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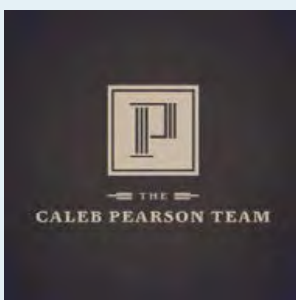
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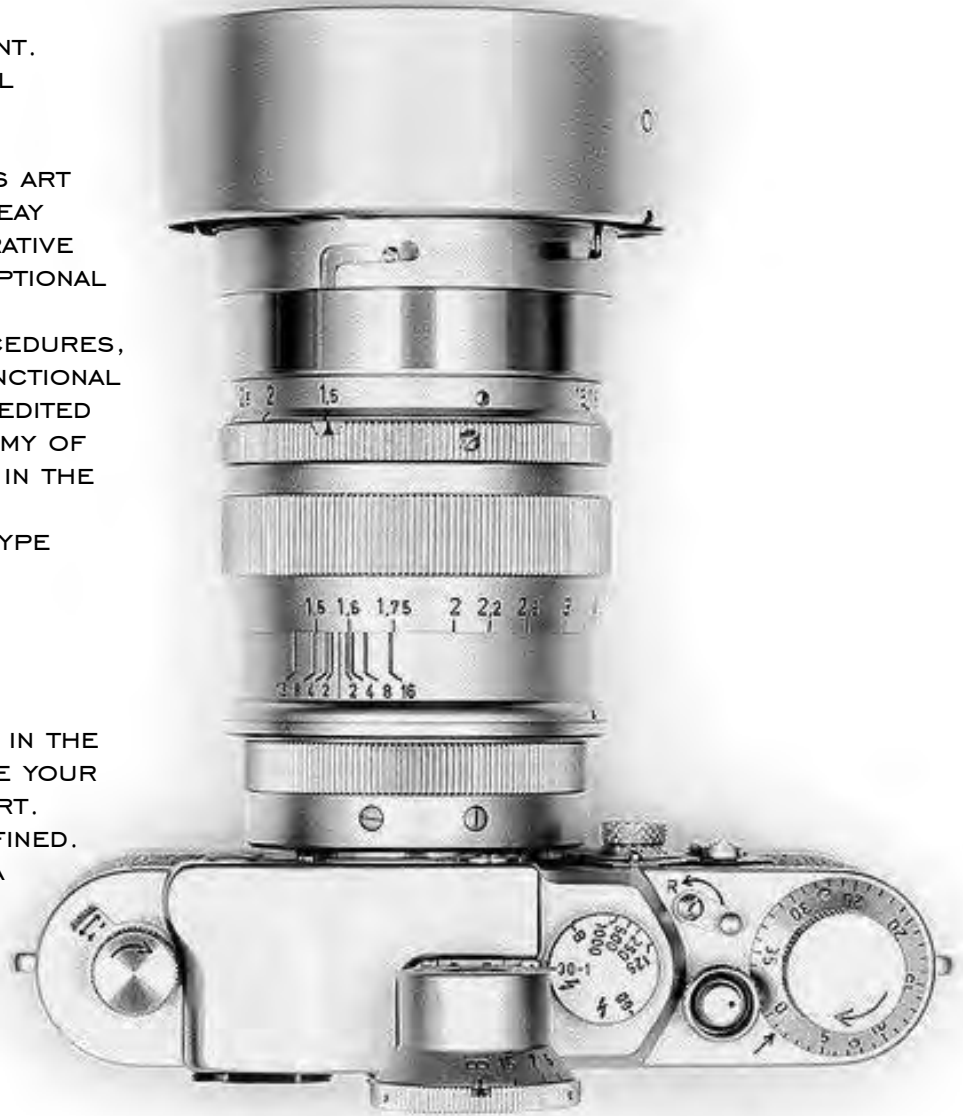
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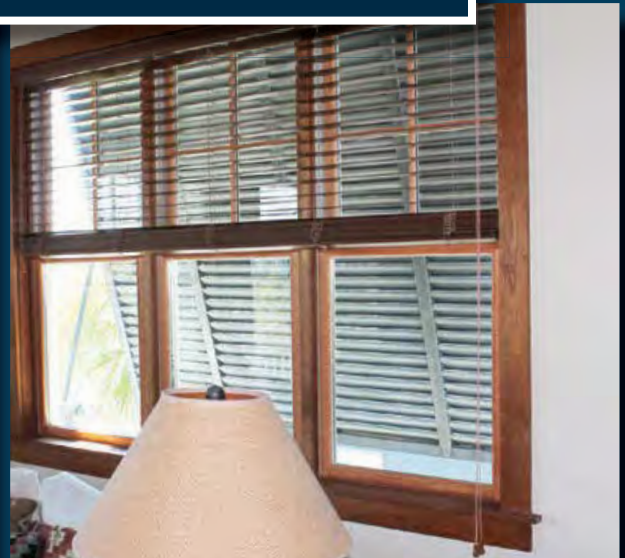
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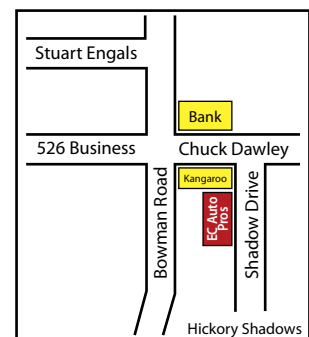


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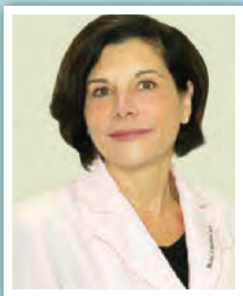
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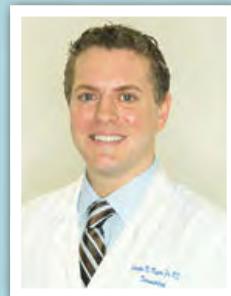
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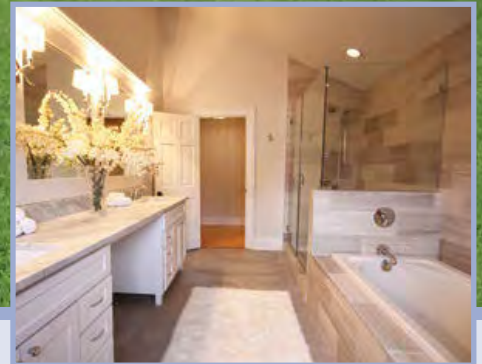
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# PUBLISHER'S NOTE

**I** GET CHARGED UP WHEN OUR READERS INTERACT WITH *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. This issue is an example. You sent us compelling and heart-tugging essays about East Cooper's favorite moms and dads. It was obvious by your entries that there are a lot of awesome parents who call Mount Pleasant, the Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island and Daniel Island home. In my mind, there is no question that parenting is a tough but rewarding life experience.

It would be quite an honor to have someone in your life – wife, child, friend, etc. – who thought enough of your parenting skills to nominate you as a favorite mom or dad. Although I wasn't eligible, I would like to think my boys would have nominated me if they could. My oldest son, Drew, and his wife, Katie, just brought into this world Liam, their third child. Drew now has four children: Tyler, 16; Liza, 5; Lucas, 4; and Liam, 4 weeks. It's hard for me to fathom that my oldest son is a father of four. Drew and Katie are great parents, and Tara, the mother of my oldest grandson, provides a loving home for Tyler.

As I reflect back on when I was raising Drew as a single parent, it is clear to me that the definition of parenting continues to evolve. The way technology has changed our world, providing an instant flow of information through the Internet and social media, and other factors have made today's parenting job more difficult.

As I raised my three boys, I always worked hard to communicate my love for them – and I always tried to be positive, even when a situation was not as positive as we all would have liked it to be.

Our double foldout cover, which drove my printer crazy, features East Cooper's favorite moms and dads. As you look at the cover, reflect on the fact no matter how much the world changes, one ingredient in the recipe of being a good parent remains the same: making sure our children know our love for them is boundless.

Let's all join in one big Mount Pleasant/East Cooper group hug. Let's tell the ones we care about how much we love and appreciate them. It's not hard; group hugs make everyone feel better.

If you would like to read more favorite mom and dad stories, visit [www.ReadMPM.com/MomAndDad](http://www.ReadMPM.com/MomAndDad).

Thanks for making Mount Pleasant Magazine your magazine of choice. You're the best. 🍷



— BILL MACCHIO  
East Cooper resident since 1979  
[Publisher@MountPleasantMagazine.com](mailto:Publisher@MountPleasantMagazine.com)



Photo by Bill Macchio.

My oldest son, Drew, with my youngest grandchild, Liam, 30 minutes old.

# MOUNT PLEASANT

MAGAZINE

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May/June 2015

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# From the Managing Editor

**S**OME OF MY BEST FRIENDS HAVE BECOME AWESOME parents recently, and I can't help but give them mad kudos. Sure, I knew all along that they were stellar human beings – or we wouldn't be friends – but parenting is hard work, and my friends have handled the lifelong occupation with grace and humor.

Our May/June edition features the equally-amazing results of our Favorite Moms and Dads contest, and this year has exceeded our expectations. I got downright teary-eyed reading some of the essays y'all submitted, and it was hard to select from a group of such awesome mothers and fathers.

The inspired double cover, shot by ever-talented senior photographer Jenn Cady, features several of the families who were picked as having favorite moms and favorite dads. My appreciation goes out to the following participants, as well as Rick Walo and my team members Brandon, Brian and Bill.



**A Marty Boroughs**  
Marty Boroughs III  
Beth Wright  
Ambre Boroughs

Sloan Boroughs  
Beige Matthews  
Eliza Kate Matthews  
Olivia Boroughs

**B Aaron Perlmutter**  
Karen Perlmutter  
Zayah Perlmutter

Caleb Perlmutter

**C Yar Chowdhury**  
Katie Chowdhury  
Evie Chowdhury  
Violet Chowdhury  
Olivia Chowdhury  
Avalene Chowdhury



**A Michelle Terry**  
Olivia Terry

**B Ruth Holloway**  
*(in framed photo)*  
Debbie Perkins  
Ashley Perkins  
Taylor Perkins

Jenna Payne  
John Semsar  
Joe Semsar

**C Mary Semsar**  
Lauren Semsar

But it's not just all about moms and dads in this issue. There's plenty more to see, including our features on East Cooper's hippest artists, how chicken coops have taken Old Mount Pleasant by storm, concerts to see this summer, waterfront dining spots, former major leaguer Greg Colbrunn and so much more. Plus, don't miss our 2015 Lowcountry Women in Business section – you go, girls!

As much as I love my job – even the tough parts – I know it wouldn't be anything without you – our loyal readers. Your support, interest and ideas keep us going down here at the Mount Pleasant Magazine office. We're closely connected to you, being your local publication. We can't thank you enough.

Enjoy these summer months! 🍷

Yours,  
DENISE K. JAMES  
Managing Editor

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## Our Contributors



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**Mary Coy** is a fourth-generation Charlestonian and a graduate of the College of Charleston. She is a former



teacher in local classrooms, museums and historic sites. Nowadays, she continues to educate as a guest speaker at special events and by giving tours through her company, Charleston 101. The author of six books about Charleston, she is also a freelance journalist. Her articles have appeared in national publications as well as local magazines and newspapers.

**William Quarles** is a freelance photographer and kitchen/bath designer. His designs and photography have appeared in regional and national publications. Previously he worked in the advertising, graphics and commercial exhibit business for 27 years. He is married with three children and two grandchildren. He has lived in Mount Pleasant for 12 years.



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

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## Notes from Friends

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

Mount Pleasant Magazine is my go-to source for all things happening, a resource of places to eat, things to do and hidden gems to discover!

**-Kristin Troncoso**

Via Facebook

Mount Pleasant Magazine is an awesome news source that keeps me up to date with everything happening in my community!

**-Zach Barrack**

Via Facebook

You feature stories on interesting people this side of the bridge!

**-Sally Draughn Pascutti**

Via Facebook

I like reading the articles that showcase someone local. I like getting to know people in the same town.

**-Kristen Wingert**

Via Facebook

Send your letters to Mount Pleasant Magazine. Email your contact information (name, phone, mailing address) to [Editor@MountPleasantMagazine.com](mailto:Editor@MountPleasantMagazine.com). Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We look forward to your feedback.

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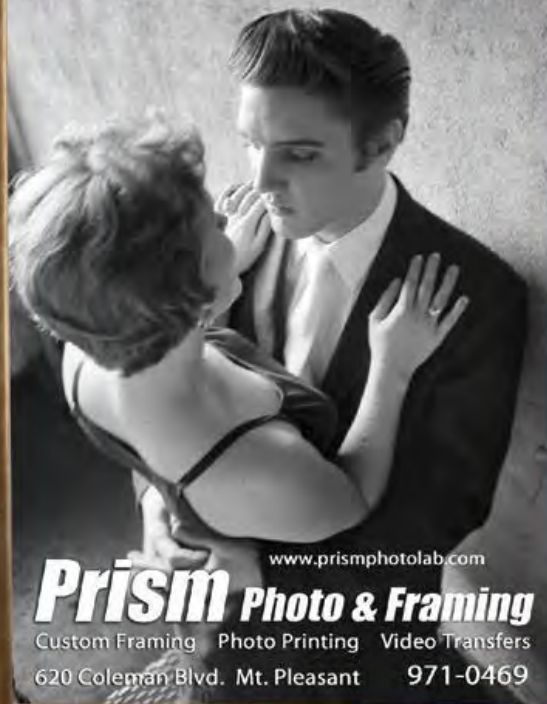
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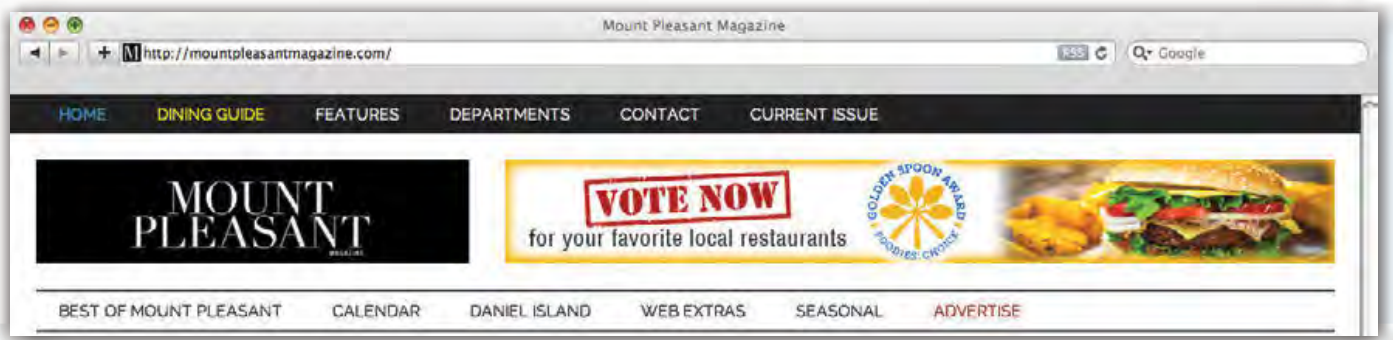
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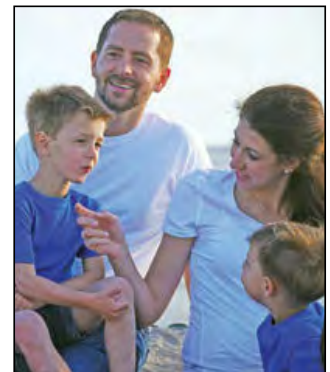
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VISIT [WWW.MOUNTPLEASANTMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.MOUNTPLEASANTMAGAZINE.COM) FOR MORE THAN WHAT YOU SEE IN THE PRINT MAGAZINE: more stories, more photographs and more fun stuff in general.

There was NO way we could include all the photography and heartwarming comments about the moms and dads we met during the production of this issue, so you'll have to read the rest online! Visit [MountPleasantMagazine.com/momanddad](http://MountPleasantMagazine.com/momanddad) for even more of the parents who are bringing up East Cooper families.

Plus, be sure to check out (and share with your clients, friends and family) the **Lowcountry Women in Business** custom digital publication at [Icwomeninbusiness.com](http://Icwomeninbusiness.com). These ladies kick butt!



And if you haven't told us about your favorite restaurants – not just in East Cooper but anywhere in the Lowcountry – then head to [GoldenSpoonAward.restaurant](http://GoldenSpoonAward.restaurant) and do it now! If you need to whet your appetite first, check out our East Cooper Eats guide, online now at [MountPleasantMagazine.com/ECEats](http://MountPleasantMagazine.com/ECEats).



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# 2015



*We asked our Mount Pleasant Magazine friends and fans to nominate their favorite moms and dads in honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day. The results are more interesting and heartfelt than we ever thought possible. We had spouses nominate each other, children nominate parents and friends, and nannies and colleagues nominate parents in the community who they consider to be extraordinary. We hope you enjoy reading the winning essays as much as we did. We're also publishing a few other comments we received on social media and elsewhere.*

*Thank you for your nominations and Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day.*

{ For even more stories, visit  
[MountPleasantMagazine.com/MomAndDad](http://MountPleasantMagazine.com/MomAndDad) }





**MICHELLE KEEF TERRY**

*Nominated by Elizabeth Murray • friend*

Michelle lives for her daughter. Working two jobs and being the most dedicated karate mom (taking her daughter to and from practices, raising money for competitions and still finding time for herself) isn't easy when she's on her own. But my friend makes it work and makes it look good! Michelle is absolutely selfless when it comes to her daughter, and I often look up to her when it comes to how I handle my own children. She's always patient, always encouraging and never complains. She really is the best mom this side of Charleston.



Michelle Keef Terry and her daughter Olivia.

**MARY SEMSAR**

*Nominated by Joe Semsar • son*

When many across the Lowcountry hear the name Mrs. Semsar, they often think teacher. After nearly four decades in the classroom, most know my mom as a Sullivan's Island Elementary School 4th grade teacher, or 2nd grade teacher or after-school tutor.



Mary Semsar, center, with sons John and Joe, daughter Lauren and Jenna Payne, Joe's fiancée.

I regularly run into people locally that ask if my mom is still teaching and then proceed to tell me about their wonderful experience in her classroom. These conversations occur all over town and fill me with joy, but are not at all surprising.

My mom is, simply put, angelic. She is selfless. She is patient. She is caring. She is loving. She is kind. She consistently models what it means to treat others with dignity and respect. And boy can she cook!

Her students love her because she cares deeply about fostering a safe, fun environment where they receive individualized attention and enjoy coming to school. Her four sisters love her because she listens to them in a nonjudgmental way and makes a concerted effort to be there for them even if she lives over 500 miles away. Her friends love her because she lives in the moment and cherishes the small things. Her four children love her because she cares deeply about their well-being.

And I love her because I am perfect in her eyes. I do not have to do anything to gain her approval. She loves me for who I am

and wants nothing more than my happiness. I know that I'm lucky to have such a wonderful mom, and Charleston, too, is lucky to have an outstanding educator who adores all of her students as if they were her own children.



**Kimberly Kendell Powell** - *I know I can't win but I love my mother because she gave me unconditional love and confidence to take on a tough world. She still thinks I walk on water (please don't tell her otherwise). Can't wait to treat all of the amazing moms out there at the spa!*

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## RUTH HOLLOWAY

Nominated by Debbie Perkins • daughter

Most people love their moms and have fond memories of their childhood. My mom was a typical mom in many aspects. What separated my mother from the pack was an extreme devotion and loyalty to those she loved, and she loved my daughters and me. My ex-husband left my daughters and me back in 2001 with very little but memories. My mom stepped up to the plate and did everything in her power to ensure that our lives did not lack in fun, love and support. She was always there for every significant moment in our lives. She was there every time we dialed her number if we needed to hear her voice. She was there when life left us disappointed or disillusioned.

But life had other plans for our best friend.

My mother became very ill a few years ago. My last memories of her before her illness took over was Christmas of 2013. We spent that holiday in a beach house, surrounded with love and memories. She held me like a child and showered us all with her unconditional love. It is a memory I will cherish for the remainder of my life. Being enveloped in her loving arms, I was reduced to a child for a brief moment. For this special moment in time, I was safe, secure, loved and protected. It was a magical Christmas.

Then in February of 2014, we found out my mom had a terminal disease. The wind was knocked out of all of us,



Photo by Rick Waldo.

Debbie Perkins, who nominated her mother, Ruth Holloway, with her own daughters, Ashley and Taylor.



As seen on:  
**facebook**

**Dori Miller Abbott** - *I love my mother because she was beautiful, loving, strong and brave! She raised four children that weren't her own!!!! Because of her, I am a strong woman today and can do anything I put my mind to. I miss her every day. One day I was at work and rushing down the hall with a pair of scissors, and I could hear her say, "Don't run with those scissors!" She is absolutely my hero!!!!*

**Tyler Wonderlic** - *My mother, Lauren Silber Wonderlic, is the most wonderful woman in the world. She treats every person she has ever met with the utmost respect, and you will never hear a bad thing about her! I love my mom for who she is and what she has helped our family become. Every son or daughter needs a role model like her, and I hope to someday marry a woman with the same values that she has instilled in us each and every day.*

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and we were left with no idea of how to proceed. On April 10, we gathered beside this woman in her hospice bed in what had once been a guest room. We lay beside her in the bed, and we sang and read to her. We kissed her and held her as she had once held us. We made promises to her, promises that I pray we can keep. Then at 6:40 that evening, our anchor left this Earth for an eternal home. We all held her as her heart took its last beat. It was a precious moment – to hold this woman as she took her last breath, knowing that only she was there when I took my first.

I was so lucky to know this beautiful lady. I was blessed to have her in my life. Her legacy lives on in my life and my daughters. She left before Mother's Day last year. So here's to you, Mom. Happy Mother's Day from your three girls. We love you to heaven and back.



Photo provided by Debbie Perkins.

Ruth Holloway with granddaughter Taylor, almost 19 years ago.



As seen on:  
**facebook**

**Emmy Edris** - *She's been there for me through it all. She's amazing!*

**Leigh Nuckols** - *My mom is my best friend. She doesn't judge me but only helps me to be my best self.*

**Linda DeRemer** - *This will be my first Mother's Day without my mother. I will always treasure her kind spirit and unconditional love for her family. She taught us to care – care for ourselves and for others. I miss her.*

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*Nominated by Meg Leisey • nanny*

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Photo provided by the Koch family.

The Koch family: David, Julia, Lance and Fran.

Fran is truly a unique and an amazing mom. Being a neonatal doctor at MUSC, you would think that she would have no extra time, but she would prove you wrong. To name a few ways she is a fantastic mother, when she is not saving lives of tiny babies at work, she spends her time taking guitar lessons – what mom does that? – working out in the wee hours of the morning while everyone’s heads are still on their pillows, hand-making all of her children’s costumes instead of buying the overpriced ones, making crafts with her creative, hilarious daughter, passionately – OK, competitively – attending her son’s club soccer games, attending Christ Our King-Stella Maris mass every weekend and making time for date night with her husband. This mother truly does it all! She sets an amazing example for her children to be well-rounded people as they mature and develop. No matter where I go in life, I will always think of how grateful I was to watch such an amazing mom in action and hope to exemplify her one day as a mother. 🐾



*Scott Kutzner - She has accepted my “lifestyle” and even hired my partner as her housekeeper. He also attends our family holiday dinners and exchanges Christmas gifts.*

*Buffie Bell Lilly - I love my mom’s strength. ... she is having surgery for lung cancer this Friday and is just so brave.*

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## AARON PERLMUTTER

Nominated by Karen Perlmutter • wife

When Aaron and I started dating almost 13 years ago, he struck me as different than any other man I'd dated. He was the opposite of showy. Rather, he was unassuming but had a steady quality to him, like the backbone you would want for a family. We now have two sons, Isaiah, age 4, and Caleb, age 22 months. Aaron effortlessly finds the balance between providing structure for our boys and bringing them to fits of giggles. He is a swing-pushing, lunch-packing, bath-giving, hands-on dad. After a long work day, he will often scoop the kids up for an adventure to play soccer at the park, to pull the wagon around the neighborhood or get the kids engaged in some sort of dance party or rowdy jump-on-daddy fiasco. He is not afraid to kiss and hug his sons daily or to say "I love you and I'm so proud of you." He asks our older son about school and actually listens attentively to what happened on the playground that day.



The Perlmutter family: Aaron, Zayah, Caleb and Karen.

Aaron is also a soccer player and a triathlete. He has not lost his own identity in his parenting, which I believe to be an important quality of parenthood. In this, he has modeled balance for our kids: hard work, hard play, big love. We parents can tell our kids all sorts of things about how we'd like them to grow up. But Aaron, probably without even knowing it, actually models for our sons just what it means to be a good man and a good person. They'll realize one day that is what he is. Right now, they just think he's kind of a superhero.



As seen on:  
**facebook**

**John Rhodie** - *My father is one of a kind. He knew my mom from high school and grew up best friends. When our biological father bailed on my brothers, mom and I, he was there. He left his life in Massachusetts to come be with us. He raised four great young men through discipline, love, encouragement, sweat and tears. My family wouldn't be who or where we are if it were not for this man. And he may be my stepdad, but he is the best father any kid could ever ask for.*

**Kelly Cooper** - *My dad is the most generous, kind and selfless man I know. He consistently demonstrates his love to my family and me not only in words but also in actions. And he sets a great example of what it means to be a good and loving father.*

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## YAR CHOWDHURY

Nominated by Katie Chowdhury • Wife

Our favorite dad stated he would one day have four daughters before he was even married 12 years ago. Amazingly enough, he was right!

Our favorite dad spends his days taking care of sick children – he’s a pediatric cardiologist at MUSC – before coming home to his four daughters: 7, 4, 2 and 3 months. He is always positive and excited to see his family, no matter how long or difficult his day was at the hospital.

Our favorite dad always puts his wife and daughters first. He sacrifices his “wants” in order to provide his girls with all their needs.

Our favorite dad spends his evenings and weekends playing with his four princesses. He’s known for wrestling, playing outside, being kicked out of the treehouse because he’s a boy and occasionally having his “spiky” hair put in barrettes. He may even be a “Brony” because he spends a lot of time playing My Little Pony with his daughters. He’s the best!

Our favorite dad loves his family to the moon and back. No words can describe the love we have shared since we were just 15 years old. His heart has grown even more with the birth of our four children.

Our favorite dad is beyond patient! He lives with five females and never ever complains. He jokingly said, “I’ll be moving out once a month in the future.” Of course, he was kidding – I hope!

Our favorite dad is compassionate as a physician, husband and father. He treats all patients like his own children. He saves lives and always puts his children and wife first. What more could one ask for? We love our favorite Daddy!



Yar Chowdhury, his wife, Katie, and their four daughters: Evie, Violet, Olivia and Avalene.



As seen on:  
**facebook**

**Eljay Estes** - *I love my father. He passed away on May 5 of last year. I had to move away from my children due to work. I would love to give my son what my father and I didn't have enough of – time together. I miss you, Dad.*

**Karin Jean Kell** - *My dad is 90 years old! – doing well, too. I love him because he served our country in a tank during World War II. The tank was shelled and he got his officer out, helping get a total of four injured men, including my dad, to safety. I love him because he provided for our mom, now 87, and all four of us girls, and kept us safe, by working very hard, long hours. I love him because he is a very special dad!*

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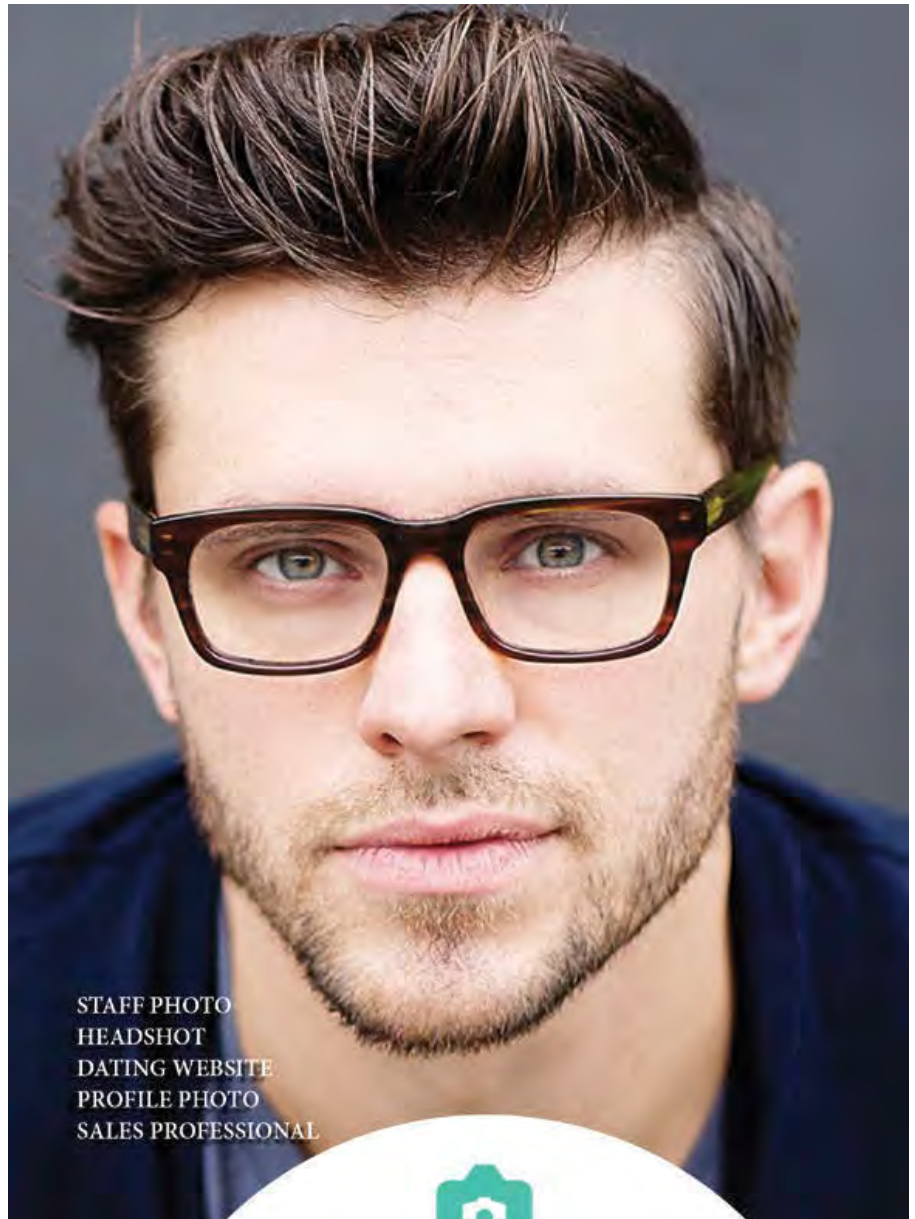


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**Liz Floyd** - *My daddy will always be my hero because he taught us to always believe in ourselves and showed us we could get through anything as long as we stuck together. He also raised two daughters who love sports! Can't beat that! I miss him every day.*

**Shane Peek** - *I love my dad because he made me the man I am today. Without him, without his insight, love, inspiration, and an occasional butt whoopin, I wouldn't be who I am. And he taught me the game of baseball when I was old enough to walk. He took me to a Braves game when I was 5, and I still remember the day in detail!! I would like for him, my son and me to go to a RiverDogs game and celebrate the beautiful American pastime on Father's Day. God bless our fathers!!*

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## MARTY BOROUGHS

Nominated by Beth Boroughs Wright • daughter



Marty Boroughs, center, with his family: Martie Boroughs III, Beth Wright, Ambre Boroughs, Sloan Boroughs, Beige Matthews, Eliza Kate Matthews and Olivia Boroughs.

Our father, Marty Boroughs is the most wonderful father around. His father died when he was 3 years old, and he was raised by his mother along with his two older sisters.

Although he was loved dearly, was raised by a wonderful mother and had some great male influences in the family, we know he always missed having his father.

Maybe that is what made him so great – being able to give his children things that he was never able to have, to raise us to be happy and safe. He is hilarious and has stories that everyone wants to hear – although the story may not be exactly the same every time. Haha! All of our cousins and friends love him almost as much as we do.

In addition to four girls and one boy, there are also two grandchildren and one on the way at the end of March. The grandchildren are his joy now; he spends most of his time with them. There are also three sons-in-

law that he loves as his own.

Dad has lots of friends and acquaintances in the community and gives of himself to lots of the older friends that may need a visit or to be taken to a function or out of the house. Sometimes I wonder if he will ever know how much we love him, how much we appreciate every time he listened when we needed him, moved us across country back home or just sat and laughed hysterically.

We have been so fortunate to have and experience what the real meaning of family is and are grateful to have the opportunity given to us by this generous, loving man.

## BENJAMIN RUPP

Nominated by Ayden Rupp, Connor Simonson and Parker Beeson • all on Wando High School lacrosse team

My dad is the absolute best. He really deserves an award for being such a great dad to all 40 of my brothers. He is very understanding and kind in every situation. Plus he's got a sweet goatee (Ayden).

I'm nominating Coach Rupp because he is a great leader and a great coach. He always pushes me to do my best (Parker).

