed to rebuild bone structure with minimal surgical intervention and optimal patient comfort.

Dr. Barefoot also can diagnose and treat facial pain, facial injuries and fractures.

For Dr. Barefoot, it's the follow-up visits with his patients that are the best part of every day. So often he hears how much relief and satisfaction they feel, how smooth the recovery was, how happy they are to have teeth they may have lost – just how much better their quality of life is after a procedure.

When he isn't helping others with their smiles, Dr. Barefoot brings a smile to his own face spending time with his wife, Michele, and son, Lachlan, exploring all that the Lowcountry has to offer. 🍷



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DR. CYNTHIA GARNER

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Photo by Jenn Cady.

Even after practicing dentistry for 20 years, Dr. Cynthia Garner still sees every patient who walks in her doors at Garner Family Dentistry as a special individual. No matter what the age, it's important to Dr. Garner and her team that each person's needs are considered and an individualized treatment plan is developed.

For Dr. Garner, dentistry isn't just a career choice but a passion. She enjoys helping others feel good about themselves and views this goal as a true team effort with her staff. She knows there is no substitute for experience. Her staff averages 20 years of experience, from cleaning teeth using the latest technology to solving insurance issues for patients.

"I'm very fortunate to have an amazing and talented staff. They're great with kids and great with all our patients. We have fun together doing great dentistry. We try to make it a great experience for all of our patients. Above all, we love to see our patients smile," Dr. Garner said.

Great smiles are something Dr. Garner works hard to help her patients achieve. She advises parents to start working on good dental hygiene with their children at a young age.

"Brush with them. Floss their teeth when they're younger, because it's hard for kids to floss," she said. "And if your kids don't like to brush, have them do dry brush-

ing. Get a little baby toothbrush and let them get used to putting it in their mouth. Make it part of their daily schedule. The best advice of all is being a good example to them by taking care of yourself."

Dr. Garner works hard on her own making sure she is up to date on the latest procedures and techniques in dentistry. Following graduation from dental school, she was selected for an intensive residency program at Temple University, 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," she said. "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. I am also a member of the Seattle Study Club, a professional association of dentists who advance dental excellence."

When not working on her career, Dr. Garner can be found spending time with her husband, two teenage girls and 9-year-old lab, Buster, at their home on Daniel Island.

Dr. Garner feels grateful to be doing something she loves every day.

"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 patient families," she concluded. 🦷

"Kari Ryan Denistry is AMAZING!! The quality of care and thoroughness is hands down what makes her practice stand out!! Thanks again for a GREAT experience."

"What more can be said than a five-star rating. The staff are always smiling and friendly while their dental skills are unmatched. So glad that I found them."



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Photo by Jenn Cady.

Drs. Kari Ryan and Kristi Dillard

DR. KARI RYAN DR. KRISTI DILLARD

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The Charleston area is known for having some of the best physicians in the country, but, unbeknown to many, it is also home to exceptional dentists. Drs. Kari Ryan and Kristi Dillard are among them. They have integrated innovative dental technologies into their practice in order to give their patients the best dental experience possible. According to Dr. Ryan, it is the “ease and convenience of these new dental technologies that have led to our high levels of overall patient satisfaction.”

BY CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR COLE

As patients have consistently noted on websites such as healthgrades.com, new, painless and convenient dental technologies contributed to their satisfaction with Drs. Ryan and Dillard and their overall dental experience as well. In fact, the two local dentists have repeatedly earned five out of five stars from their patients.

Dr. Ryan explained how three technologies – digital radiographs, CEREC crowns and the intraoral camera – help their patients with their overall dental health.

“The digital radiograph allows Dr. Dillard and I to produce crystal-clear images of a patient’s mouth instantaneously on a digital monitor that is placed next to the patient’s chair. The amount of information on this radiograph is so detailed that we can catch dental issues very early in order to provide the most conservative dental

work possible,” she pointed out.

Finding dental issues early on is obviously the best way to eliminate major problems.

The CEREC CAD/CAM technology is used to fix broken or weakened teeth with crowns that match the rest of the patient’s teeth.

“At our office, our CEREC unit allows Dr. Dillard and I to take digital impressions of our patients’ teeth, design a crown on the computer and make the crown in-office while the patient is in the chair, either relaxing or having other dental work done,” Dr. Ryan explained.

The CEREC technology gives Drs. Ryan and Dillard the option to “design the patient’s crown, stain it, glaze it and fire it in the oven to produce, in a matter of minutes, a personalized crown.” As a result, patients don’t have to wait several days or longer for the crown to come back from a lab, and they don’t have to schedule a follow-up appointment or worry about a temporary crown falling out.

Dr. Ryan said the intraoral camera is an exceptional technological tool.

“The camera allows us to take detailed photos of our patients’ teeth and then view together or print the photos so they can see exactly what we see. It is a great tool to aid with diagnosis and to educate our patients regarding their oral health,” she said. “The doctor and patient can study a patient’s smile line, tooth shade, shape and more to determine what will look best for their individual smile.” 🦷



Easing Pain

The ECCO Dental Clinic

THEY COME FROM MOUNT Pleasant, but they also make the trek from the outer reaches of East Cooper: McClellanville, Cainhoy, Cordesville, Huger and elsewhere. They often come in pain, both physical and emotional, arriving near penniless with nowhere else to go.

And when they arrive at the East Cooper Community Outreach Dental Clinic, Dr. Michael Cuenin, along with a dedicated staff and a combination of more than 50 dental students and volunteer professionals, is ready and willing to help ease their pain – free of charge.

BY DANIEL BROCK

ECCO, and the dental services it offers, were born out of the devastation of Hurricane Hugo, when the entire Carolina coast was aching. The first dental clinic was housed in a hot, creaky, uncomfortable trailer.

“I still remember dipping X-rays,” said Leslie White, an experienced and highly regarded dental assistant who volunteered at the clinic in the 1990s and has been its manager since 2009.

The trailer is history, and today the floors are covered in porcelain tile provided by a donor. The equipment is essentially state-of-the-art, including a panoramic X-ray machine.

“It looks like any other dentist office you would walk into,” Dr. Cuenin said.

A periodontist by specialty, Dr. Cuenin spent 30 years in the Army. At one time in charge of the Europe Regional Dental Command, he retired as a full colonel. When he arrived at ECCO in 2011, the veteran quickly received new marching orders.

“Leslie told me to get to work,” Dr. Cuenin remembered.

In addition to his efforts at ECCO, Dr. Cuenin is a part-time instructor at the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, which not only facilitates lines of communication for the clinic but also allows him to keep an eye on ECCO patients who are referred to the university. One such case was a woman who until recently had an undiscovered tumor in her jawbone.

Among the services offered at ECCO are East Cooper Smiles, a daytime clinic for ECCO clients; an evening emergency extraction clinic for South Carolina residents;

and My Sister’s Smile, a comprehensive dental program for victims of domestic abuse, as well as those recovering from drug and alcohol addictions.

At the same time, ECCO provides invaluable real-world experience for fourth-year students and residents.

“Word has gotten around at the College of Dental Medicine,” Dr. Cuenin said. “This has become a very popular destination.”

There is certainly no shortage of patients. More than 2,300 of them were seen last year, and that work translated into more than \$800,000 in free dental care. To be eligible for services at the clinic, patients can’t make more than twice the poverty level, can’t carry dental insurance and can’t have Medicaid benefits that include dental coverage.

“These are people who can’t go anywhere else,” Dr. Cuenin said.

In many cases, dental deficiencies play a detrimental role in other parts of their lives, impacting everything from heart health to job prospects. Across the board, clinic staffers speak passionately about a full mouth/body health connection and about striving to not only address medical issues but also to change underlying behaviors.

“We try to look at the whole person,” said Dr. Cuenin, who along with White, hygienist Gina Davies and receptionist Quionna Denmark, makes up the clinic’s core staff.

The patients and their problems hit close to home for White, a Mount Pleasant native and Wando High School graduate, who last year received the South Carolina Dental Association’s Special Recognition Award for her work at ECCO.

“In private practice, you deal with patients who were brought up understanding they needed to go to the dentist, and they appreciate the care,” said White. “But here you have many people who live in poverty and go a long time with toothaches and other issues. And they’re surprised that someone cares enough to work on their teeth at no cost.”

For Dr. Cuenin, the transition from decayed teeth to bright smiles – and bright futures – is a source of deep satisfaction.

“I think that’s why a lot of people are drawn to dentistry: You can see something through from start to finish,” he said. “It’s kind of fun.” 🦷



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Dr. Dillard discussed the possibility of working together long-term.

“For me it was a unique opportunity to work with someone I knew and trusted. Donald has tremendous experience, strong ethics and takes a lot of pride in what he does,” Dr. Dillard said. “Both of us came from smaller towns and had fathers who were dentists and understand the importance of treating the patient as a person. We have different personalities but our professional philosophies match.”

Dr. Phillips joined the practice full-time last summer, allowing them to open up their newest office in Mount Pleasant. They see patients from all over the Lowcountry in their three offices.

Dr. Phillips earned his bachelor of science at Wofford College but realized after visiting many dental practices that he wanted to be a part of the dental field because “dentists are able to do a lot of things to improve peoples lives.” After completing dental school at MUSC, he went on to train at the Medical College of Virginia in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

When asked what they believe makes their practice different from others around the Lowcountry, Dr. Phillips said, “I wouldn’t necessarily say different because what we’re striving to do is set a standard for what we think oral surgery practices should be. We practice under the auspices of excellent care and communication with patients and referring dentists.”

