

In
Good Taste
• Page 113

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
2015

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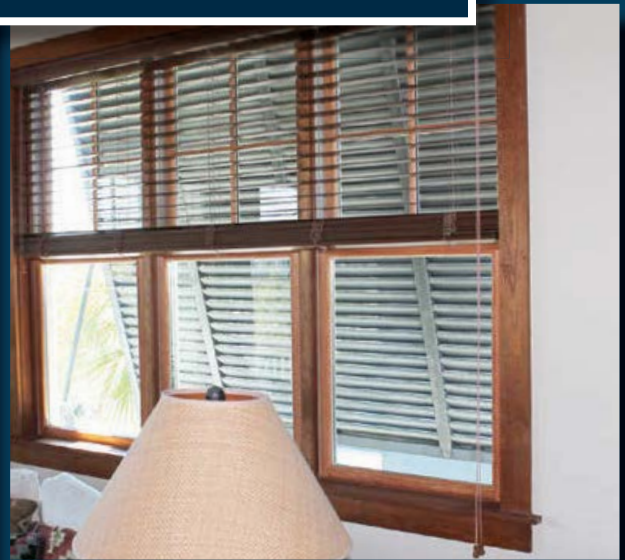


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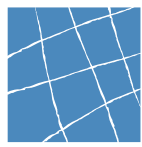