Coach Rupp is the best dad in Mount Pleasant because he loves his kids and he loves his players. He treats us like his family (Connor). 🐻



Benjamin Rupp, center, with the Wando High School lacrosse team.



Sally Draughn Pascutti - He instilled the pleasure of rambling in two generations of children.

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## MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, SANTOS VOTES AGAINST THE REST OF THE COUNCIL

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

**S**OME PEOPLE MIGHT LOOK AT Gary Santos and see a stubborn, intractable skeptic, an immovable obstacle to progress in a town that is attracting more new residents than almost every other municipality of its size in America.

Others consider Santos to be a hero of sorts, a principled protector of their right to disagree with any and every

rule, regulation, ordinance or zoning variance passed or contemplated by the town council – and to do something about it.

Regardless of your opinion of Santos, who has served on the Mount Pleasant town council for a decade-and-a-half, the number of times he has cast the lone positive or negative vote on issues that come before the council is a tribute to his stubborn opposition to anything he sees as not quite right about local government. Or maybe he

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Photo by Holger Obenaus





Gary Santos grew up in Mount Pleasant, and he wants Shem Creek to remain "the iconic area it is."

simply believes that the people he represents want him to question almost everything the council does.

"It's hard to put my finger on why I'm at the bottom of lots of 7-2 and 8-1 votes," said Santos, trying to explain the abundance of decisions where he is on one side and most of the rest of the council is on the other. "I try to vote the way the citizens want me to. I'm a citizen who happens to be a council member."

At first blush, it might appear that Santos doesn't want Mount Pleasant to grow, an allegation he vigorously denies. For example, he cast the lone dissenting vote against the Coleman Boulevard Revitalization Plan "because I didn't want 75-foot-tall buildings on Coleman Boulevard." He also was the only councilman to vote against a plan for a parking garage and office building at the corner of Coleman and Mill Street, overlooking Shem Creek, and he appealed the council's decision with the town's Board of Zoning Appeals.

He wouldn't oppose building a parking garage on Coleman – he just doesn't like the idea of it towering over the creek.

"Shem Creek is our most historic area. It needs to be vetted well before anything else is done. We need to keep Shem Creek the iconic area it is," he said.

Santos, who will turn 57 in November, was born and raised in Mount Pleasant. He insists that he doesn't want to keep others from moving to his hometown, but he did admit that he thinks Mount Pleasant is currently growing at too fast a rate.

"You have to grow or die," he said. "But you have to grow smart. Your infrastructure has to stay up with the growth."

Santos, who served on the council from 1996 until

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2009 and again starting in 2013 – he lost a race for the mayor’s seat and dropped out of politics for four years – has delved into issues other than Mount Pleasant’s exploding population. For instance, he wrote an ordinance during his first term in office that guaranteed each resident three minutes to speak during council meetings. He wants to extend that privilege to all committee and commission meetings, but, so far, he has been unable to convince his fellow council members to go along with his plan. As it stands right now, committee and commission chairs decide who gets to voice their opinion.

“I want to see that this is passed before the end of my current term,” he commented.

Santos has had some legislative success. Despite opposition from some council members and local businesses, he helped push through an ordinance that banned smoking in all public places in Mount Pleasant in 2007. He also championed the Vendor Partnership Program, which, all other factors being equal, gives local businesses an advantage over out-of-towners.

“I was getting my lawnmower fixed when the guy said he wished he could get some of the town’s business. At the time, the town was taking its business to a place in Hol-

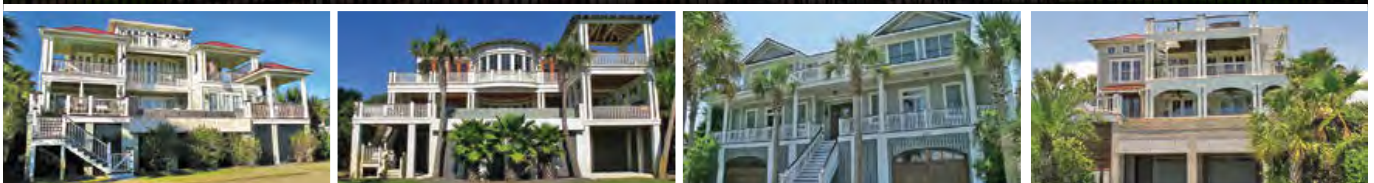
lywood,” Santos remembered. “The ordinance gives Mount Pleasant businessmen who are up to speed on their taxes and agree to an audit an advantage.”

And then there’s the controversy over Mayor Linda’s Page efforts earlier this year to require approval from three members instead of one before an item could be discussed by the council. The plan apparently was aimed at Santos’ propensity for placing topics related to growth on the agenda. The mayor compromised, reducing the requirement to two members, and the rule passed by a small margin.

“I would second anybody’s vote,” Santos stated. “If it’s a strong issue, I’ll second it and give us the opportunity to comment, but I might not vote for it. I would second it just for discussion. That’s what an open society is.”

According to Santos, everything he does as a councilman is for one major reason.

“This might sound kind of corny, but I’m here to make a difference in my town,” he insisted. “We have a quality of life that people expect, that we’ve come to know and love. That’s why people are coming here. Mount Pleasant is my home, and it has a special place in my heart.” 🏡



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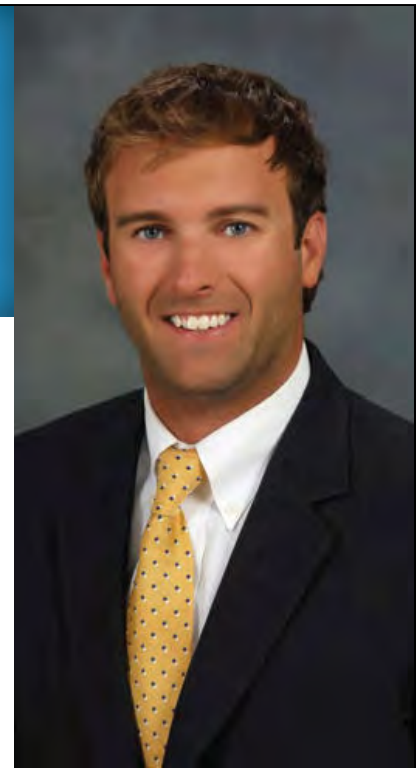


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H.B. Marshall, left, and his fiancée, Madison, with their two hens, Oreo and Blue.





# Bird's the Word OLD VILLAGE CHICKENS

*Story by Denise K. James.*

*Photos by Cassandra Michelle Photography.*

**M**ANY RESIDENTS OF OLD Mount Pleasant are experiencing a movement of sorts. That movement is strutting around their backyards, pecking at the ground and delivering a vehement squawk or windy flap every now and again. Yes, I am speaking about chickens, living as closely as beyond your neighbor's fence, if not in your own yard. These inner city hens actually are doing a

world of good for the surrounding community: introducing new friends, keeping the bug population manageable and providing fresh eggs for Sunday brunch gatherings. Plus, they're a lot of fun. I had the joy of meeting several hens, all of them with distinct personalities. I promise your carton of eggs from Publix won't look the same again.

You might be wondering how chickens could become so popular in a place like Mount Pleasant. After all, with plenty of other pet choices – dogs, cats, gerbils – doesn't it seem odd to have a hen as a sidekick? Well, according

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to most of the folks who've taken to keeping them around, while they love the zaniness birds add to the yard, several of the reasons are practical.

"Chickens are low maintenance – they go into their cages at night and don't need any babysitting," remarked Les Orr, an Old Village resident who owns two hens: Gertrude and Cookie. "We can feed the chickens whatever scraps our kids don't eat during meals, and chicken poop goes into our garden as fertilizer. They're good for recycling."

"The urban homestead movement

in Mount Pleasant is huge," pointed out Lily Herndon Weaks, whose hen, Molly, is well-known for making friends with other chickens on the street. "Everyone is into it, whether it's preserving and canning produce or raising chickens. And you can do as much or as little as you want. You can even do it in an apartment."

Of course, these local hens also provide the tastiest eggs around. When I asked the owners what they do with all the eggs – most species lay one a day – the answers ranged from making "the fluffiest pancakes



Les Orr said that his son Conrad helped name the family chickens.



and breads” to “omelets every morning” to “egg salad almost every week.” Whatever eggs are left go to friends and neighbors, especially those who appreciate the chicken trend.

Actually, the streets of the Old Village sometimes feel more like an apartment or college dorm, thanks to the chickens making their way from yard to yard and introducing their owners. Everyone I talked to had a story about their neighbors and how a fowl has led to new friendships. Chicken owners look out for the safety of each other’s birds, discuss

antics and even help out with naming new chickens.

“Our son Conrad gave Cookie her name,” explained Orr. “But our neighbor Bob named Gertrude. He called her that one day, and it just sort of stuck.”

Molly, Gertrude, Cookie and their feathered friends definitely have it made. Their lives are easy; their owners appreciate them; and even their coops are luxuriously spacious – when they aren’t pecking around the yard, that is.

“I started working on our coop



Lily Herndon Weaks feeds her own hen, Molly, plus a few feathered friends from down the street.

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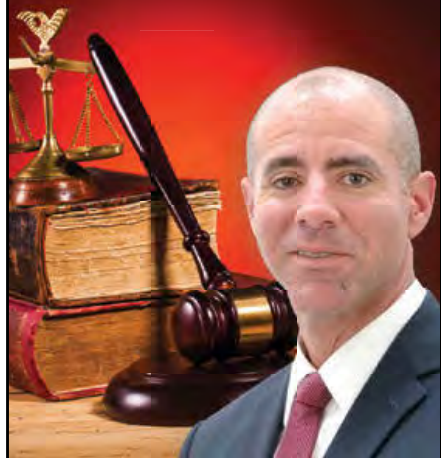
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after my fiancée, Madison, moved in last March,” said H.B. Marshall, another Old Village resident with a rather fancy chicken lodging. “She said if we were going to have chickens, we had to have a nice coop!”

When we spoke, Marshall and his fiancée had two grown hens – Oreo and Blue – plus a bunch of baby chicks they were raising in a cozy shed. The couple said they’d eventually give away a few chicks to family members and also keep a few for the coop. Though they had close to 15 chicks the day I visited, nobody seemed concerned about finding homes for them; chickens are in demand right now.

“You can put ‘chickens for sale’ on craigslist and they



H.B. Marshall built a rather fancy chicken coop to house his hens in style.

definitely won’t last!” Marshall noted.

Honestly, until I started researching this article and meeting the hens of Mount Pleasant, I had no idea chickens could be so sweet. I’ve petted quite a few feathery



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While hens might not quite become “man’s best friend,” they are becoming quite popular in the Old Village.

don’t even mind,” Orr admitted with a chuckle.

All of the owners heartily agreed that they would keep raising chickens and keep participating in Mount Pleasant’s urban homestead movement.

“We have a farm in Aiken County right now,” Weaks said. “I plan to start hosting homesteading gatherings at the farm – and urban homesteading here at the house. Most of us who have chickens share similar interests.”

backs lately, but nothing beat watching the owners interact with their birds. While hens might not quite become “man’s best friend,” there’s definitely love to be shared.

“The kids run around and chase them and the chickens

“I grew up in the country, and we always had chickens,” Marshall added. “Then after college, I moved to Sullivan’s Island and my neighbors had chickens there, too. It sounded cool, so I got some.” 🐔

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# They Already Came, So Let's Build It

## MOUNT PLEASANT'S NEW TOWN HALL

*Story by Brian Sherman and art courtesy of the town of Mount Pleasant.*

**P**LANS CALL FOR GROUND TO BE broken sometime in May on Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall, a three-story facility that is expected to serve the needs of the government and citizens of one of the country's fastest-growing municipalities for the next 75 years.

"It's time for a community building that reflects Mount Pleasant and its government," Town Administra-

tor Eric DeMoura commented. "We pride ourselves on trying to do things the right way, being transparent and being accessible to our citizens. That can be hard when it is tough for our citizens to determine in which building a meeting will be held and whether there will be enough parking. The current Town Hall isn't accommodating."

Though community pride certainly played a role in the decision by town leaders to knock down four crumbling buildings and replace them with a 98,000-square-





Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall, scheduled for completion in 2017, will be a three-story building surrounded by a park.

*Photo by Cameron Holmes.*

foot structure surrounded by a public park, there were more important reasons to move on from the sprawling complex that has served Mount Pleasant since 1989, according to DeMoura.

“The current Town Hall doesn’t meet today’s needs,” he explained. “If there were an emergency such as a storm or an earthquake, the community would depend on our response in deploying fire, police and public works. These buildings can’t survive a major event. We would have a crippled

response when the community needed us the most.”

And besides, he said, there is no more room for the additional employees necessary to serve the ever-growing needs of a municipality whose population has increased by more than 150 percent since the town government moved to its current location on Ann Edwards Lane, just off Houston Northcutt Boulevard. The new Town Hall will be at the same location.

DeMoura pointed out that it’s no longer cost-effective



to put money into fixing the town's current buildings, all of which will be razed by the time the new Town Hall is completed in 2017.

"The buildings are in bad shape and the roofs leak," he said. "There's no value in repairing the building. Like with an old car, you reach a point where you have to make the jump into a new vehicle."

The new Town Hall will include a two-court gymnasium, replacing the old gym, while the Town Council and Municipal Court will no longer share their chambers. As part of the project, the town will build public restrooms for people using the adjoining football field and track.

When the new Town Hall is completed, it will be home to the Mount Pleasant Police Department, as well as to the administrative offices for Planning and Development; Public Services; Transportation; Fire Administration; Legal; Municipal Court; Administrative Services; and Community Development and Tourism, as well as the Town Council chambers, the mayor's office and the town administrator's office. The Recreation Department, now headquartered at the Jones Center, will move into the new building as well.

Fire Department and Public Works employees will



Mount Pleasant's new Town Hall will serve the needs of the town's government and citizens for the next three quarters of a century.

continue to be housed throughout the town, of course.

Buildings B and C will be knocked down right away to make room for the initial construction work on the new Town Hall. As a result, several departments have been relocated for the next two years. The Department of Planning and Development, Building Inspections, Public Services and the Business License Office have moved to the Public Services Department maintenance facility on Sweetgrass Basket Parkway. The Fire Department admin-



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istration is now at Station #2 on Egypt Road, and the Fire Marshal's office is at Station #3 on 7th Avenue.

The Municipal Court, the Police Department and other town employees will remain in Buildings A and D – which includes the courtroom – until the new building is completed.

Building the new Town Hall on a different site might have caused fewer logistical problems for the town, but keeping Mount Pleasant's government at its current 10.58-acre site turned out to be the best option, according to DeMoura. The former K-Mart property, which is closer to the center of town, was considered, but the construction of a parking garage would have been necessary because the site is only around 3.5 acres. That would have added \$8 million to the project's price tag, he pointed out.

And, according to DeMoura, it's becoming increasingly less important for Mount Pleasant residents to have easy access to Town Hall.

"In the future, fewer and fewer people will come to Town Hall for services," he said. "More of it will be done online. That's why it wasn't necessary to build the new Town Hall in a central location." 🐼

## MOUNT PLEASANT'S NEW TOWN HALL By the Numbers

\$22 mil.	Estimated cost.
98,000	Square feet.
3	Stories.
75 yrs.	Length of time the new Town Hall is expected to be usable.
356	Town employees who will work in the new Town Hall.
1989	The year the town moved into its current Town Hall.
2	Basketball courts at the new Town Hall.
0	Town Hall buildings that will remain in use after the new facility is completed.

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*-Jane Terhune, Sandpiper Courtyard resident*



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# Before it was Town Hall . . .

Mount Pleasant's current Town Hall will be gone when its replacement is completed in 2017. Years ago, the building housed a thriving school.

## THE RISE AND FALL OF EAST COOPER SCHOOL



*Story by Brian Sherman.  
Artwork courtesy of the Eagle,  
East Cooper School's yearbook.*

**T**HE FOUR DECAYING BUILDINGS that now make up Mount Pleasant's government complex will be deleted from the landscape in the next two years to make way for a shiny new Town Hall. Though the structures will cease to exist by the time the three-story building is completed in 2017, their original purpose will never be erased from the memory of Tom



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O'Rourke, a Pennsylvania native who spent eight years of his life teaching and coaching at the private school that once called three of the four buildings home.

O'Rourke, now the executive director of the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission and still a Mount Pleasant resident, arrived in the Lowcountry in 1978, a degree from Slippery Rock University in his hand and dreams of changing the world in his 21-year-old mind – if only he could find a job. His sister lived in Mount Pleasant, so he spent some time in her kitchen making phone calls to area schools.

“I needed a job. The steel mills in Pittsburgh were closing and teachers were being laid off,” he said. “I was calling around to see if anyone had any openings. When I called East Cooper School, the response was ‘Our athletic director just quit last night.’”

That was the beginning of his eight-year relationship with East Cooper School, which thrived as an elementary school but struggled – and eventually failed – when a high school was added to the mix.

The school, which had no religious affiliation, was established in the mid-1960s by local residents including Dr. Charles Darby, Gordon Darby, Charles Way, J.C. Long, Loy Stewart and Scott Tucker. Located in what eventually became the town's Building C, it served students in grades kindergarten through the sixth grade. The building was named in honor of longtime teacher Ladelle Burbage. Buildings B and D – which houses the town's current courtroom – were later added, along with a gymnasium, and grades seven and eight were tacked on in the mid-1970s.

During O'Rourke's tenure at East Cooper School, Col. Larry McKay, a retired Army officer with experience as a helicopter pilot, served as the headmaster and left a lasting

impression on the young coach and teacher.

“He was the greatest man ever,” O'Rourke commented.

McKay is now deceased, as are the school's other two

coaches: Tricia Payne and Paula Rodewoldt. Students, both boys and girls, competed in basketball, soccer and track and field.

What O'Rourke remembered most about the school was the close relationship among the families who chose to send their children there.

“It was very close-knit,” he pointed out. “The families who started the school were very involved. They were generous with their time and finances.”

In O'Rourke's mind, the beginning of the end for East Cooper School was the decision to establish a high school. There was a waiting list to get into the elementary school, which served 450 students in grades kindergarten through eight, but, in some years, the number of students in the high school graduating class

failed to reach double digits. And while there were other private middle schools nearby, the high school athletic teams had to travel an hour to an hour-and-a-half in some cases to play basketball and other sports.

And financially, O'Rourke said, the school never recovered from the debt it incurred when a building and the football field and track were added to accommodate the high school. The school shut its doors in the early 1990s.

“If the school had grown, it wouldn't have closed,” O'Rourke said. “Finances were the issue, and the public school alternatives were really good.”

After leaving East Cooper School in 1986, O'Rourke spent some time in the insurance business before serving as Mount Pleasant's recreation director. He managed the Sports and Recreation Division for Seamon Whiteside and Associates before taking his current job, which he has held for the past 14 years. 🐔



East Cooper School's yearbook was known as the Eagle.

# The Muse is in Mount Pleasant

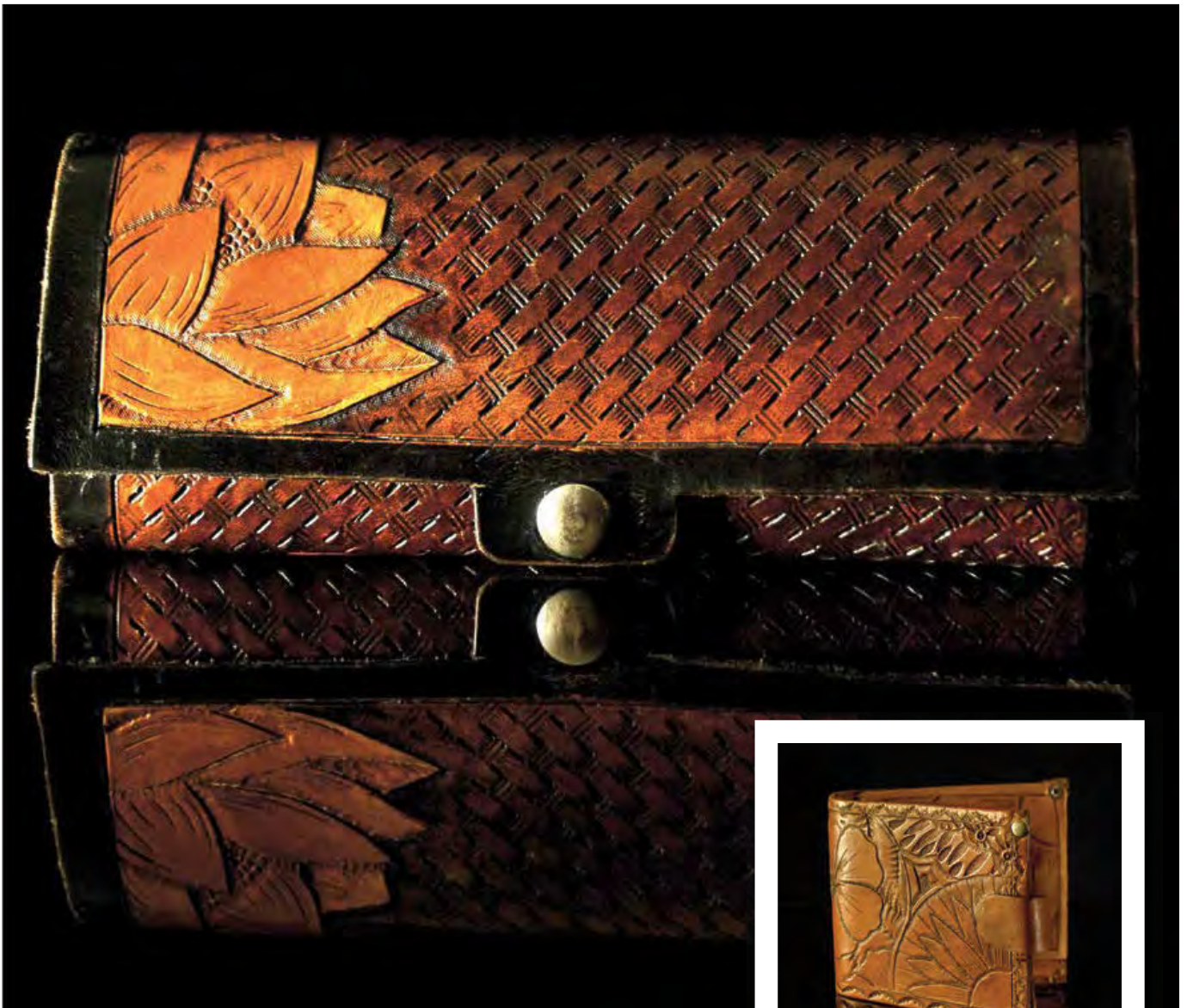
## LOCAL ARTISTS HAVE A LABOR OF LOVE

*Story by Denise K. James.*

*All photos provided by the artists.*

*Our beloved Lowcountry has a reputation of being an artistic city, brimming with painters, sculptors, artisans and other gifted individuals who are not only able to create a thing of beauty but spread the word and share the love with other artists. Here in Mount Pleasant and the surrounding islands, we've been bitten by the muse as well. I had the luxury of talking to just a few of East Cooper's talented elite – mark my word, there are hundreds – and, while each person has a slightly different story or craft, they all share a sincere drive to make the world more beautiful.*





A New Year's Resolution presented Casia Correll with the perfect opportunity to reinvent her creative self – and that's just what she did last year.



## CASIA CORRELL: LEATHER

For Casia Correll, a New Year's resolution presented the perfect opportunity to reinvent her creative self – and that's just what she did back in 2014. When she couldn't locate a bracelet she liked, Correll decided that leather work would become her new passion. Now, just over a year later, she's undoubtedly found a new niche.

"It's all still in the early stages," she commented. "I have a lot to learn, and I'm enjoying it."

A graduate of Full Sail University with a degree in graphic design, Correll claimed that she's "most creative at night" and doesn't mind staying up late or waking up early to create her pieces. The inspiration behind the leather designs – which include kitschy items such as a Legend of

Zelda wallet – are typically her own forms with a twist.

"I get some unusual requests," she admitted. "The most important part is to customize for your customers."

Correll currently fashions wallets, handbags, key chains and other small goods out of leather. She gets most of her leather online and sells the goods primarily at her Etsy shop and at events downtown. Although she's keeping busy – she also works full-time editing photos for Valerie and Co. Photographers of Charleston – Correll's next goal is to make her own shoes.

"Then I can boot all of my family," she said with a chuckle. "I would love to shadow a local cobbler and have some questions answered."

*Check her out on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/casbot/>*

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At the age of 7, Malcolm Knight witnessed something unforgettable on a family trip to Dollywood: a furnace making glass.



**MALCOLM KNIGHT: GLASS**

When local glass blower Malcolm Knight was just 7 years old, he witnessed something unforgettable on a family trip to Dollywood: a furnace making glass. Today, Knight crafts exquisite glass pieces through a technique known as lamp work.

“Lamp work, as opposed to furnace work, is a more intimate form of the craft since you can do it alone in a smaller space,” he explained.

Knight pursued his education in glass making through a class at Blue

Heron in West Ashley and then the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina. He credited Sally Pratch as well as Matt Eskuche as two of his mentors during his time at Penland. After obtaining what he referred to as “a solid foundation” in glass blowing, Knight returned home to the Lowcountry and is now completing a degree in studio art at the College of Charleston.

“I decided to finish my degree in case I want to teach,” he commented. “I enjoy teaching; I teach surf classes during the summer.”

Knight purchases his materials for



glass pieces through Mountain Glass Art in Asheville. It arrives in two solid tubes, about 5 feet long, which have to be broken down with heat. That's where the torch comes in.

"You shape the glass tubes with the torch," he said, "and one of the coolest things about flame work is manipulating the colors of the glass. Colors are usually made of metals, oxides and other pigments."

According to Knight, he chose glass as his artistic medium because he finds it "fascinating." And though he said making art out of glass is not inherently complicated, he admitted that it does take a long time to learn.

Check Malcolm out on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/longtoemalcolm/>

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When Tony Nesbitt was a kid, he spent a portion of Sunday church services doodling cartoon characters. Today, he is one of the area's most active visual artists.



**TONY NESBITT: MULTIMEDIA**

When he was a kid, artist Tony Nesbitt spent a portion of Sunday church services doodling cartoon characters. Today, he is one of Mount Pleasant's most active visual artists, working in various mediums such as paint, pen and ink, pastels and even wood. A Lowcountry native from the Mount Pleasant/Huger area, he described himself as "a self-taught artist" and said that ever since those Sunday mornings, his drawing and painting abilities have blossomed.

Today, Nesbitt works from a studio in his home.

"I have to be in 'the zone' in order to create something," he mused. "A place far away from the everyday world."

In addition to his artistic pieces, Nesbitt creates his own frames. He mostly purchases his materials locally, and he does his best to support other local artists and creative events.

"I credit my wife, Charmayne, for researching events," he commented. "We value local opportunities such as the Sweetgrass Festival, Blessing of the Fleet and Art on the Beach. And we are also looking for more ways to get the word out."

Nesbitt said his inspiration is mostly spiritual as well as related to family.

"My inspiration for this gift comes from almighty God," he said.

*Check out Tony's art at <http://mkt.com/nezz-art-llc>, where you can also view original sweetgrass items by his wife and business partner, Charmayne.*





Kait Waggoner's business was born after she decided to sell the homemade decorations from her wedding.



### KAIT WAGGONER: CHALK AND WOOD

After Kait Waggoner got married approximately two-and-a-half years ago, she decided to sell the homemade decorations from her wedding and, thus, her business, Salt and Light Designs, was born.

"I created all of the décor for our wedding," she said. "I started with chalk boards and wooden signs that I painted on, and then I started taking custom orders."

Today, Salt and Light Designs is thriving, and Kait's husband, Chris, helps with much of the demand, though he also works as a Realtor.

Why did Kait initially choose to start making signs out of wood? It was purely happenstance – after discovering an old piece of wood and painting on it, she got rave

reviews. Today, the inspiration for the words she paints comes from different sources: numerous Bible verses as well as custom words her clients ask her to paint. As for the wood pieces, untreated lumber for current projects is typically scored from local sources.

"We've used local wood yards, including Guy C. Lee in Mount Pleasant, and we hope to keep doing so," remarked Kait.

Right now, Salt and Light Designs boasts a thriving Etsy page and works with local events such as the Mount Pleasant Farmers Market. Future plans include hiring someone to help Kait do the painting and marketing the items to more local shops.

*Check out Salt and Light Designs at [SaltandLightDesigns.etsy.com](http://SaltandLightDesigns.etsy.com).*

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## KIM WEST: WOOD, SCRAPS AND PAINT

Kim West said she's been an artist for more than 20 years – including obtaining a degree in studio art and owning her own homemade stationery company – but the form she truly loves didn't manifest until a bit later.

“One time, I had a dent in the side of my car, and I thought I could fix it myself, so I bought a can of Bondo – it's polyester resin with talc,” she said. “I realized I thought it was the coolest thing I'd ever seen!”

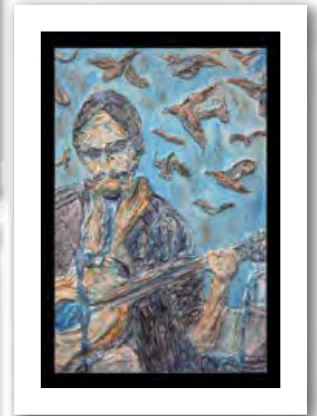
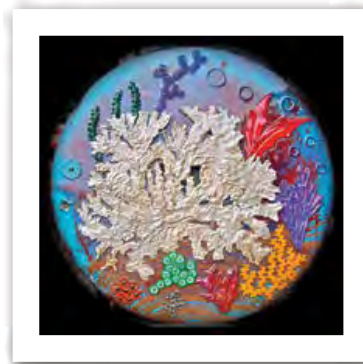
Now a prominent local artist, West uses another form of that same polyester resin to create pictures on reclaimed wood. The result, she said, is a “crazy cool” texture.

“Within a matter of time, you can capture the essence of something – even if that essence is abstract,” she commented.

West's materials for her current works of art consist of reclaimed wood, the polyester paint and a bevy of odd objects, from hardware to buttons and even pieces of bicycles.

“I'm inspired by just the simplest things around us,” she said. “They're so beautiful.”

West sells most of her pieces at Karen's Korner, a gallery and frame shop located in Mount Pleasant. She said she hopes to expand outside of the region in the future and keep making art “because she enjoys it.”



For her current works of art, Kim West uses reclaimed wood, polyester paint and a bevy of odd objects, from hardware to buttons and even pieces of bicycles.

Check out Kim's work online at [Facebook.com/KimWestOriginals](https://www.facebook.com/KimWestOriginals). 🐟

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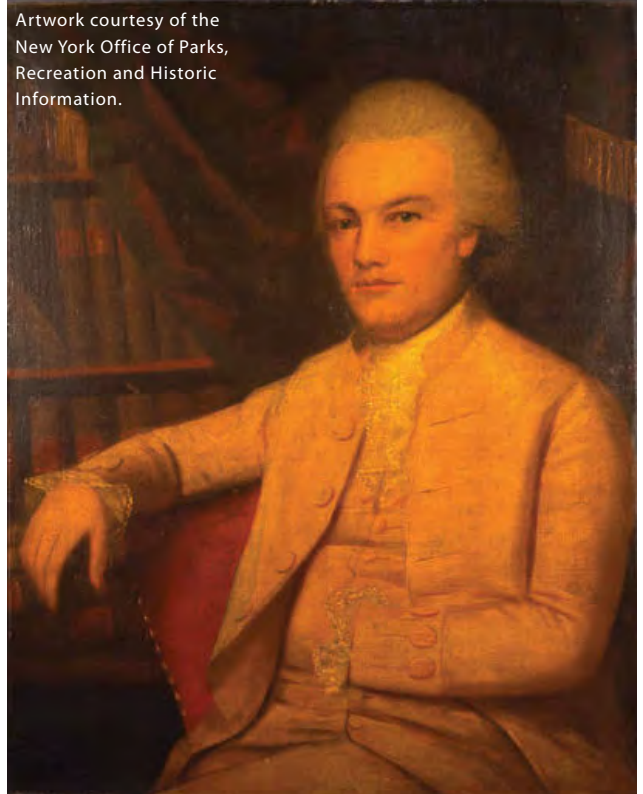
**Park was a Part of Pinckney's Plantation**

*By Mary Coy.*





Photo by Brent Everitt.



Artwork courtesy of the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Information.

At the age of only 29, Charles Pinckney was among the brightest and most well-spoken men meeting to draft the U.S. Constitution.

**M**OST AREA RESIDENTS recognize the name Snee Farm as one of Mount Pleasant's long-established neighborhoods. But far fewer are familiar with one of its early residents – Charles Pinckney.

Pinckney is well-known to historians as one of the signers – and drafters – of the U.S. Constitution. Every day, Americans enjoy the freedoms and protections that were his design.