The main thing that Dr. Dillard and Dr. Phillips want their patients to experience is personalized care and outstanding results. They want everyone who comes through their door to have a great experience.

“We try to make the process as comfortable as possible, from paperwork and insurance to the procedures themselves. We have a great staff who are passionate about what they do,” said Dr. Dillard. “For us, it’s all about doing what’s best for our patients.”



Drs. Donald Phillips and Matt Dillard.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Matt Dillard.

If you’re looking for an oral surgeon, look no further than Dr. Matt Dillard and Dr. Donald Phillips of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery of the Lowcountry.

They provide a wide range of services. Both Dr. Dillard and Dr. Phillips work with comprehensive surgical issues surrounding the mouth, including wisdom teeth, dental implants, bone grafting and corrective jaw surgery.

Dr. Phillips pointed out that he wishes more people knew about the amazing things they can do to replace missing teeth.

Dental implants have come a long way in a relatively short amount of time, and new technologies such as their dental CT scanner have made the whole process more consistent in achieving excellent results.

Both dentists attended MUSC and then underwent training at acclaimed four-year residency programs in oral and maxillofacial surgery. After their training, they both entered the U.S. Navy.

“We followed very similar career paths and enjoyed our time serving in the Navy. We both ended up back in Charleston with our families,” Dr. Dillard explained.

Originally from Spartanburg, Dr. Dillard began private practice in 2006 after returning to Charleston from active duty with the Navy. When Dr. Phillips was assigned to the naval clinic in Charleston a couple years ago, he and

BY ALYSSA ZAPINSKI

12

NUMBER
OF CARS
OWNED
IN A
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5

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OWNED
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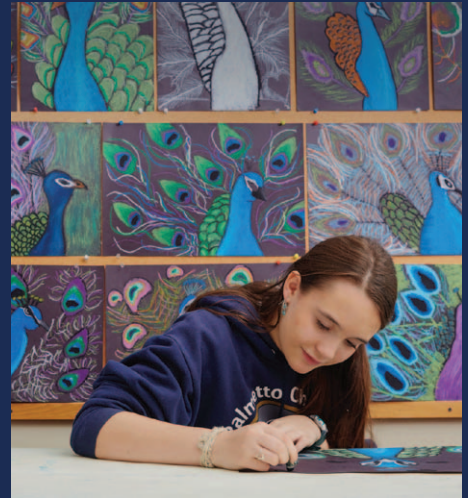


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BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

AS THE SUMMER BEGINS TO wind down, you may find yourself scrambling to get your children ready for a brand-new school year. To make your life easier, we've put together a list of ways to ensure that your child starts off on the right foot.

Doctor visits: First things first – make an appointment with your pediatrician for immunization updates and physicals, especially for your athletes. The last thing you want is to be scrambling for an available time slot with 60 other families who also waited until the last minute. It's best to complete your medical checkups at least six weeks before school begins.

Back to school shopping: It's time to go shopping. Make sure to grab special items such as graphing calculators and language dictionaries, along with all your basics. Let your kids pick out a few things, too. You'll

also need to purchase new uniforms and donate anything that no longer fits. Rainy summer days are great for closet cleaning.

Make a fool-proof schedule: Life is about to get crazy. If you don't have one already, get a really good planner and put it to good use. Make sure your older children have a planner, too; it's a lifesaver.

Triple-check summer homework: It happens every year. That dreaded moment, just days before the school year starts, where your child comes to you with puppy eyes to inform you that she needs three books to complete her summer homework – which was assigned back in May. This year, be on top of the game and ask her (every hour, if need be) if she has summer reading.

Be camera ready: You know you're going to take countless pictures of your kids on their first day. It's tradition. So make sure you've got fresh batteries in the camera, a full charge on your smartphone and plenty of tissues. 📷

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IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THE NEW school year is almost here. But if you start early and progress gradually, your kids will feel better about themselves and your quality of life will be much-improved. The key is to put the right strategies in place.

Get organized – Do this well in advance so there's no rushing at the last minute to buy supplies, books and uniforms or to fill out paperwork.

Develop a command center – Set it up in a convenient location. Encourage the kids to write down on a white board the things they need at least three days in advance. Establish an out box for each child. As they unpack their book bags, they can put any papers you need to read or sign in the in box, and, in the morning, they can take whatever is in their out box. Post a calendar so they see what their activities are and any special items they need for that day. Children thrive on structure; they will have the security of knowing where to look for information, and they will learn responsibility.

A safe, stress-free area – Create a place where your child knows he or she can have quiet time. It can be a corner of their room that you set up with big pillows, a blanket, coloring books, crayons and music. Make sure it's an unplug zone, with no computers or phones.

Set an example – Your point of view regarding stress invariably become theirs. Your mood sets the mood of your children.

Talk positively – Talk with your kids about the upcoming school year, and ask them which after-school activities

they would like to participate in. Don't overschedule them. Acknowledge their nervousness and brainstorm ways to ease it. Keep the focus on the positive and not about how the previous year went. Keep communication open by making yourself available to listen, not necessarily to talk. If they start to get anxious, redirect their thoughts to the fun they had over the summer.

School mode – About two weeks before the first day of school, talk with your kids and make sure everything is in place. Let them know that school mode begins during the last week of summer vacation. This means going to bed at the set school time. During that week, talk with them about your expectations, explain what the command center is all about and make a cheat sheet with their schedule, locker combination, teachers' names and room numbers.

Once school starts, establish a nighttime routine of packing lunches, getting school clothes out, setting the alarm clock and putting the backpack by the door. In the morning, don't throw open the bedroom door and yell "Time to get up." Give the kids a few minutes of cuddle time before you turn on the light. Make them a healthy breakfast and send them out

the door with a bottle of water. Staying hydrated means less fatigue and a better mood and memory. After school, give them play and quiet time and a structured time and environment in which to do their homework.

And last, but certainly not least, it is never too early to teach your children to think positively and to laugh as often as they can. Except, of course, in class. 🐸



Photo by Rick Walo.

Debbie Martinez urges parents to put the right strategies in place for the new school year.

Debbie Martinez is a divorce coach with a private practice in Mount Pleasant. Learn more at www.transformationthrudivorce.com.

Don't be Bugged by Head Lice

WHY DOES HEAD LICE sound like such a frightening couple of words? When my sister was in kindergarten and I was in fourth grade, she came down with a case of head lice, and, when my mother arrived in the parking lot of my school to pick me up, my little sister jumped out of the car and shouted with glee that she didn't have to go to school because she had headlice!

BY AMY MERCER

I was mortified, not by her mispronunciation but by the fact that she had this gross affliction. I prided myself on my long, blond hair and was terrified by the idea that if I got anywhere near my sister, I, too, would have bugs crawling through my hair.

Experts say head lice or “nits” are a nuisance, not a serious disease or a sign of poor hygiene. Education is the key to managing a breakout of lice, and the Charleston County School

District Health Services Department offers a downloadable document called “Head Lice Help” on its website. (www.ccsdschools.com/0134/documents/Lice.pdf)

SIGNS OF HEAD LICE:

- Frequent head scratching;
- Redness behind ears or on the back of the neck.

Head lice are most common among preschool and elementary school age children and their household members and caretakers. They are primarily transmitted by direct head-to-head contact and sharing of personal

grooming items such as brushes, headphones, hair accessories, helmets and hats. Once a family member is identified with head lice, all household members should be checked. The American Academy of Pediatricians does not recommend excessive environmental cleaning, such as home pesticides. However, “washing pillow cases and treating natural bristle hair care items that may have been in contact with the hair of anyone found to have head lice are reasonable measures.”

HOW TO GET RID OF HEAD LICE:

- Use a special shampoo (most lice shampoos need to be used a second time, seven to 10 days after the first treatment, to make sure new lice that hatched are killed;
- Nits can be removed using a fine tooth comb;
- In some areas, lice have developed resistance to over-the-counter medications and may require prescription medication.



In May 2015, the American Academy of Pediatrics updated

its report on head lice. The current recommendation says a healthy child should not be restricted from attending school because of head lice or nits (eggs): “Pediatricians are encouraged to educate schools and communities that no-nit policies are unjust and should be abandoned. Children can finish the school day, be treated and return to school.”