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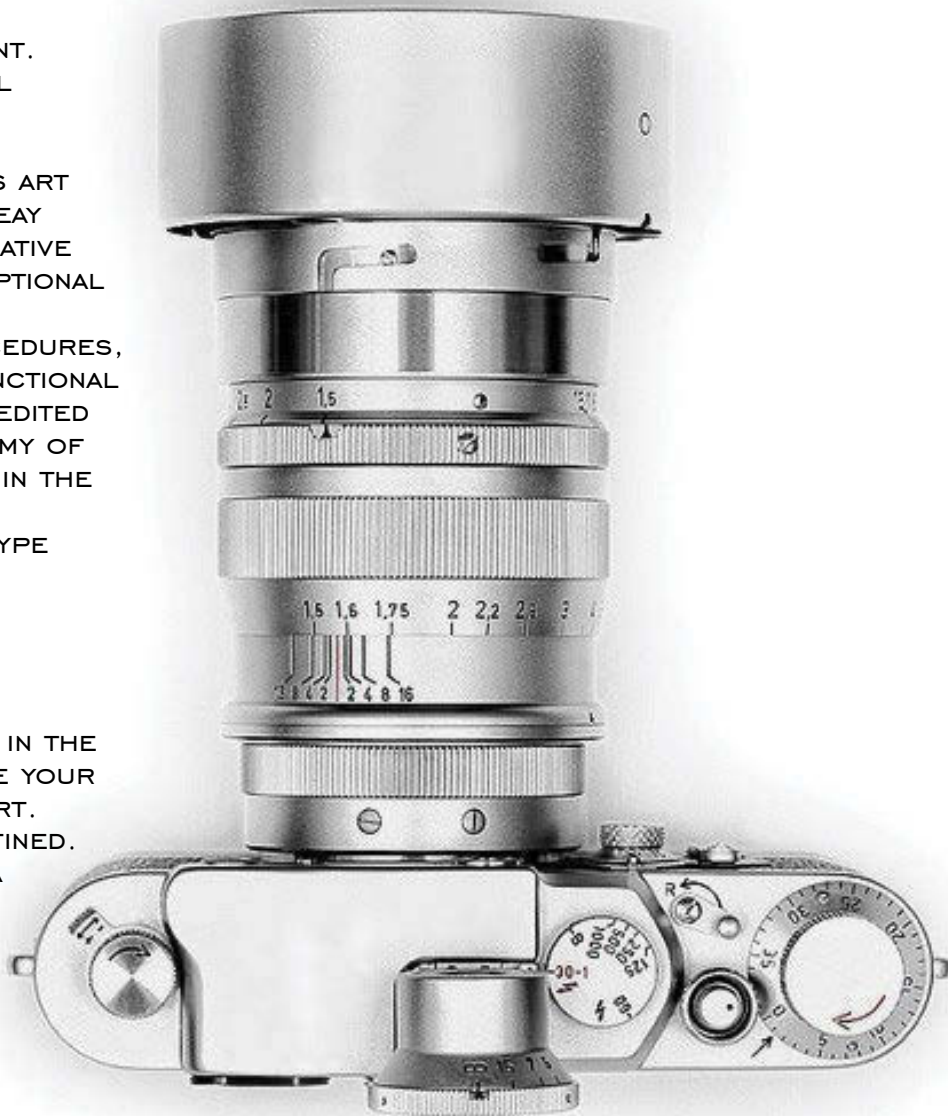
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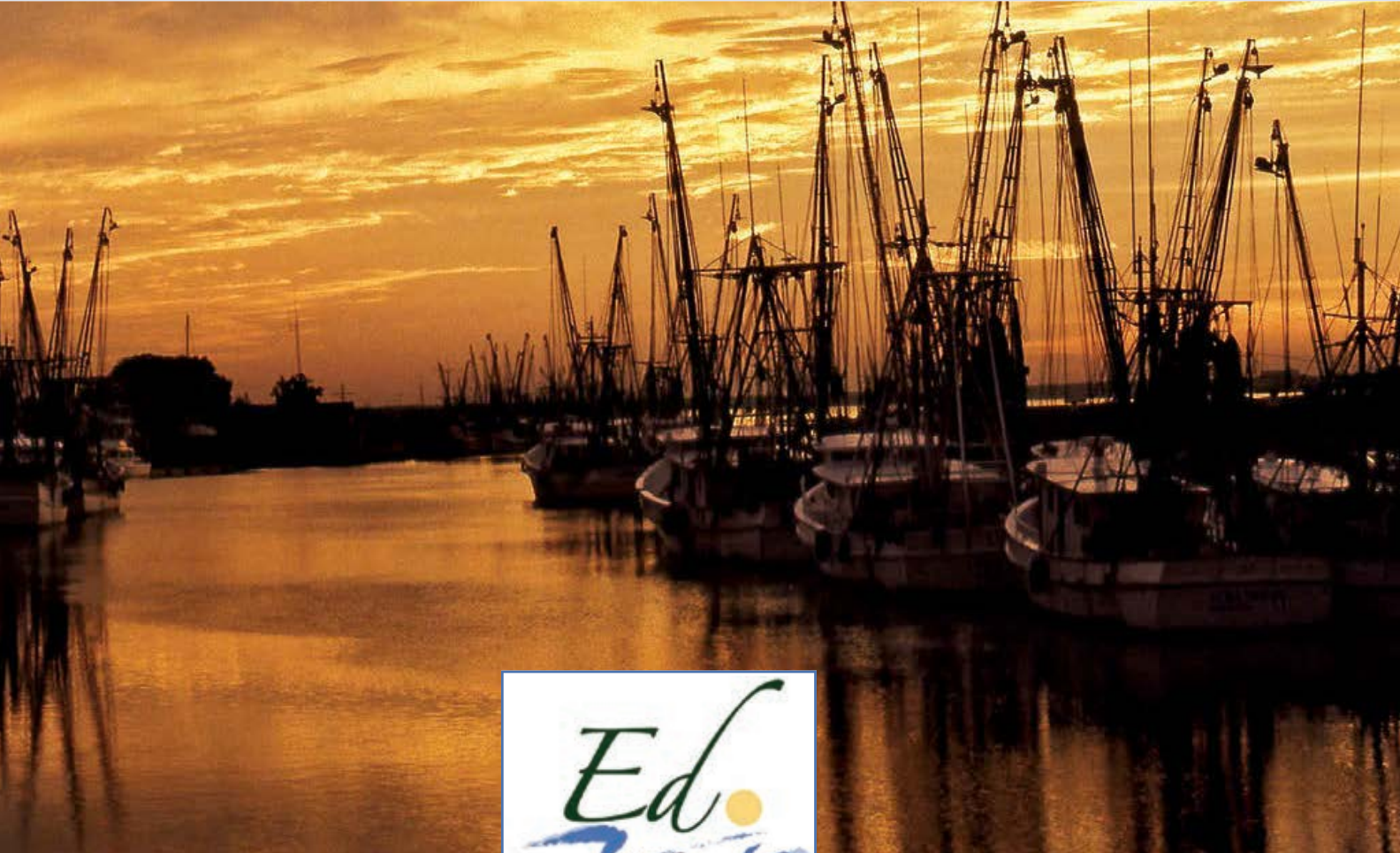
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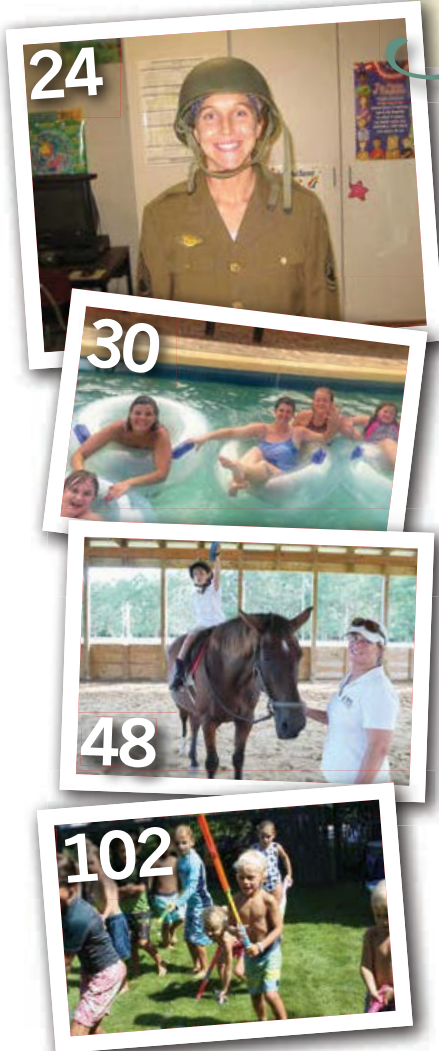