A small piece of his family's former 715-acre rice plantation is open to the public as the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site, operated by the U.S. National Park Service. The remainder is the adjoining neighborhood and golf course. But the fate of this park almost turned out quite differently. Like many Lowcountry plantations, the tract was purchased in the 1930s by a wealthy Northerner and used as his winter retreat. Decades later, most of it was sold in parcels for development of the neighborhood. In 1988, Friends of Historic Snee Farm was founded by locals Ann Edwards and Nancy Hawk to save the core of the plantation from further division. The nonprofit group worked tirelessly to raise \$2 million to purchase the last 28 acres and, in turn, donated the site to the



National Park Service. Today, area residents can enjoy a picnic or stroll through the natural beauty of camellias, live oaks, magnolias and the marshes of Wampacheone Creek. Tim Stone, superintendent of all national park sites in the Lowcountry, believes the park is undervisited, but now, with its own site supervisor and a plan to add music performances, nature activities and family-friendly events, this setting will attract more than just history buffs.

The plantation was purchased in 1754 by Pinckney's father, who gave it the name Snee, a Gaelic word meaning bountiful. The house currently there was built by a subsequent owner, but the foundations

of many of the early buildings lost to time are visible, allowing guests to explore the contributions of the African-Americans who lived and worked at the plantation. Inside the farmhouse, displays provide further insight into the Gullah culture and the Pinckney family. Archaeological finds and a short video help to round out the historical context of the site.

Like most planters of his day, Pinckney spent only a portion of his time at the plantation, keeping a more grandiose house in the city. However, President George Washington wrote in his journal that he stopped at Snee Farm for breakfast during his visit to the Lowcountry in 1791.

Downtown tour guides quip that

Pinckney and John Rutledge collaborated on writing the Constitution at Rutledge's Broad Street home, which is now a bed-and-breakfast. But there is more to the story than that. Although the legacy of Rutledge as a founding father is often told, Pinckney had a reputation as one of the brightest and most well-spoken of the men meeting in Philadelphia to draft the document – and was a mere 29 years old at the time. He was one of the most vocal and influential delegates at the convention. According to one historian, Pinckney “spoke often and earnestly and was best at filling in holes of the grand design taking place on the floor.” He even served with Alexander Hamilton as a



Photo courtesy of The National Park Service.

The foundations of many early buildings at the plantation given the name Snee by Charles Pinckney's father are visible, giving guests the opportunity to explore the contributions of the African-Americans who lived and worked there.





Photo courtesy of The National Park Service.

Each year, the National Park Service hosts a special naturalization ceremony on Constitution Day – Sept. 17 – to swear in new U.S. citizens.

member of the all-important committee to establish the convention’s rules and procedures.

It is indisputable that Pinckney is responsible for one of the most profound articles in the resulting document – “No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust.” Also of great significance are his suggestions that the executive branch be headed by one person and that the president serve as commander-in-chief of the military.

There is some debate among historians, but Pinckney may well be the author of a number of other provisions in the Constitution. Three decades after the document became our nation’s cornerstone, John Quincy Adams asked Pinckney to provide a copy of his “draught,”



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the most complete and comprehensive plan presented by any individual member of the convention. Pinckney sent one of several outlines he had written and the one he thought he had actually presented in Philadelphia. He wrote this copy from memory, however, since his original version had been lost or destroyed. Years later, James Madison disputed the claim that these ideas were in fact solely Pinckney's or that they had actually been presented before the Constitution was ratified. He never confronted Pinckney about his concerns, but instead omitted credit to him when publishing the journal of the Constitutional Convention. So, to most Americans, Pinckney has become the forgotten founder.

As is usually the case in politics, statesmen are not without adversaries, and many of Pinckney's contemporaries – including Madison – considered him arrogant while still admiring his intelligence. But park employee Tony Paladino believes they may have been mistaking zeal for vanity. Pinckney himself even wrote, "I always loved politics, and, as I grow older, I have become more fond of them."

After making history in Philadelphia, Charles Pinckney




Photo courtesy of The National Park Service

Visitors to the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site can stroll through the natural beauty of camellias, live oaks, magnolias and the marshes of Wampacheone Creek

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went on to become governor of South Carolina at the age of 32, a position he held for four non-consecutive terms. During his 42 years in public office, he also held a seat in the U.S. Senate and in the U.S. House of Representatives. When Pinckney wasn't governor or holding federal positions, he served in the state Legislature. His political leanings advocating greater representation to the back-country of the state and suffrage to all white men – not just affluent Lowcountry landowners – led to personal conflicts with friends and family and eventually distanced him from his cousin and fellow founding father Charles Cotesworth Pinckney. He supported Thomas Jefferson's run for the presidency in 1800, against his aforementioned cousin, and upon Jefferson's election, was appointed minister to Spain.

During the Revolutionary War, Pinckney was captured when the British took Charleston. He was held on one of the prison ships anchored in the harbor, a fate that led to sickness and disease for many. But Pinckney survived the ordeal and successfully waged a campaign to coerce the British to remove the prisoners from such despicable and inhumane conditions. The British acquiesced but banished him, along with many others, to Philadelphia.

As a tragic twist, Pinckney's father turned his back on the patriot cause, tainting the family name and resulting in great financial losses for the Pinckneys due to economic penalties imposed on traitors. Pinckney's financial troubles dogged him throughout his life, exacerbated by his neglect of them. Park Ranger Gary Alexander explained, "Pinckney had inherited his financial holdings but was in way over his head. He'd probably be the first to admit that he was not a businessman but rather a lawyer and politician."

He eventually turned over Sneec Farm and other properties, including Shell Hall at Haddrell's Point, to trustees in order to settle his debts. These days, when Mount Pleasant residents are driving their children to the local elementary school named for him or attending classes at the College of Charleston, which he helped to establish, they may want to take a moment and reflect upon one of our nation's most overlooked but significant political figures. And, thanks to two civic-minded women, we are all very fortunate to be able to enjoy the quiet retreat and beauty that is the Charles Pinckney National Historic Site. 🏞️

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# Sullivan's Island:

## A VICTIM OF ITS OWN POPULARITY?

*Story by Brian Sherman.*

*Photos by Mark Howard.*

**S**ULLIVAN'S ISLAND HAS ITS problems, but, strangely enough, many of them can be directly attributed its magnificent weather, ideal location, natural beauty and overall allure to people looking for a great place to visit or put down roots. And though these hurdles might seem difficult to soar above, they apparently have done nothing to deter people from driving over the Ben Sawyer Bridge to enjoy and the sand and the sun and

stay for a day, a weekend or even a lifetime.

Pat O'Neil, the town's newly-minted mayor, is aware that Sullivan's Island isn't perfect, but he's of the opinion that there are few places in the United States or anywhere else with more to offer.

"Nearly all our challenges have to do with the impact of our population growth, but just about every town in the country would be glad to have our worst problems," said O'Neil.

A 14-year veteran of the Town Council, O'Neil earned



the mayor's seat with a landslide victory in January, racking up 539 votes to just 268 for his closest competitor. He said he never considered seeking the position until former Mayor Mike Perkis passed away last October.

"It was never on my list of things to do, but I felt like we were facing challenges right now," he commented. "I felt like there was a need for capable and caring leadership for the island."

"It was very gratifying to receive that level of support and that kind of mandate," he added. "It was a clear statement that the voters liked my approach to town government. They know I have the town's interest at heart."

Parking, he said, is somewhere near the top of the list of issues city officials must find a way to fix. He pointed out that Middle Street, home to many of Sullivan's Island's eateries, is so busy on weekends that it is sometimes difficult



Pat O'Neil has been a resident of Sullivan's Island since 1985 and served on the Planning Commission and the Town Council before being elected mayor.

for an emergency vehicle such as a fire truck to navigate through the restaurant district. One option that has been discussed would be to eliminate parking on one side of the street, but, since Middle Street is a state road, the Department of Transportation must make that decision.

And then, of course, there's the overall parking situation, especially

on holidays and summer weekends. Town officials on the nearby Isle of Palms are considering requiring visitors to pay to park on its streets, and Sullivan's Island might follow suit, but not before the summer of 2016, O'Neil said.

"Parking is a real challenge," he remarked. "Maybe if we charge, there will be more carpooling and fewer vehicles on the island. The season is almost year-round now. It used to be Memorial Day to Labor Day. But this year, on Good Friday, the traffic was backed up getting on and off the island."

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Sullivan's Island Mayor Pat O'Neil, left, with former Mayor Mike Perkis.

O'Neil said more visitors means more expenses for Sullivan's Island. He pointed out that the town must pay overtime to its own policemen and hire extra help as well to deal with traffic and other issues such as collecting garbage on the paths leading to the beach. He insisted, however, that the town has no plans to make people pay to use its sandy expanse.

"We're not charging to go to the beach. We're charging for parking," he said.

Another issue, one that surfaced before O'Neil's time on the Council, involves the 190 acres or so of accreted – the opposite of eroded – land the town owns. The area, which runs behind much of the beach, is home to many species of birds and animals and a stopover for a bevy of migratory birds. However, the vegetation in what O'Neil described as "the beginnings of a maritime forest" blocks the ocean view for some homeowners. Residents are permitted to cut wax myrtles and a few other types of trees.

"We've got to arrive at a plan to manage that resource," O'Neil said. "We need

to be better stewards and better neighbors. We need to give the beachfront people some breathing room."

O'Neil said he is thankful that previous Councils voted to prohibit any development on accreted land.

"You can imagine what that beachfront land would be worth," he commented.

The director of the Weight Management Center at the Medical University of South Carolina, O'Neil, who is 67, has lived on Sullivan's Island since 1985. A native of Thibodaux, Louisiana, he earned his bachelor's in Economics at Louisiana State University and his doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Georgia. He originally came to the Lowcountry as a psychology intern in 1973 and returned two years later as a permanent resident.

Though he hasn't decided if he will run for the mayor's seat in 2017 – "Give me a break. I've only been in office two months" – he said the future of Sullivan's Island is bright.

"But we've got to avoid being a victim of our own popularity," he said. 🐼

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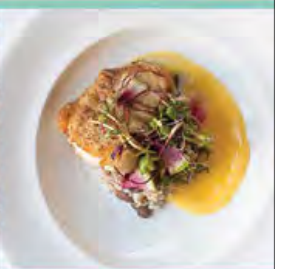
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# The Sounds of Summer

## MUSIC ACTS 2015



The First Flush Festival on Wadmalaw Island is as much a festival for food truck connoisseurs as it is for music fans.

**T**HERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT summer that makes us want to relive our youth. It's running around, sparklers in hand, while the Carolina breeze caresses our tresses. It's cracking open a cold one, dockside, while the smoky scent of a flaming amber grill burns into the wee hours.

Despite the humid temps, folks love to gather with friends to revel in outdoor activities, and so sprang the

BY KALENE MCCORT

summer concert experience. Nothing comes close to the ultimate freedom you feel, dancing barefoot with thousands of your friends to a song that seeps with nostalgia. Lucky for us, the Lowcountry's upcoming concert schedule leaves nothing to be desired. From legendary act Earth, Wind & Fire to songstress Sheryl Crow, you're sure to find a gig you won't want to miss. Consider this concert guide your ultimate key to unforgettable moments that are guaranteed to be the high notes of the season. We know it's only rock 'n' roll, but we like it.



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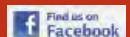
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## FAMILY CIRCLE CUP STADIUM • DANIEL ISLAND

In the heart of Daniel Island sits this 10,000-seat, open-air stadium. In addition to hosting multiple music acts throughout the year, this is also the locale of history-making tennis matches. Food and drinks are available for purchase, but something tells me the scheduled bands will feed your soul more than any concession stand ever could.

**May 16 • Boston:** In the late '70s, these rockers brought us classics like "More Than a Feeling," "Rock & Roll Band" and "Feelin' Satisfied." Escape into the days of tape decks and Tang.

**June 6 • Earth, Wind & Fire:** Their songs are played at nearly every bar mitzvah and wedding reception known to man, and now you can see them live in all their groovy glory. Dance along to "September," "Boogie Wonderland" and "Shining Star."

**June 27 • Bryan Adams:** I challenge anyone not to turn up the volume when "Summer of '69" comes on the radio. It simply can't be done. From the onset of "I got my



Attend Bryan Adams' performance at the Family Circle Cup Stadium, and you might just have "one of the best days of your life."

first real six-string..." you're lost in a world of unrelenting hope and chord progression. This multiplatinum-recording artist is gearing up for a tour celebrating the 30th anniversary of his album "Reckless." Grab a ticket, it's sure to be "one of the best days of your life."

**August 7 and 8 • Hootie and the Blowfish:** If there's one artist who fully encompasses the Lowcountry, it's got to be Darius Rucker. Born and raised in Charleston,



If there's one artist who encompasses the Lowcountry, it's got to be Darius Rucker, who will appear with his band, Hootie and the Blowfish, at the Family Circle Cup Stadium.

this hometown favorite will be fronting his band Hootie and the Blowfish for two amazing days on Daniel Island. Few things compare to sipping Hootie's Homegrown Ale while singing along to "Hold my Hand" and "shaking it down to your roots."

## THE WINDJAMMER • ISLE OF PALMS

In addition to the amazing ocean view the back patio provides, this place also serves up the most delicious piña coladas – a frothy blend of the finest coconut and pineapple ever picked. If you're lucky, they will be served to you by Nikki, who was voted Charleston's Hottest Bartender.

**May 23 • Cracker:** Remember the '90s in all its flannel-clad, angsty glory? "Low" dominated radio airplay in 1993. Slip into your Doc Martens and embrace the grunge.

**May 29-31 • Sister Hazel:** These Floridians are hosting **Hazelnut Hang** – a three-day festival celebrating their lineage of tunes. Pay a little extra, and a hot breakfast,



Just a 40-minute drive from Mount Pleasant, the First Flush Festival is 127 sprawling acres of art, food and festivities.

barbecues, meet and greets and a chance to belt out your best with the band during karaoke are in your future.

**June 5 • American Aquarium:** Hailing from Raleigh,

North Carolina, these alt-country rockers sing with grit and gusto.

**July 4 • Blue Dogs:** Get down with this pack of local honky tonkers whose sound is just perfect for the nation's holiday.

**July 23 • Drake White & The Big Fire:** This bearded country crooner, in the vein of Zac Brown, will leave you thirsting for the "simple life."

**FIRST FLUSH FESTIVAL AT CHARLESTON TEA PLANTATION • WADMALAW ISLAND • MAY 24**

In just under a 40-minute-drive from Mount Pleasant, you can find yourself in 127 sprawling acres of art, food and unrelenting festivities. As someone who attended last year, I can honestly say this is just as much a festival for food truck connoisseurs as it is for music fans. Say goodbye to the soggy quesadillas of other fests and hello to an array of mouthwatering morsels of Southern charm. From inspired shrimp and grits dishes to the best barbecue south of the Mason-Dixon Line, you are sure to leave soul and belly full. This year, **Sheryl Crow** is headlining. Did I mention you get dibs on all

the free sweet and unsweet iced tea you can handle?

**IN THE CITY**

A short jaunt across the Ravenel Bridge and you'll find yourself in downtown Charleston – home to the legendary **Music Farm**, among other venues that boast local talent. Be sure to catch **Gary Clark Jr.** on **June 15**. With the smoothness and guitar skills that rival Jimi Hendrix, this guy is the real deal. His voice has the power to cocoon you in a velvet blanket of aural bliss. Other must-sees are **Xavier Rudd** on **May 13** and **Delta Rae** on **June 13**. 🐾



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# Treasure Hunt

## Encore Interiors Consignment Gallery

**T**HERE IS A BREATH OF FRESH air blowing through Encore Interiors. Always a surprising shopping experience, new owner Amey Nicoll is blending the original owner's "beautiful vision" with her own creative edge. She comes by it naturally, having preferred to design homes rather than play with dolls since the age of 6. An education focused

BY BARBARA MILLEN PATRICK

in psychology honed her intuitiveness and secured her success in home sales, marketing and interior design. It's only natural that she would bring her style and creativity to this latest endeavor. She knows houses inside and out and how to create homes with true character.

Encore Interiors is a 14,000-square-foot collection of special items from more than 20 vendors plus consignment pieces – and the inventory changes constantly. Each piece has been cared for by someone and destined to be loved by new owners. From end tables to complete dining rooms, the furniture is not only elegant but in excellent condition. Newer pieces share the space with fine antiques such as a Chickering square baby grand piano or an elegant secretary. Nicoll is especially partial to items with a story.

"See that chandelier?" she asked, pointing toward the ceiling. "It's not a knockoff. It's a chandelier from a French chateau, and we need to tell that story better."

But as much as she likes pieces with history, Nicoll

plans to add new collections for young adults ready to create their own memories. She's used her skills to create enticing interiors in homes in her native Colorado, as well as on the coast. She'll offer model home furnishings, marketing them as an affordable way to furnish homes.

"It is not new furniture, but it isn't used, either," Nicoll commented.

Nicoll explained that while she plans to continue "business as usual," she and her staff will be maneuvering spaces to showcase the inventory for quicker turnover. She wants to create an environment that is constantly

changing so that there are always interesting new items to be discovered.

In addition to the vendors who rent space, Encore Interiors features items from about 300 consignees locally. Nicoll and the sales staff are there to assist, as are porters to help load up the purchases so customers can take their new treasures home.

Nicoll's reputation for creating inviting settings will only add to Encore Interiors' appeal. If you loved Encore Interiors before, you'll like it even more. If you've never been inside, you're in for a delightful surprise.

It's no wonder her entrepreneurial spirit has brought Amey Nicoll full circle to her own store. 🏠



Photo courtesy of Encore Interiors.

Amey Nicoll said that while she plans to continue "business as usual," she and her staff will be maneuvering spaces to showcase the inventory for quicker turnover.

*Encore Interiors Consignment Gallery is located at 665 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. in Mount Pleasant and is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, visit [www.encorein.com](http://www.encorein.com) or call 843-352-7863.*

Searching For That

# Perfect Wave

James Island High School freshman Cory Jackson is one of three ESA All-Stars in the Southern South Carolina District.

## THE EASTERN SURFING ASSOCIATION

*Story by Kalene McCort.*

*Photos courtesy of the Eastern Surfing Association.*



**W**E'VE ALL SEEN THEM. Their bare feet leave prints in the moist sand – a grayish beige map to adventure and adrenaline. Sometimes wetsuit-clad and always determined, they paddle out, braving the rough thrash of the sea for that ultimate dance with the elements.

Can you blame them? After all, the good days are the ones that leave us sun-kissed and sandy. Just ask Marshall DePass, director of the Eastern Surfing Association's Southern South Carolina District. For the past six years, he has helped folks of all ages and abilities reach new heights in the water and on shore.

"I started surfing when I was 6 years old. I went from a boogie board to a surfboard in the beginning," said DePass. "I learned from a few older kids who surfed in the ESA (Eastern Surfing Association) in North Myrtle Beach. I got my first surfboard for my 8th birthday and have been loving it ever since."

There is a new crop of up-and-coming swell seekers in South Carolina, fueled by the overwhelming desire to hop on a waxed board and ride out into the tide. DePass, who fell in love with the sport as a youngster, is dedicated to making sure the surfing community thrives – from Folly Beach to the Isle of Palms.

"During the summer months, we surfed every day from morning to evening. It seemed like the ocean was our babysitter," said DePass, reflecting on his initial steps into his own surf journey. "I don't remember my first wave, but I certainly know that as surfers we are all searching for that perfect wave."

Currently, there are three ESA All-Stars in the Southern South Carolina District – an unprecedented milestone for the region. Each year the Eastern Surfing Association searches to find members who exemplify what it means to truly be an All-Star in style, attitude and overall ability. Hartley DePass, a sophomore at Wando High School, Olivia Dilling, a freshman at Wando High School and Cory Jackson, a freshman at James Island High School, all made the cut out of 27 East Coast districts.

From stand-up paddleboarding to shortboarding and

longboarding, these three All-Stars prove to be dedicated to a vast array of watersports. Their hard work has paid off, with all three gaining sponsorships from major surf companies.

"The goal of the SSC is for the kids to have a competitive challenge with surfing while they are surrounded by a family atmosphere. Many SSC members have grown up surfing with one another for years and years. Many surfed as kids in the ESA and now watch their kids surf in the ESA," said DePass. "The friendships that are made last for a lifetime. We have divisions that are for the young guns, referred to as the Menehunes, and divisions for the older surfers, referred to as the Legends."

When not soaking up the rays and billowing through rip curls, ESA-SCC is helping to make the community and



Olivia Dilling, a freshman at Wando High School, exemplifies what it means to truly be an All-Star in style, attitude and overall ability.

environment that much brighter. After all, Mother Nature plays a huge role in their day-to-day, so it only makes sense that they keep Her looking pristine.

"We do beach cleanups at every contest held," said DePass, who in addition to keeping our shorelines and oceans litter free is also committed to exposing a very special group to the sport of surfing.

"The SSC is a nonprofit organization and a volunteer association. We support Surfer's Healing – a Foundation for autism, which hosts the Folly Beach Surfers Healing Camp in mid-August."

During the camp, surfers of all ages ride out on tandem boards with autistic participants. The vast weightlessness



**"Ga-ga,  
goo-goo,  
la-la,  
goo-ga."**

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of the ocean and gentle rhythmic rock of the waves provide those with autism a much-needed sense of tranquility.

Intimidated by the thought of throwing caution to the wind and hopping on a board? DePass urges those with hesitancy to put their concerns aside and jump in – literally.

“My advice is whether you are the next Kelly Slater or Carissa Moore, two of the world’s top male and female surfers, respectively, come on out and join the ESA-SSC District, where we have 10 to 12 competitions locally that are sponsored by local surf shops, local surf companies and local businesses.”

The ocean and tide know no age.



Hartley DePass, a sophomore at Wando High School, is among the top young surfers along the East Coast of the United States.

From fresh tweens excited to be submerged in the sport to older folks who long to feel the wind at their back and polyurethane under their feet, there’s room for all at the SSC. DePass relishes the fact that members range in age from 4 to 74.

“Join in on the fun of the sun, sand and, most of all, the fellow

surfers. The SSC boasts some of the best surfers around and definitely some of the best fun you can find in the local surfing community,” DePass said.

Embrace the glistening salty waters that surround the Lowcountry and experience the utter exhilaration of riding that undulating indigo green toward the shore-

line. An afternoon of basking in the golden rays and salty spray may just be the prescription for what ails you. Any wise surfer will tell you, experiencing multiple wipeouts is worth it once you catch that perfect wave. 🌊

*For more information, log on to [ssc.surfesa.org](http://ssc.surfesa.org).*

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# His and Hers

## Henry & Eva

**J**EFF AND WESLEY KENNEDY OPENED their boutique in Mount Pleasant in early December 2014, bringing a breath of fresh air to Coleman Boulevard and sparking interest for both male and female patrons. The items offered at Henry & Eva include an array of men's accessories, women's jewelry, soaps, skin-care items and home décor. But that's only the beginning.

The essence of what this shop is really about begins with its name. Henry, Jeff's grandfather, passed along to his grandson a love of knives and all things outdoors.

BY HELEN HARRIS

"Henry was like the greatest, coolest guy ever," Jeff reflected.

Meanwhile, with some family research, Wesley discovered that her great-grandmother's name was Eva Stone. Eva became a source of fascination, and her name was soon weaved into the name of the store.

"It started out just as a men's store, specializing in knives, leather goods and things he was interested in because my husband kind of found himself looking for something different to do," Wesley recalled. "It started out that way, but then we came up with the concept of having men's and women's goods but not necessarily mirror images of each other. We wanted it to be something fun and eclectic and kind of mirror our personalities as well – and we are definitely opposites!"

The quality of items the store carries speaks for itself, and Jeff pointed out that he has used most of the men's products.

"We wanted things that were made in the United States," said Wesley. "There are a lot of small handmade lines, and we are trying to keep it that way. If we can find a great handmade line that also gives back – we like that."

Local and regional lines carried in the store include Bound Tight wallets, 3 Little Beads, Found Jewelry, Overlap Sewing Studio and Woody's Handmade Knives. Chavez for Charity is a line of bracelets, each a different color, that supports 10 different charities. Blue Planet sunglasses and readers donates a pair of glasses for every pair bought. Half United, a line of jewelry, notepads, notebooks and wallets, donates half of its profit to feeding the hungry.

With Wesley's 30 years of experience in retail and



Photo by Brandon Clark.

Jeff and Wesley Kennedy opened their boutique in Mount Pleasant in early December 2014, bringing a breath of fresh air to Coleman Boulevard and sparking interest for both male and female patrons.

background in interior décor, combined with Jeff's expertise in quality goods for men, this husband-and-wife duo created a niche unlike any other in the area. Realizing that most knives are now purchased online, Jeff hoped to bring his passion alive in a walk-in establishment.

"It's kind of disheartening that there aren't any brick-and-mortar establishments that really stock a nice selection of knives," Jeff explained. "I felt like it was something that I could have fun with and hopefully have a viable business with as well."

Customers can expect to find quite a few gadgets in the front section of Henry & Eva. There's even a gadget tree that features various items that can be added to a wallet or keychain for convenience.

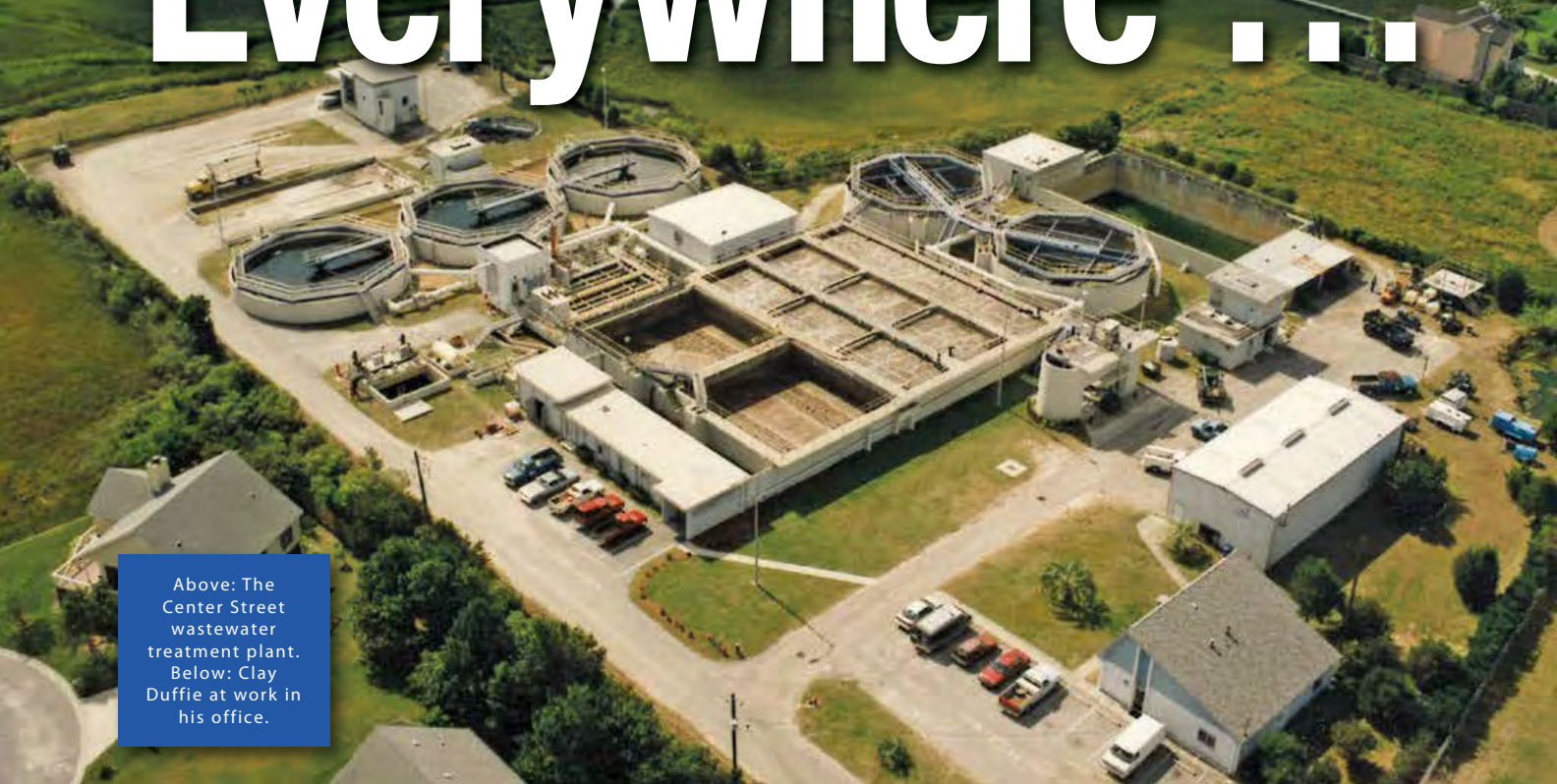
Henry & Eva's offers an accommodating atmosphere for both men and women.

"We like the men to feel comfortable and feel like they are in their own store – they can get to the cash register without having to look through the women's side," Wesley laughed. 🍷

*Henry & Eva is located at 628 Coleman Blvd. To learn more, call 843-388-4253.*



# Water, Water Everywhere . . .



Above: The Center Street wastewater treatment plant.  
Below: Clay Duffie at work in his office.

## CLAY DUFFIE AND HIS AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY

*Story by Brian Sherman.*

*Photos provided by Mount Pleasant Waterworks*



Photo by Brian Sherman.

**C**LAY DUFFIE HAS WHAT HE considers to be “an awesome responsibility.” But despite the critical nature of his job, few local residents have any concept of how important it is to the 76,000 or so people who already live in Mount Pleasant and all those who will make their future home in the ninth-fastest-growing town of its size in the



entire United States.

As general manager of Mount Pleasant Waterworks, Duffie and his staff of more than 100 employees must make certain the community's drinking water is absolutely safe and reasonably tasty and that its sewage is treated to a point where it won't harm the environment when it is discharged into Charleston Harbor.

"People take clean water for granted," said Duffie, who has held the top position at the Waterworks for 26 years. "We're one of the most unappreciated utilities. We make sure every drop is safe to drink."

When Duffie, who graduated from Clemson with a degree in Civil Engineering, arrived in Mount Pleasant in March 1989, there certainly was some question about whether every drop was safe to consume. Untreated groundwater from the Middendorf aquifer, it was high in fluoride and other undesirable contaminants, such as salt and bicarbonates.

"The drinking water quality was poor. Tea and coffee looked and tasted a little off," said Duffie. "And it was soft water. You couldn't get the soap off you when you took a bath or shower. You couldn't get squeaky clean with Mount Pleasant water."

Duffie's first priority in his new job was to improve the quality of Mount Pleasant's water by planning, developing, designing and building three reverse osmosis treatment plants to remove the impurities in the town's water supply. Before he could get to work on that task, however, he had to get past interviews on local television stations, where he explained to the general public why the Waterworks Commission had voted to double water rates for local residents.

Duffie survived what might have been a public relations nightmare, and, later that year, he dodged another bullet when Hurricane Hugo wreaked havoc on much of the Carolina coast.

"Our water system never missed a beat," he said. "Our generators worked throughout the night. The next day, we made sure everyone had water and helped the town clear the roads with our equipment."

Duffie remembers that his crews even assisted in the rescue of a few policemen who were trapped by floodwaters at Town Hall in the middle of the night.

Providing the citizens of Mount Pleasant with clean drinking water is certainly an important part of Duffie's job, but he's also responsible for making sure the sewage the town sends into Charleston Harbor complies with the standards set by the federal Clean Water Act of 1972. In the 1960s, the harbor was a dumping ground for untreated waste.

"It was basically straight from your toilet into the harbor," said Duffie. "Kids used to swim in the harbor on Beach Street and, the word was, they should get a tetanus shot before doing that."

"Today, our wastewater treatment plants operate at a

very high level, and the discharge is safe and clear," Duffie commented.

Mount Pleasant Waterworks buys up to 5.5 million gallons of water a day from the Charleston Water System and uses anywhere from 3 million to 7.5 million gallons from the Middendorf aquifer.

Duffie pointed out

that most municipalities use either groundwater or surface water.

"We use both, which gives us great flexibility in meeting our growing needs," he said.

Planning for growth is a vital aspect of Duffie's job, mainly because water and wastewater facilities must be in place before homes and businesses are built.

"People don't recognize what it takes to plan and build. We need to be ready for growth when growth happens. Our job is to have infrastructure ready and waiting for development to come. We have to make sure the capacity is there," he stated.

He added that he thinks "growth should pay for growth." That's why Mount Pleasant has the lowest water and sewage rates in Charleston County. Meanwhile, developers pay higher impact fees in Mount Pleasant than in other parts of the county.

A key aspect of planning for the future is knowing



Ground was broken in May 1990 for one of Mount Pleasant's reverse osmosis water treatment plants.





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when to replace aging infrastructure. Duffie said the operational costs of the Waterworks come to around \$25 million a year, while replacing pumps and pipes and such costs \$15 million annually. He said that while the original cost of the Waterworks' assets was around \$350 million, it would take \$1.5 billion to replace the entire system at today's prices.

Much has changed in the water and sewage business since 1989 besides the quality of the water that comes into and leaves Mount Pleasant homes and businesses. For instance, when Duffie took his current job, the town's 8,000 meters were read manually, the Waterworks sent bills on postcards quarterly and users got a 10-percent discount if they paid up by the 10th of the following month. For the past decade or so, computers have been using wireless technology to read 35,000 meters. Employees drive two trucks around town, gathering information from around a fourth of the meters each week.