The worst part about head lice is the inconvenience factor. I was lucky that I avoided my sister's case of “headlice,” but, with two boys still in elementary and middle school, my luck may run out. As parents, all we can do is arm ourselves with information and a good comb. 🪄



Directory of Independent Schools

Addlestone Hebrew Academy

1639 Wallenberg Blvd.
Charleston, S.C. 29407
Phone: 843-571-1105
Fax: 843-571-6116
www.Addlestone.org
Email: info@addlestone.org
Grades: K-8

Ashley Hall

172 Rutledge Ave.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-722-4088
Fax: 843-720-2868
www.AshleyHall.org
Email: Enrollment@AshleyHall.org
Grades: Pre-K Coed • 1-12 (All girls)

Bishop England High School

363 Seven Farms Drive
Charleston, S.C. 29492
Phone: 843-849-9599
Fax: 843-849-7849
www.BEHS.com
Email: kbrownell@behs.com
Grades: 9-12

Blessed Sacrament

7 St. Teresa Drive
Charleston, S.C. 29407
Phone: 843-766-2128
Fax: 843-766-2154
www.scbss.org
Email: awilson@scbss.org
Grades: PK-8

**Capers Preparatory
Christian Academy**

1941 Bees Ferry Road
Charleston, S.C. 29414
Phone: 843-225-2892
www.caperspreparatorychristianacademy.com
Grades: K4-8

Cathedral Academy

3790 Ashley Phosphate Road
North Charleston, S.C. 29418
Phone: 843-760-1192
Fax: 843-760-1197

www.CathedralAcademy.com
Email: contact@CathedralAcademy.com
Grades: PK-12

Charles Towne Montessori

56 Leinbach Drive
Charleston, S.C. 29407
Phone: 843-571-1140
Fax: 843-556-0493
www.Charlestownemontessori.org
Email: CTMSorg@aol.com
Ages: 15 months to 12 years

The Charleston Catholic School

888-A King St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-577-4495
www.CharlestonCatholic.com
Email: charlestoncatholic@charlestoncatholic.org
Grades: PK-8

Charleston Christian School

2234 Plainview Road
Charleston, S.C. 29414
Phone: 843-556-4480
www.CharlestonChristian.org
Email: info@charlestonchristian.org
Grades: K-8

Charleston Collegiate School

2024 Academy Drive
Johns Island, S.C. 29455
Phone: 843-559-5506
Fax: 843-559-6172
www.CharlestonCollegiate.org
Email: tfrank@charlestoncollegiate.org
Grades: K-12

Charleston Day School

15 Archdale St.
Charleston, S.C. 29401
Phone: 843-377-0315
Fax: 843-720-2143
www.CharlestonDaySchool.org
Grades: 1-8

Christ Our King-Stella Maris School

1183 Russell Drive

Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
Phone: 843-884-4721
Fax: 843-971-7850
www.COKSM.org
Email: frontoffice@coksm.org
Grades: PK-8

Coastal Christian Preparatory School

681 McCants Drive
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
Phone: 843-884-3663
Fax: 843-884-9608
www.CoastalChristian.org
Email: info@coastalchristian.org
Grades: PK-12

Divine Redeemer Catholic School

1104 Fort Drive
Hanahan, S.C. 29410
Phone: 843-553-1521
Fax: 843-553-7109
www.divineredeemerschool.com
Email: secretary@divineredeemerschool.com
Grades: K3-8

Dorchester Academy

234 Academy Road
St. George, S.C. 29477
Phone: 843-563-9511
Fax: 843-563-4764
www.DorchesterAcademy.org
Email: gruberst@dorchesteracademy.org
Grades: PK-12

Faith Christian School

337 Farming Road
Summerville, S.C. 29483
Phone: 843-873-8464
Fax: 866-923-6806
www.FaithChristianSC.com
Email: admin@FaithChristian.com
Grades: PK-12

First Baptist Church School

48 Meeting St.
Charleston, S.C. 29401
Phone: 843-722-6646
Fax: 843-720-2510

www.FBSchool.org
Email: admissions@FBSchool.org
Grades: K2-12

James Island Christian School

15 Crosscreek Drive
Charleston, S.C. 29412
Phone: 843-795-1762
Fax: 843-762-1619
www.JICS.org
Email: JICS@JICS.org
Grades: K2-12

Mason Preparatory School

56 Halsey Blvd.
Charleston, S.C. 29401
Phone: 843-723-0664
Fax: 843-805-7796
www.MasonPrep.org
Email: kornyal@masonprep.org
Grades: 1-8

Nativity School

1125 Pittsford Circle
Charleston, S.C. 29412
Phone: 843-795-3975
Fax: 843-795-7575
www.nativity-school.com
Email: info@nativity-school.com
Grades: K-8

Northside Christian School

7800 Northside Drive
North Charleston, S.C. 29420
Phone: 843-797-2693
Fax: 843-797-7402
www.NorthsideCharleston.com
Email: cbeach@northsideministries.com
Grades: K3-12

Northwood Academy

2263 Otranto Road
North Charleston, S.C. 29406
Phone: 843-764-2284
Fax: 843-764-2273
www.NorthwoodAcademy.com
Email: admissions@northwoodacademy.com
Grade: K4-12

Palmetto Christian Academy

361 Egypt Road
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
Phone: 843-881-9967
Fax: 843-881-4662
www.PalmettoChristianAcademy.org
Email: admin@PalmettoChristianAcademy.org
Grades: PK-12

Pinewood Preparatory School

1114 Orangeburg Road
Summerville, S.C. 29483
Phone: 843-873-1643
Fax: 843-821-4257
www.PinewoodPrep.com
Grades: K4-12

Porter-Gaud School

300 Albermale Road
Charleston, S.C. 29407
Phone: 843-556-3620
Fax: 843-766-3945
www.PorterGaud.edu
Email: ehurtes@portergaud.edu
Grades: K-12

Ridge Christian Academy

2168 Ridge Church Road
Summerville, S.C. 29483
Phone: 843-873-9856
Fax: 843-873-0511
www.RidgeChristian.info
Grades: PK-12

Riverpointe Christian Academy

2508 Ashley River Road
Charleston, S.C. 29414
Phone: 843-763-1600
www.RiverpointeChristian.com
Grades: PK-12

St. John Catholic School

3921 St. John Ave.
North Charleston, S.C. 29405
Phone: 843-744-3901
Fax: 843-744-3689
www.SaintJohnCatholicSC.org
Grades: K4-8

Summerville Catholic Academy

226 Black Oak Blvd.
Summerville, S.C. 29485
Phone: 843-873-9310
Fax: 843-873-5709
www.SummervilleCatholic.org
Email: SCSchool@AWOD.com
Grades: K4-8

The Oaks Christian School

505 Gahagan Road
Summerville, S.C. 29485
Phone: 843-875-7667
Fax: 843-871-2629
www.OaksChristianSchool.org
Email: infor@OaksChristianSchool.org
Grades: PK-8

Trident Academy

1455 Wakendaw Road
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29465
Phone: 843-884-7046
Fax: 843-884-8320
www.TridentAcademy.com
Email: admissions@tridentacademy.com
Grades: K-12

Trinity Classical Academy

4218 Buck Creek Court
North Charleston, S.C. 29420
Phone: 843-873-9901
www.TCAsummerville.com
Email: anjieasterday@gmail.com
Grades: 1-8

University School of the Lowcountry

690 Coleman Blvd.
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
Phone: 843-884-0902
Fax: 843-884-0905
www.USLowcountry.org
Grades: 3-8
Special Program Emphasis

Vision Christian Academy

760 Travelers Blvd.
Summerville, S.C. 29481
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Grades: 9-12

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Beyond Their Own Backyards

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

FOR THE STUDENTS AT THE University School of the Lowcountry, the words “field trip” do not bring to mind slack afternoons of playing card games on a rowdy bus. Instead, leaving the campus is an opportunity to experience the real world and to learn from it.

Jason Kreutner, founder and headmaster of University School of the Lowcountry, designed a school that would foster curiosity not just within the building’s walls but everywhere.

“I like learning all the time,” Kreutner said. “I’ve been on 270 field trips since the school opened in 2007. We call them ‘Learning Outside the Classroom,’ and each student goes on 30 trips per year.”

For example, students recently took a trip to a nuclear power plant located in Georgia, which is designed just like a plant SCE&G is building in South Carolina. The project could cost \$15 billion – because America has not built new nuclear plants in over 30 years, it was likely that they would be more expensive than expected. According to Kreutner, USL students now understand that this amount is ultimately reflected in monthly electricity bills because the cost of the plant is paid for by SCE&G customers.

“By putting these places and these experiences into their collective knowledge, they inevitably better understand the world around them and become better citizens,” he said.

Though University School of the Lowcountry shares a campus with Hibben United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant, the two are not affiliated, and exploration of many different faiths and cultures is important to USL. Kreutner pointed out that the students visited Ebenezer AME Church in November 2015. USL students also met Rev.

Clementa Pinckney and toured Mother Emanuel AME a few years before, and this provided a poignant insight into the tragic events of June 2015. The school’s curriculum, in Kreutner’s words, emphasizes the importance of empathy as well as a moral responsibility to others.

“We also went to two Native American reservations in the last couple of years,” he pointed out, reminiscing about the school’s trip to the mountains of western North Carolina for a chance to meet members of the Cherokee tribe and to the Everglades to see the Miccosukee tribe.

On a more practical note, field trips help students discover career paths they hadn’t initially thought about. All USL students undertake a job shadow experience,

each year starting in the third grade.

“Kids discover opportunities that they did not know existed,” said Kreutner.

Of course, preparation for the real world takes more than just knowing what job you want, and USL students visit the polls every Election Day to

administer exit polls and make election predictions. Not only are the kids interested, the adults who come out to vote are cheered by the notion that youngsters are learning about citizenship and democracy.

And how do the faculty and staff of University School of the Lowcountry decide what trip would most benefit students? According to Kreutner, it’s often a trip that kids would not take with their own families.

“For example, the political polls or the inner workings of a hospital,” he elaborated. “You can go with your parents, but it’s not a family type of destination or a vacation. These are often the most important places for us to visit.”

To learn more, visit www.uslowcountry.org or call 843-884-0902.

Photo courtesy of University School of the Lowcountry.



Challenging the Intellect

PORTER-GAUD SCHOOL

THE HALLMARK OF A VIBRANT educational atmosphere is one in which not only the students but the teachers and administrators feel challenged, inspired and engaged. Such is the case at Porter-Gaud School, one of the Southeast's leading independent schools, located in downtown Charleston.

Porter-Gaud was founded in 1867 as Porter Military Academy by Dr. Anthony Toomer Porter, an Episcopalian priest from a Georgetown rice family, according to current headmaster DuBose Egleston. Porter Military Academy merged with Gaud School in the mid-60s to become Porter-Gaud as we know it today, and it has continued to do its part inspiring the hearts and minds of young men and women for the real world.