The future, Duffie said, will bring more change, especially to the Waterworks workforce, which will depend more on technology and less on manpower. He pointed out that when the first reverse osmosis plants were built, they were staffed 24 hours a day. Now, if an alarm goes off,



Clay Duffie's first priority when he arrived in Mount Pleasant was to improve the quality of Mount Pleasant's water by planning, developing, designing and building three reverse osmosis treatment plants.

employees can check on the system on laptops, from the comfort of their homes.

Most local residents and business owners don't think twice about how important water and sewage services are until these services are interrupted in some way. Duffie has a saying that should remind most people not to take the Waterworks for granted.

"When you flush, think of us," he said. 🗑️

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# A Winning Tradition



Members of Controlled Chaos currently represent Mount Pleasant Waterworks at the Operations Challenge Team competition, but they get help and advice from members of Liquid Force, the Waterworks team until 2012 – Tom Kohler, left, and Greg Hill, right, were part of that squad. The four MPWW employees in the center are Kevin Ganley, Seth Duncan, Wayne Lee and Troy Newton – who competed with both teams.

## MPWW TEAM EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Greg Hill, an operations supervisor at the Waterworks, has been involved in the Operations Challenge Team competition since 1990 and was part of 14 state champion teams.

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

**I**N LATE MARCH OF THIS YEAR, THE wide world of sports was busting at the seams. The Cooper River Bridge Run, the NCAA finals, the Family Circle Cup, the Masters and the start of the major league season all were on the horizon. Competitive running, men's and women's basketball, tennis, golf and baseball were the main topics of conversation in the Lowcountry and elsewhere.

In Mount Pleasant, however, a different type of event based on speed, brains, strength and teamwork was drawing a bit of attention. A four-member squad comprised of Mount Pleasant Waterworks employees was taking second place in the Operations Challenge Team competition in Myrtle Beach, earning a spot in the nationals, scheduled for October in Chicago, and adding to MPWW's reputation as major force in a world whose teams proudly boast names such as the Commode Commandos, Terminal Velocity and, yes, the Dumplings.

Members of the Mount Pleasant team, Controlled Chaos, are Seth Duncan, Kevin Ganley and Wayne Lee. Troy Newton is a holdover from Liquid Force, which represented Mount Pleasant for more than a decade, won five straight state titles starting in 2008 and captured second place in the toughest division in the nationals in New Orleans in 2012. Newton's teammates that year were Tom Kohler, Allan Clum and Greg Hill.

Hill, an operations supervisor at the Waterworks, has been involved in the competition since 1990 and was part of 14 state champion teams. He passed the mantle to the foursome he refers to as "the rookies" in 2014. These days, he's the director of the South Carolina competition and



Members of Controlled Chaos practice for the upcoming national competition in Chicago. Left to right: Seth Duncan, Wayne Lee, Kevin Ganley and Troy Newton.

serves as a judge at the nationals, but he has fond memories of his years as a team member.

"It's really something to watch," he explained. "It takes teamwork and synchronization. You have to be able to grab a wrench without even looking."



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Hill pointed out that since team members all have regular jobs at the Waterworks, they must practice for the competition on their own time. He said they usually start working around three months before the contest, stepping up their efforts to four or five hours a day as the big day approaches.

“They practice during lunch, after work and on weekends,” he said. “It takes a lot of hard work.”

Hill explained that the Operations Challenge consists of five distinct events. In the Process Control division, competitors have 20 minutes to answer questions posed to them – “the brain part,” he said. In the Lab Event, they must analyze water quality, while in the Pump Maintenance competition, they are tasked with rebuilding a pump. Speed and accuracy both count.

“They are like a pit crew. It’s really something to watch. It’s an event that demands teamwork,” Hill commented. “What would normally take a few days takes four-and-a-half minutes.”

In the Safety event, participants must rescue a victim from a manhole, decontaminate him and save his life using CPR. Hill was quick to point out that the victim is actually a dummy, but that, he said, doesn’t mean team

members can slack off in any way.

“What would take hours, they do in three-and-a-half minutes, and every step has to be perfect,” he said.

In the Collection System event, competitors must remove a cracked section of an eight-inch pipe and replace it, and they must do it in a hurry, without using power tools of any kind.

“They better get it done in 90 seconds, or they’re going to lose,” Hill said.

Though the team consists of four members, Hill pointed out that several other people have played a key role in MPWW’s success over the past 25 years.

“You have to have support from sponsors, management and the people who cover for you when you’re away,” he said.

Though he refers to the members of Controlled Chaos as the rookies, Hill did point out that they won the state competition in 2014 and that they were first in two of five events – Safety and Pump Maintenance – in 2015. And he’s confident that the rookies will get their revenge on the 2015 state champs, Renewable Water Resources of Greenville, in Chicago and at the 2016 event in South Carolina.

“We have a winning tradition. We’re not used to coming in second in Mount Pleasant,” he said. 🐾

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# Say Hello to Easy Street

## CAROLINA PARK'S NEW SALES CENTER

**I**F YOU'VE EVER DOUBTED THAT “EASY Street” really exists, a visit to Carolina Park may just be all the convincing you need. They say seeing is believing, and the seeing (and believing!) starts at the community’s new Sales Center and Model Row.

Today, fewer commodities are hotter than convenience. You know it, I know it, and, walking through the Sales Center at 1526 Banning St., it’s clear the Carolina Park community knows it, too – and has worked hard to actualize it for residents and visitors.

Located across from the community’s award-winning Residents’ Club and resort-style pool, the Carolina One-staffed Sales Center serves as the springboard into one of the most streamlined, stress-free home buying experiences

in the Lowcountry and beyond.

“This is the hub for the entire community,” explained Haley Cuzzell, community sales manager at Carolina Park. “At the sales center and adjacent Model Row, we’ll tell you everything you need to know about the entire neighborhood, our team of nine builders and the benefits of the community.”

Open seven days a week, the Sales Center was conceptualized with convenience and comfort in mind. Community Marketing Director Brian Keels elaborated: “Buying a home is already a stressful decision, so we want to make it simple for people to come in, find us and get the information they need quickly. We asked ourselves, ‘How can we make this as easy as possible for the home buyer?’”

Whether home buyers are considering a home in the centrally located Village or seek the additional privacy and





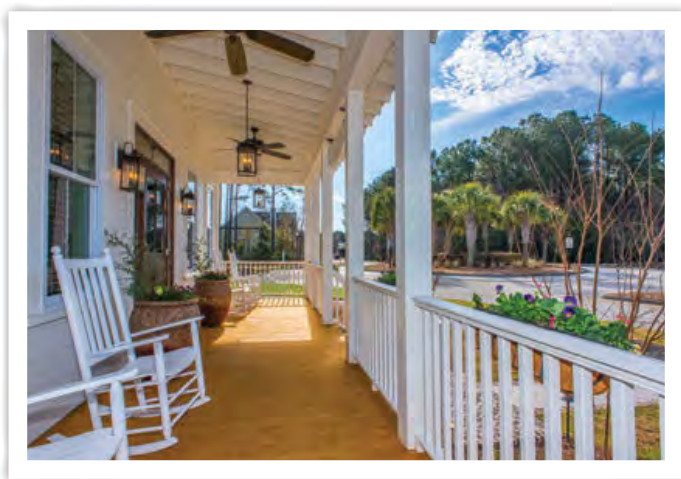
*All photos courtesy of Carolina Park.*

*The road to the perfect home for each individual homeowner begins at the Carolina Park Sales Center.*

customization offered in the Riverside neighborhood, their Carolina Park journey begins at the Sales Center – and, depending on which neighborhood they gravitate toward – a tour of the community’s innovative Model Row or show homes in Riverside.

Adjacent to the Sales Center, Model Row is precisely what the name implies: a row of model homes representative of those available in The Village. Each model is staffed by agents for their respective builders: Saussy Burbank, FrontDoor Communities, and, soon, David Weekley.

So if – if after speaking with Haley or her associate, Patty Lynn Connell, and learning about all Carolina Park has to offer – home buyers decide The Village fits their needs best, they head to Model Row to pinpoint the builder most compatible with their lifestyle. That builder’s agent will then walk them through the process and show



*Each builder at Carolina Park offers its own original plans, feature packages and special touches to help homeowners in their search for the perfect home.*

them what plans and homesites are available.

Alternately, if home buyers feel that Riverside better suits their vision, experienced Carolina One agents Haley and Patty Lynn can help find the perfect home and private lot. No two homes are really the same in Riverside.

Six of the seven builders who comprise Carolina Park’s custom builder team in Riverside are represented at the Sales Center: Saussy Burbank, JacksonBuilt Custom Homes, Structures Building Company, The Burton Company, Sabal Homes and Cline Homes. Haley and Patty Lynn handle the sales and information for the seven builders in Riverside, a group that includes David Weekley.

“Each offers its own original plans, feature packages and special touches that will help you identify the right builder to design the perfect home,” said Haley. “Whether you’re designing your own custom home from the ground up or working with a builder’s existing plan, you can feel confident that your new home will be everything you imagined it would be and more.”

The homes in Riverside, Haley emphasized, offer full flexibility and have a higher specification level that comes standard. They also boast more privacy – the lots are considerably larger, and most back up to protected trees and ponds.

Regardless of where potential residents decide to plant roots, though, they can rest assured they are getting a first-class builder and the first-class experience a top-notch builder provides.

“Because Carolina Park carefully vetted each builder, you can count on receiving exceptional service from the moment you walk through the door to long after you walk through your own,” asserted Haley.

Keels underscored that notion, explaining, “We have gone through a rigorous process to specially select our award-winning builders. We want to know they have a long-standing reputation in the community as a high-qual-





The diverse homes in Carolina Park range in price from the \$300s to the \$900s.

1,800 to 2,200 square feet) all the way up to “classic” homes (around 2,200 to 3,200 square feet) and custom homes in Riverside ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 square feet. David Weekley’s one-story cottages start at 1,547 square feet and Ryland town homes at 1,622 square feet.

Every home in Carolina Park offers something for everyone, said Haley – including Lowcountry architecture that incorporates welcoming porches, HardiePlank siding, scenic landscaping, open layouts, 10-foot ceilings, hardwood and tile floors, gourmet kitchens and maximum energy efficiency.

“It’s really nice as a home buyer to be able to come in and say, ‘Here’s my price point; here’s what I’m looking for in terms of floor plan, quality and finishes,’” said Keels. “You’ve just got a really big selection of builders available to satisfy many different homeowners.”

ity builder who understands what homeowners here want.”  
The different home styles offered at Carolina Park are diverse and span the spectrum from the \$300s to the \$900s. The homes run the gamut size-wise as well, starting with town homes and growing from cottages (around

And it all starts with a quick trip to the Sales Center – you can’t get much more convenient than that. 🏡

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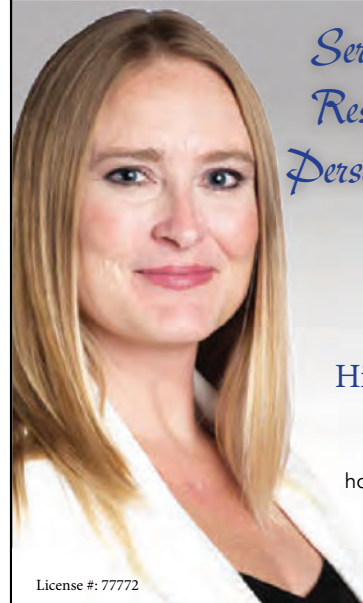
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# CAROLINA PARK

## Committed to Community

**I**T'S A SUNNY SUNDAY AFTERNOON, THE kind of breezy Lowcountry day that makes the soul well up with an equal mix of gratitude and homegrown pride. As I pull into Carolina Park, a 1,700 acre master-planned community in Mount Pleasant, I roll my car windows up. There's only one thing to do on a day like this: explore.

Now on foot, I start down an idyllic street flanked on either side by charming homes with lovingly well-appointed yards.

BY JULIE SPRANKLES  
PHOTOS PROVIDED

People sitting on their wide, welcoming porches wave as I pass by, and I return the gesture with a smile.

Peering at the houses stretching out before me, I'm impressed by how personal yet cohesive they appear. With nine top-notch builders boasting a variety of home types – town homes, cottages, classic homes and custom homes – homeowners have the distinctive benefit of being able to choose the style that suits them best and imbue it with their own individual personality.

Stopping in front of a stately blue house with black shutters, I close my eyes for a moment and imagine myself kneeling in the flower bed, cupping a cluster of yellow lan-

tana before dropping it into the rich soil.

The truth is, it isn't hard to picture a life at Carolina Park – this is the kind of community where people come not just to buy a house but to make a home.

“The comment we get over and over from people moving in is, ‘Gosh, everyone is so friendly and welcoming!’ There's just such a sense of community,” explained Haley Cuzzell, community sales manager at Carolina Park. “It's pretty unique.”

That much is made evident with a cursory glance at my surroundings.

A mother skirts the perimeter of a large pond as she pushes her toddler in a jogging stroller along a trail – one of many that comprise Carolina Park's integrated trail system, designed so residents can enjoy the more than 300 carefully preserved acres of wetlands, green space, open space and parks.

Of course, as the temperatures continue to rise in the coming months, the most buzzed about body of water at Carolina Park will be the community's resort-sized pool – which, along with the accompanying amenity center, was recently named the best new facility of its kind in the greater Charleston area at the Prism Awards.





*With nine top-notch builders, homeowners have the distinctive benefit of being able to choose the style that suits them best and imbue it with their own individual personality.*

“We’re really pleased to have our new pool recognized by the Charleston Home Builders Association. We worked closely with Aqua Blue Pools to develop a special amenity for our residents to enjoy, and they did an amazing job helping us realize our vision for a spectacular recreational environment,” said Brian Keels, Carolina Park’s marketing director.

Sitting poolside now, I feel a tinge of envy course through me. Soon the lounge chairs will be filled with

residents sunning themselves. Parents will perch on the edge of the pool, dangling their feet in the water as they keep a watchful eye on their kids playing Marco Polo with neighborhood friends.

Afterward, some will simply walk, tan and towel-shouldered, down the street to their homes. Others might throw on a sundress or shorts and a T and head to one of Carolina Park’s many other amenities: to Mount Pleasant Active Park for some foot-

work on a soccer field; to one of the three area churches for fellowship; to Wando High School or The Wando Center for Advanced Studies for educational extracurriculars.

“I don’t know of many other places in Mount Pleasant where kids can hop on their bikes and ride to school,” said Keels. “It’s the kind of nostalgic lifestyle people envision, and we’re able to give them that vision.”

The area’s sense of security is only furthered by construction currently underway on the brand new fire station.

“The fire station is really an iconic symbol of community and safety, and we’re really excited about the comfort it will bring to our residents,” Keels elaborated.

In the future, residents will also be able to while away days at the brand new public library or stroll around the Town Center to grab a bite to eat or do some boutique shopping. The ultimate ambition, Cuzzell emphasized, is to build the kind of community that offers the ultimate in convenience: a place in which residents can live, work and play.

“Literally everything you need is right here at your fingertips,” she said.



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*Carolina Park is the type of community where people come not just to buy a house but to make a home.*

“Whether you’re an empty nester or you have young kids, the on-site amenities and desirable Mount Pleasant location make Carolina Park a unique environment that caters to everyone.”

And Carolina Park nurtures its community’s intrinsic sense of connectivity and practicality often – and enthusiastically – with HOA-hosted events. In early April, nearly 300 people attended the annual Easter egg hunt.

“That’s something that we love to see,” said Keels, “because it gives all of the residents a chance to get together and really get to know each other.” 🐣

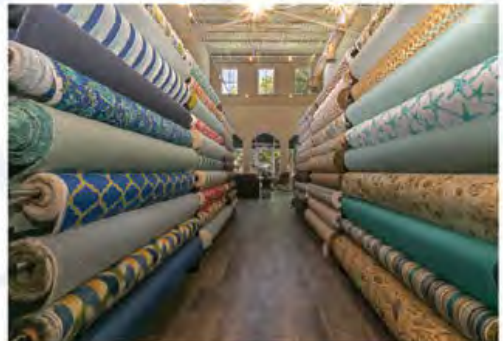


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# People Are the Difference

## Hibben at Belle Hall

**W**ALK DOWN THE streets of Hibben at Belle Hall, near Long Point Road in Mount Pleasant, and you'll notice something different. Is it because unlike many other developments, where houses are cookie cutter copies of each other, every house in Hibben is custom designed and built? Could be.

“The variety of design gives a lot of personality, a lot of charm, a lot of character to the neighborhood,” said Sloan Wright, president and general partner of Plantation Park Partners LP.

But Wright would argue that what makes Hibben feel different is not the houses but the people.

“It’s not just the charm of Southern architecture but the genuine nature of the people who are living there. The families are what make Hibben so receiving, so gracious, so warm,” he said.

Wright recommended that prospective home buyers take a walk around the neighborhood.

“You see such a diverse group of people. You see young newlyweds, people with kids, retired people – and everybody is so nice and friendly. It’s the best way to experience the visceral feeling that you can’t get simply through reading descriptions of the property and its amenities. Hibben evokes emotion in people, of comfort, of safety, of home,” he said.

The community is centrally located, close to Interstate 526 and Belle Hall Shopping Center, just 15 minutes from downtown Charleston and only 10 minutes from the beach. Hibben is in its next phase of development, adding to 250 homes, community parks, dog parks and miles of hiking trails with even more amenities for the community as a whole. This phase is focused on developing a small number

of lots for homes while building two docks for boating, fishing and crabbing, even more hiking trails, a clubhouse and a zero-grade entry pool.

By the time development is complete, around 325 families will call Hibben home.

Home buyers select their lot and then work closely with one of the neighborhood’s architects to design a home with the features they want and traditional Lowcountry elements such as welcoming front porches and gracious symmetry. Several houses on Colonial Lake have porches that open out onto stunning views.

“It’s got some spectacular marsh and river views,” said Wright. “It’s heavily wooded, with the streets designed for

preservation of existing oak trees as a priority because of the ambience they add.”

Every house in Hibben is custom-built.

“Each lot has its own unique characteristics and attributes,” Wright pointed out. “So the idea is not to force an existing plan upon a homesite but rather to work with the surroundings, the streetscape and the orientation on the street to

design a home that best works on that specific lot.”

Homes, to be built by Allen Coleman or Jeff Pritchard, range in price from around \$775,000 to \$1.4 million.

But it all comes back to the people, said Wright. He feels like he’s done something right when he sees people in Hibben sell their home – and then reinvest in another house in the same neighborhood. Retirees downsize or growing families move to a new home with more space, but they still want to stay in Hibben.

“It’s a very genuine place, not pretentious,” said Wright. “Charming but not ostentatious. That’s the feel that buyers are responding to – the warm, receptive personality it conveys.” 🐾



Hibben is centrally located, close to Interstate 526 and Belle Hall Shopping Center and just 10 minutes from the beach.

Photo provided by Hibben at Belle Hall.

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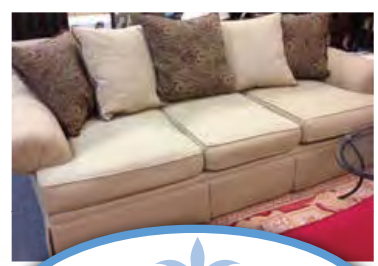
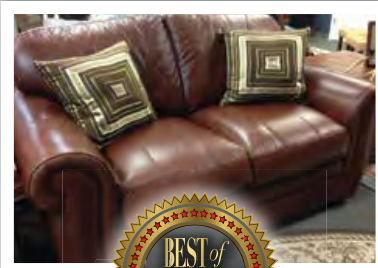
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# Time for a Patio Party

## Palm Casual

**T**HE MORNING I INTERVIEWED Aaron Beasley, owner of Palm Casual locations in Mount Pleasant, Myrtle Beach and Bluffton, he was getting ready to refurbish a love seat glider that a customer bought in 1987.

Not only in 1987, but from a third-party furniture store.

True to the company's promise, Beasley was treating the love seat glider, crafted by Palm Casual all those years ago, with the attention and service given to any other Palm Casual

BY DENISE K. JAMES

product. Though this particular piece was sold to the customer through a retail furniture store, Beasley noted that both types of shoppers – direct and retail – benefit from Palm Casual's service.

Palm Casual began in Orlando, Florida, with owner Kroy Crofoot selling custom patio furniture inside an 800-square-foot factory showroom. By 1982, the space had grown to 30,000 feet and the products were being distributed to numerous furniture stores. Today, Palm Casual's largest factory showroom is 100,000 square feet, and the company continues to expand to other locations on the East Coast.

The Mount Pleasant showroom was the first branch of the Palm Casual brand to move outside of the Sunshine State, a testament to how popular the company's craftsmanship has been in the Charleston area.

"Part of the reason we expanded to the Lowcountry is because we felt like customers were not getting the same service through retailers that we offered in our factory showrooms in Florida," Beasley commented. "We had a large customer base in Charleston and wanted to serve

them better."

And it's no surprise that Palm Casual has so many fans. The pieces are not only well-built and beautiful, they're guaranteed. You can return something for a full refund for up to 30 days, and service is for life.

"The challenging part of this business – and one that I love and take pride in – is educating our customers regarding why we have these policies," Beasley explained.

Even I had to wonder what the return policy "catch" is, but Beasley reassured me that no such catch exists – Palm Casual simply aims to garnish the kind of reputation that comes from being a flexible and honest enterprise.



Photo by William Quarles.

It's no surprise that Palm Casual has so many fans. The pieces are not only well-built and beautiful, they're guaranteed.

I asked Beasley how he knows when a customer's request for service is for a Palm Casual original – particularly when it's an item from decades ago. He answered that after years of being business partners with the Crofoot family, his own family and various friends, he recognizes the cushions, chairs and tables – from their piping design right down to their stitching.

What's next for Palm Casual? Plenty, according to Beasley. The company is opening a new factory showroom in Bluffton as well as in Atlanta – and more are to come soon. But don't expect them to lose that personal touch; it's the cornerstone of their business.

"Although we're a large company now, we are still family-owned and operated," Beasley mused. "We still offer that small business touch. It's how we first started, and we take pride in it. I think we build the best cushion in America." 🐾

*Palm Casual is located at 605 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. For more information, visit [www.palmcasual.com](http://www.palmcasual.com) or call 843-881-0041.*

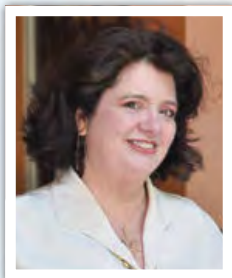
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# Upscale Resale at its Best

## Lowcountry Consignments

**S**MART, FRUGAL AND FABULOUS are great descriptions of the furniture you will find at Lowcountry Consignments in Mount Pleasant. Backed by more than 20 years in business, the store offers upscale resale at its best.

“I enjoy working in consigned furniture very much,” said Linda Kammel, owner of Lowcountry Consignments.

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

“It has always been fun, every day is different and every year brings

new experiences. The trends change, furniture changes and there are always new clients mixed in with our most loyal clients.”

Current furniture trends East of the Cooper tend toward modern coastal, with clean, muted tones.

“Driftwood colors and patterns are our most popular, and, because people enjoy having wide open spaces and open sight lines in their homes, they want larger pieces of furniture to fit into those spaces,” explained Kammel. “We have all of that and more.”

The beauty of a consignment store such as Lowcountry Consignments is that the inventory changes daily, which is why many interior designers choose to shop there often for large armoire type pieces, bedroom sets, living room sets and a large selection of accessories.

“We update our Facebook page almost daily with photos of new arrivals, and we also offer a 24-hour window – by approval – for every client. It allows our clients the time to get the furniture home, stage it and decide if it is really what they want. If not, simply bring it back.”

And since the store is located in Mount Pleasant, there is wide client base both for purchases and

consignments.

“When I chose to open the business decades ago, it was a small town with very few businesses,” said Kammel. “Now, the growth of the town has matched our own. We are currently in a building that spans 7,500-square feet. I love doing business where I live.”

Designers aren’t the only smart clients who shop at Lowcountry Consignments. Gently used, upscale furniture at prices that range from a college-student budget all the way to the higher end means all clients can find what they want.

“We love helping first-time home buyers and newcomers

to the area who are on a tight budget. Discovering great furniture to fill their homes is a thrill,” said Kammel. “On the other end of the spectrum, many of our clients want to stay current and rotate their furniture regularly, and this is the perfect way to do so while staying on budget, especially for those with rental homes.”

Consigning with Lowcountry Consignments is easy. For smaller items, such as lamps and accessories, you can

simply bring them to the store to have them checked over by Kammel or her knowledgeable staff. For larger pieces, she requests an e-mailed photo first.

“We are selective on what we choose to accept because we want to offer all of our customers the best product and service,” Kammel explained. “Our customer service is phenomenal, which is indicative of our repeat customer base. Our best business comes from word of mouth. We count on it.”

*To find out how smart, frugal and fabulous Lowcountry Consignments is, drop by the showroom at 1179 Gregorie Ferry Road in the Lighthouse Church complex, visit [LowcountryConsignments.com](http://LowcountryConsignments.com) or call 843-606-9881.*



Backed by more than 20 years in business, Lowcountry Consignments offers upscale resale at its best.

Photo courtesy of Lowcountry Consignments.



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Designer- Harmony Griffin • Photographer- Margaret Rambo



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# Elegant and Efficient Jilco Kitchen and Bath

**J**ILCO KITCHEN AND BATH HAS BEEN designing kitchens and baths for residential and commercial properties throughout the Lowcountry for 24 years. Locally owned and operated by Bryan Fletcher, the company is based on a foundation of good design and quality customer service, as well as on creating an inspiring culture for its many employees.

With five designers on staff, Jilco does much more than just kitchens and baths.

“We can really do any custom cabinetry and countertops our clients are looking for,” said supporting designer Jessica Wilson. “Anywhere you see cabinets throughout the home: living rooms, laundry rooms, storage areas. Recently we designed a pet bathing station in a mud room that required cabinetry to create bench seating.”

While Jilco does a lot of commercial work for properties such as apartment complexes, assisted living facilities and offices, the company also specializes in custom residential designs, which can be found anywhere from Mount Pleasant to Charleston to Kiawah and throughout the surrounding areas.

“One of our main focuses is quality customer service. We have several install teams, which allows us to take on many projects at one time and work more easily with each client’s schedule,” Wilson said. “Our designers also work with clients to create a customized solution that meets their budget.”

Jilco makes the cabinetry and countertop portion of a home remodel easy for its customers by offering turnkey service, including design consultations, materials, perspective and elevation drawings, delivery, installation and service warranties.

“We first offer a complimentary design consultation

to get to know your needs and goals and to understand the details of your project. We will work with you to determine the style of cabinet you want, from framed, frameless or European, to completely custom,” Wilson said. “Then we design a realistic solution that is both elegant and efficient. After this consultation, we will provide you with an estimate and 3-D renderings, and we do that all for free.”

While most of their clients already have contractors handling the rest of the home facelift process, the staff at Jilco is happy to recommend plumbers, tile specialists and more to complete a job for any customers who come without a builder or contractor.

The Jilco Kitchen and Bath showroom, located on Clements Ferry Road, offers customers an opportunity to see examples of their work, such as a bookshelf-style unit with a mounted TV and a new kitchen and countertop.



With five designers on staff, Jilco does much more than just kitchens and baths.

Photo by Margaret Rambo.

There also are displays of popular countertop materials, including granite and Silestone quartz.

As a local businessman, Fletcher believes that keeping his employees happy improves the quality of their designs and enhances the customer experience.

“This is a great place to work,” Wilson said.

“We’re like a family, and we get together for parties and lunches. We like being here, and it shows through our work. When that is portrayed to our customers, they like being here, too. I think that’s one of the reasons we’ve stayed in business for 24 years.”

*Jilco Kitchen and Bath’s showroom is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you are interested in remodeling your home with cabinets and countertops, visit Jilco at 2300 Clements Ferry Road on Daniel Island, learn more at [www.jilcokitchenandbath.com](http://www.jilcokitchenandbath.com) or call 843-849-6465.*

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# Waste Not, Want Not Let's Get Composting, East Cooper!

**T**HEY SAY APRIL SHOWERS bring May flowers. What better way to spend this May than in your garden? Charleston County's Bees Ferry Compost Facility has been busy composting to give flowers the nutrients to grow in Mount Pleasant and throughout East Cooper.

Charleston County's composting program was launched in the early 1990s and was recently named 2014 Composter of the Year by the U. S. Composting Council.

BY MIRANDA S. STEADMAN

The county's compost is tested every two months to ensure that the finished product consistently meets the high quality standards of the council's Seal of Testing Assurance Program.

At the compost facility, commercial food waste generated from local restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals and schools is mixed with residential yard waste, so the next time you rake leaves and place yard debris at the curb, you are contributing to the composting process.

A machine called a scarab turns the product, and, after 45 days, the end result is a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

Since 2010, the county's compost facility has composted more than 9,000 tons of food waste, diverting this valuable resource from the landfill. Charleston was the first county in the state to receive a permit to process commercial food waste and plans to continue to serve as a role model for other programs.

Residents of Mount Pleasant and East Cooper are encouraged to support local restaurants, coffee shops and grocery stores who recycle with the program.

"We want to divert as much organic waste as possible from the landfills and send it to our composting facility,"

explained Christina Moskos, recycling coordinator for Charleston County Environmental Management. "We would love for business owners to understand this resource and for East Cooper residents to support the program by purchasing Charleston County compost."

If you're looking for inspiration, consider the fact that 46 Charleston County schools are currently collecting food waste in their cafeterias. A comprehensive educational tool kit, which includes a PowerPoint program, a SmartBoard game and other instructional aids, was developed to introduce the program and explain the environmental benefits of diverting organic waste from the landfill.

Introducing students to the need to separate their waste

is an invaluable hands-on learning tool and cultivates sustainable behaviors.

Composting organic waste has an economic benefit for the school district as well – for example, cost savings from reduced trash pickups.

Purchase your own Charleston County compost for \$10 a loose ton, \$5 a yard or \$2 a bag at the county facility at 1344 Bees Ferry Road in West Ashley. The county's recycling center, in downtown

Charleston at 13 Romney St., also sells compost for \$2 per bag. Compost is available for 25 cents per five-gallon bucket – bring your own bucket – at both locations.

Uses for compost include: gardening, landscaping; agriculture; road construction and maintenance; storm water management; erosion control; and turf management. Compost changes the structure of soil by adding organic matter, resulting in better and healthier plant production. 🌱

*To involve your family or your business in the benefits of composting, visit the Charleston County Environmental Management website at [Recycle.CharlestonCounty.org](http://Recycle.CharlestonCounty.org) or call 843-720-7111.*



Since 2010, the county's compost facility has composted more than 9,000 tons of food waste, diverting this valuable resource from the landfill.

Photo courtesy of the Charleston County Compost Facility.

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Photo provided by Billy Orvin.

At 85 years young, Billy Orvin has accepted the limitations imposed by kidney disease and is determined to live his life to the fullest.

## BILLY ORVIN LIVES LIFE TO THE FULLEST

*Story by Barbara Millen Patrick.*

**B**ILLY ORVIN HAS TRAVELED around the world. He moved to Mount Pleasant when he was a young man of 21 in 1950, and, with his gregarious nature and business acumen, soon established himself in the insurance field. Entrepreneurial by nature, he owned motels and networked by joining nearly

every organization in town. He's been to Africa, Europe, South America and Australia, but today his world centers around the Fresenius Medical Care dialysis center, where he undergoes dialysis three times a week. "Thank God for the machines, or I would be gone," Orvin said. "I go every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 a.m." Orvin is living with kidney failure and the emphasis



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Photo by Bill Macchio.

Billy Orvin undergoes dialysis treatment three days a week at the Fresenius Medical Care dialysis center.

is most definitely on “living.” At 85 years young, he has accepted the limitations imposed by kidney disease and is determined to live his life to the fullest. In addition to regular dialysis, he pays particular attention to diet and nutrition.

“You need to avoid certain foods like peanuts, melons and bananas,” Orvin explained. “Anything with too much phosphorus causes brittle bones and heart attacks.”

Kidney failure is a serious condition and can be frightening when it is first diagnosed. Major causes are diabetes and hypertension, but autoimmune diseases, birth defects, accidents and toxic chemicals may also lead to kidney failure. It also can be caused by kidney stone damage, as in Orvin’s case. He’s been undergoing hemodialysis to remove the toxins from his body for the last two years. The dialysis is not uncomfortable and each session lasts about five hours.

“They hook you up to purify your system and remove toxins,” Orvin said. “It can cause cramps, but they infuse you with a saline solution to correct that.”

He added that the procedure can cause extreme fatigue.

Statistically, about 350,000 people live with kidney failure. Orvin said that this condition seems most prevalent in women, particularly in African-Americans, and estimates that about half the patients he sees at Fresenius are not ambulatory. He is anxious to share his story in hopes of raising awareness and to encourage people to be more proactive in monitoring their health to avoid kidney disease. Orvin said that, in general, people tend to ignore symptoms, hoping they will go away, and put off important health care needs. He emphasized the importance of staying positive, saying that “you have to accept the fact that you have an illness.” He added that it is possible to enjoy life.

Any serious illness involves the entire family and includes a team of professionals. He admires Dr. Deanna Cheek – “a well-qualified lady” who carefully monitors the chemicals that make up the cleansing “bath” her dialysis patients receive – as well as the nurses and technicians who coordinate the treatment. Dietitians advise

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-By Kathrin Hutson (Patient and Enthusiast)

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-B. Hawkins

*"I was weeks away from scheduling a cervical fusion and had tried many different approaches to relieving my chronic pain. Injections, TENS, traction, adjustments, massage ... nothing worked for long. I will be the first to say that I was doubtful but I am a different person than I was just a few weeks ago. It has been an amazing experience."*

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on the types of food that will help maintain health and how the proper amount of fluids can impact the health of patients. Healthy kidneys are able to cleanse the body of waste products left behind by food and fluids. Failing kidneys are simply not able to remove these toxins, causing them to build up in the body.

Orvin's kidneys may be failing, but he is not failing at living life to the fullest. His family includes his wife of 65 years, two children and five grandchildren, and he is a "surrogate father" to Danny Causey, owner of Causey's Barber Shop, where he sweeps, runs errands, answers phones and keeps customers smiling. He is a big fan of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks and wears the garnet and black colors proudly.

"This little job keeps the light on in the room, otherwise you have a pity party," Orvin said. "Causey's is like that show, 'Saturday Night Live,'" he added.

Most of all, Orvin loves meeting people. He enjoys reminiscing about his days as a lobbyist for the South Carolina Life Insurance Association and serving on the board of the South Carolina Ports Authority. He can tell you about Mount Pleasant's past. He'll regale you with tales of photo safaris in East Africa (his favorite place),



Billy Orvin enjoys reminiscing about his days as a lobbyist for the South Carolina Life Insurance Association and serving on the board of the South Carolina Ports Authority.

ballooning over the Serengeti, visiting a Masai village and risqué adventures in Paris.

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# Specialized Care in Mount Pleasant

## Vibra Healthcare of Charleston

**E**XTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES in our lives can present health issues, and, sometimes, those issues are serious. Fortunately, residents of Mount Pleasant and the surrounding Lowcountry now have a new hospital that excels in specialized care. Vibra Hospital has recently established itself in Mount Pleasant and is gaining notoriety as the premier place for both acute care and long-term care.

Vibra Healthcare was established by Brad Hollinger in spring of 2004. Since then, it has grown in several states, with approximately 92 locations. The mission of Vibra Healthcare is simple: to provide patient care with a commitment to clinical service excellence, a culture that inspires teamwork and a passionate workforce driven by a dedication to patient wellness, according to the company's Website.

In other words, the folks at the new Vibra Hospital in Mount Pleasant have the patient in mind when they make decisions. And you can rest assured that your family member – or you – will receive the best care possible, whether it is for a broken limb, an infection or a chronic illness.

The acute care program at Vibra includes complex medical diagnoses and rehabilitation for items such as cardiac disease, renal disease, infectious disease and others; respiratory care, including ventilator management and weaning; wound care; and pain management.

Long-term acute care often means an average stay of


25 to 30 days. Vibra's long-term care includes not just top-notch physical care but attention to the psychosocial, spiritual and recreational needs of each patient. Essentially, Vibra Healthcare is diligent about ensuring the patient's independence and quality of life, even in the face of unexpected illness.

Pain relief strategies at Vibra include measures other

than traditional medication such as physical therapy and stress management techniques, breathing and massage. The doctors are ready to address each individual patient's needs, understanding that patients know their own pain and what it responds to.

Vibra offers both respiratory care and wound care. Patients who are suffering from conditions such as respiratory failure,

pulmonary embolus and pneumonia will find 24-hour assistance, as will patients who have wounds that won't heal due to diabetes, circulatory issues and other causes.

Besides above-average patient care, the professionals who work at Vibra are problem solvers, constantly staying ahead of the curve when it comes to medical technology and science. Vibra understands that choosing a health care provider when care is urgently needed is not an easy task, but they're hard at work providing patients with more than exemplary care. They are a team of passionate individuals who believe in their craft. 



*To find out more about Vibra Healthcare in the Charleston area, visit [www.vhcharleston.com](http://www.vhcharleston.com) or call 843-375-4000.*

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# Erasing Your Mistakes

## The PicoSure Laser at Lowcountry Plastic Surgery

**W**HETHER IT'S THE name of an old lover across your wrist, a college obsession with a punk rock band made manifest on your thigh or a cheesy butterfly over your left shoulder, many adults in the Lowcountry are choosing to erase the past and start fresh. And thanks to the new PicoSure laser and the guiding hand of Tonya Fowlkes, medical aesthetician at Lowcountry Plastic Surgery, the results are better than ever.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Not so long ago, however, people with tattoos were stuck with their skin art. And even when Q-Switch, the treatment before PicoSure, emerged on the tattoo market, removal was still not perfect.

“The main difference between the Pico and the Q-Switch is the speed,” remarked Fowlkes. “While the Q-Switch works on the nanosecond, the PicoSure works on a picosecond, a unit of time that is literally one-trillionth of a second.”

In order to digest this information, Fowlkes gave me the following analogy: one picosecond is to one second as one second is to 31,700 years!

Time and other abstract ideas aside, the PicoSure laser brings great news for Lowcountry Plastic Surgery patients in search of safe, effective tattoo removal. Actually, updated technology is one of the reasons clients return to the practice, owned by Mount Pleasant resident Dr. Jack Hensel. And the knowledge that Dr Hensel's team members are experienced with using new technology is important as well.

“With any new machine we purchase here, the staff receives full training on it,” confirmed Fowlkes.

According to Fowlkes, the speed of the laser means that the ink inside your skin can be broken up into no more than dust, making it easier for your body to dispose of it through the lymph nodes. Plus, the number of treatments patients must receive to get rid of their tattoo is typically fewer.

“With the PicoSure, the patients need fewer treatments than before, the machine moves much faster and the recovery time is significantly less,” Fowlkes explained.

Though the number of treatments necessary for total tattoo removal varies for each patient – Fowlkes generally tells clients between four and eight sessions, but eight is not necessarily a guarantee – the recovery process is undoubtedly easier than with earlier technology. Older lasers, such as the “yag” laser, were known to cause weeks of painful blistering, making it necessary to cover up with bandages and stay out of sunlight.

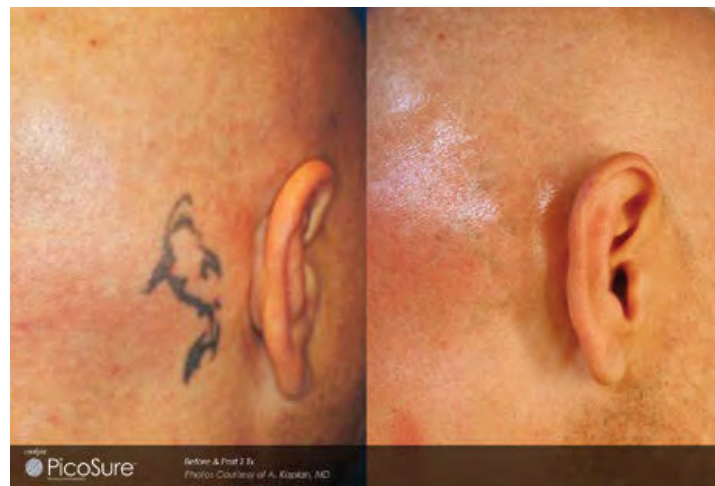
“With the Pico, after the draining process, the area will soon dry out and scab over,” Fowlkes said. “And after the scab is there, you can let the fresh air assist in healing.”

Those who are interested in learning more about PicoSure can visit Lowcountry Plastic Surgery for a free consultation, which includes a thorough

education on the process. Of course, most patients are satisfied with their results, thus leaving their 18-year-old mishaps in the PicoSure dust.

“I'm taking the names of ex-lovers off of clients' fingers,” Fowlkes admitted with a chuckle. “There's a lot of tattoo regret out there, but, fortunately, we now have options.”

Lowcountry Plastic Surgery is located at 1205 Two Island Court, Suite 203, in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit [www.lowcountryplasticsurgery.com](http://www.lowcountryplasticsurgery.com) or call 843-971-2860.



With the PicoSure laser, the ink inside your skin can be broken up into dust, making it easier for your body to dispose of it through the lymph nodes.

Photo courtesy of Lowcountry Plastic Surgery.

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**N**ATE UPCHURCH MADE A CAREER in resort management on the beaches along the Carolina coast and understands the joy people feel when they are able to make the sand and water of the Atlantic Ocean their playground.

However, Upchurch also witnessed firsthand the frustrations many families felt when they couldn't make it to the beach because of physical disabilities.

BY STACY DOMINGO

“People who are physically limited or disabled or have a family member who is incapable of walking through the sand aren't able to participate like they really want to,” said Upchurch. “On Call Hospitality is Charleston's local source for renting quality mobility equipment, including the top-of-the-line Debug® beach wheelchair that makes beach day everyone's favorite day.”

On Call Hospitality is the only company in Charleston that rents beach wheelchairs and other types of mobility scooters and standard wheelchairs.

“We offer complimentary delivery and pickup so that our clients can enjoy their vacations rather than have to worry about the details,” continued Upchurch. “People are always so grateful because they have the ability to enjoy the beach as an entire family, not with one or two people staying behind.”

The Debug® wheelchair moves well across soft sand and uneven surfaces, and it also has swivel arm rests and lap and chest belts for added safety.

“The rear wheels articulate and can even sit in

the water's edge,” Upchurch explained. “It really is remarkable how well the Debug® beach wheelchair works, even in the sand.”

On Call Hospitality typically can have a wheelchair ready to roll within 24 hours, though many repeat clients reserve chairs a few months in advance of their vacation to make sure they will be available.

If you plan to spend more than a day at the beach, renting a platform that attaches to a trailer hitch might be the way to go.

The Deluxe Beach Wagon is another option for anyone vacationing at the beach.

Featuring specialty tires, it easily hauls your gear across the sand and can accommodate up to 400 pounds.

On Call Hospitality offers several other wheelchair options, including the traditional PVC beach wheelchair, which can accommodate up to 250 pounds, or the Rascal® 500T Scooter and the Pride® Stylus LS wheelchair, which also can be used in city streets or shopping centers.

The Rascal® 500T Scooter boasts a compact design with great maneuverability. It has a headlight, built-in battery charger and even foam-filled, “flat free” tires. The lighter

Pride Stylus LS wheelchair features smooth drive tires and casters and fluid-resistant, tension-adjustable seat upholstery.

On Call Hospitality has a wheelchair that will work well in any environment in the Charleston area, from beaches to weddings to gardens. 🏠

To learn more about On Call Hospitality, visit [www.OnCallHospitality.com](http://www.OnCallHospitality.com) or call 843-749-2434.



Photo provided by On Call Hospitality.

On Call Hospitality rents beach wheelchairs and other types of mobility scooters, as well as standard wheelchairs.

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# NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT SEASONAL ALLERGIES

**I**T STARTS ON THE FIRST BEAUTIFUL DAY EVERY spring. Your car is covered with a fine layer of sticky yellow dust. Your eyes begin to water, your throat itches, your head aches and you can't stop sneezing. It is allergy season. Let the suffering begin. It is the

BY BARBARA MILLEN PATRICK

price we pay for the lovely flowers that bloom in the

Lowcountry, people say. It's not just the flowers. Our favorite shade trees are among the biggest culprits.

The truth is that the allergens are here almost year-round. There are just more of them in play during spring and fall. During spring, most of the yellow stuff is caused by a variety of trees as they start their growing season. The trees include oaks – there are many varieties, and they are copious pollen shedders – and pecan trees, which are ubiquitous here. A collection of weeds, such as ragweed, plus certain grasses make up the spring mix. That nasty

ragweed is also very active in the fall when weeds and grasses re-seed for next year. The mix of pollen producers changes with the seasons.

The allergens settle down somewhat in the summer, only to come back full force during the fall months as grasses and weeds (yes, ragweed again!) flare up. When you inhale those allergens, your immune system mistakes that pollen for an enemy and gears up for battle by creating histamines. Those histamines make you feel miserable, bringing on nasal congestion, sneezing, coughing and fatigue. Your eyes, nose and throat itch. Your sinuses are inflamed so your face literally hurts. Those red watery eyes are not your best look.

For the 50 million seasonal allergy sufferers in the United States, it is practically impossible to avoid the pollen. It is not only on the car, it is in the car. It is tracked into your house by your pets and by you.



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How do you cope? Simple solutions include showering after you've been outside to wash that stuff off your body and out of your hair. Neti pots are used by many people to wash irritants from the nasal passages. Your local drugstores also sell masks to control how much pollen you inhale, but most sufferers muddle through without this pseudo-fashion accessory.

If you need medicine, antihistamines help control the symptoms; over the counter brands include Zyrtec, Claritin and Benadryl. Decongestants can ease the congestion but can raise blood pressure, so they must be taken with care. Nasal sprays are also useful but should be used short-term only. Serious sufferers may be forced to seek medical help to reduce the symptoms and avoid further complications such as sinusitis or even asthma.

Allergies can occur in childhood or may pop up in middle



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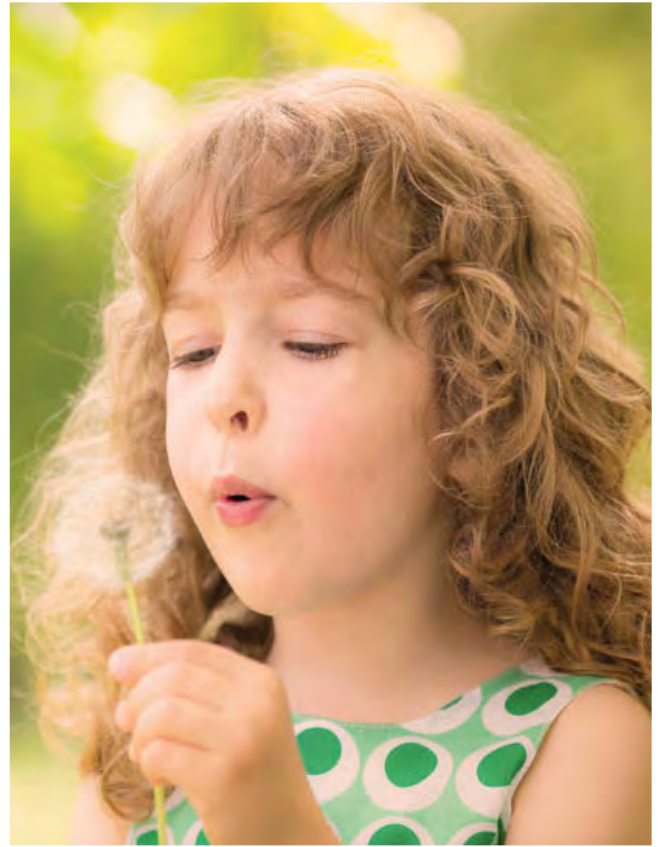
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age; some are lifelong sufferers. A few people outgrow allergies, but, for the most part, there is no cure.

Food allergies are a different classification, but you might be surprised to learn to that they can have a cross-reaction with seasonal allergens. For example, ragweed is related to foods such as camomile, melons, zucchini, bananas and celery, so enjoying these during times of peak pollen counts can make you feel even worse. You may not have a true food allergy, but the combination of airborne pollen and cantaloupe can make it seem so.

Thanks to modern technology, it is possible to track the pollen counts daily, and one of the easiest solutions is to stay inside and keep the windows closed. Good information about the amount of pollen day by day in your area can be found at [www.Pollen.com](http://www.Pollen.com). In the Lowcountry, pollen sticks around until winter, perhaps the only advantage of cold weather.

So until the weather changes, I'll see you in the allergy aisle at the pharmacy – right after I have my car cleaned inside and out to get rid of that pesky yellow stuff. 🦋

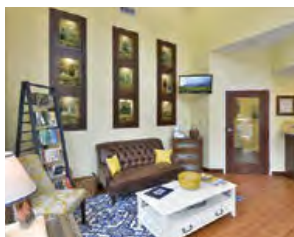


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There is no shortage of places to eat or drink on the water in East Cooper. Vickery's on Shem Creek is among the more popular options.

# An Appetite *for* Atmosphere

**WATERFRONT DINING IN EAST COOPER**

*Story by Denise K. James and Cullen Murray-Kemp.*

*Photos by William Quarles.*



Why would we live in the Lowcountry if we didn't ever dine outdoors? It's one of the perks we enjoy during the warmer months (or even the not-so-warm months, thanks to our mild winters), and, when the view includes water, it's even better. Here in East Cooper, we have a great selection of places to dine on the water this summer, from Shem Creek to the Isle of Palms. The best part is that Cullen and I did the hard work for you, visiting each spot and researching the best cocktails, menu items and places to sit. Now all you need to do is gather friends and family, make a reservation and soak it all in.

## VICKERY'S

### DENISE

There are three places to enjoy the view at Vickery's: the restaurant patio, the Shark Fin Bar and Muddy's, which is located downstairs from the dining room. General Manager Jared Alverson, who is originally from San Diego, said the views at sunset are "spectacular."

A Shem Creek institution, the menu at Vickery's doesn't change a whole lot, and staples such as burgers and the Lowcountry Saute keep regulars coming back. If you're looking for a bar snack, Alverson highly recommends the salsa and chips during happy hour, which is made with an employee's personal recipe. As for their signature cocktail, it's the ultimate classic: a bloody mary.

"What we do with the bloodies is unusual," Alverson revealed. "But it's a secret recipe, so we can't tell you. We don't want any other restaurants doing it!"

### CULLEN

A perfect view, although they are few and far between, can transform a person from uptight and overstressed to relaxed and charming. This spring, as the sun set over Patriots Point Links and kissed goodbye to the inner harbor, that's what happened to me at Vickery's. It doesn't hurt that the restaurant has created multiple, fully functioning



bars, each with a distinctly different feel and each with an equally awesome view. Longtime Vickery's Manager Jared Alverson seemed easygoing, except when we brought up the restaurant's floor-to-ceiling glass windows,

"They must be clean! That is my absolute biggest pet peeve," said Alverson.

With a view like that, we understand.

## WATER'S EDGE

### DENISE

If you're local, chances are you've enjoyed the views at Water's Edge. Cullen and I caught up with manager Britt Wilson, ordered two of the most popular drinks – the Bay Breeze and the Peach Daiquiri – and watched the regulars take their usual seats.

The Peach Daiquiri I sipped reminded me of lazy summer days. Wilson revealed that it's his mother's secret recipe. Meanwhile, Water's Edge sells plenty of classic Bay Breezes and, of course, beer. Patrons can choose between relaxing at the Cabana Bar or on the upstairs patio; food is served in both places.

Speaking of food, Wilson made our mouths water with his suggestions that included the whole fried flounder for dinner and the Prince Edward mussels for a snack. At half off during happy hour, they're "a sweet deal," he said.

"It's definitely a local clientele," said Wilson. "See that



group on the end? The bartenders have their drinks on the counter before they get here!”

## CULLEN

When my editor and I stopped in at Water’s Edge during our waterfront dining tour, we had both come off stressful days at the magazine.

“I don’t want to rewrite my article,” I complained.

“Your integrity as a literary genius is hereby at stake,” she retorted.

It was nearing 4 p.m., and the people began to pour in. Manager Britt Wilson brought us a couple of Peach Daiquiris – his mother’s recipe – and suddenly a rewrite didn’t seem like the worst thing in the world. Cecil, a regular at Water’s Edge, stopped by our table to profess his love for the restaurant’s happy hour.

“Man, these guys really take care of us,” Cecil said, as he motioned to the staff that seemed more like his friends than waiters. With a little help from Momma’s Peach Daiquiri, Water’s Edge was able to drown out the sorrows of a undernourished magazine article.

## SHEM CREEK BAR & GRILL

### DENISE

Here’s what we learned at Shem Creek Bar & Grill: good juice matters. I ordered the Salty Dog – just grapefruit juice and vodka – which I don’t normally drink,



and I loved it, thanks to the grapefruit being juiced right in front of my face.

“We’re known for freshly squeezed juice,” general manager Jason Mellin pointed out.

If you’re hungry, Mellin told us that the shrimp broil is the best, “especially if you aren’t from around here.” And the Shem Creek Saute, with mussels, clams, oysters, scallops and Cajun sausage, sounded pretty tasty as well. The full

menu is served on the patio, and the “dock bar” is open at 4 p.m. daily during the summer, serving cold appetizers such as the yummy crab dip.

“We’ve been around 30 years and were one of the first restaurants on the creek,” Mellin said. “And we don’t have televisions here. It’s a great place to have a conversation and enjoy the view.”

## CULLEN

The average Shem Creek Bar & Grill customer is not wearing a “suns out, guns out” tank top and on college spring break. They do not do Jagerbombs while screaming the year of their graduation class. Rather, the theme at Shem Creek Bar & Grill is “simple but good – very good.” After decades under the same ownership, those who run the low-key, rustic restaurant know who they are and what they represent. The restaurant and its dock bar are places to enjoy a quiet and quaint ambience and sip a freshly squeezed OJ and vodka. It’s a place to appreciate good conversation, good décor (including a charismatic Budweiser lamp and foreign money stapled to the wall) and damn good food. Shem Creek Bar and Grill is refreshingly local.

## TAVERN & TABLE

### DENISE

The first time I visited Tavern & Table was during the *Mount Pleasant Magazine* holiday party – and I had a feeling I would be back quickly. Sure enough, a recent warm day was the perfect occasion to sit at the bar and order an incredibly delicious drink: the Strawberry Blonde. It has fresh strawberry puree, honeysuckle vodka (I had no idea such a thing existed, but I approve), elderflower liqueur and a splash of Prosecco. Talk about YUM.

Food-wise, you can’t really go wrong here, but I tend to favor the fire roasted oysters because I’m a sincere oyster fanatic. If you’re down on the dock and ordering from the





dockside menu, the pimento cheese and bacon jam with crackers is delicious, and the shrimp ceviche is made with local shrimp.

## THE FISH HOUSE

### DENISE

The Fish House isn't deep in Mount Pleasant – in fact, you can see the beautiful city of Charleston beyond the harbor when you visit this gem at the Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina at Patriots Point. I asked the bartender to



fix me a drink when I arrived at the bar, which he promptly did, explaining that he didn't yet have a name for it and had been calling it "Chip's Lemonade," since it was his invention and his name is Chip Keller.

The elaborate cocktail consists of raspberry vodka, EG brand lavender rosemary vodka, homemade lemon simple syrup, pomegranate simple syrup, lemonade and a splash of Prosecco. Whew.

"This drink should be called The Meaning of Life," I suddenly declared, taking another generous sip.

Chip, along with the guy and gal that I'd befriended that evening while sitting at the bar, heartily agreed that it sounded like a great name for a drink.

So, in other words, we drank in the Meaning of Life while we watched the sun get lower over the Charleston Harbor. Oh, and I ordered a steak, which was delicious.

## R.B.'S

### DENISE

Though Cullen and I didn't quite get to have drinks at the newly-remodeled Saltwater Bar and Grill at R.B.'s the day we visited – it was still under construction – we could tell it's going to be spectacular, with plenty of Shem Creek breezes and a bird's eye (pelican's eye?) view.

We sampled the cucumber vodka martini, which was a favorite while researching this story, made with cucumber infused vodka, St. Germain, muddled cucumbers and a splash of lemon. It paired deliciously with the peel-n-

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Service manager Melissa Goad explained that the new



upstairs bar will be available all year, with enormous, garage door-style windows that open or close, depending on the weather.

"We're trying to be more modern," said Goad. "Whereas we used to have a shabbier beach bar up here, this'll be sleeker."

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## CULLEN

There was a moment at R.B.'s when I bit into a sesame-encrusted piece of yellow fin sashimi and washed down the tantalizing tuna with a crisp cucumber martini and thought: "If this is work, then I must be doing something right." The dining room at R.B.'s, which overlooks Shem Creek, has a comforting feel about it. It's as if Mom and Grandma suddenly garnered top-tier cocktail and culinary capabilities and opened a feel-good family restaurant.

My editor, Denise, carried on with Manager Melissa Goud about the anticipation of the \$200,000 renovation to the upstairs bar, The Saltwater Bar and Grill, but I was entranced by the assortment of appetizers and by the Cucumber Martini. Please do not take this lightly because consuming cocktails is one of my passions: The Cucumber Martini at R.B.'s was the best drink I've ever had – period.

## THE BOATHOUSE

### DENISE

Happy hour with Cullen is usually enough of an occasion, but add in the views of Breach Inlet at the Boathouse and it's worthy of a party. We found ourselves at "The Crow Bar," enjoying two of the restaurant's signature cocktails: Sunset Punch and the Boat Breeze, each made

with plenty of rum to get a post-beach afternoon started the right way.

But just when I thought the drinks and views were my favorite part, we sampled my favorite dish of the waterfront dining experience: scallop risotto, which was so scrumptious it practically made Cullen late to pick up his puppy, Journey, for a vet appointment.

"Our oysters are the freshest; our calamari and shrimp are excellent as well," emphasized manager Michael Germain.

With all that yummy seafood getting cooked, the Boathouse changes out its cooking oil daily, selling it to locals to be converted into biodiesel.



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“We’re 98-percent local,” Germain said. “We’re all about sustainability here.”

## CULLEN

The Boathouse on the Isle of Palms is an experience. The restaurant’s unassuming layout attracts both the casual after-beach beer drinker and the foodie searching for an intimate dinner. My view of Breach Inlet, coupled with a Sunset Punch and a plate of freshly fried local seafood, enabled me to embody the essence of the Isle of Palms.

We shared stories with restaurant manager Michael Germain, who kept us interested with fun facts about the restaurant, like that the dolphins of Breach Inlet will occasionally beach themselves on The Boathouse beach while chasing after bait fish. It all made sense when I maneuvered my fork, filled with sea scallops, prosciutto, asparagus and parmesan risotto, into my mouth: My life had come full circle, and it was a pan-seared scallop.

## MORGAN CREEK GRILL

### DENISE

I once took a trip to Goat Island. When I got off the boat, I found myself at Morgan Creek Grill, which indeed seems to be the perfect place to have a drink after a boat ride or a stint on the Isle of Palms.

Lunch is served on the upper deck, according to Kristy Kinney, director of events and promotions, and, while dinner is served in the dining room only, there’s a great happy hour menu to choose from at any of the three bars. The Palmer Lightning – a simple but delicious concoction of Firefly vodka and lemonade – is just the thing to sip.



People staying for dinner will want to order the fresh fish with collards, grits and mango salsa, according to Kinney. And snackers can count on \$5 small plates during happy hour.

“Patrons can dock their boats on our slips for free,” said Kinney. “A lot of golfers from the Wild Dunes course come here for happy hour, too.”

## CULLEN

The sun was shining and a pleasant ocean breeze was drifting up the coast that late March afternoon. Below the roof deck at Morgan Creek Grill, kids played cornhole while enjoying their spring break. I gazed out at the Intracoastal Waterway, which separates Goat Island from the Isle of Palms.

“This is gorgeous,” I told Denise.

Thirsty, I drew from my “Lowcounty Lemonade,” a provocative mixture of Cathead Honeysuckle vodka, pink lemonade and champagne.

Whether you come from the Dunes West golf course or you are idling in from a morning fishing trip, Morgan Creek Grill is the ideal watering hole for good food, cold drinks and a relaxing atmosphere. 🍷

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### SOUTH MOUNT PLEASANT


**Ali Baba Mediterranean Cuisine** has food for any occasion, including a large selection of exotic sandwiches and plates for lunch and dinner. *Cuisine:* Mediterranean • 920 Houston Northcutt Blvd. • 843-388-0683 • www.alibabafalafel.com • 

**The Americano** serves brunch, ceviche Americano, yellow fin tuna and Tres Leches French toast. There are many options as well as a full drink menu. *Cuisine:* Cuban/Latin/South American • 819 Coleman Blvd. • 843-352-2641 • www.theamericanomp.com •  •  • 



**Bricco Bracco** focuses on home-style cooking. *Cuisine:* Italian/Seafood • 1034 Chuck Dawley Blvd. • 843-352-2294 • www.briccobracco.net •  •  • *Best Italian Food Winner* - 

**Momma Goldberg's Deli** has operated for more than 37 years. Customers have grown accustomed to their delicious food made with the freshest ingredients in a relaxed, sociable atmosphere. *Cuisine:* Delicatessen • 230 Mathis Ferry Road • 843-352-7939 • www.mommagoldbergsdeli.com • 




**Red's Ice House** is a public gathering place at the water's edge, where locals and visitors gather, watch the boats go by and help celebrate, preserve and protect the rich and storied tradition of Shem Creek. *Cuisine:* American/seafood • 98 Church St. • 843-388-0003 • www.redsicehouse.com •  •  •  • *Best Bar Winner* - 



**Steel City Pizza Co.** - Every guest, every party, every slice, every time. *Cuisine:* Pizza/delivery • 1440 Ben Sawyer Blvd. • 843-856-2525 • www.steelcitypizza.com • 

**Tavern and Table** is like neighborhood taverns of old. Located on Shem Creek, it's designed to be that local gathering place where friends and family get together for classic cocktails and spectacular food in an atmosphere as

comfortable as your living room. *Cuisine:* Seafood/American • 843-352-9510 • www.tavernandtable.com •  • 




### DANIEL ISLAND

At **Daniel Island Grille**, also known as **DIG**, hospitality is the driving concept. Opened in 2008, DIG boasts the biggest outdoor patios in Charleston, with plenty of space to enjoy the beautiful Lowcountry weather. *Cuisine:* American • 259 Seven Farms Drive • 843-377-8750 • www.dighospitality.com •  •  • 

**The Islander** serves lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Serving inspired cuisine and cocktails, The Islander offers guests a taste of the good life in a casual tropic atmosphere. Cuisine selections include fresh seafood, perfectly cooked meats, vibrant sushi and refreshingly bright salad selections. *Cuisine:* American/seafood • 160-B Fairchild St. • 843-388-6366 • www.holycityhospitality.com/the-islander •  • 

**Laura Alberts** offers farm-to-table cuisine for lunch, dinner and Saturday brunch. Try their fresh, local Southern cuisine with an innovative twist on traditional Southern favorites. *Cuisine:* Farm-to-table/Southern • 891 Island Park Drive • 843-881-4711 • www.lauraalberts.com •  • 

### NORTH MOUNT PLEASANT

**78° West Atlantic Coast** is named for the popular fishing spot on the 78° longitude line. This family-friendly restaurant is new to the area. Enjoy flavors from the Caribbean Islands, Cuba, Jamaica, Southern cuisine and lobsters flown in from Kennebunkport every week. *Cuisine:* American/seafood • 2700 N. Highway 17, Unit C 120 • 843-388-2601 • www.78degreeswestsc.com •  •  • 

**Annie's Bistro Francais** is the neighborhood's taste of France. Everything is fresh with no pre-packaging, and the food is made to order. *Cuisine:* French • 1795 N.





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**On Forty One** values and celebrates its relationship with South Carolina farmers and purveyors. Through Chef Brannon Florie's longstanding relationships, On Forty One is able to offer truly local, fresh and seasonal cuisine. **Cuisine:** Southern/backyard dining • 1055 Highway 41 • 843-352-9235 • www.onfortyone.squarespace.com • \$-\$\$ • ☂ • 🐾

**SOL Southwest Kitchen & Tequila Bar** is locally owned and operated. SOL blends the bold flavors of the Southwest with Southern culinary influences • **Cuisine:** Southwest/fusion • 1101 Stockade Lane • 843-388-4302 • www.solmtpleasant.com • \$-\$\$ • ☂ • 🐾 • *Best Cocktail/Best New Restaurant Winner* - 🏆

**SULLIVAN'S ISLAND**  
**Dunleavy's Pub** is proud to be a part of an endangered species, the family owned and operated business. **Cuisine:** American/pub • 2213 Middle St. • 843-883-9646 • www.dunleavysonsullivans.com • \$ • ☂

**The Obstinate Daughter** pays homage to the Revolutionary War history of Sullivan's Island. Open for lunch and dinner, as well as for Saturday and Sunday brunch. **Cuisine:** Italian/Pizza/Seafood • 2063 Middle St. • 843-416-5020 • www.theobstinatedaughter.com • \$-\$\$

**Poe's Tavern** is located two blocks from the beach on beautiful Sullivan's Island. Named for Edgar Allen Poe, who enlisted in the Army and was stationed on Sullivan's Island, Poe's is best known for great burgers and drinks. **Cuisine:** American • 2210 Middle St. • 843-883-0083 • www.poestavern.com • \$ • ☂

**SALT at Station 22** is just blocks from the beach and in the center of where it is all happening. Dinner is served daily and Sunday brunch is one of the most delicious you will find in Charleston. **Cuisine:** American • 2005 Middle St. • 843-883-3355 • www.saltstation22.com • \$-\$\$ • ☂

**Taco Mamacita** serves made-from-scratch, super fresh, totally tasty eats and drinks in a fun, laid-back setting and delivers the most awesome customer service of all time to every guest, every time. **Cuisine:** Mexican • 2213-B Middle St. • 843-789-4107 • www.tacomamacita.com • \$ • ☂ • *Best Taco Winner* - 🏆

**ISLE OF PALMS**  
**Acme Lowcountry Kitchen** combines upscale yet casual elements of traditional coastal cuisine with classic fare. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in a casual beach atmosphere with local ingredients and sustainable seafood. **Cuisine:** American/Seafood • 31 J.C. Long Blvd. • 843-886-0024 • www.acmelowcountrykitchen.com • \$-\$\$ • ☂ • 🐾

**The Boathouse at Breach Inlet** serves dinner nightly and Sunday brunch. Its Southern cooking draws from family recipes scrawled on cards in plantation kitchens to the modern locavore movement, relying on South Carolina's natural fresh abundance. **Cuisine:** Seafood • 101 Palm Blvd. • 843-886-8000 • www.boathouserestaurants.com • \$-\$\$\$ • ☂

**Coconut Joe's Beach Grill & Bar** offers spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean from a covered outside deck, air conditioned dining room or open-air rooftop bar. **Cuisine:** American • 1120 Ocean Blvd. • 843-886-0046 • www.coconutjoes.biz • \$-\$\$ • ☂





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# Life Gave You Lemons? Decorate That Tea Glass!