"I've been here since first grade. They nourish us as young children and give us the right amount of freedom later," commented Cole Walter, a senior who is planning a year of work in China, funded by the U.S. State Department, before pursuing a degree in International Comparative Studies at Duke University. Walter is learning Chinese – he already speaks French and a generous amount of Spanish – and looks forward to fostering his understanding of world languages.

However, Walter isn't just a bookworm; thanks to the head of the Service Department, Gretchen Tate, whom Walter called his "role model," he's been inspired to take charge of the People in Need Project, which covers everything from meeting basic physical needs to environmental stewardship.

As one might expect, a versatile experience is encouraged at Porter-Gaud. Witness fifth grader Anna Lehman, who was basking in the post-show glow of her

recent role in "The Lion King" as mother lion Nala on the day we met. But it isn't just singing and musical theater that occupies Lehman's time – she also plays the piano and shoots hoops on the basketball court.

"I believe Porter-Gaud has made me more well-rounded," she mused. "I've learned about so many different things here."

Speaking of different, Computer Science Chair Doug Bergman's passion for pushing the boundaries of technology in the classroom is evident. Far from the stereotypical techy introvert, Bergman socialized with me for a good while about why he's doing things differently at Porter-Gaud – and how every student is a contender for doing everything from coding to creating a popular video game.

"If you look inside my classroom, it's not nerdville," he explained. "I have soccer players, cheerleaders and football captains who all happen to be great computer scientists!"

Bergman said that six young ladies won awards this year from the National Council of Women in

Technology and pointed out that the program boasts winners almost every year.

"It's a hard program," he said, "but they end up wanting to put forth the effort."

Egleston, head of school since 2009, emphasized the importance of supporting his faculty and staff for the purpose of sustaining Porter-Gaud's mission and its creative, inspiring environment.

"I give my faculty what they need without micromanaging them," he remarked. "I can't step in and do their job – but when I do my job well, they can do theirs."

And, clearly, the students can do theirs. 🐾

To learn more, visit www.portergaud.edu or call 843-556-3620.

Photos courtesy of Porter-Gaud.



Shaping Hearts and Character

PALMETTO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

FOR 25 YEARS, PALMETTO Christian Academy has built a program that produces young people who are engaged and contributing. Christian service, distinctive academics and excellence in fine arts and athletics are hallmarks of this private school. The 2016-2017 school year ushers in an exciting era for PCA, including a 25th anniversary celebration, new leadership and a campus expansion.

The recent announcement of a new, state-of-the-art Student

BY KALENE MCCORT

Life
Center

– complete with a gymnasium and a science and technology wing – has parents, faculty and students excited about the future at PCA. Adding to that enthusiasm, PCA families will celebrate the school's 25th anniversary with a new headmaster, J.D. Zubia, who comes from a strong background in both the corporate world and education. Zubia is thrilled to be leading an impressive faculty that strives to shape the hearts and character of its students.

"I am looking forward to working with an accomplished group of professionals who love their school, their families, their community and Christian education," said Zubia. "These are people who wake up in the morning excited about what they are doing, how they are doing it and where they are doing it. The partnership between PCA and East Cooper Baptist Church is remarkable – it is like something I have not seen before."

The tightknit group of educators and parents that built Palmetto Christian Academy into the bustling college preparatory school that it is today is getting a welcomed addition in Zubia. His passion for the job is evident in the excitement he expresses when it comes to joining the PCA

family. As a teen, Zubia found great purpose in teaching the youth at his local church. While he would later spend two decades in the medical field, he ultimately felt God's calling into Christian education.

"The most rewarding aspect of education is having a small part in helping children find their way in life," said Zubia. "For me, it is even more rewarding to help kids find their giftedness and where that fits into God's big picture."

One of the factors that drew Zubia to PCA was the fact that emphasis is not only placed heavily on a rigorous curriculum but also on the extracurricular activities that foster growth for students.

"Kids all have unique talents, gifts, personalities and experiences, and all of those things are supposed to work together to produce good and productive citizens who benefit their communities," said Zubia. "We are producing students who will serve this community, whether now as volunteers during crises or later as local business owners or community leaders."

As the school prepares to celebrate a silver anniversary, it's a time of reflection and thanksgiving for the many milestones already reached, while planning and investing in the next 25 years and beyond.

"We are going to have a grand, year-long celebration of God's goodness and grace, of our alumni's success, of our parents and grandparents' support, of our church's faithfulness, and, of course, of our PCA staff's unwavering commitment to Christian education," said Zubia. "PCA is doing noble work not only for God's kingdom but also for the Mount Pleasant community." 🙏

Palmetto Christian Academy is located at 361 Egypt Road in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.palmettochristianacademy.org or call 843-881-9967.

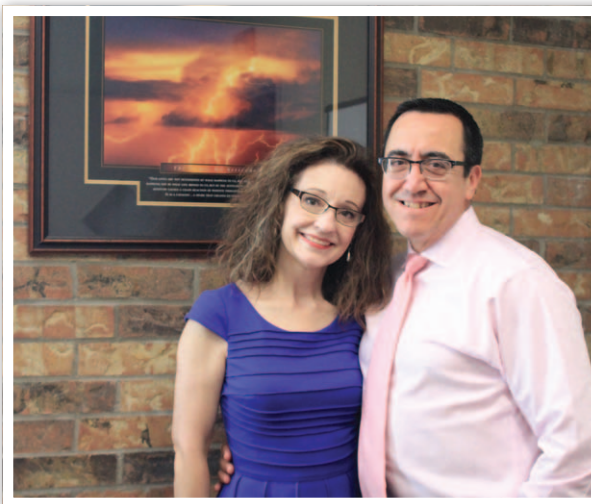


Photo courtesy of J.D. Zubia.

J.D. Zubia with his wife Selina.

Opening Doors

CAPERS PREPARATORY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

IMAGINE WALKING INTO A CLASS-room that resembles the traditional, idyllic schoolhouses of the past – where a handful of rapt pupils are listening to a teacher deliver a lesson on which the foundation of learning is built. This is the vision that Dr. Fayrine Brown transformed into Capers Preparatory Christian Academy, an independent, nonprofit institution located West of the Ashley. Capers Prep welcomes students between grades K4 and 12 to a “back to basics” environment, bringing to mind the old rhyme about

BY DENISE K. JAMES

may not.”

Originally from Texas, Dr. Brown relocated to

“This year we visited Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Red Hills of Colorado and Bear Country U.S.A. ...”

Charleston in 1978 and noted the need for smaller schools and meeting the individual abilities of students.



Photo by Carminski Latten.

Capers students, left to right: Blake Gerald, Zadian Holmes, Jenesis Ravenel, Tayla Brown, Tiana Ravenel, Isreal Sharper and Jayden Washington.

“readin’, ritin, and ‘rithmatic” – and making education fun and engaging as well.

“We teach traditional skills – mathematics, reading, handwriting and cursive,” Dr. Brown commented. “We’ve found that basic skills fit all children, whereas technology

Though she spent years teaching public school, Dr. Brown dreamed of the day she could see her ideal school realized, and, in 2003, Capers Prep became a reality. Meanwhile, the students who have attended in those last 13 years have flourished.



Recent Capers graduate Kristina Venning, left, with Dr. Fayrine Brown.

“After not doing well at my previous school, I looked for something that would be more personal. For me, the smaller classes helped me focus,” said recent Capers Prep graduate Kristina Venning, who completed her bachelor’s in Biology at Francis Marion University and a post-bachelor’s in Histotechnology at MUSC before finding work in a laboratory focusing on skin cancer.

“Dr. Brown makes sure each student is doing the best she or he can,” she concluded.

Beyond the foundation of reading, writing and math, students at Capers Prep experience a variety of other invigorating courses such as karate, ballet and even Mandarin Chinese. Interestingly, none of these are considered “electives” – students must participate to

“Capers Prep differs from other schools because we operate outside of the box. ...”

complete the school curriculum. The school building is home to a complete library and science lab, plus a technology lab donated by the Posey Foundation of Texas and outfitted with 10 HP computers, iPads and more. And then there’s the traveling.

“This year we visited Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Red Hills of Colorado and Bear Country U.S.A, and the year before we went across the country, from South Carolina to San Francisco,” Dr. Brown reported. “Next year we’re doing the New England states, then Hawaii in 2018. They’ve been as far as the Bahamas.”

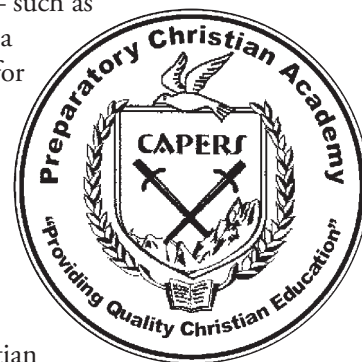
Yes, taking trips outside of the Lowcountry – at least a few per year, often with Freeman Tours, owned by Perry Freeman – is an important aspect of the curriculum. But it’s not just a leisurely vacation; Dr. Brown and her faculty turn each voyage into a learning opportunity.

“On the smaller trips – such as to the Riverbanks Zoo or a Carolina Panthers game, for example – students enjoy the chance to care for the animals or learn about professional sports,” she explained.

Approximately 50 students currently attend Capers Preparatory Christian Academy, with six teachers and seven volunteers assisting Dr. Brown in perpetuating the distinctive goals for the school and maintaining accreditation from the South Carolina Independent School Association. The faculty and staff strive to keep the environment “family based,” and most of the parents stumble upon Capers Prep through word of mouth. As for funding, the school operates as a 501(c)(3) and garners most of it through donations and scholarships.