**F**OR YEARS, SOUTHERN FOLKS have reveled in taking shade under sprawling live oaks while sipping sweet tea. A day of porch swinging pairs perfectly with an iced glass brewed to perfection. Toss in a handful of perfect cubes and some sprigs of mint, and you've got a premier summer beverage. Add a few friends and some liquor to the pitcher and you've got a party.

The crew at Sesame Burgers

BY KALENE MCCORT

&  
Beer in

Mount Pleasant serves up countless chilled cocktails all year round, but there's one adult beverage on their menu that seems to capture summertime in the South to a tee. Aptly named The Porch Swing, this refreshing sipper is served in an oversized mason jar. An ideal blend of Firefly Sweet Tea Vodka, Sesame's fresh, house-made lemonade, a splash of simple syrup and soda water, this libation is sure to become your drink of choice.

"We sell a good bit of The Porch Swing," said bartender Valerie Rexroad. "People seem to love that it's so refreshing yet simple."

Other top sellers are Southern Breeze, Kickin Mule and Rexroad's very own creation, Margarita Americana – a slightly different take on the standard salt-rimmed staple, using American Honey Whiskey.

"I find it rewarding when people come in and have a really great time," said Rexroad. "People remember my name. I remember their names. As a bartender, I have the

ability to help folks out when they're having a bad time. That's probably why I've been in the service industry as long as I have. Of course, the biggest perk of the job is that I have 20 beers on tap."

The Porch Swing is really a drink best enjoyed outside, and, lucky for us, Sesame's open-air patio lends itself to afternoons lounging with friends under the Carolina sky. Pair it with some mouthwatering sliders and the highly addictive beer-battered onion rings and you've got one

memorable meal for the books. Lighter fare, such as Sesame's made-to-order guacamole and an assortment of zesty salads, also compliments this exhilarating elixir.

For Mount Pleasant resident Laura Williams, sweet tea isn't just a refreshing beverage but liquid ancestry. Growing up in her grandparents' Tennessee home, the comforting clinking of full glasses was like the percussion in a Lowcountry soundtrack of chirping mockingbirds and midafternoon sun showers.

"My brother, sister and I grew up in East Tennessee in my grandparents' home, where iced sweet tea was a staple all year. Because Washington County was dry and my grandparents were staunch teetotalers, sweet tea was the beverage of choice!"

"Spiked tea just happened.

Experimenting with mixed drinks, cocktails as we know, meant pouring alcohol of choice into a beverage I already enjoyed," said Williams. "I call it an 'enhancement.'"

A top-producing Rodan and Fields Skincare Consultant, Williams has lots of reasons to toast her success.

"Sweet tea is a part of our Southern culture. Every night



Photo courtesy of Brian "The Brain" Sherry.

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my husband Bob and I have our wine and also our iced tea,” said Williams. “It’s a part of us. It’s just what we do, like brushing our teeth.”

If you seek tea that isn’t of the spiked variety, head on down to Laura Alberts on Daniel Island, where they are serving up innovative flavors.

“I think the key to good fresh tea is it being hot brewed, which means the tea leaves steep in hot water and drip, yielding fresh tea,” said co-owner Karen Elsey. “To make Southern sweet tea, we make a simple syrup and add it to the freshly steeped tea while the tea is still warm. We offer peach and raspberry syrups made from fresh juices

from France, which have no high fructose corn syrup.”

Whether you prefer your tea with a splash of alcohol or straight up with lemon slices and cane sugar, the Lowcountry has lots of satisfying options.

If you thirst for more knowledge surrounding this popular beverage, be sure to visit Charleston Tea Plantation on Wadmalaw Island, the only tea plantation of its kind on American soil. Also on Wadmalaw you will find Firefly Distillery and Tasting Room, where you can sample Sweet Tea Bourbon and other “tealightful” variations.

Loose leaf, bagged, over ice or just chilled, be sure to brew up some fun this summer. 🐛

# Tea Recipes

## Laura Williams’ Italian Fly Trap

1 part Sweet Tea Vodka  
1 part Grand Gala or Grand Marnier  
Splash of Sour Mix  
Generous splash of Prosecco

Mix first 3 ingredients and top off with Prosecco. Serve in a tall glass over lots of ice. Garnish with an orange or lemon peel.

## Sesame’s The Porch Swing

One shot Firefly Sweet Tea Vodka  
1 Part house-made lemonade  
Splash of simple syrup  
Soda water.

Mix first three ingredients and top with soda water. Add a lemon as garnish.

Photo courtesy of Brian “The Brain” Sherry.







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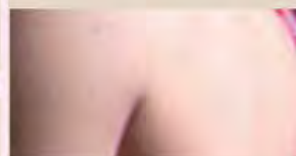
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MICHELE HENSEL AND  
HER TWO BEAUTIFUL BOYS,  
JOSHUA AND JACOB.

While motherhood can be one of the most rewarding gifts in life, the effects of pregnancy can leave many women self-conscious about their bodies," says Dr. Jack Hensel, a board-certified plastic surgeon.

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of procedures aimed at reversing the changes to a mother's body caused by childbearing. Dr. Jack Hensel is a board-certified plastic surgeon who specializes in plastic surgery, and frequently performs Mommy Makeover surgery. Dr. Hensel can put together a plan to fit each individual's needs.



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# MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE

**I** GREW UP IN A HOUSEHOLD OF ALL WOMEN: MY MOTHER, MY grandmother, my younger sister and me. So naturally my childhood was filled with inspiring stories about how to be a strong, independent female – but I didn't quite understand the importance until much later, when I got out into the world on my own and embarked on my writing career.

No matter what challenges we ladies face in our chosen careers, we have plenty to celebrate. We can choose whether we want to become business owners, novelists, politicians or physicians. We're balancing work and family better than ever. And we have networking resources – both face-to-face and on social media – that help us support each other when necessary.

Thus I'm pleased to present y'all with this year's Lowcountry Women in Business. We've got an eclectic and talented group of ladies to read about in these pages, and I think you'll agree that they all have a story worth sharing, no matter what field they chose or what part of the journey they happen to be on.

As for my own journey as a writer, it started when I learned how to hold a pencil and will continue the rest of my life. Just like the ladies you'll read about here, I've realized that turning our passion into our livelihood is the best way to find success.

So cheers to your passions, ladies. I think we can say we have it all. 🍷



Yours,  
DENISE K. JAMES  
Managing Editor

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# Connect for Success

## AT THE CENTER FOR WOMEN



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Fair Photography.

Brandy Sullivan and Jennifer Buddin were at the Center's Annual Women's Conference in February. The "AM Energizer" featured "Hot Pants" from Theatre 99.

**T**HE U.S. WORKFORCE LOOKS different than it did 50 years ago, mainly because women now make up nearly half of the labor force, working in traditional vocations such as administrative assistants as well as in non-traditional jobs in areas such as construction – and virtually everything in between.

And then there are the women who play important roles in the everyday lives of their families and other families, as stay-at-

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

home mothers, wives and caregivers.

The Center for Women, a nonprofit organization located in Charleston, recognizes all women for their achievements in both personal and professional settings.

"We educate and advocate so that women in South Carolina have economic success and are leaders in their professional, community and personal lives," said Leigh Ann Garrett, program and events manager for The Center for Women. "We encourage women to find and define their own success, which for some might mean keeping a tidy house,



raising kids and being involved in their child's education. At the other extreme might be finding success as a Fortune 500 CEO. We are here to help you reach those goals, however attainable or lofty they are."

Today, unlike just a few generations ago, most children live in households where both parents work. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in 2013, 57 percent of working age women participated in the labor force; 74 per-

cent of employed women worked full-time; and 70 percent of working women had children under the age of 18.

than 150 workshops a year. Members and non-members may attend for a nominal fee – members receive a discount – and are able to gather the tools they need for personal and professional development.

Large and small companies support the mission of the Center for Women and allow their employees to participate in the workshops, which in turn benefits their business. Many speakers at the workshops are Center for Women

Center for Women Board Chair Virginia Lee Mandell, Board Member Carrie Lewis and Immediate Past Board Chair Jane Perdue.



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Fair Photography.

cent of employed women worked full-time; and 70 percent of working women had children under the age of 18.

"As our population ages, families are increasingly caring for aging parents while balancing the needs of work and home," Garrett added. "The Center for Women focuses on three different areas: awareness and advocacy, financial management and entrepreneurship, and leadership and development."


Women throughout South Carolina can utilize the Center's generous mix of educational and networking opportunities, training and developmental workshops, mentoring programs, services and special events.

"While we are located downtown, we have feet on the ground in the Lowcountry, Greenville and Columbia. We provide webinars for the outer areas of the state as well," Garrett explained, adding that the organization helps women build better lives for themselves, their families, organizations, employers and communities.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary and with more than 400 members, the Center for Women coordinates more

members, which allows them to provide a service to their communities and gain great exposure for themselves.

"We are definitely a group that wants to help people succeed. Our focus is women, but we don't discriminate," said Garrett. "We offer programs such as the Lowcountry Women with Wings, which concentrates on women's health awareness such as gynecological cancers, and other well-regarded programs such as Entrepreneurial Readiness Counseling. This program offers free business counseling, which is a great member benefit. There is also the popular Brown Bag Lunch Series."

The Center for Women provides many avenues to help its members achieve success – connecting with other powerful female professionals, learning more about local and community initiatives for women, keeping up-to-date on important statistics and discovering educational resources and support services are just a few. 

*If you would like to connect for success, visit [www.C4Women.org](http://www.C4Women.org) or call 843-763-7333.*

## About Our Cover



**O**NE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT GETTING a group of women into one room is how quickly everyone makes friends. At our cover shoot for the 2015 Lowcountry Women in Business custom magazine, photographed by Jenn Cady, the six ladies who currently grace our cover were chatting it up and sharing stories of the trade in no time at all – Jenn and myself included.

We gathered in downtown Charleston at the cushy office of Dr. David Rodwell – thanks again for letting us use your beautiful space – and had the best time, posing and smiling and laughing together. These six ladies are magnificent and versatile examples of what it means to be a woman and be successful in the Lowcountry. **From left to right:**

**Jana Bantz**, Jana Bantz & Associates Real Estate

**Dr. Leslie Steele**, Advanced Animal Care

**Hannah Hipps**, Sun Station Tanning Studios

**Michele Hensel**, Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa

**Dr. Mary Anne Larkin**, Advanced Hearing Care

**Jordan Eads**, Merle Norman Cosmetics

These ladies followed their dreams and became cover stars. If that isn't inspiring, I don't know what is! 🐾

Thanks for reading our 2015 Lowcountry Women in Business.

DENISE K. JAMES  
Managing Editor



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Photo provided by Jana Bantz & Associates.

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**T**HE STRING OF LETTERS AFTER her name is certainly impressive, but what's even more impressive about Jana Bantz, Realtor, ABR, CRS, GRI, MRP, CNE, is the high level of service she provides her clients. For Jana, that great service is reflected in the loyalty her clients have shown her.

"They have stuck with me through the years, and I'm now selling homes to their children, which is such a lovely thing to be trusted with," she said.

Jana Bantz & Associates, which Jana founded in 2002, is affiliated with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Southern Coast Real Estate. Lisa Maynor, Donna Dursher and Lisa Provost make up the rest of her team.

"I've hand-selected people to work with me who truly care about taking care of our clients," said Jana.

All four have raised families here and love the area.

The Summerville-based team serves clients looking to buy and sell all over the greater Charleston area, from Wadmalaw to Santee, and they do it as a team.

"We all work together," said Jana. "There is always

someone available, seven days a week, to take a call and help our clients. Every team member is familiar with every file. You get four for the price of one!"

Jana decided to pursue her real estate license while working as a relocation director in a real estate office; it turned out that she had a natural talent for the work. She has closed more than \$200 million in deals since she started 23 years ago and has received industry recognition, including Prudential's Rookie of the Year Award. She also claimed Prudential's Legend Award in 2013, based on five years of steady production during one of the worst real estate recessions in U.S. history. Jana's obviously doing something right.

"I want to make sure that I do my job well," she said. "I seek additional knowledge whenever possible so that I can constantly be on top of trends and laws and regulations."

To do that, she's gone through extensive training to earn the letters after her name. Each acronym represents many hours of study and another skill set she can use to best serve her clients.

"Having those designations puts us in the top 2 percent of Realtors in the United States," she pointed out.

Jana, who originally hails from West Virginia and has lived in the Lowcountry since 1986, believes in giving back to the community.

"We give a portion of every closing to Dorchester Children in Crisis, and we support the Dorchester County Foster Children Association. We have helped with food drives for local food banks and the SPCA," she said.

Jana's office also gets involved with many of their clients' children's sporting teams, as sponsors of baseball teams, hockey teams and more.

"If our clients are involved in it, we like to help," she said.

Jana works hard at the office but also works hard to focus on family and fun outside of work. She and her husband of 38 years became grandparents for the first time last year to grandson Fisher. And, once a year, the couple takes a week off to travel somewhere new. Last year they enjoyed time in Vancouver, Victoria and Whistler; this year they'll see Yellowstone National Park, Montana and the Grand Tetons in Wyoming.


"It's a new adventure every year," she said. 



Photo by Jenn Cady.

**KIM POWELL**

**Woodhouse Day Spa**  
 725 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-203-1772  
[www.charleston.woodhousespas.com](http://www.charleston.woodhousespas.com)

**H**AVING SPENT DECADES vacationing in the Lowcountry, Ohio native Kim Powell felt something surprising was missing from one of the most popular travel destinations in the world: a luxury day spa.

“My husband is from Beaufort, and I have fallen in love with the whole Charleston area. My mom, sister and I do a lot of resort spa travel, and I was disappointed that there weren’t any true luxury day spas that offer ‘resort style’ amenities,” she said.

When a Woodhouse Day Spa opened in her hometown, it piqued her interest concerning what could be done to fill that void in Charleston.

“I was blown away by the level of professional management and commitment to service,” Kim said. “I flew to their headquarters in Texas to learn more and was impressed with the team.”

And she became the regional developer for the Southeast.

Already an owner of Summit Industrial Flooring, which she and her husband launched 25 years ago, the Powells

opened their Southeast branch here in 2013 and relocated to Mount Pleasant this past June.

“I am developing 12 Woodhouse Spas across the Southeast, with Mount Pleasant being my flagship location,” she said. “My goal is to own six and act as a mentor to owners of the other six – basically, I would help shepherd these owners through the franchise process and act as a liaison.”

Kim’s Mount Pleasant location, which opened in late April on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, is the largest Woodhouse Day Spa in the country. It offers separate VIP, women’s and men’s relaxation rooms, as well as “social” rooms to accommodate bridal parties, businesses and more.

“Our business model is meant for Lowcountry residents. We are your luxury resort spa without the resort or the resort prices,” she explained. “Since Charleston is a top travel destination, we have enough room to accommodate visitors as well.”

While owning a line of luxury spas sounds like a great way to unwind while running an industrial flooring business, Kim is not slowing down. She and her son plan to launch an app called Small World this summer.

“It is a social app that lets you know if someone you know through a first- or second-degree connection is nearby,” Kim said. “Say you had a long layover in an airport; this app will tell you that your mother’s childhood friend you have never met is in the same proximity. You could privately message her and even meet her if she responds. It’s a way to connect with people.”

Through all of her business endeavors, Kim finds inspiration by providing services that help other people, being a mentor and collaborating with others to create successful businesses. She is impressed by the Charleston business community and the thriving tech scene in the digital corridor.

“I love all of the energy and creativity you can find in Charleston,” she said.

As for success tips for any women out there who dream of becoming entrepreneurs, Kim stressed to know your numbers.

“Business is all about metrics,” Kim said. “Not analyzing costs, your customers or what they buy and why can be your biggest mistake, myself included.”

Kim also relies on the acronym, PEP: Passion, Enthusiasm and Persistence.


“When you’re passionate about something, the world seems to start aligning for it. And you have to have that enthusiasm and persistence to make it a reality,” she said. 





Photo courtesy of Dr. Mary Anne Larkin.

## DR. MARY ANNE LARKIN

Advanced Hearing Care  
 900 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite 101  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-628-4844  
[www.advhearing.com](http://www.advhearing.com)

**D**R. MARY ANNE LARKIN OFTEN works long hours at Advanced Hearing Care in Mount Pleasant, the audiology practice she founded in 1993, but it's for a good reason.

"Every day I change lives in a positive way through better hearing," she explained.

Most of her patients don't hear as well as they used to and often feel they're missing out on conversation around them.

They see Dr. Larkin, a board-certified doctor of audiology with 32 years' experience, and are tested, diagnosed and treated.

"We believe in being part of the total health care team," said Dr. Larkin, "so we work closely with our patients' primary care physicians, and we educate them on the link between good hearing and overall wellness and brain health."

One patient hadn't been able to hear out of her left ear for more than 30 years. Dr. Larkin fitted her for a device, and, for the first time in decades, she could hear out of that ear. The change was so profound, the woman started crying, Dr. Larkin said, pointing out that improving the quality of life of her patients is what she loves most about her job.

"All the hard work and long hours we put in are worth it," she said.

Advanced Hearing Care offers services addressing issues of hearing health and hearing loss to people of all ages. The practice has been honored with the National Practice of Excellence Award by the Academy of Doctors of Audiology and was also voted Best Hearing Practice for several years by the readers of the *Moultrie News* and Best Audiologist by the readers of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*.

Dr. Larkin appreciates the support she's received from the greater Mount Pleasant community, and she believes in giving back. As part of her mission to prevent hearing loss, the practice provides free hearing screenings for adults 55 and older.

Dr. Larkin advises women in business to network and support their community.

"When I first opened up my private practice, I joined the Chamber of Commerce and the Mount Pleasant Business and Professional Association. They were invaluable in meeting other business people, learning the ropes of how to market out in the community and how to talk about your services," she explained.

Dr. Larkin is active in her church and supports East Cooper Community Outreach and East Cooper Meals on Wheels. She grew up in a family with a strong work ethic and high academic standards.

"I was raised in an environment where I could be whatever I wanted to be. The sky was the limit," she said.

She and husband Brian have passed those values onto daughters Lindsay and Allie.

"I'm all about raising our girls to be strong women in business who make a contribution to society and give of their time and talents to those less fortunate," Dr. Larkin said.

Like her father, she attended Purdue University, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees. She obtained her doctorate in Audiology at the University of Florida. Dr. Larkin worked at a speech and hearing clinic in Florence, South Carolina, and then at an ENT office in Charleston before opening Advanced Hearing Care in Mount Pleasant 22 years ago.


Sometimes patients come back to see her and give an update. When they do, "they've got a smile on their face," said Dr. Larkin. "They're saying 'It's just so much less stressful. I had no idea that it was going to be this easy.'" 



Photo by Meghan Whitney.

## SUSAN MARTIN STOX-YAMASHITA

Stox & Co.  
 725 Coleman Blvd.  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-884-7233  
 www.stoxandco.com

“SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY REALLY means a lot to me,” said Susan Martin Stox-Yamashita, owner of salon and day spa Stox & Co. “I am Southern and I take it very seriously.”

For Susan and her team, that means offering unparalleled customer service to everyone who walks through the door.

“We really go above and beyond to make sure every guest is taken care of, that they’re happy and all their needs are met,” she said.

BY ERIN DANLY

That’s not just lip service; Susan has a personal reason for wanting to make all of her customers look and feel their best. Her mother was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 45, and Susan saw the toll it took on her as she went through treatment and lost her hair.

“My mom struggled for five years,” said Susan. “I saw how good it can feel to be a little pampered, feel good about yourself and come into a place where you can relax, where everyone cares about you and what you’re going through.”

She and her team run Stox & Co. with that commit-

ment to great service in mind.

Stox & Co. offers hair care, nail care, facials, massages, bridal services, airbrush tanning, waxing and more, plus has a variety of products including Aveda and Eminence Organic Skin Care.

“We provide beauty and wellness services all in one place,” said Susan. “Our focus is beauty and wellness from the inside out.”

Originally from Georgetown, Susan already had her cosmetology license by the time she graduated from high school and left for college.

“It’s something I’ve always been interested in,” she said.

After college, she worked in a salon and grew her clientele. Not content to stick with what she knew, Susan got involved in the movie business and worked as an apprentice under award-winning special effects makeup artist Jeff Goodwin. She worked in front of and behind the camera, gaining an actress credit on an episode of “Dawson’s Creek” and working as a makeup artist on such films as “Radio,” “A Walk to Remember” and “White Men Can’t Dance.”

In 1992, Susan opened her first location of Stox & Co. in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. Over the past 23 years, she’s opened three more locations, including a second one in Mingo at Litchfield Beach, one in Litchfield Golf Resort and at The Boulevard in Mount Pleasant.

The Coleman Boulevard location celebrated its one-year anniversary on April 23, and Susan couldn’t be prouder.

“It’s been a lot of hard work, and I couldn’t have done it without a great team,” she commented.

Susan said she’s open to even more expansion in the future, but only if she and her team can continue to maintain a high level of service.

Susan splits her time between Litchfield Beach and Mount Pleasant and is involved in both communities. She’s a member of the Preservation Society of Charleston, the Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau and Lowcountry Local First and is a Friend of Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet. Stox & Co. supports several organizations, including Camp Happy Days, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the American Heart Association.

Susan has advice for other women on business and on life: “Do something you love, and do it because you love it. Find the thing you feel very passionate about and pursue it. You will be successful.”





Jean Wellmon, left,  
 and Michelle Wellmon Waterbury.

Photo by Brandon Clark.

## JEAN WELLMON

### Jean's Bridal

798 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-881-2056  
[www.jeansbridalcharleston.com](http://www.jeansbridalcharleston.com)

**T**HOSE WHO HAVE VENTURED TO Jean's Bridal in Mount Pleasant, an institution of bridal couture and formal wear, aren't likely to be surprised that owner Jean Wellmon has had years of experience in the retail business profession – years that taught her the patience and dedication to her clientele that Jean's is known for.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Jean began her journey in retail at the age of 17 when she took a position at a shop called Eleanore's. The experience was quite a positive one, and Jean looks back on those early years fondly.

"I worked for an inspiring woman who really knew how to manage the store positively and effectively," she remembered. "Today, I strive for my own business to be run in the same manner."

The early days of Jean's shop were spent at a different location: namely, Peachtree Plaza on Coleman Boulevard. When it initially opened, it was a fabric shop that offered custom alterations. A short time after, Jean began carrying several ready-to-wear pieces – and with that, Jean's contin-

ued to evolve. In 1980, the shop moved from Peachtree Plaza to Fairmount on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, and, according to Jean, the direction of the business swiftly changed.

"I began focusing more on ready-to-wear pieces as well as bridal gowns and formal wear," she explained.

Fast forward a few more years to 1984, and Jean was ready to expand the business again, this time to its current location at Lafayette Village, also off of Johnnie Dodds. At this point, Jean noted that Mount Pleasant was lacking a true bridal shop – a niche that she was poised to fill.

"I like to try new things," Jean pointed out. "At the time, the town didn't have much to offer in the bridal industry."

The layout of the new location included two stories of shopping space, with ready-to-wear items downstairs and formal wear, bridal gowns and tuxedos upstairs. According to Jean, the shop had transformed to "a true bridal store" by 1993, phasing out the ready-to-wear fashions in favor of carrying tuxedos downstairs and bridal gowns plus women's formal wear upstairs.

Today, Jean's Bridal has garnished the reputation in Mount Pleasant and beyond of being one of the finest bridal shops in the region, not just in clothing but in customer service. The shop continues to offer custom alterations and accessories such as shoes, hairpieces, jewelry and other items for a bride's big day.

"Over the years, we have tried our hand at other bridal-related items such as fine china and invitations as well," Jean remarked. "Currently, we do have a small gift section downstairs."

The shop is operated by Jean and her oldest daughter, Michelle Wellmon Waterbury, who, according to Jean, has been invaluable to the business since 1991.


"My family has been a huge support for me," she said. "Michelle has been my right hand through the years. We both hope that Jean's Bridal will be a Mount Pleasant staple for years to come." 



Photo courtesy of Pleasant Family Dentistry.

## DR. LAUREN CALLISON

**Pleasant Family Dentistry**  
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**D**R. LAUREN CALLISON GREW UP, like many of us do, a little bit uncomfortable and uneasy about trips to the dentist's office. A large part of that anxiety stemmed from the small amount of interaction she had from "those that were behind the mask."

As Dr. Callison left home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to pursue undergraduate studies in North Carolina at Elon University, she was unsure about her future career trajectory. As Lauren put it, "I wanted to work with people, engage with them and help them. Dentistry was always in my peripheral but not something that I ever gave much thought because I had been exposed to it all my life."

A science-minded thinker, Dr. Callison was initially drawn to art because of her natural ability to create things with her hands.

"As a youngster, I loved working with my hands to create something tangible – and I was good at it," she said.

Eventually, her natural ability to work with her hands,

solve challenging science problems and interact with people to solve their issues manifested into a calling for a career in dentistry.

Once she decided on her career path, Dr. Callison vowed to be a different kind of dentist.

"I didn't want to be the standoff, disconnected dentist that would pop in at the end of a patient visit and then wash my hands and off to the next one," she explained.

After Dr. Callison finished her undergraduate work, she traveled back to Pennsylvania for dental school at Temple University. Her years in Philadelphia proved formative in honing her technical abilities but also shone light on how much she missed the Carolinas.

"I missed the culture, the laid-back way of life, the appreciation for nature, the beach, the outdoors. People are just plain nice in the South, and I wanted to immerse myself and my future family in that kind of lifestyle."

With the Carolinas on her mind, Dr. Callison successfully pursued a residency at one of the top dental schools in the nation, the Medical University of South Carolina. After a few years in the Lowcountry, she realized she had found her home and has been here ever since. In June, she will start a new journey as a practicing dentist at Pleasant Family Dentistry in Mount Pleasant.

When asked about her patients, Dr. Callison lights up with delight: "Because I can empathize with my patients, I do everything I can to bring joy to them, even if I am wearing a funny blue mask. First and foremost, I want to solve my patients' dental issues, but, beyond that, I want to build a relationship with them so they'll feel comfortable sharing future problems with me. Thankfully, in Mount Pleasant it isn't too hard to make new friends."

Outside of work, you might find Dr. Callison and her family walking the beach at Sullivan's Island or eating at one of their favorite restaurants. But, most of the time, Dr. Callison is doing what she loves – "helping solve peoples' dental problems, and giving them comfort when they are in pain." ❧





Photo provided by Tavern & Table.

## DIANNE CROWLEY

Tavern & Table  
 100 Church St.  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-352-9510  
[www.tavernandtable.com](http://www.tavernandtable.com)

**Y**OU HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY HEARD of her restaurants. Wild Wing Café. Red’s Ice House. And the latest rave, Tavern & Table. But most folks have never met one of the masterminds behind the wildly successful and fun restaurants.

Dianne Crowley, an energetic and passionate businesswoman, grew up near the water in Melbourne, Florida.

**BY JOE SEMSAR** She pursued a broadcasting and advertising degree at the University of Florida; developed a love for swimming, shopping, spas and sports; and started a career in the broadcasting industry as the creative director of a television station and host of a television show called “Making Ends Meet,” which is where she’d ultimately develop an interest in food.

Dianne’s broadcasting career would eventually take her north to Atlanta, where she’d meet her husband of 32 years, Cecil. From there, the two started a new journey in South Carolina that continues today.

Twenty-five years ago this June, Dianne and her husband opened their first Wild Wing Café in Hilton Head with “absolutely no restaurant experience between the two

of them.” Dianne, fondly reflecting on their beginnings in the restaurant industry, quipped, “On that first night at Wild Wing, we ran out of all of our food and had to make an emergency trip to Sam’s Club to replenish for the next day.”

Thankfully, the challenges of that opening night all those years ago was not an omen. From 1990 to 2012, the couple opened a staggering 35 Wild Wing Café restaurants across the Southeast, including the downtown, North Charleston and Mount Pleasant locations. Dianne credited her success to getting a good education, doing something she’s passionate about, treating her employees with a great deal of respect and never underestimating customers. In Dianne’s words, “Every time a customer comes in the door, it is a compliment.”

In 2012, Dianne and Cecil sold their Wild Wing Café restaurants to a private equity firm and began to flex their creative restaurant muscles. Today, that manifests itself in two thriving restaurants on Shem Creek: Red’s Ice House – which they have owned since 2004 – and Tavern & Table. They also opened the Red’s Ice House in Bohicket Marina on Johns Island. Dianne attributed her continued success to staying true to her employees.

“Many of the folks that started with us at Wild Wing Café in 1990 are still with us today, managing operations at Red’s and T&T! We are like a family,” she said.

By delegating to her family of employees, Dianne and Cecil can focus on staying current with restaurant trends, finding new talent and focusing on the community. Through support of the Hollings Cancer Center and Charleston’s BackPack Buddies program, Dianne finds fulfillment in strengthening the Lowcountry’s social fabric by ensuring those who need help get help.

“Restaurants are integral parts of American communities. More and more Americans are viewing restaurants and chefs like Europeans do. Restaurants can be community centers, where people come together. The day that restaurants become corporate entities is the day I want out!”

As spring turns to summer, you might find Dianne happily engaging with customers, eating her favorite dish: pimento cheese and bacon jam. When asked about the grind of the restaurant industry, Dianne laughed and said, “My father always told me that if you love your work, it’ll never be a job. Food is fun to me. So we’ll continue to bring food to the Charleston community in creative, delicious ways!” 🍴



Photo provided by Advanced Animal Care.

## DR. LESLIE STEELE

Advanced Animal Care  
 3373 South Morgan's Point Road, Suite 301  
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 843-884-9838  
[www.advancedanimalcaremp.com](http://www.advancedanimalcaremp.com)

**A**T A YOUNG AGE, DR. LESLIE STEELE knew she wanted to become a veterinarian and worked hard to follow her dream. The Alabama native received her bachelor's degree in Microbiology before attending Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, where she met her husband, who was two years ahead of her in the program.

After Dr. Steele graduated with honors in 1994, the couple moved to the Lowcountry, where she opened and for nine years operated The Charleston Cat Clinic in downtown Charleston.

"David and I had always wanted to start a practice together," Dr. Steele said. "So we opened Advanced Animal Care in Mount Pleasant in 2001."

The veterinary practice specializes in dogs and cats, offering services including wellness visits, vaccinations, cardiology, oncology, diagnostics and more. For surgeries, Steele uses a carbon dioxide laser for routine procedures, which causes less swelling and bleeding and offers a faster recovery time than surgery with a traditional metal scalpel.

"Another service we offer is behavioral management," she said. "A large majority of pets who are turned in to animal shelters are given up for behavioral reasons. We help address issues like housebreaking, separation anxiety and obedience to improve the quality of life between pets and their families so that these animals don't find themselves in a shelter."

As a veterinarian, Dr. Steele finds inspiration through her work. As a pet owner herself, she knows that pets truly become part of the family. In addition to her two daughters, she has two dogs and four cats.

"I love seeing people who love their pets," she said. "We see ourselves as the 'other pediatrician.' Pets often times are like people's children, and we're here to care for them at all stages of life."

The road has not always been easy as a business owner.

"Opening a business is a struggle for those who go to school to study science," Dr. Steele explained. "For veterinarians, dentists and more, we worked hard in science classes and didn't focus on business education."

Dr. Steele and her husband were lucky to have a friend who works for the South Carolina Small Business Administration, a group that offers pro bono advice to small business owners. If she could go back, she said she would have taken business training courses in college.

Dr. Steele's passion for helping animals has not waned in her years of practice, and she is in the process of developing a 501c3 to help animals in the East Cooper area.

"This program will provide emergency and basic medical care for pets that belong to people who no longer have the means or ability to care for them," she said.

The program will serve low-income families, the elderly and people who cannot get to or afford veterinary care for their pets. It also will offer and strongly encourage spaying and neutering of pets.

As Dr. Steele continues living out her calling as a veterinarian, the impact she and her husband are making on animals and their families in the East Cooper community reaches an even broader level. **20**

BY ANNE TOOLE





Photo courtesy of Gina Schirmer.

## GINA SCHIRMER

Schirmer Insurance Group  
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 843-881-4707  
[www.schirmerinsuranceagency.com](http://www.schirmerinsuranceagency.com)

**F**OR GINA SCHIRMER, OWNING AND operating an insurance agency is second nature. She is CEO of Schirmer Insurance Group LLC, located at 1312 Bowman Road in Mount Pleasant.

Originally from Greenville, South Carolina, Gina comes from a family insurance background that exceeds 62 years, beginning with her grandfather, Gene Adams, a 40-year Nationwide Insurance agent. A high school file clerk and receptionist in the insurance office, she said with satisfaction, “The summer job was always secure.”

In 1983, after graduating from Winthrop University with a degree in Foreign Politics and a minor in Spanish, Gina married Mount Pleasant native Sam Schirmer.

“My grandfather and my grandmother baited Sam just enough to spark his interest in insurance and encouraged him to interview with Nationwide, and that was the beginning of our Lowcountry insurance life together,” she said.

After five years in commercial banking and real estate, she worked privately doing interior design and renovation projects while assisting her husband with building and

growing Sam Schirmer Nationwide Insurance Agency – and setting about raising a family.

“The three children added the icing to the cake, bringing major joy and consistent activity to our lives,” she said.

Gina has engaged in every aspect of parenting, from teaching academics to coaching sports. She also acted as Booster Club president, PTA president and board member for the Charleston Collegiate School for a number of years.

In 2009, when the couple’s youngest child started high school, Gina returned to the insurance business full-time and with vigor. She began the foundation work to open an independent insurance agency, and, in 2011, partnered with her oldest son, Sass Schirmer, to open the doors of Schirmer Insurance Group.

As a graduate of the University of Alabama, and having gone through the devastating tornado of 2011, Sass Schirmer expressed an interest in the insurance industry.

“When he returned home after assisting with several weeks of the recovery in Tuscaloosa, he mentioned how much he had truly enjoyed helping people,” Gina remembered. “Over those few weeks, he realized that the insurance business would certainly allow him to do just that. Our hope is that, after college and a little experience on their own, our daughter and other son will find their way and decide to join us for this family affair.”

Schirmer Insurance Group focuses on the individual insurance needs of its clients and finds solid solutions based on the planned, as well as the unexpected. The agency offers a variety of carrier options and a full line of insurance products. They gladly share their knowledge of personal and commercial property insurance guidelines within the coastal region.


“All of us always have room for improvement and should embrace the change that life places before us,” said Gina. “Business development allows me to evaluate those changes, develop a plan of action and put that plan into motion. I thoroughly enjoy the gratification I get from interacting with our clients and our carrier partners and engaging with our dynamic team of insurance professionals. And I take great pride in creating and developing. I do my very best to stay focused on motivation and enthusiasm, and I let my faith do a lot of the work.” 



Photo courtesy of Southern Belles.

## SUSIE MOLONY

**Southern Belles**  
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 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-881-1741  
[www.SouthernBellesChildren.com](http://www.SouthernBellesChildren.com)

**S**OUTHERN BELLES IS A CHARMING store in Mount Pleasant offering unique clothing, accessories and toys. The styles are simple and classic, yet updated, reflecting a more genteel time. It has been at its current location in Northcutt Plaza for about 20 years.

Susie Molony worked in the Pharmacy Department at the Medical University of South Carolina before turning her talents to a more creative endeavor. A young wife with a small daughter, she began hand-painting T-shirts for her little girl, and she often created special T-shirts as birthday gifts for friends. It wasn't long before friends and acquaintances requested that she make shirts for their children. Spurred by the popularity of her hand-painted shirts, she rented a booth at the East Cooper Crafter's Guild.

Susie looked for a way to build on her success and turned to producing in-home shows with the help of family and friends. Her clientele increased, and she gained a coveted spot in the gift shop in the Charleston Symphony's annual Designer House. She went on to partner with organizations such as Junior Leagues and medical auxiliaries and

traveled the country with her wares.

Her home-based business grew and Susie decided it was time to join forces with a friend who had a small shoe store housed within a children's clothing store. She branched out and added appliqued items to her stock.

"We had three businesses under one roof in a space about a third this size," Susie said, referring to her current shop. "Our businesses were growing, so we formed a formal partnership and moved to my current location that almost tripled the size."

After the first year, the original children's clothing store owner left the partnership and Susie acquired that business. The large space became Southern Belles.


Today, Southern Belles is a treasure trove of merchandise not easily found elsewhere. Parents love the traditional styles that hark back to a gentler time, when girls wore smocked dresses and boys were outfitted like Southern gentlemen, complete with the proper accessories.

"Like white sweaters," Susie said. "Easter is always a little cool, so you need a white sweater."

Though the clothing is traditional, Susie understands that a business must embrace change to continue for the long term.

"Monogramming is a big part of our business, and we're always looking for unique embroidery designs," she explained. "Carol Nanney has been with me from the inception of my business, and, even though she retired a year ago from physically being here in my receiving department, she continues to do all my monogramming and is the very best there is! We collaborate all the time to create new embroidery designs to offer our customers."

As Southern Belles has grown, so has the workload. Susie is hands-on with her marketing and merchandising and has a small staff helping her, including her recently retired husband. Her business philosophy centers around her father's axiom, to follow the golden rule and treat her customers with respect.

A true local resident, Susie attended Country Day School and the College of Charleston and manages to find time to enjoy "the serenity and peace" of the beach and to relax with her girlfriends. 



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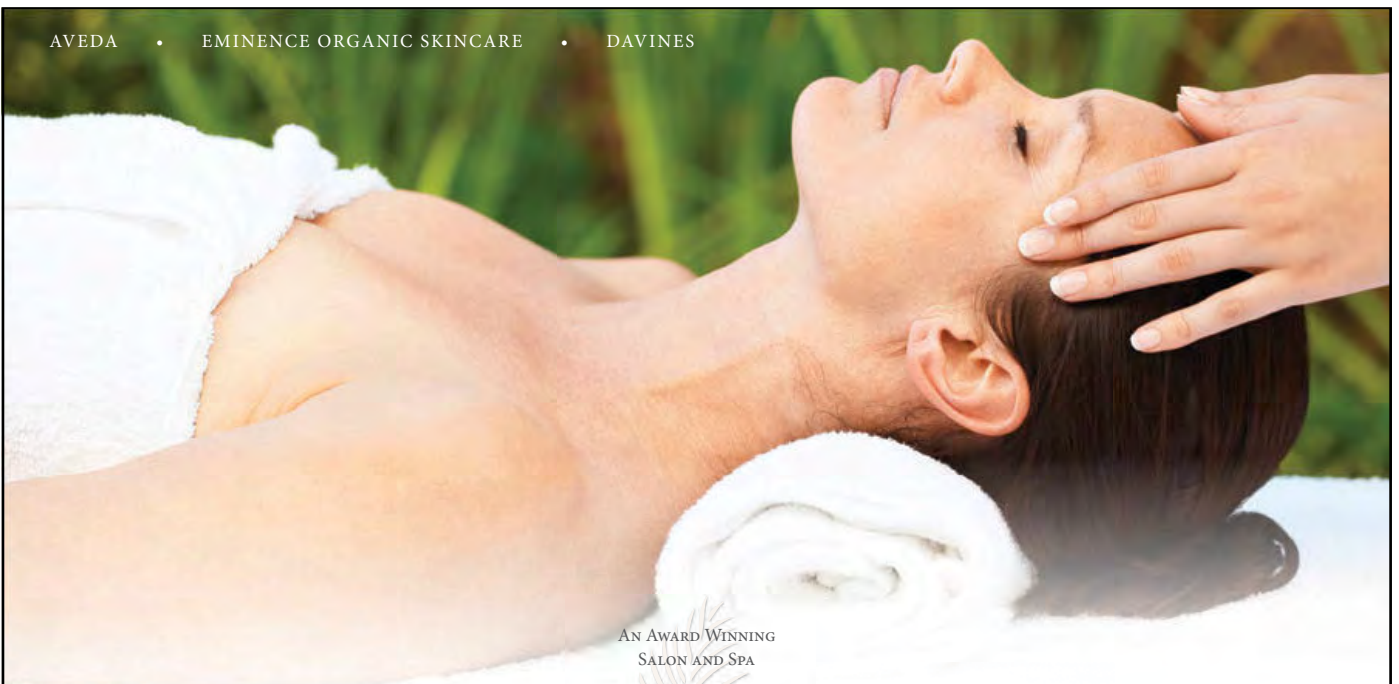
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Photo courtesy of Laura Pape.

## LAURA PAPE

Team Pape of Carolina One Real Estate  
 628 Long Point Road  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-870-4539  
[www.TeamPapeSCRealEstate.com](http://www.TeamPapeSCRealEstate.com)

“I DIDN’T THINK I’D BE GOING INTO REAL estate this soon,” said Laura Pape (pronounced “poppy”), a real estate agent at Carolina One in Mount Pleasant.

Though she considered studying real estate in college, it wasn’t until her father, an agent with 14 years in the business, asked to mentor her that she made it her focus.

“With my own father asking me, I was up for the learning experience,” she explained.

Now she and her father, Dan Pape, work together as Team Pape, even sharing an office at Carolina One Real Estate’s Belle Hall office on Long Point Road.

For Laura, Mount Pleasant is home. She not only lives and works here, but she grew up here, too, leaving only to attend the University of South Carolina. There, she double majored in marketing and management, with a specialization in entrepreneurship and a minor in hotel, restaurant and tourism management. Laura purposely chose a broad major so she’d have several options to explore in business upon graduation.

Soon after graduating in May 2011, Laura went to work at an Allstate agency in North Charleston for a year. She joined Carolina One in July 2012 when her father, a broker associate, said he was interested in mentoring her. Laura earned her real estate license in late 2012 and went full-time at Carolina One in June 2013. She credits her father for being a wonderful resource.

“He’s where I’ve gotten a lot of my knowledge from in real estate. He has been my mentor, and I couldn’t have had a better role model,” she said.

Their success as a team comes in part from using their individual strengths. With a new listing, they take advantage of Dan’s vast experience and Laura’s strong marketing background.

“That’s what makes us such a great team. We have the experience and the technology aspects covered, and that’s why I think we do really well together,” she said.

And what a team they make. In 2013, Dan Pape and Team Pape both had their best year ever, and their best month was this past January, a time of the year not typically productive in the real estate business.

Carolina One Real Estate is the leading real estate company in the tri-county area, taking part in one out of three home sales in the area, according to the company’s website. With 11 offices and more than 800 sales associates, they play a big role in helping people find the home of their dreams. Team Pape takes advantage of Carolina One’s fantastic resources and networks to give their clients exceptional and personalized service.

Laura acknowledged that because she’s young, she’s had to work hard to prove herself. But it’s a challenge she’s up for. She plans to stay in real estate and in Mount Pleasant.

“It’s my home. It’s where I’ve grown up, and it’s a great place. It is a melting pot,” she pointed out. “There are people from all over the world here, and that makes it so unique.”

Laura’s advice to women considering a major or a career in business is to go for it.

“I think it’s a great opportunity,” she said. “Try your very best. That’s all people can ask for.”


She also lives by a quote posted in her bathroom: “Reach for the stars. They’re closer than you think.” 





Photo by Bill Macchio.

## KAREN BOALS

**Karen's Korner Frame and Art Gallery**  
 1405 Ben Sawyer Blvd.  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-971-4110  
[www.karenskornerframeandart.com](http://www.karenskornerframeandart.com)

**W**HEN KAREN BOALS TOOK a job at a Mount Pleasant frame shop 30 years ago, she had no idea it would become a lifelong passion.

"I became a single parent and I needed to have a job and that was that," she remembered. "I turned out loving it. When I worked for Tom Tanis, there was a little sign called 'Karen's Korner,' and that was where I sat and assembled my work. When I opened my own store, he came and said, 'I knew when you walked in the door that you would do this.'"

Her store at 1405 Ben Sawyer Blvd. is a bit bigger than a corner now, but it still has the same name: Karen's Korner Frame and Art Gallery.

"It's absolutely everything I thought it would be," she said of entrepreneurship. "Sometimes it can be stressful, but I love my clients, I love my customers and I love being able to share art with everyone. We sell things from \$8 to thousands of dollars, so everyone can afford to own an original piece of art."

Karen said letting her store evolve is one of the best things she's learned over the years.

"You will always have to be able to diversify. If one thing is not working, change it up. Stay new, stay fresh, stay current, but always stay true to your passion," she said.

Her passion is art, which she has grown her business to accommodate more of in the past 15 years. What started as a custom frame shop has grown to include a gallery space where she now exhibits and sells the work of 16 local artists, including photography, paintings, jewelry and pottery. Watercolor painting classes are also held in the store.

"I love being my own boss," Karen said. "This is my hobby; this is my everything. This is my space; it's what I've created to share with the world. There's a lot of personal satisfaction. Are there sleepless nights, too? Absolutely, but I always feel like I've done something right if I've been here for 15 years."

While Karen does consider herself a successful businesswoman, she was quick to clarify the term.

"Success is measured in different ways. My 'success' is a lady who comes in one day and says, 'I come in here all the time and I never buy anything, but when I have a bad day I come here and it instantly makes me feel better.' What kind of great compliment is that? You can't buy that kind of success," she said.

"It's more than just a business to me. It's making people feel comfortable, it's earning their trust and it's making relationships. It's more about reputation than the dollar, although the dollar makes it work. I'm blessed to have such a loyal customer base," she added.

That customer base, along with the artists and Karen's own skills, have helped make Karen's Korner a top gallery in Mount Pleasant. For three years in a row, *Mount Pleasant Magazine* readers have voted the business "best art gallery" in the magazine's Best of Mount Pleasant competition.

Karen said she would encourage other entrepreneurs to do as she did and keep working toward their dream, despite challenges.

"I just don't think that you should ever give up on your dreams," she said. "I think that you can do whatever you set out to do. I don't think just because your circumstances change that you still can't steadily work toward that goal." ❧

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Photo courtesy of Sun Station Tanning Studios.

## HANNAH HIPPS

Sun Station Tanning Studios

1109 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. • Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-606-9909

1031 South Carolina 41, Suite 500 • Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29466  
 843-849-8166

[www.sunstationtan.com](http://www.sunstationtan.com)

**H**ANNAH HIPPS DIDN'T KNOW much about tanning or the tanning business before opening Sun Station Tanning Studios with husband Bryan in 2006. He already owned a small airbrush tanning business when he floated the idea of opening a full-service, high-end tanning salon in Mount Pleasant. Hannah said yes.

"Fast forward to eight years later. We have four locations," she said.

Hannah and Bryan now own two locations in Mount Pleasant, one in West Ashley and one in North Charleston and plan to open up a fifth location in Goose Creek later this year. Every store opening has been an adventure.

"We built this business from the ground up," said Hannah.

Hannah knows that they wouldn't be successful without a strong management team to help.

"I would not be where I am without them," she said. "They have grown with me and are a huge part in our success."

Bryan mainly offers support behind the scenes, while

Hannah is the face of the business. She spends time in all four locations every week, where she loves interacting with her customers.

Being a hands-on owner was important to Hannah as they grew and had to decide how they wanted to portray themselves as a business. Most of all, she thinks customers should feel comfortable when they walk through the doors.

"I don't want it to feel like a corporation. I want it to feel professional but homey," she explained.

Sun Station Tanning Studios offers tanning beds, spray tans and all the tanning accouterments.

"Whoever wants to get color, we can get them color," said Hannah.

Tanning memberships give customers the best deals and rewards programs, including cash back every month that they can use in the store.

As Hannah has learned about the business of tanning, she's also learned about the benefits, too. She teaches yoga and stresses the importance of wellness in her own life.

"I feel that by adding tanning into my wellness program, I get the Vitamin D that I need. I feel good. I feel healthier," she stated.

She especially recommends tanning for people who want to get color in a safe, controlled environment before they leave for vacation.

The team at Sun Station Tanning Studios works hard to be part of the community by supporting other local businesses and charities. In the past few years, they have collected clothes for Lowcountry Orphan Relief and donated to Habitat for Humanity. They've also taken part in Cinderella Day through Seacoast Church, a program where young girls in need can "shop" for donated dresses, shoes and accessories to get ready for their prom. All four Sun Station Tanning Studios locations accept donations for the Cinderella Day program.

Hannah advised women in business to be clear on what they want.

"I'm big on keeping it real," she said. "You have to do something that resonates with you. You have to believe in it to be successful."

She also said that you have to put in the effort because "it's not going to happen on its own."

And that effort doesn't stop. Hannah said she loves working in a fun industry that allows her to be creative.

"Every day I'm working on the business, finding ways to make it better and easier. As a business owner, you have got to shift and change constantly," she pointed out. **20**



Cindy Clark, left, and Cathi Moorehead.

Photo by Brian Sherman.

## CATHI MOOREHEAD

Next to New

2700 Highway 17 North, Suite 200

Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29466

(843) 606-2715

www.nexttonewsc.com

**C**ATHI MOOREHEAD HAD NEVER been an entrepreneur before she and her business partner, Cindy Clark, bought the Mount Pleasant furniture store Next to New five years ago. In that short amount of time, they've taken on three employees and expanded twice, growing from approximately 1,200 square feet to 5,000 square feet.

They need all that space to show the hundreds of pieces of furniture, home furnishings and décor items for sale. But

BY ERIN DANLY

Next to New, located at The Shoppes at Brickyard on Highway 17, is not your typical furniture store. The showroom is filled with one-of-a-kind pieces, brought in by consignors from all over the globe, and it's always changing.

"We get a lot of really unique items," said Cathi. "Anything from antiques and collectibles to memorabilia to decorative items brought here from Europe and South Africa. Things from absolutely everywhere."

One challenge of running a large consignment store is the need to stay organized – no small feat when you work

with nearly 4,000 consignors. Before Cathi and Cindy took over the business, everything was done by hand, including keeping track of inventory and writing price tags. Now they rely on computers to do the heavy lifting, utilizing a special consignment software and maintaining a website where consignors can track their items.

"Being computerized has definitely allowed us to have more consignors and continue to grow," said Cathi.

When they met, Cathi was working for the previous owner, doing everything from bookkeeping to making the showroom look nice, and Cindy was bringing in her painted furniture pieces to sell. They jumped at the chance to take over the business in 2010, though it was a large change for both of them. Cathi had worked in research in a medical center for more than 20 years, and Cindy had previously worked in global sales for AT&T.

They both stress the importance of working with a partner you trust completely and work well with.

"Cindy and I believe that capitalizing on our individual strengths makes us a stronger team," said Cathi. "Each of us has some aspect of the business we enjoy and handle well. We balance each other, like yin and yang."

Having a great support team is important, too.

"That's huge," said Cindy. "You know you can leave and the store's being taken care of as if you were there."

Cathi's advice to women in business is to work hard and know that owning a business is demanding on your time, especially if you are in retail.

"You may have to work days when you don't feel like it. You need to do whatever needs to be done to do it right," she commented.

But that's not to say that Cathi and Cindy don't have fun. They love seeing new pieces come in and having the opportunity to be creative. Cindy likes the ever-evolving nature of the work.

"It changes daily. It's a lot of fun to be able to go into your job every day and enjoy it," she pointed out.

They also love the people and know many of their loyal customers and consignors on a first-name basis, Cathi said.


"They'll ask how my tennis game is going, and I'll ask, you know, how was your knee replacement. We get to know our customers really well, which is really a nice 'warm and fuzzy' you might not expect that comes with the business." 





Photo provided by Dish and Design Catering.

## ANJA STIEF

Dish and Design Catering  
 629 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Suite 5  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-971-6701  
[www.dishanddesign.com](http://www.dishanddesign.com)

**W**HEN ANJA STIEF MOVED to the United States from Germany in 1997 as a nanny, she had never dreamed of starting a career in catering. Her husband, however, a graduate of Johnson & Wales University, formerly located in Charleston and known for its culinary arts program, had fallen in love with the Holy City during his days at the university and wanted to expand his Atlanta catering business to the Lowcountry.

BY ANNE TOOLE

“He had the food background, so I took over the business portion,” Anja said of their business, Dish and Design Catering. “I started handling everything on the other side of catering: working with clients, event planning, accounting and more.”

In the 16 years they have owned and operated Dish and Design, the business has grown and evolved to what it is today.

“We started out as a corporate caterer, which has always been the bread and butter of our business,” Anja said. “Eventually the relationships we built grew our private

business market. People who enjoyed our corporate options started asking us to provide catering for their personal events.”

Based on relationships and word-of-mouth, Dish and Design has become a trusted caterer, serving at graduations, weddings, baby showers and anniversaries. While they have a variety of menus for corporate events and all occasions, they are also flexible enough to customize a spread for any palate and budget.

With no formal training in culinary arts or event planning, Anja credited her success in the industry to her German heritage and growing up in a large family.

“My German upbringing has never hurt me here,” she said. “We hold ourselves to a high standard, where a family setting and local, fresh food is important. Having grown up in a big family, planning parties and events has been part of my life forever.”

With two young children, Anja has always felt it is important to teach healthy eating habits early in life. After consulting with other parents and administrators, she started a school lunch program called Food For Thought, which caters quality lunches for local children.

“It takes a lot of time to plan, prepare and pack a healthy lunch for your children,” Anja said. “We take care of that for you and offer nutritious lunches using fresh ingredients – local wherever possible – that are kid-friendly.”

Food for Thought prepares meals that are peanut free, disclosing other common allergens and offering several gluten-free options. Parents can pre-order the meals online, choosing either one entrée and two sides or an à la carte selection. The meals are prepared each day at Dish and Design and delivered to schools in a reusable transport box to promote sustainability. To support the community that supports them, Food for Thought gives back to the community through education and charitable initiatives.


“Believe in yourself, and give 150 percent every time. Ultimately it’s your relationships and a high-quality product that make you successful,” Anja suggested to those interested in starting their own business. “Use your resources and build business relationships that last. Much of our business comes from repeat customers. This is my home, this is my market and it is my business to know my clients as friends and neighbors.” 



Photo courtesy of Hillary Collins.

## HILLARY COLLINS

**Carolina One Real Estate**  
 195 W. Coleman Blvd.  
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 843-452-2228  
[www.hillarycollins.com](http://www.hillarycollins.com)

**D**URING THE RECESSION IN 2010, real estate agent Hillary Collins met one of her first clients when she was at the park with her dog on a “day off.” “They wanted to say hello to my dog, and, since I enjoy meeting people, I just started chatting with the couple,” Hillary said. “They were looking for a home in Columbia. Eventually we drove there together to look for a home, which they bought for \$15,000. One year later they called me to help them sell the home, and, through my referral team, I found them an agent in Columbia who sold their home for \$25,000. Five years later, they have five little boys, and we are still friends.”

Building relationships is one of the many things that drives Hillary in her career with Carolina One Real Estate. Born and raised in Charleston, she decided to get her real estate license in 2010 so she could combine her experience in human studies at Prescott College in Arizona with what she learned in business school at Charleston Southern University.

“I love meeting people. I wanted to own my own business, set my own hours and I loved sales,” she said. “Of course, it was during the recession and there was no market. People asked me ‘Why real estate? Why now?’ But I asked them, ‘Why not now?’ Ironically, I was recognized as ‘Rookie of the Year’ in 2010 by my company.”

Hillary credited her success to hard work, learning from her experiences and being passionate about business.

“I know it’s hard for a family to uproot and move here. My family moved from here to Philadelphia for a job transfer in 1981, and, in 1989, we moved back to Charleston. It is a big adjustment. I like to show people what Southern hospitality truly is and to offer local knowledge. It’s rewarding to help people settle here and eventually call the Lowcountry their home.”

Although the Charleston real estate market has improved dramatically since Hillary entered the business, she cautioned those eager to get involved in the profession that it is not an easy job.

“It takes at least three years to be successful in this business. You really need to be prepared for the reality of owning and investing in your own business during that time. There were a lot of sacrifices we had to make financially. But it worked, I stayed the course and now I know that I can make it work for me,” she said.

“There is a perception that being a real estate agent allows you a lot of free time,” she added. “There is free time but not always where it counts. You can expect to take calls and meet clients any time: holidays, weekends, nights and during vacations. My husband is extremely supportive. He understands that I am ‘on’ 24-7. Of course, I do schedule time to unplug.”

While her career requires hard work and long hours behind the scenes, Hillary loves what she does and finds joy and inspiration by helping her clients make South Carolina their home.


“If real estate is your passion, it becomes a lifestyle. I am someone my clients can trust, and my business philosophy is to offer clients the service they deserve and the quality they expect in a Realtor.” 



Photo by Cassandra Michelle Photography.



Left to right, standing: Margo Tabb, Vicki Clark, Pascale Luse, Barbara Baylor, Renee Delorme and Anna Hicks.  
 Seated: Sharon Payer and Debbie Volusky.

## CHRIS MCFARLANE

Mount Pleasant Mall  
 708 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-388-8575  
[www.mtpleasantmall.com](http://www.mtpleasantmall.com)

**C**HRIS MCFARLANE, MANAGER of Mount Pleasant Mall, is certainly one very busy lady. She oversees the operations of 140 participating vendors – approximately 95 percent of them are women – giving her the opportunity to help keep businesses viable, solvent and secure.

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining a sense of community, Chris revealed that “Many of our vendors are from different walks of life – single mothers, retired ladies or women – and men – who do not want the inherent problems and responsibility of operating and maintaining a solo retail business. In today’s economy, a cooperative business plan can be beneficial to everyone.”

Chris elaborated: “We have vendors who have recently relocated to the area or who may want to downsize or upsize their business or just want to be part of a cooperative community.”

Vendors can rent space on a month-to-month basis, as well as relinquish a nominal commission on items they sell. Mount Pleasant Mall provides staffing so owners do not have to be on the premises to sell their inventory. Business owners are both local and from out-of-state but must possess a business license from the town of Mount Pleasant.

Housed in a 25,000-square-foot building, Mount Pleasant Mall rents small, medium or large spaces. With a current waiting list of 100, this business method has proven to be a success. With daily arrivals of new merchandise, customers have a wonderful selection from which to find

fabulous items for their home at significant value.

The mission of Mount Pleasant Mall is both simple and timely.

“Our purpose is to give people an opportunity in this economy to have and conduct their own business in a financially beneficial manner,” Chris explained.

The mall gives entrepreneurs an opportunity to achieve success through small business ownership in a highly visible location at a relatively low cost.

Customers who shop at Mount Pleasant Mall know they are helping grow these small businesses and are extremely supportive, and they often comment on the mall’s inviting atmosphere.

“There is something different about this place,” according to Chris. “There really is a great sense of community and great friendships have been developed among the vendors and also among the customers.”

Offering inventory from antiques to pre-owned or new furnishings, home decor and collectibles, Mount Pleasant Mall vendors also include artisans offering hand-painted furniture, jewelry, photography and art. Vendors earn an income, and customers can purchase affordable and interesting items.

At its current location for more than a year-and-a-half, the mall’s hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.


If you are looking for that special something, head over to Mount Pleasant Mall, and spend some time browsing the wonderful offerings provided by ladies who have come together to successfully establish a cooperative, meaningful and enjoyable experience for everyone. 



Photo by Jenn Cady.

## MICHELE HENSEL

Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa  
 1205 Two Island Court  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29466  
 843-971-2860  
[www.lowcountryplasticsurgery.com](http://www.lowcountryplasticsurgery.com)

**S**UCCESS COMES FROM HARD WORK, life balance and the willingness to invest in others. Michele Hensel has committed to live out these positive attributes by creating something more than just a local business.

At a young age, Michele saw that achievement didn't come easy. She watched her father as he

struggled in the working world and wanted more for himself and his family. He eventually took a chance and decided to open his own restaurant. Those were amazing years for Michele. She witnessed her father build his dream, and, after many years of hard work, that dream became a financial success. This experience provided the foundation for how Michele runs her business today.

Knowing that she wanted to pursue something within the medical field and help others, the Georgia native's first career path was to become a Registered Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist. At the time, there were relatively few of these specialists trained to assist cardiologists, and the technical aspect of the position appealed to her. She graduated from the Georgia Heart Institute and took her first job as a newly

minted RCIS in Charlotte, North Carolina. But Michele wanted to use her creativity as well.

"I started a gift basket business on the side after I made a few Valentine's Day baskets and they were a hit around the hospital; people wanted more," she remembered.


Michele started creating gifts for other occasions as well – holiday and thank you baskets soon followed the Valentine batch, and eventually she found herself running a thriving gift business.

"Although I never had a background in marketing – never went to school for it – I've always understood the importance of selling myself," she mused. "No one is going to sell your talent but you. You have to show people what you have to offer and believe in it."

In 2002, while still working in the cardiac cath lab, Michele took a travel assignment with Memorial Hospital in Savannah, Georgia, and, while visiting a friend in Charleston, met her husband, Dr. Jack Hensel. For three years, the couple lived between Savannah and Charleston because they were engrossed in their separate careers. Jack was starting Lowcountry Plastic Surgery Center in Mount Pleasant and Michele was busy with her work in Savannah.

In 2004, Michele and Jack were married, and Michele eventually launched her current business, Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa, where she has helped transform patients from where they are to where they want to be. Every day she is in the business of changing lives. Because of her hard work, her use of cutting edge services and her efforts to create an atmosphere of comfort, the patients of Lowcountry Beauty and Wellness Spa continue to rave about their experiences.

Michele continues to be inspired by her father's example; she is creating a lasting legacy for her community, family and children.

"Being a woman who runs her own business, I fully believe that women can have it all – career and family," she said. "We just have to understand how to divide our time and create a level of balance. My motto is to surround myself with those who are wise, believe wholeheartedly in what I do, love my family with every beat of my heart and work every day at creating something that will give others a new perspective in their own lives." 



**F**or Jordan Eads, makeup artist and franchise owner of Merle

BY KALENE MCCORT

Norman Cosmetics, a business built on beauty and color was a clear choice. Fueled by a love of bringing out the best in others, she makes daily transformations in her studio on Coleman Boulevard.

“I really enjoy the work I do – helping women look and feel beautiful. It’s rewarding getting someone in a skin-care regimen that improves their complexion or doing makeup artistry for a bride on her special day,” said Jordan. “Furthermore, because of Merle Norman’s intimate studio setting, I’m able to build relationships with many of my clients.”



Photo provided by Jordan Eads.

## JORDAN EADS

**Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio**  
280 W. Coleman Blvd., Suite 1  
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
843-388-5819  
[www.merlenormanstudio.com/mn-9703](http://www.merlenormanstudio.com/mn-9703)

From hydrating facials to fun and innovative makeup tutorials, Jordan is keeping the ladies of Mount Pleasant and beyond looking and feeling gorgeous. Her skill set and ability reaches far beyond knowing when to contour with bronzer or add a rose-stained lip.

“Makeup artistry takes a lot of practice. No one has the same complexion, tone or preference. You have to learn to understand your clients’ expectations. By doing lots of makeovers, you’ll learn what shades and finishes work best for the many different people you will work with over your career,” she said.

A true go-getter, Jordan opened the store when she was just 26 and continued to work a second job in the evening to help offset start-up costs and financing.

“I’m always trying to make the studio better. In 2013, after relocating, I added spa services to complement our cosmetics retail,” said Jordan, who recently received an award from Merle Norman for a significant increase in sales. “It’s rewarding to see my dedication to the studio paying off.”

**N**ew business owners Janis and Jennifer Emplit

BY STACY DOMINGO

have experienced life together as mother and daughter and are now excited to take their next journey together with Eucalyptus.

“Our store showcases over 2,300 natural products that include vitamins, supplements, herbs, teas and body care products. We find the best products both locally and nationally that are non-GMO (genetically modified organisms) and natural,” Jennifer explained. “My mother and I are both Certified Natural Health Professionals, so we can provide a personalized holistic approach to each of our clients.”

The two women bring both fresh ideas and experience to their business.



Janis Emplit, left, and Jennifer Emplit.

Photo provided by Jennifer Emplit.

## JENNIFER EMPLIT

**Eucalyptus Wellness Company**  
280 W. Coleman Blvd., Suite E  
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
843-388-4956  
[www.eucalyptuswellness.com](http://www.eucalyptuswellness.com)

“I retired from the restaurant industry and decided quickly that retirement wasn’t for me,” said Janis. “I definitely liked the idea of working every day with my daughter, and so far it has been fun and an adventure.”

The most difficult challenge the two women faced was stocking their store with a fantastic inventory and at the same time setting themselves apart from the larger, national chains.

“We have to set ourselves apart and stocking local products allows us to do that,” said Janis. “The word is getting around Mount Pleasant about Eucalyptus, and that is very exciting for us.”

After many years as a grocery store manager and retail consultant,

BY EILEEN CASEY

Lisa Carrels pursued her desire to own her own business. Armed with her Marketing and Management degree, along with her extensive business background and years of retail experience, the native of Indianapolis, who has lived in Mount Pleasant for 13 years, visited For the House: The Barstool Shop. She discovered it was for sale, and promptly purchased it more than seven years ago.