“Capers Prep differs from other schools because we operate outside of the box,” Dr. Brown mused. “We’re opening doors for these students.”

To learn more, visit www.caperspreparatorychristianacademy.com or call 843-225-2892.





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASSES OF 2015 AND 2016 ON THEIR COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES!

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Ohio Wesleyan University
Presbyterian College
Purdue University
Roanoke College
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EDUCATION



CHARLESTON COLLEGIATE

2024 Academy Drive • Johns Island, SC 29455
Phone: (843) 559-5506 • charlestoncollegiate.org

Bridging School to the Real World

CHARLESTON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Charleston Collegiate School is one of the area's best-kept secrets. Nestled in a quiet setting, its curriculum is one-of-a-kind in the Lowcountry.

What sets Charleston Collegiate apart is its curriculum built around project-based learning – working together through hands-on activities and creative thinking. The end goal is making sure students understand the real world in relation to the things they learn in the classroom. They are empowered to become actively invested in their education.

Bridging the connection from school to the real world enhances learning at CCS. For example, an on-site micro-farm allows students in the early grades to grow food that is not only served with lunch 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.

According to Head of School Hacker Burr, every senior graduating from CCS is accepted to a four-year college.

Because of its physical setting, students can interact with the physical world. The 30-acre campus includes a forest, nature trails and an outdoor classroom. The school offers basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, tennis, soccer, golf, volleyball, baseball and archery teams.

With a 25-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 to CCS from all over the Charleston area.

"Our students are learning some of the most important real-world skills that we could ever teach," Burr commented. 🌱

To learn more, visit www.charlestoncollegiate.org or call 843-559-5506.

Personalized Learning Plans

TRIDENT ACADEMY

Trident Academy is a K-12 school that specializes in individual, multisensory and research-based teaching methods. The school's aim is to help improve the classroom experience for children with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, ADHD or Asperger-like attributes.

It began 45 years ago as a Saturday-only learning program in a local church. Today, Trident Academy is one of 13 schools in the United States accredited by the Academy of Orton-Gillingham. It boasts a safe, nurturing and focused atmosphere where students, regardless of their learning difference, can thrive.

The school has many different ways to ensure its students receive the right amount of attention and assistance. Each class has 12 or fewer students, which allows teachers to incorporate their intensive individualized approach. The main goal for each student is to learn how to function independently and eventually transition into a more traditional school environment.

Classroom studies often are expanded by field trips that complement what students are currently learning. This could be anywhere from the South Carolina Aquarium to the Post Office. Older students have the opportunity to take overnight field trips to places such as Green River Preserve and the Barrier Island program at Camp St. Christopher.

Every student learns differently, and Trident Academy doesn't hesitate to create personalized learning plans that outline each child's unique method of learning and growing. It doesn't stop in the classroom, either. Trident Academy has an after-school program, Homework Haven, which helps students finish their daily homework and engage in useful study skills.

The summer is often a time when children forget most of what they learned during the school year, but Trident Academy calls itself a "hub of learning" all year long, offering Academic Therapy, Summer Enrichment, Orton-Gillingham training and Multisensory Math training. 📖

To learn more, visit www.tridentacademy.com or call 843-884-7046.

The **secret**
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teach differently.



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SEND LINK TO A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER. READ ONLINE AT

www.charlestonschooldirectory.com

Fostering A Passion For Learning

CHARLES TOWNE MONTESSORI

Allowing children to take responsibility and pride in their own learning process is a cornerstone of the traditional Montessori education, and Charles Towne Montessori is offering Lowcountry families exactly that opportunity. Founded in 1972, and the only

BY DENISE K. JAMES

AMI (Association Montessori Internationale) recognized school in South Carolina, Charles Towne Montessori focuses on children from toddlers to 12-year-olds, instilling independence and industriousness for the world beyond.

"The responsibility we give kids is tough, but they embrace it and end up owning it," remarked Marketing Director Arlene LeBoeuf. "Education begins at age 3 in the primary classroom."

The school is divided into three age groups: toddler, for kids 15 months up to 3 years old; primary, for kids from 3 to 6; and elementary, for kids from 6 to 12. According to headmaster Kevin O'Loughlin, the mixed age groups "encourage initiative and responsibility."

"Our students come to visit after graduating and tell us they

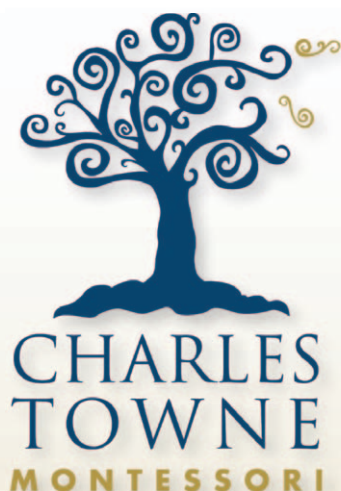
are doing exceptionally well in their academic environments," he said. "Many end up at prestigious institutions such as the School of the Arts or Palmetto Scholars Academy."

O'Loughlin, who has been at Charles Towne since 2003, noted that the decade he spent teaching in the classroom has enriched his role as headmaster. Both he and LeBoeuf stated that the lead teachers – all Montessori certified – have rigorous training and extensive experience, enhancing the education of the approximately 100 students who attend.

And yet, the students are the masters of their education at Charles Towne Montessori – a truth apparent to any parent or visitor who observes the cheerful campus, flanked with student-created flower gardens and projects of every sort.

"When students leave Charles Towne Montessori, they carry a love of learning as well as the capabilities and work ethic that will allow them success in life," O'Loughlin said.

To learn more, visit www.charlestownemontessori.org or call 843-571-1140.



*"Where your child
loves learning"*

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56 Leinbach Dr,
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www.charlestownemontessori.org

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BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL

It didn't take long for the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, established in 1948, to realize that a school would enhance their mission. Today, Blessed Sacrament Catholic School is committed to promoting spiritual, intellectual and physical growth for K3 through 8th grade students.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

The students who attend BSCS – about 70 percent are of the Catholic faith – feel welcomed, challenged and supported by a caring faculty and staff, according to Kathleen Ferri, assistant director of stewardship and development. Ferri noted that the longer a student remains at BSCS, the higher their standardized test scores tend to be. For example, 6th grade students test on 7th grade levels for language and social studies and on 8th grade levels for science, while 8th grade students test at almost 12th grade level in every subject.

"The numbers just go up from there," Ferri exclaimed. "We also offer a gifted program for our second through seventh grade students. Many of our graduates end up at

James Island Charter, Academic Magnet, Bishop England and School of the Arts."

Ferri said that although a Catholic education can seem financially difficult for some families, the staff of BSCS works hard to make the dream possible with financial assistance. School fundraisers create scholarships for students who need them, while parishioners who heartily believe in the cause are apt to donate time and funds for the good of families who seek an education from BSCS.

"I knew the reputation of this school and wanted to be part of it," commented current headmaster Katharine Murphy, a native of New York with an extensive background in Catholic education. "I believe it's our friendliness and family-like atmosphere that draws students."

"There aren't many things that connect people, but going to a Catholic school is one of those things," Ferri remarked.

To learn more about Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, www.scbs.org or 843-766-2128.

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7 Saint Teresa Drive, Charleston, SC 29407

Serving children
grades
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Directory of Charter Schools – Charleston County

Allegro Charter School of Music

120 Broad St.
Charleston, S.C. 29401
Phone: 843-297-8033
Fax: 843-207-4701
AllegroCharterSchool.org
Grades: 6-9 (growing to 12)

Carolina Voyager Charter School

30 Race St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-203-3891
Fax: 843-718-2903
CarolinaVoyagerCharterSchool.org
Grades: K-8

Charleston Charter School for Math and Science

1002 King St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-720-3085
Fax: 843-720-3196
CharlestonMathScience.org
Grades: 6-12

Charleston Development Academy

233 Line St.
Charleston, S.C. 29403
Phone: 843-722-2689
Fax: 843-722-2694
DevelopmentAcademy.ccsdschools.com
Grade: preK-8

East Cooper Montessori Charter School

1120 Rifle Range Road
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464
Phone: 843-216-2883
Fax: 843-216-8880
EastCooper.ccsdschools.com
Grades: 1-8

Greg Mathis Charter High School

2872 Azalea Drive
North Charleston, S.C. 29405
Phone: 843-557-1611
Fax: 843-747-5810
ccsdschools.com/Schools/K12/greg_mathis_hs.php

James Island Charter High School

1000 Fort Johnson Road
Charleston, S.C. 29412
Phone: 843-762-2754
Fax: 843-762-5228
Grades: 9-12
Jichs.ccsdschools.com

Orange Grove Elementary Charter

1225 Orange Branch Road
Charleston, S.C.
Phone: 843-763-1520
Fax: 843-769-2245
http://ogecs.ccsdschools.com/
Grades preK-5

Pattison's Academy For Comprehensive Education

2014 Bees Ferry Road
Charleston, S.C.
Phone: 843-556-1070
Fax: 843-556-6742
http://pattisonsacademy.org/

South Carolina Charter Schools in the Lowcountry

*All residents of South Carolina are eligible to attend a South Carolina Charter School

Coastal Leadership Academy

3710 Palmetto Pointe Blvd. Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29588
Phone: 843-788-9898
Fax: 843-294-0228
CoastalLeadershipAcademy.org
Grades: 9-12

Palmetto Scholars Academy

7499 Dorchester Road
North Charleston, S.C. 29418
Phone: 843-300-4118
Fax: 843-300-4123
PalmettoScholarsAcademy.org
Grades: 6-12

Lowcountry Leadership Charter School

5139-A Gibson Road
Hollywood, S.C. 29449
Phone: 843-889-5527
Fax: 843-889-5529
LowcountryLeadership.org
Grades: K5-12

SOUTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS

Provost Academy South Carolina

Office Location
200 Arbor Lake Drive, Suite 301
Columbia, S.C. 29223
Phone: 877-619-7272
SC.ProvostAcademy.com
Grades: 9-12

South Carolina Calvert Academy

Office Location
3700 Forest Drive, Suite 406
Columbia, S.C. 29204
SouthCarolinaCalvertAcademy.com
Grades: K-8

South Carolina Connections Academy

Office Location
220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 403
Columbia, S.C. 29410
Phone: 803-212-4712
ConnectionsAcademy.com
Grades: K-12

South Carolina Virtual Charter School

Office Location
140 Stonebridge Drive Suite 420
Columbia, S.C. 29210
SCVCS.k12.com
Grades: K-12

South Carolina Whitmore School

Office Location
510 Lexington Ave.
Chapin, S.C. 29036
Phone: 866-476-6416
Fax: 866-476-1646
SCWhitmoreSchool.org
Grades: 9-12

Charter Schools:

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

The South Carolina Charter Schools Act of 1996 defines a charter school as a public, nonreligious, non-home-based, nonprofit corporation forming a school that operates by sponsorship of a public school district, the South Carolina Public Charter School District or a public or independent institution of higher learning but is accountable to the board of trustees – or in the case of technical colleges, the area commission – of the sponsor which grants its charter.

HOW IS A CHARTER SCHOOL DIFFERENT FROM A PUBLIC SCHOOL?

Charter schools are allowed more freedom in instruction while still being held accountable.

HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS THE SAME?

Charter and public schools both are sponsored by the same school district, whether a local or state school board. Charter and public schools are open to all children, do not charge tuition and do not have special entrance requirements.

WHAT TYPE OF CURRICULUM DOES A CHARTER SCHOOL HAVE?

A charter school teaches all of the core subjects but can adjust how much time is spent according to the needs of a student. A charter school may also be geared toward a specific educational core. For example: a school for the arts, a school for the deaf or a school for the sciences.

CAN A PARENT CHOOSE A CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THEIR CHILD?

Yes, but there are certain restrictions depending upon the sponsoring municipality. Charter schools are considered a school of choice, and parents can choose to enroll their children in a charter school rather than their assigned public school.



WHAT GRADES ARE COVERED IN A CHARTER SCHOOL?

It depends on the individual charter school, but most teach the same grades as traditional elementary, middle and high schools.

WHO CAN START A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Parents, teachers, school districts, community leaders, businesses and municipalities can all submit a proposal to begin a charter school.

ARE TEACHERS CERTIFIED AT CHARTER SCHOOLS?

Certification requirements are determined on a state-by-state basis.

CAN A CHARTER BE REVOKED?

Yes. If over the course of three to five years a charter school is unable to achieve specific educational standards, the charter can be revoked.

WHERE WAS THE FIRST CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE UNITED STATES?

The first charter school license was approved in Minnesota in 1991, and its doors opened in 1992. Currently, 43 states and the District of Columbia have approved charter schools serving approximately 2.9 million students. 📖

Noteworthy

ALLEGRO CHARTER SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Walking into Allegro Charter School of Music, I'm immediately hit by the sound of piano and pluck of an upright bass. Founded in 2015, this beacon of creativity has already managed to rack up a waiting list.

The only school of its kind in South Carolina, Allegro is, well,

BY KALENE MCCORT

noteworthy. Focusing on fostering academic growth through music, the school has already received visits from film crews looking to document the magic that seeps from its classrooms.

"The response from the community has been very positive," said Daniel Neikirk, who was recently named principal. "Charleston is such a world-class, artistically rich city, we thought it appropriate to have a school in its center that matches and reflects that."

The local art community has already welcomed Allegro by offering guidance and funds. Members of The Charleston Symphony Orchestra have dedicated time to helping these budding musicians excel at their craft, while Girls Rock Charleston and Jazz Artists of Charleston have shared

platforms to further propel Allegro's message.

While students at Allegro have a longer school day, it is filled with priceless interactions and a soundtrack to match. Currently, grades 6 through 10 are offered, but the school plans on adding 11th and 12th grades.

The music selection performed is varied. One minute students can be playing Bach and the next jamming out to Bruno Mars. Pop, rock and rap are genres that kids are free to explore, keeping them engaged and interested.

"It's an amazing feeling to watch a child who was once painfully shy come out of his or her shell and shine," said Neikirk. "Kids go from not even knowing how to hold an instrument to accomplishing things I didn't even get to do until college."

At Allegro, students are encouraged to find their own rhythm. 🎵

To learn more, visit www.allegrocharterschool.org or call 843-297-8033.



Allegro CHARTER SCHOOL of MUSIC

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ACADEMICS
CREATIVITY

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Charity, Respect and Outreach

CHRIST OUR KING-STELLA MARIS SCHOOL

Christ Our King-Stella Maris School in Mount Pleasant was founded in 1950 to serve the East Cooper Community. The school provides an outstanding Catholic education for more than 600 students from 4K through 8th grade and is the largest Catholic elementary school in South Carolina.

BY AMY MERCER

In 2009, Christ Our King-Stella Maris was named a National Blue Ribbon School, and, in 2011, its middle school became a fully accredited International Baccalaureate World School. The school promotes a Christian educational philosophy characterized by charity, respect and outreach. The school offers a variety of clubs as well as athletics such as basketball, tennis, football, golf, archery and dance/cheer.

During its 65-year history, Christ Our King-Stella Maris School has continued to grow. Several years ago, it instituted its One to One iPad program. The school has enhanced its Music, Drama and Art programs, converted its former youth center into the Monsignor James A. Carter Black Box Theater and enhanced its Reading Initiatives program.

The Harmonia Choir has performed in competitions all over the Southeast, including this year's Piccolo Spoleto Festival. Led by Suzanne Fleming-Atwood and Scott Atwood, the choir's members have been selected for state, regional and honors choirs.

We Give Wednesday offertory is collected during weekly School Mass and supports local charities, including Water Missions International, MUSC Children's Hospital and Pet Helpers. The school also has helped victims of the typhoon in the Philippines, a local boy with a muscular disease to purchase a wheelchair lift and a local family ravaged by a house fire. Christ Our King-Stella Maris students perform thousands of service hours helping local charities.

The school is proud to have six alumni who have returned as teachers. The Christ our King-Stella Maris family is proud of its commitment to the mission of the school and its Catholic Identity. 🙏

To learn more about Christ Our King-Stella Maris School, visit www.coksm.org or call 843-884-4721.



Christ Our King-Stella Maris

"Where Tradition and Innovation Unite"

Faith, Charity and Respect



- Differentiated reading instruction
- One to one iPad program
- Certified International Baccalaureate School
- Enhanced academic support
- Catholic School Founded in 1950
- Grades 4k - 8th



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University Directory

COASTAL SOUTH CAROLINA

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The Citadel

171 Moultrie St.
Charleston, S.C.
843-225-3294
www.citadel.edu
Founded: 1842

Coastal Carolina University

100 Chanticleer Drive East
Conway, S.C.
843-347-3161
www.coastal.edu
Founded: 1954

College of Charleston

66 George St.
Charleston, S.C.
843-805-5507
www.cofc.edu
Founded: 1770

Medical University of South Carolina

45 Courtenay Drive, MSC 203
Charleston, S.C.
www.musc.edu
Founded: 1824

South Carolina College of Pharmacy

Columbia, S.C. 29208
800-846-8896
Charleston, S.C.
843-792-3740
www.sccp.sc.edu

University of South Carolina- Beaufort Campus

801 Carteret St.
Beaufort, S.C.
843-521-4100
www.uscb.edu
Founded: 1959

PRIVATE FOUR YEAR

American College of the Building Arts
21 Magazine St.

Charleston, S.C.
843-577-5245
www.Americancollegeofthebuildingarts.com

Charleston Southern University

9200 University Blvd.
North Charleston, S.C.
843-863-7000
www.charlestonsouthern.edu
Founded: 1964

Webster University

4105 Faber Place Drive, #100
North Charleston, S.C.
843-760-1324
www.webster.edu/charleston
Founded: 1976

FOUR YEAR PROPRIETARY

Art Institute of Charleston

24 N. Market St.
Charleston, S.C.
843-727-3500
www.artinstitutes.edu/charleston
Founded: 2007

Centura College

8084 Rivers Ave.
Charleston, S.C.
843-569-0889
www.centuracollege.edu

Columbia College

1216 Red Bank Road, Room #117
Goose Creek, S.C.
800-231-2391 or 843-794-4444
www.ccis.edu
Founded: 1851

ECPI University

7410 Northside Drive, #100
Charleston, S.C.
843-611-0642
www.ecpi.edu
Founded: 2004

ITT Technical Institute
2431 W. Aviation Ave.