Offering customers a vast and unique collection of counter stools, barstools, vanity stools and tables, Lisa increased the shop's selection and expanded to include dining sets, pub



Photo courtesy of For the House: The Barstool Shop.

## LISA CARRELS

**For The House: The Barstool Shop**

921 A. Houston Northcutt Blvd.

Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464

843-881-7073

www.thebarstoolshopcharleston.com

tables and miscellaneous furniture pieces. Additionally, allowing customers to take items home, including fabrics and finishes, gives the shop a competitive edge.

Aware that her strongest competition is from mass merchandisers and the Internet, this savvy businesswoman advised, "Know your product, and go above and beyond. You must have tenacity, high-quality inventory and a good support group. Also be aware of your competition, and show your willingness and extreme flexibility to work with the needs of your customers. We offer special store hours, in-home visits, assembly guarantees and reduced or free delivery."

One of the most appealing offers Lisa avails to her customers is loaning furniture to be used until special orders arrive.

Lisa stressed that it is a great advantage for customers to be able to visit the shop and actually view the designs – including more than 150 styles – and to touch and feel the fabrics.

Face-to-face communication also helps keep the focus on a successful result. ☺

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**W**hen she was 23, Charleston native

BY TAYLOR GRIFFITH

Windi McKeithan took a leap of faith and decided to buy two children's wear shops in Mount Pleasant.

Armed with a Fashion Merchandizing degree, good taste, an eye for trends and an entrepreneurial spirit, she grew her trio of small businesses – Ragamuffin Children's Boutique, Stride Rite Shoes and Radical Rags – into a success story. This spring she's celebrating 31 years in business.

"I decided to try out the world of children's fashion and ended up falling in love with it," she remembered. "Helping our customers pick out each piece is living the dream for me."



Photo by Ronnie Martinelli.

## WINDI MCKEITHAN

Ragamuffin Children's Boutique

Stride Rite Shoes

Radical Rags

210 Coleman Blvd.

Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464

843-884-4814

[www.ragamuffinchildrensboutique.com](http://www.ragamuffinchildrensboutique.com)

The entrepreneur said one of her favorite things about her job is building lasting relationships with customers.

"I'm definitely a people person," she said. "Customers that used to shop for their children now come in with their grandchildren. It's such a blessing for us to dress the newest generations of their family."

Windi said her days stay filled with helping customers, placing orders, meeting deadlines and "personally handpicking everything that comes into the stores."

"Owning these stores doesn't feel like 'work' to me. I'm so thankful," she said.

She credited her continued success, in addition to her own hard work, to her support system: her husband and children, her staff and a higher power.

"God put me here for a reason," Windi said. "As I look back at the path I have taken, I see exactly why I ended up in certain places at certain times in my life: God had a plan."

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**W**hen Debbie Geeter asked her daughter, Taryn

BY ERIN DANLY

Gadbois, if she'd like to be her own boss, Taryn immediately said yes. The two had worked together before and got along well.

"We had an amazing, great time working together," said Debbie.

The mother-daughter team opened Eclectic Finds, near Mathis Ferry Road on Highway 17 in Mount Pleasant, in mid-April. The 14,000-square-foot vendor mall will feature antiques, furniture and home furnishings from 70 vendors when it's fully occupied. Designers, stagers and homeowners can find painted furniture, refurbished pieces and true antiques.



Photo courtesy of Eclectic Finds.

## TARYN GADBOIS

**Eclectic Finds**  
1670 Highway 17 North  
Mount Pleasant, S.C., 29464  
843-971-5073

"People love seeing something new each time they come in, something that's unique," said Taryn.


"They don't want their houses to look the same as their friends' houses. They can get a lot of one-of-a-kind pieces here," she pointed out.

Both Debbie and Taryn come from sales backgrounds, and, before opening Eclectic Finds, they ran a similar store for six months while the owner was away.

"We learned what not to do, what works and what doesn't," said Debbie, who also learned a lot about finances, marketing, customer service and more in her role at Allstate, where for 20 years she helped new agency owners set up their businesses. "Don't say yes to everybody – that's a lesson I taught. Have a plan, focus on it and stay true to it."

Debbie said her favorite part of the job is the people, and Taryn agreed.

"We like working with the vendors, seeing all the creativity, and being around all the customers," she commented.

And, of course, having fun working with each other. 

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eclectic\_finds@yahoo.com





**F**or Caroline Robinson, owner of Drift Charleston, the breeze

BY TAYLOR GRIFFITH

and tide have always acted as guides, navigating her career in fashion. A lover of the sea, nature and all things tropical, her voyage into crafting earthy yet elegant jewelry and swimwear was an evident one. Since opening in 2013, Drift has kept the good folks of Mount Pleasant and beyond looking beachy chic in laid-back resort wear and must-have accessories.

“The idea for Drift was born from a desire to share the unique brands and items we had come across while living in Hawaii and traveling to Bali,” said Caroline. “We also



Photo courtesy of Drift Charleston.

## CAROLINE ROBINSON

Drift Charleston

1440 Ben Sawyer Blvd., Suite 1104

Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464

843-494-8048

www.driftcharleston.com


wanted to create a space to showcase the full range of my lines, Citrine Swim and TOR Jewelry. Our time in Hawaii and traveling has definitely inspired a certain relaxed, tropical vibe in the shop.”

Caroline, who owns the store with her husband, Russell Robinson, has a hand in picking out everything long before it hits the rack. With an undeniable creative aesthetic and genuine enthusiasm for the craft of boho couture, she savors seeing her products on proud patrons.


“I love seeing people around town or at the beach wearing pieces from our store,” said Caroline. “It’s an amazing feeling, especially when it’s something I’ve designed.”

From delicate amethyst necklaces to flirty-print bikinis, the scope of what Caroline crafts is vast and deep – much like the ocean. From house décor to graceful maxi dresses, Drift has quite the collection for the sun-kissed.


“You have to love what you do,” said Caroline. “If you love what you do and you keep at it, eventually everything will fall into place.” 🍷




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**H**eather Ackermann is not one to let a good idea escape into

BY DENISE K. JAMES



Photo courtesy of ARTspiration.

the ether. The notion to begin ARTspiration, for example, fluttered into her mind while driving through East Cooper traffic with her family – and she was swift to latch onto it. Today, her walk-in art studio is bustling with talented adults and children.

“I started this business because local places to create art were closing,” explained Heather, who also works full-time at a school in Mount Pleasant.

She noted that ladies who are interested in beginning a business from scratch should research the market and talk to

**HEATHER ACKERMANN**

**ARTspiration**  
1256 Ben Sawyer Blvd., Suites D and E  
Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
843-416-8075  
ArtspirationDesign.com

other owners of similar places in order to “get a feel for the process and understand whether it’s right for you or not.”

“There are definitely roadblocks,” she admitted. “And my family had to take a back seat for a while while everything fell into place.”

Heather doesn’t take the help she receives from her staff lightly. Relationships in general are one of her secrets to success; she even called Earth Art Pottery in West Ashley and purchased its inventory from the owner. The previous manager and friend, Beth Dallas, of the now-closed studio, is ARTspiration’s studio advisor. She also credits her manager, Sarah Tiani, as being “the backbone of the business.”

“And my husband,” she confessed. “Without his support, I would’ve never made it.”

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“I’ve always been passionate about helping people, and I know that medicine

BY ERIN DANLY

is my purpose in life,” said Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper of Water’s Edge Family and Cosmetic Dentistry in Mount Pleasant. “In college, I discovered my artistic qualities and really liked working with my hands. I realized my fine eye for detail and desire to improve the lives of others could make me a great dentist.”

Dr. Dahlkemper and her team offer dental health care services to the whole family, from routine checkups to complete mouth restorations.

“I consider myself a mouth doctor. I’m performing oral



Photo provided by Dr. Nicole Dahlkemper.

## DR. NICOLE DAHLKEMPER

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www.watersedgesc.com

cancer screenings, treating sleep apnea, doing non-surgical TMJ treatment, Invisalign and more. I can change people’s lives from a health standpoint or an aesthetic one.”

Dr. Dahlkemper is one of five siblings from Erie, Pennsylvania, and moved to Charleston in 2010 from Washington, D.C. when she acquired a dental practice. Her parents always stressed the importance of giving back, and, in addition to going on international mission trips, Dr. Dahlkemper volunteers at the free clinic in Charleston. A music lover, she also supports the Wando Band and the Choral Arts Experience.

The practice wouldn’t run without her incredible team.

“My staff loves learning. The more we know, the better we can help our patients. We’re always trying to better ourselves,” Dr. Dahlkemper said.

That echoes her advice to women in business: Keep learning.

“Continuous learning leads to continuous improvement,” she said. “Being a lifelong student, no matter what field you’re in, is extremely important.”



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- Earned Fellowship with Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies.
- Incisal Edge Magazine's Top 40 Dentists Under 40
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**A**mber Barron, owner of Salty Girls, opened her popular

BY STACY DOMINGO

business in 2010 and has since taken it to the next level.

“Each year we are growing, and two years ago we also became a full e-commerce business,” Amber explained. “There are a large number of repeat visitors to our beaches, and now our clients can shop before they get here.”

Amber, a single mom with three young girls, is not a first-timer when it comes to small business.

“My first store was a higher-end boutique, but, after four years, I knew that I wanted to return more to my



Photo by Julie Sprankles.

## AMBER BARRON

Salty Girls

976 Houston Northcutt Blvd.

Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464


843-388-7379

[www.shopsaltygirls.com](http://www.shopsaltygirls.com)

roots. Our market was lacking for swimwear and it was a perfect fit,” she said.

Success comes from hard work, and Amber recommends to entrepreneurial women just starting out to expect highs and lows, to realize that they will work harder than at a typical 9 to 5 job and to build relationships with their clients and other business owners.

“Being a woman in business is definitely very challenging, but we have a supportive community here in Mount Pleasant,” Amber said. “There are many women-owned businesses here, and we support each other. I feel very lucky to be a part of it.”

Amber prides herself on Salty Girls being Charleston’s swimwear expert, with top brands of surf-inspired fashions and so much more for women and children. Coverups, jewelry, sandals, dresses, tops, skirts and shoes can all be found at Salty Girls. 

**D**r. Rachael Click and her team at Preferred EyeCare

BY ERIN DANLY

Center work hard to make their office fun and welcoming.

“Optometrists and dentists are seen as two of the scariest doctors to go to,” she said. “We always try to be very welcoming from the minute patients walk in the door. We explain what we’re doing while we’re doing it to take away that fear of the unknown. That’s what makes us different.”

Born and raised in Indiana, Dr. Click graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor’s in biochemistry and a doctor of optometry degree and



Photo provided by Preferred EyeCare Center.

## DR. RACHAEL CLICK

Preferred EyeCare Center

1118 Park West Blvd., Suite 5

Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29466

843-856-4775

[www.PreferredEyeCareCenter.com](http://www.PreferredEyeCareCenter.com)

then moved to Mount Pleasant.

“I love the sunny skies of South Carolina,” she said.


She opened Preferred EyeCare Center in Park West in 2008 and built the practice from scratch, believing “if you build it, they will come.”

And they did. Nearly seven years later, Dr. Click has a thriving practice, with plans to grow.

Preferred EyeCare Center provides complete visual health care services, including annual eye exams, contact lens exams, diabetic exams, glaucoma treatment and more.

Getting to know her patients and their families is her favorite part of her day.

“We spend good quality time with our patients,” said Dr. Click.

That’s just one more thing that sets Preferred EyeCare Center apart from the competition. 



**Z**ee Patel was a pro in the restaurant business. As an owner of Quiznos,

BY BARBARA MILLEN  
PATRICK

Cold Stone Creamery and Salsarita's, she had lots of experience with pleasing people. But a chance suggestion changed her career path and, eight years ago, she found herself taking over as chief executive officer of Charleston's most exclusive lingerie shop, Bits of Lace. She hasn't looked back.

"We're different because we specialize in fitting," she said about the success of Bits of Lace. "We actually fit our customers, rather than measuring."

Because each customer's body is different, the experts at Bits of Lace select a variety of bras in different styles and



Photo courtesy of Bits of Lace.


## ZEE PATEL

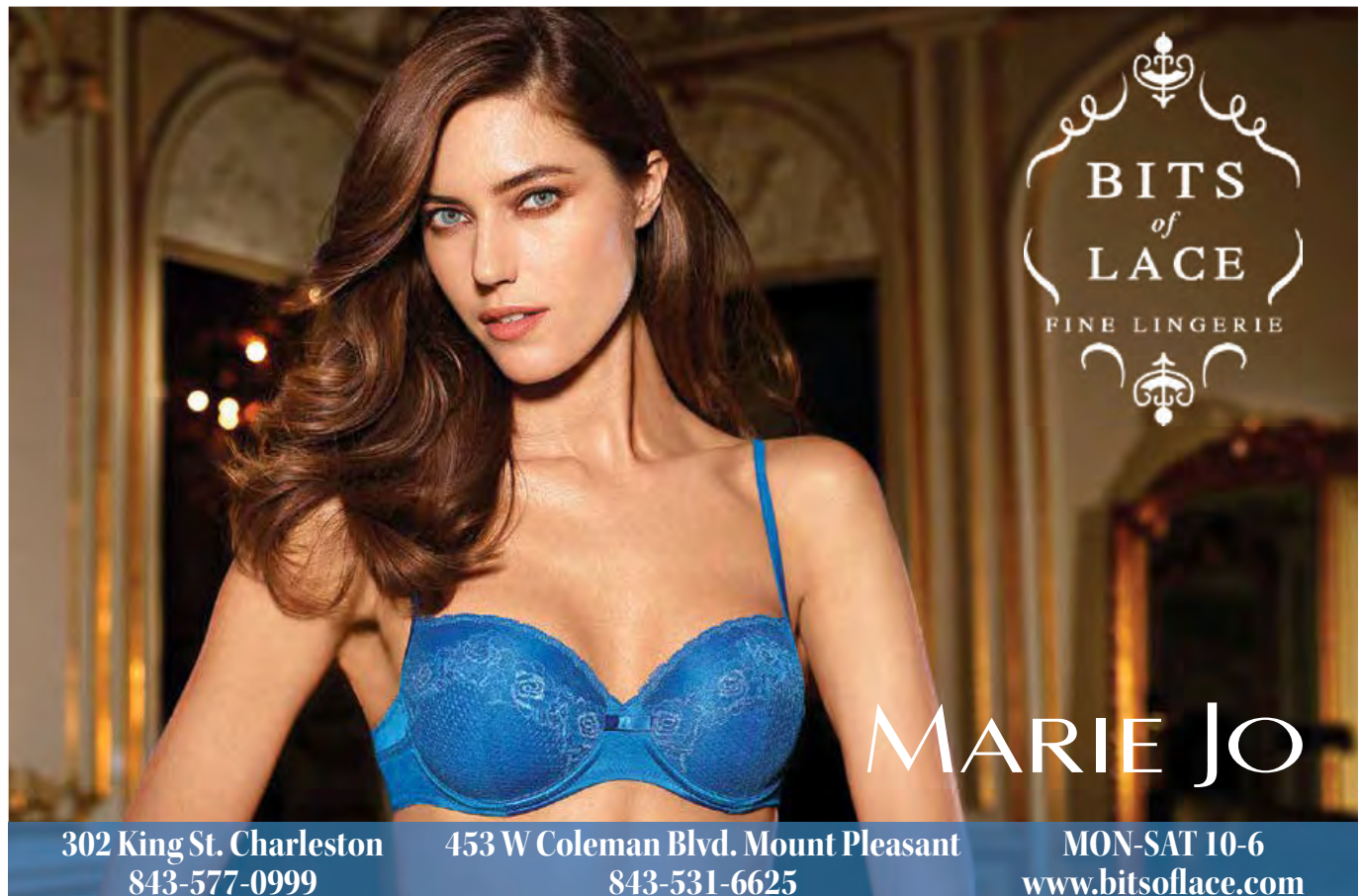
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sizes to find the perfect fit. These bras are not the everyday brands carried by most stores. Zee explained that the store has remained true to the philosophy of the original owner by offering the highest-quality lingerie, imported from Europe. Owner Ruth Brennan and Zee personally handpick the latest styles.

"We go to Europe, tour the manufacturers and attend the trade shows in Paris and New York," Zee said.

Just as important as the fine lingerie is the careful attention to customers. Bits of Lace caters to their clientele, serving up champagne and hors d'oeuvres at bachelorette parties for brides and their attendants.

Zee also gives back by leading Cinderella Day – "we dressed over 300 girls for the prom," Zee boasted – and volunteering at Seacoast Church. She loves to travel and enjoys checking out the local restaurant scene. 



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**F**or entrepreneur Corrie Silvers, owning her party planning

BY TAYLOR GRIFFITH



Photo by Christine Hamrick Photography.

business, Teacups & Trucks, is “a dream.”

“I’m 41 and this is my first business,” she said. “I thought it was going to be a little side job, something I would do for fun. But it’s just grown, and it keeps growing. We went from planning kids’ parties to hosting them at our store, teaching crafts, leading summer camps and selling balloons and other party supplies.”

Before starting her business, the Morehead State University alumna put her Recreation and Health degree to use for nearly 10 years as a family life director at a YMCA, organizing summer camps, after-school programs and other

## CORRIE SILVERS

**Teacups & Trucks**  
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events for children and teens.

Although she planned parties for friends and family as a hobby before making it a business, Corrie said she has encountered some challenges along the way.

“One of the most important things is to be patient. And to listen to your heart, because along the five-year journey, many people said, ‘Why don’t you just quit if it’s so hard?’ It was tough, but I just didn’t feel like that was what I needed to do,” she said.

With that in mind, her message to other aspiring entrepreneurs is: “Don’t get discouraged too fast.” Corrie said she would “like to hope” she’s a good example for other women in business.

“Being a woman, being a single mother, owning your own business – the hardest thing is juggling all of that,” she said. “It’s challenging at times, but, on the flip side, I think I’m showing my son what it takes to provide for your family, work hard and go after something you believe in.”



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**F**or Dr. Roberta Gardner, orthodontics is a practice of

BY HELEN HARRIS

fulfillment beyond the techniques of dentistry. Seeing the smiles on patients who have just had their braces removed sums up the reason why she hasn't tired of her career.

Following her years of education at the University of South Carolina and the Medical University of South Carolina, and a residency at the University of Tennessee, Dr. Gardner first practiced in Myrtle Beach for five years. She then relocated to Mount Pleasant, and, in 2000, she began work with the practice that is now Gardner Orthodontics.

Dr. Gardner is now the longest practicing orthodontist



Photo by Jenn Cady.

## DR. ROBERTA GARDNER

**Gardner Orthodontics**  
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 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-881-4424  
 www.gardnerortho.com

in Mount Pleasant. She relates to patients while perfecting smiles, which positively suits her personality.

"I love to fix things, I love to work with my hands and I'm detail oriented," Dr. Gardner explained. "But at the same time, I love working with people, and it ends up being a rewarding career when you see people that have never smiled actually wanting to smile."

As a mother two girls, Dr. Gardner can relate to children who come into the office. Her compassionate and down-to-earth nature ease the process of what might seem like an intimidating dental procedure.

"I feel blessed to be able to perfect people's smiles, and, more importantly, allow them to feel great about themselves," Dr. Gardner reflected. "The biggest reward is when I see people get their braces off. It's just a great feeling."

**F**or Candice Mahala, manager and co-owner of Bistro Toulouse, the

BY KALENE MCCORT

road to culinary greatness was an obvious choice. At an age when most girls have Barbie on the brain, Candice was focused on baguettes and blue cheese.

"I have loved cooking since I was a little kid," said Candice. "I remember preparing a five-course dinner for my parents' anniversary when I was about 8 or 9 years old."

Her passion for cuisine led her to The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, where her gift for innovative flavor pairings and presentation was sharpened. After graduation, Candice worked as a pastry chef, sous chef and front-



Photo by Jenn Cady.

## CANDICE MAHALA

**Bistro Toulouse**  
 1220 Ben Sawyer Blvd.  
 Mount Pleasant, S.C. 29464  
 843-216-3434  
 www.bistrotoulouse.com

of-house manager in various fine dining establishments from upstate New York to Miami and Washington D.C.

While Bistro Toulouse has been open only a year, it has rounded up an extensive number of loyal patrons who just can't get enough of their onion soup gratinee and bouillabaisse.

"Great feedback from customers is extremely rewarding," said Candice, who also credits her fiancé, co-owner and head chef Matthew Schulz, with the restaurant's success. "We love to hear from our guests that the food makes them reminisce about a trip to France or that their server brightened their day."

Prior to serving French food and wine to the folks of Mount Pleasant, Candice was a catering manager for Hyatt, Omni and Marriott – organizing galas attended by presidents, first ladies, senators and other elite power players. She brings the same level of professionalism and enthusiasm to Bistro Toulouse.

"When someone enjoys the experience of dining with us and wants to return, it makes the whole team feel as if we have accomplished something special," said Candice.

# Women's Business Support Groups

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## **American Business Women's Association**

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After a 13-year playing career with seven different teams and a two-year stint as hitting coach with the Boston Red Sox, Greg Colbrunn is glad to be able to spend more time with his family in his adopted hometown of Mount Pleasant.



# Home Field Advantage

## Greg Colbrunn Glad to Be Back in the Lowcountry

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

O

NA SUNNY AFTERNOON IN April, the Charleston RiverDogs, the Low A affiliate of the mighty New York Yankees, warmed up for a night game with the Lexington Legends in the batting cages located deep in the bowels of Joe

Riley Park. Under normal circumstances, the RiverDogs would have taken batting practice on the field, under the brilliant South Carolina sun, but they were forced inside by a college game between The Citadel and Wofford.

That never happens in the major leagues, of course, but it mattered little to Greg Colbrunn. After a 13-year playing career with seven different teams and, most

recently, a two-year stint as hitting coach with the Boston Red Sox, Colbrunn is glad to be able to spend more time with his family in his adopted hometown of Mount Pleasant.

The proud owner of three World Series championship rings – earned as a player with the Diamondbacks in 2001 and as a coach in the Yankees organization in 2009 and with the Red Sox in 2013 – Colbrunn is now the RiverDogs’ hitting coach. He had the same job from 2007 to 2009 and in 2011 and 2012, and managed the team in 2010. After two years with the Red Sox – and a medical emergency that kept him in a Cleveland hospital for the better part of two weeks – he was ready to return to a routine that gives him a lot more time with his wife, Erika, and three children: Danielle, 16, Kelsey, 13, and Vanessa, 9.

“I have three daughters, and I was away eight to nine months at a time, from February to November,” he explained.

Colbrunn, a California native, moved his family to Dunes West in Mount Pleasant in 1999, long before his playing days were over. During his drive to spring training in Florida, he would stop to see an aunt and uncle who lived on the Isle of Palms. He met Erika while he was a Florida Marlin, and, when it came time for them to put down roots, they considered several potential locations before settling on the Carolina Lowcountry.

“When you are a player, you can live where you want to live because you’re gone most of the year anyway,” he said. “We looked at South Florida, Arizona and Atlanta before deciding on Mount Pleasant.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Originally signed by the Montreal Expos – now the Washington Nationals – Colbrunn played in the Midwest League, the Florida State League, the Southern League and the International League on his way to The Show, arriving in the big leagues at the age of 22 in July 1992. Before his playing days were over, he would don the uniform of the Expos, Marlins, Twins, Braves (twice), Rockies, Diamondbacks (twice) and Mariners.



RiverDogs Hitting Coach Greg Colbrunn pitches batting practice in the Joe Riley Park cages.

A solid right-handed hitting first baseman with decent pop – he finished with a better-than-respectable career average of .289 to go along with 98 home runs – his greatest memories of his playing days revolve around the 2001 season. Not long after the nation was rocked by the worst terror attack on American soil, Colbrunn and his Diamondback teammates knocked off the Yankees in the World Series, claiming the title with a dramatic game-seven win.

“Winning the World Series, going to New York the year of 9/11, playing against the Yankees,” Colbrunn mused, reminiscing about the Series that ended on a walk-off bloop single by Luis Gonzalez.

In addition to manning first base, Colbrunn saw action as a designated hitter and played a few games at third base and in right field. He even put on the catching gear and squatted behind the plate for one inning while he was with the Rockies in 1998. He thinks his lengthy major league career was extended by his ability to come off the bench in tight situations

“I could hit lefties and I was an excellent pinch hitter,” he commented. “That kept me around for most of my 13 years. I was always prepared and always worked hard.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Colbrunn takes the same approach with RiverDogs hitters as he did with his own baseball career, even though many of them will never see the inside of a major league clubhouse.



“We teach these kids to get the most out of their ability and see how far it takes them,” he said. “You try to develop as many of them as you can. They have all had success on some level.”

Though the title was the same, Colbrunn’s job with the Red Sox is a whole different ballgame than his current position with the RiverDogs. He pointed out that in the majors, coaching players such as David Ortiz and Shane Victorino basically consists of providing them with scouting reports.

“I wasn’t teaching the basics of hitting. They already know how to hit. With these kids, it’s helping them develop game plans and fine-tuning their swings.” he said. “It’s the fundamentals, teaching a basic foundation.”

Is winning important at the Single A level? Sort of, according to Colbrunn.

“We try to develop a winning atmosphere. The most important thing is that we are trying to develop future New York Yankees. What we really want is for every one of these guys to play for the Yankees.”

He added that in the South Atlantic League, where the average age of the players is around 21, the higher

draft picks are usually the players who make it to the big leagues.

“Some players develop over time,” Colbrunn said. “You never know.”

\*\*\*\*\*

You never know. The same could be said about Colbrunn’s experience as Boston’s hitting coach. In 2013, under his tutelage, the world champion Red Sox scored more runs than any team in baseball. The following June, he spent nearly two weeks in the hospital after suffering what turned out to be a subarachnoid hemorrhage. He has recovered completely, but, at the time, it seemed like a scary situation.

“We were in Cleveland, and I was getting ready to board the bus to the ballpark,” Colbrunn said. “My neck locked up, and I had a bad headache. It was like I’d been kicked in the back of the head.”

The pain worsened. Colbrunn remembered making it to the stadium, then waking up in the Cleveland Clinic two-and-a-half days later.

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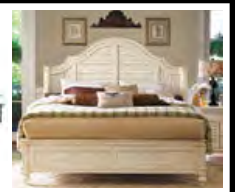


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A subarachnoid hemorrhage is bleeding into the space between the surface of the brain and the surrounding membrane.

“The Red Sox were great. They flew my wife and mom and dad to Cleveland,” Colbrunn said.

He eventually returned to the Red Sox, who, from 2013 to 2014, slipped from first to 18th of the 30 major league teams in the runscored column. When the season came to an end, he informed the Sox that he wasn’t interested in coming back for another year. He said the hemorrhage had nothing to do with his decision to return to coaching in the Yankees’ minor league system.

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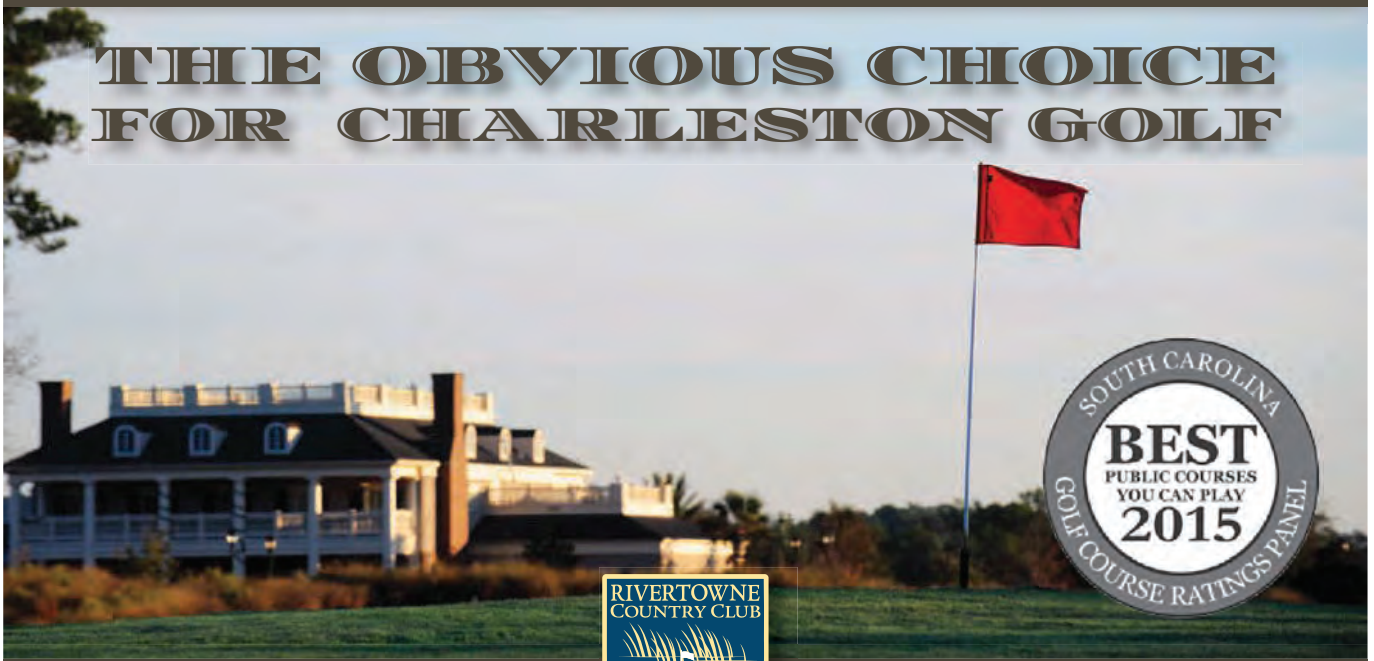
Colbrunn said he has no plans to coach on the major league level again. He indicated that he might return to The Show when his daughters are older, but, regardless of where his baseball life takes him, “He will always call Mount Pleasant home.” 🏠



Greg Colbrunn, who played for seven different teams, never wore a Yankee uniform during his major league career. This will be his seventh year coaching in the Yankee system.

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## Aaron Perlmutter

**Lives in:** Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

**From:** Charleston, South Carolina.

**Education:** University of South Carolina.

**Employment:** Clinical trials at the Medical University of South Carolina.

**Favorite reading:** Sports Illustrated.

**Favorite music:** A little of this, a little of that – Indie, Newgrass, Reggae.

**Activities:** Playing with my wife and kids, fishing, soccer, running, biking, traveling, hanging at the beach, tinkering with my Jon boat, piddling in the garage.

**Interests:** Politics, sports and sports memorabilia, outdoors.

**Likes:** Boston Red Sox, IPAs/craft beers, yard sales, Gamecocks, Mexican food, summertime.

**Favorite quote or philosophy:** "Focus on the blessings in your life and keep things in perspective."



## Peter Curry

**Lives in:** Daniel Island, South Carolina.

**From:** Michigan.

**Education:** Master's degrees in Mathematics and Electrical Engineering.

**Employment:** Scientific Research Corporation.

**Favorite reading:** Mostly math books. Anything from "Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos" to "Ideals, Varieties and Algorithms." Also biographies, occasional James Joyce and lots of Dr. Suess.

**Favorite music:** I have a broad musical taste. I can listen to anything from Late Baroque to Early Classical.

**Activities:** Walking, lifting, chasing my kids, getting chased by my kids, fixing things that I run into after not paying attention to where I'm running when my kids are chasing me. I also enjoy giving medical advice about eye care on the basis that I'm married to an eye doctor. Please don't listen to any medical advice that I give; consult an eye care professional.

**Interests:** Everything. I would like to know about everything. Unfortunately, due to Gödel's theorem and Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, I can't.

**Likes:** Great food cooked by my wife, hanging out with the family, the first sip of coffee in the morning.

**Favorite quote or philosophy:** "Nor love thy life, nor hate; but what thou liv'st live well; how long or short permit to heaven. – John Milton



## Mary Elledge Semsar

**Lives in:** Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

**From:** Viola, Tennessee.

**Education:** Ed.S., Specialist in Education; Masters, Early Childhood Education.

**Favorite reading:** Classic literature.

**Favorite music:** Country and country rock.

**Interests:** Cooking, reading, hairstyling /master barber.

**Activities:** Exploring the Lowcountry.

**Favorite Quote of Philosophy:** "We do not remember days; we remember moments." - Cesare Pavese.



## Michelle Terry

**Lives in:** Daniel Island, South Carolina.

**From:** Windsor, North Carolina.

**Education:** B.S. Political Science – East Carolina University 2004.

**Employment:** Engineering Services Network.

**Favorite reading:** I will read anything. Favorites: "Pride and Prejudice" (Jane Austen), Jane True series (Nicole Peeler), Harry Potter series (J.K. Rowling).

**Favorite music:** Blue October, Florence & the Machine, Pink, Muse, Paper Route, Bob Marley.

**Activities:** Reading, music, kickboxing, baking, traveling.

**Interests:** Spending time with my daughter, reading, listening to music, concerts, plays, traveling to new places.

**Likes:** Days at the beach, lazy days with my daughter, trying new recipes, reading on stormy days, experiencing new things.





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