North Charleston, S.C.
843-745-5700

Limestone College-Charleston

4500 Leeds Ave.
North Charleston, S.C.
843-745-1100
www.limestone.edu

Miller-Motte

8085 Rivers Ave.
North Charleston, S.C.
843-733-3073
www.miller-motte.edu

Saint Leo University

2430 Mall Drive, #185
North Charleston, S.C.
843-554-2111
www.saintleo.edu
Founded: 2012

Southern Wesleyan University

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 301
Charleston, S.C.
843-266-7981
www.swu.edu/adult-and-graduate/
locations/charleston/

Springfield College-Charleston

4390 Belle Oaks Drive, #200
North Charleston, S.C.
843-554-7244
www.Springfield.edu

Strayer University

5010 Wetland Crossing
North Charleston, S.C.
843-746-5100
www.strayer.edu
Founded: 2006

{ Read more at
readMPM.com/universities }

Helping Students Reach Their Goals

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

THE IDEA OF GOING BACK TO school for a master's or even an undergraduate degree is daunting for many who are already in the workforce. Managing the time commitment and schedule and balancing coursework with a job, family or both, along

with completing prerequisite courses, is enough to deter many would-be students. While it is certainly a big commitment, getting a higher education degree doesn't have to mean leaving a career or being away from family.

Webster University's Charleston campus has been helping students reach their goals in spite of these obstacles for over 30 years.

The Webster University Charleston campus – consisting of a main branch in North Charleston and another location on Joint Base Charleston – accommodates its students with night or online courses.

"We have over 250 students in Charleston, and most hold full-time jobs," explained Vice Provost Nancy Hellerud. "There are several major area employers – for example, Boeing, MUSC and the military – who send employees here for higher degrees. This schedule allows students to further their education while continuing to live their lives."

Webster University, founded in St. Louis, Missouri, over a century ago, has evolved into a global network of several dozen campuses across the United States, internationally and on military bases. Its 180,000 living alumni around the world are a testament to the university's far-reaching impact on education and careers.

"We want to ensure that education never stops," said Hellerud. "Courses are transferrable, and the transition is seamless no matter where you are in the world. Certain degrees require time in the classroom, but almost all degree programs offer online courses in an effort to continue learning."

One of the founding principles of Webster University has always been to meet previously unmet needs.

"When teachers needed training in Kansas City, Webster initially opened up a Kansas City campus primarily for education programs. When the military was looking for education on bases, Webster went there. When the United Nations was looking for education in Geneva for dependents of people who worked there, Webster opened a campus," Hellerud explained.

Similarly, the programs offered at the Charleston campus reflect the local economy in order to fill the area's employment needs. Programs include a master of arts in Counseling, Human Resources Development, Human Resources Management, Information Technology Management, Procurement and Acquisitions Management, Management and Leadership, master of Business Administration and master of Health Administration, as well as bachelor's degrees in Management and Psychology. Webster University offers prerequisite courses to help students enter these degree programs.

In addition to online course offerings, on-campus classes typically meet one night each week for nine-week terms.

"The average full-time student spends two to three years getting their master's degree. Others fast-track and complete their degree in a little over one year. The options are flexible to meet each student's needs," Hellerud said.

In addition to its widespread network of programs and alumni and its flexible schedule and locations, Webster University's faculty members are rated highly by students.

"Nearly all of our professors are adjunct faculty. They are in the workforce doing what they teach. They have real-world experience and real-world connections, and they enhance the quality of education," said Hellerud.

"Not only do we want you to graduate with a great degree, but we want you to have a great career as well. We're here to help you do that," she said.

To learn more, visit www.webster.edu/charleston or call 843-760-1324 or 843-767-2278.



Above: Vice Provost Nancy Hellerud.
Below: Webster's University's Charleston campus.



Photos courtesy of Webster University.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

A 529 PLAN CAN HELP WITH THOSE COLLEGE BILLS

WE'RE AT THE END OF ANOTHER school year. If you have younger kids, you might be thinking about summer camps and other activities. But in the not-too-distant future, your children will be facing a bigger transition as they head off to college. Will you be financially prepared for that day?

A college education is a good investment – college graduates earn, on average, \$1 million more over their lifetimes than high school graduates, according to a study by Georgetown University – but a bachelor's degree doesn't come cheap. For the 2015-2016 school year, the average expense – tuition, fees, room and board – was \$19,548 at a public four-year school and \$43,921 at a four-year private school, according to the College Board. And by the time your children are ready for college, these costs may be considerably higher, because inflation is alive and well in the higher education arena.

Your children may be eligible for some types of financial aid and scholarships. But even so, you may want to consider some college-savings vehicles – and one of the most popular is a 529 plan.

A 529 plan offers a variety of benefits, including the following:

- **High contribution limits** – A 529 plan won't limit your contributions based on your income. In all likelihood, you can contribute as much as you want to a 529 plan, as many states have contribution limits of \$300,000 and up. And you can give up to \$14,000 (\$28,000 for a married couple filing jointly) per year, per child, without incurring any gift taxes.

- **Tax advantages** – Your earnings can accumulate tax free, provided they are used for qualified higher

education expenses. (529 plan distributions not used for qualified expenses may be subject to federal and state income tax and a 10% IRS penalty on the earnings.) Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may be eligible for a state tax deduction or credit if you participate in your own state's plan. But 529 plans vary, so check with your tax advisor regarding deductibility.

- **Freedom to invest in any state's plan.** – You can invest in a 529 plan from any state – but that doesn't mean your child has to go to school there. You could live in one state, invest in a second state's plan, and send your student to school in a third state, if you choose.

- **Money can be used for virtually any program** – Upon graduating high school, not all kids are interested in, or prepared for, a traditional four-year college. But you can use your 529 plan to help pay for qualified expenses at a variety of educational institutions, including two-year community colleges and trade schools.

Of course, a 529 plan does have considerations you will need to think about

before opening an account. For example, your 529 plan assets can affect your child's needs-based financial aid, but it might not doom it. As long as the 529 assets are under your control, they typically will be assessed at a maximum rate of 5.64% in determining your family's expected contribution under the federal financial aid formula, as opposed to the usual 20% rate for assets held in the student's name.

In any case, though, a 529 plan is worth considering. But don't wait too long – as you well know, your kids seem to grow up in the blink of an eye. 🐼

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



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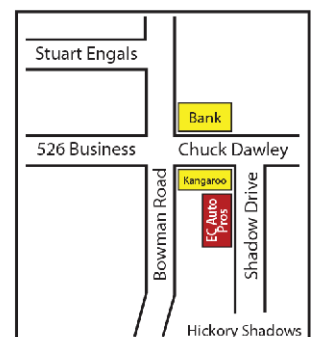
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Changing The Way People Eat Burgers

BurgerFi

WHERE CAN YOU FIND AN eatery that looks like an upbeat burger joint but serves food reminiscent of a gourmet restaurant? Is it possible to treat your taste buds to a delicious meal without worrying about how a cheeseburger and an order of fries will affect your health and well-being?

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

For an answer to these questions, look no further than the ground floor of The Boulevard, the home of BurgerFi since the end of May.

“It’s a burger joint you can feel good about eating at,” said Chuck Jenkins, who, along with Tony Tonelis, owns BurgerFi’s tri-county franchise rights. “It’s a great tasting burger that doesn’t have to be bad for you.”

What makes BurgerFi different from other similar restaurants? According to Jenkins, everything, from the burgers and hot dogs to the fries and onion rings and the company’s secret sauce, is 100-percent natural, prepared daily and never frozen. And the beef served at all BurgerFi locations comes from a Wyoming ranch where the animals are raised without steroids or hormones.

The first BurgerFi opened in February 2011 in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Florida. Not long after, Jenkins, a pharmaceutical executive, was in the Sunshine State and noticed something interesting about the company’s Winter Park store.

“It was 2:30 in the afternoon and there was a line out the door,” he remembered.

That experience was enough to maintain his interest in BurgerFi, and, eventually, he purchased the franchise rights in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties. According to Steve Lieber, the company’s global brand ambassador, BurgerFi recently opened its 90th restaurant.

There are two locations outside the United States – in Mexico City – but others will open soon in Kuwait, the United Kingdom and Panama.

BurgerFi’s efforts to protect the environment extend beyond its all-natural menu. Cooking oil, cardboard, plastic and glass are recycled, and even the furniture, which seats around 140 people inside and another 50 on the patio, is made of recycled material.

The menu includes several angus burgers, as well as vegetarian burgers, three different types of hot dogs, hand-cut fries with a variety of toppings, onion rings and custard-based shakes, floats, concretes and sundaes. You can have the veggie burger “green style,” wrapped in lettuce instead of a bun. Or, if you just can’t make up your mind, you can go with the Conflicted Burger – two patties, one beef and the other vegetarian.

In addition, there’s wine and craft beer, most of it from local breweries, and a Coke Freestyle Machine, which lets diners mix and match potentially hundreds of different soft drink flavors.

For Jenkins and his wife, Sara, owning a burger

restaurant is not all about making money. He said 10 percent of the restaurant’s proceeds will go to support a ministry they are starting that provides help and support for children aging out of the foster care system.

“We want to help young men and women transitioning out of foster care during those critical ages of 18 to 25. It’s something that’s needed,” he said.


And what’s the origin of the name BurgerFi?

“It stands for the burgerfication of the nation,” Lieber explained. “We wanted to change the way people eat hamburgers.” 🍔



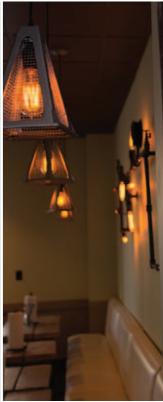
Photo courtesy of BurgerFi.

BurgerFi is located at 735 Coleman Blvd. Parking is available in front of the restaurant, on the first floor of the Boulevard garage and in an overflow lot. To learn more, visit www.burgerfi.com or call 843-884-6445.



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Summer Recipes

Enjoy these recipes this summer!

GRILLED BANANAS

Ingredients:

Bananas
Butter
Brown sugar
Rum
Vanilla ice cream

Peel desired amount of bananas, leave whole or sliced and top with some butter and brown sugar. You can add a splash of rum if you want to.



Fold and seal into aluminum packets. Grill packets until bananas become soft and caramelized.

Remove from foil, serve with vanilla ice cream.

Note: You can prepare and wrap the bananas ahead of time, then simply place them atop a heated grill. ■

FRUIT & YOGURT BARS

Servings: About 21 bars

Freezing time: 4 hours

Prep time: About 15 minutes

Ingredients:

One box of graham crackers
½ cup of fresh strawberries

½ cup chopped bananas
¼ cup blueberries
1 cup vanilla nonfat Greek-style yogurt
1 cup thawed frozen reduced-fat whipped topping

Line a 9-inch square pan with aluminum foil, and be sure to extend the foil over the sides. Arrange one layer of graham crackers on the bottom of pan.

Pulse fruits in blender until lightly blended with a few chunks. In large bowl, mix fruit, yogurt and whipped topping before spreading over the top of your graham crackers in pan.

Add an additional layer of graham crackers and place in freezer for at least 4 hours.



Note: When adding your second layer of graham crackers, it helps to line up your squares on both top and bottom. This allows cutting frozen squares more easily.

You can substitute any fruit. Try fresh raspberries, blackberries or peaches. ■

WHAT ARE THE DINING HABITS OF MOUNT PLEASANT MAGAZINE READERS?



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84%	Visited a restaurant that was featured in the magazine.
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20%	Dine out once a week.
20%	Dine out 2-3 times a month.

See page 11 for more information about the Citadel Survey.
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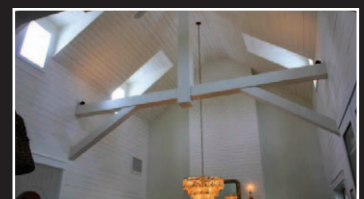
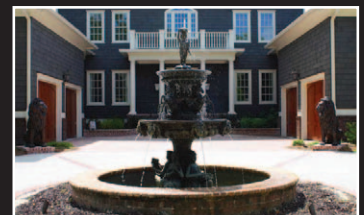
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Family-friendly with Exceptional Food On Forty-One

NAMED AFTER THE STRIP OF roadway it resides on, On Forty-One is conveniently located in the heart of North Mount Pleasant – on the corner of Highways 17 and 41. Boasting locally sourced Southern food and a laid-back atmosphere, a visit to On Forty-One is as satisfying as a pitcher of sweet tea on a Lowcountry scorcher.

BY KALENE MCCORT

“We were very fortunate to be welcomed so warmly by the North Mount Pleasant communities,” said owner and chef Brannon Florie. “I wanted to create a family-friendly neighborhood restaurant with exceptional food. I think we successfully carried out our vision of backyard dining, and people responded with overwhelming enthusiasm.”

From the fried chicken to braised collard greens, this is one menu selection that will keep you coming back for more.

Florie offers eats at On Forty-One that receive rave reviews from foodies who cherish the balance between real Southern food and a perfectly executed dish. The dinner menu includes fan favorites like the pork chop with mac ‘n’ cheese and the pimento-cheese-covered burger. In true Florie fashion, On Forty-One is sure to appeal to everyone, offering vegetarian and gluten free options alongside an array of decadent dishes.

“The menu at 41 is comfort foods that I grew up with and stuff I have been cooking for years,” said Florie. “Originally, I had a Mexican sort of concept in mind, but, in the end, I decided to go with a menu focused on the dishes I know and love best. I am especially proud of our weekly specials, which are super seasonal and showcase the freshest of local ingredients. My executive chef, Doug Svec, is very creative, and this really comes through in his weekly specials.”

This universal appeal can be found in the decor and atmosphere of the restaurant as well. Guests have the option to dine in the modern industrial-rustic dining room

or on the covered – and in winter enclosed – patio or to venture outside for the real “backyard dining” experience, complete with picnic tables and cornhole. Don’t forget about the patio bar, which opens daily at 3 p.m. with happy hour food and drink specials served until 6 p.m.



From fried chicken to braised collard greens, On Forty-One's menu will keep you coming back for more.

On Wednesdays, they have Ladies’ Night all night, where you can gather your gal pals for half off select bottles of wine. Also adding to the festivities are live performances by area musicians, such as Derek Cribb and Morgan Llorens. They’ve also recently started serving Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 🍷

For more information, visit www.onfortyone.com or call 843-352-9235.

Photo courtesy of On Forty-One.

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Active in the Community

South Atlantic Bank

FOUNDED IN MYRTLE BEACH NINE years ago by a group of local businessmen who realized the need for a strong community bank among a sea of regional and super-regional banks, South Atlantic Bank now has a total of six offices along the South Carolina coast. The experienced team at the Mount Pleasant location has been helping customers in the Lowcountry since 2013.

BY ANNE TOOLE

“Our strength is banking with individuals in the community, as well as small-to medium-sized businesses,” said Ken Pickens, senior vice president of South Atlantic Bank’s Mount Pleasant branch. “Our decisions are made locally in the community by local lenders working with local customers. Funds deposited here are invested locally and lent out in our footprint. It’s good for the local and coastal economies.”

South Atlantic is a full-service commercial bank that offers everything provided by any megabank: mortgage and consumer lending, home equity lines, deposits, business and personal checking, CDs, IRAs, online and mobile banking and more. South Atlantic sets itself apart with unparalleled personalized service.

“We have technology similar to a much bigger bank: mobile and Internet banking, mobile deposits, every bell and whistle that you could get elsewhere,” Pickens said. “And we encourage people to come to the bank and see us if they prefer. Our level of personal service and warmth is hard to find outside of a community bank, and we take that to heart. We get to know our customers and build relationships with them. That’s what’s important to us.”

As part of its commitment to its customers, South Atlantic Bank makes a point to be active in the community.

“It’s important for us to be involved in community events,” said Pickens. “It could be a gala to support the Humane Society or the Florence Crittenton Home or a 5K race. You’ll find a South Atlantic banker there. We also actively support The Citadel and Charleston Southern University.”

South Atlantic Bank’s Mount Pleasant branch is located in the Queensborough Shopping Center while a new, permanent location is being built nearby on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard.

The 8,000 square-foot facility is expected to be completed in mid-2017.

“It’s not your average bank,” Pickens explained. “The new building will be a very nice facility that’s warm and inviting. While you can bank online, we want our customers to feel welcome when they come inside, to feel comfortable that they can come in and meet with us personally so we



Artwork courtesy of South Atlantic Bank.

A rendering of what the completed South Atlantic Bank campus will look like in Mount Pleasant.

can help meet their needs.”

In every way, South Atlantic Bank strives to be the ideal bank for the Mount Pleasant community.

“Banking, in my opinion, is about customer service,” Pickens said. “There’s a lot of back-office work that the public doesn’t see, but, in order to be successful, you have to treat your customers right, be polite and be professional. That’s what we do with our team here in Mount Pleasant.”

Joining Pickens in the office are two additional commercial lenders, Brian Michel and Kurt Seguer, and a mortgage banker, Peter Insabella. Christy Chumney serves as the loan assistant, while Cari Henderson manages the branch, with assistance from Jessica Clendenin. Together, they have more than 75 years of banking experience in the Lowcountry. 🐼

To learn more, visit www.SouthAtlanticBank.com or call 843-972-4300.

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Carey Budds

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Education: Christ Our King-Stella Maris School, 1965; Bishop England High School, 1969; BA,

The Citadel. 1973.

Employment: American Airlines, commercial pilot; captain, Boeing 757/767; licensed Realtor.

Favorite reading: Non-fiction and history – last book: “Killing Reagan.”

Favorite music: Beach music, oldie goldies from the ‘60s and ‘70s.

Activities: Volunteer work and fundraising for various groups.

Interests: Golf, boating, cooking.

Likes: Sharing a good meal with family and friends, and flying.

Favorite quote or philosophy: “Never pity one who tries and fails; pity one who fails to try.” – John F. Kennedy.



Cora Ezzell

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: State College, Pennsylvania.

Education: Ph.D.in Clinical Psychology.

Employment: Clinical psychologist.

Favorite music: ‘70s and ‘80s.

Activities: Photography, thrift store shopping, family time, exercise.

Interests: Traveling, fashion.

Likes: Anything vintage, food.

Favorite quote or philosophy: “You don’t have to believe everything that you think.”



Tim Loss

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Moved to South Carolina from Pennsylvania – Conshohocken, the burbs of Philly; grew up in Maryland.

Education: BS from Frostburg State University.

Employment: Area manager for Southern Trust Mortgage.

Favorite reading: Currently reading Brain Grain. It’s about the effects wheat, sugar and carbs have on the brain. It teaches you how to reprogram your genetic destiny.

Favorite music: ‘80s metal, ‘90s hip-hop, Metallica, Sublime, Rage Against the Machine, Foo Fighters.

Activities: Spending time with family and friends, going to the beach, playing golf, working out.

Interests: Live music, good food, traveling, real estate.

Likes: Washington Redskins #htr, dry aged steaks from Halls Chophouse, Will Ferrell movies, waking up early, tailgating, football on Saturdays, helping future homeowners purchase homes.

Favorite quote or philosophy: “If you do what you love, you’ll never work a day in your life.”



Coby Mozingo

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Education: Clemson University - Go Tigers!

Employment: Community Liaison – Athleta.

Favorite reading: Anything a friend picks out for me!

Favorite music: ‘80s!

Activities: Being with my family and hanging out on or in any kind of water!

Interests: Yoga, spending time with friends, Clemson football.

Likes: People.

Favorite quote or philosophy: “Know when to shut up!”

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