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Publisher's Note

MOUNT PLEASANT

MAGAZINE

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I ALWAYS FEEL A CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITY WHEN SOMEONE says or their actions indicate that they think of me as their mentor. It's a privilege to know that the way they see me solving challenges, discovering new opportunities and treating colleagues, family and friends will be a guide throughout their lives. This responsibility engenders a great sense of joy, and our shared experiences and what we've both learned from the relationship will remain long after we part ways.

I met my first mentor, Ed, when I was living in Denver after getting out of the Air Force. I was an assistant manager of a delicatessen, and he was a customer whose wife was a waitress. A mentor will often express positive suggestions regarding your career path or something positive to do with your life. Ed would always encourage me to consider getting into sales. Every time he came into the delicatessen, he would say something positive to me. He had done well in magazine subscription sales and direct mail, so I wanted to hear what he had to say. He suggested I go to work as a traveling salesperson. I was young and adventurous and ended up loving my job selling supplies to florists in small towns west of the Mississippi.

A mentor can also be a family member. My oldest son Drew's mentor was his Uncle Paul, who lived in Iowa. Drew would often tell me about suggestions Uncle Paul had made to him or how he thought Uncle Paul might have handled a certain situation. He had such a good impact on Drew's life, and Drew learned things from him that I could never have taught him. A mentor's message is usually received more clearly than parent's message, and I feel blessed that my oldest son had such a good mentor. Unfortunately, Drew's Uncle Paul left this world on Oct. 5 of this year.

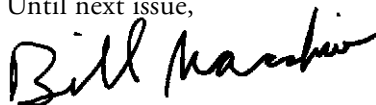
I believe we can have mentors who we've never met. It's not the same, of course, as if you actually spent time together, but such a person can still have an impact on your life. For instance, when the Sea Pines homeowners association on Hilton Head Island approached me 12 years ago to publish a 50th anniversary publication, I learned a lot about Charles Fraser, who developed Sea Pines. Jack Brumley, who developed Daniel Island, used to work for him, and Fraser's influence is apparent in Wild Dunes, Daniel Island and Amelia Island, as well as in other resort communities around the globe. His innovation and creativity has inspired me to this day, although I never met him.

While putting together this issue of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, I learned more about Henry Luce, the founding publisher of *Time*, *Life*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Fortune*. As a publisher, I've always been fascinated with Luce. I believe he created the first multimedia company. His March of Time newsreels played on theater screens around the world, and in 1948, when television was starting to gain viewers, he paid NBC \$250,000 to be the exclusive sponsor of the first televised political convention. This was a time when most publishers were concerned about television taking readers away from print. Luce, on the other hand, embraced television. At one time, he was the most powerful publisher in the world, yet he chose to be buried 40 miles north of Mount Pleasant at Mepkin Abbey.

Managing Editor Denise K. James' article on page 169 is a great read about Mepkin Abbey and a Mount Pleasant resident who works there. Mepkin Abbey is located on what originally was 7,200 acres purchased by Henry and Clare Boothe Luce for \$100,000.

Though we should be doing it all year long, this is the season we focus on giving and forgiving. Everyone here at *Mount Pleasant Magazine* would like to say thanks for reading our publication and helping us grow. We sincerely wish you and your friends and family a happy holiday season and a fantastic New Year. 🍷

Until next issue,



— BILL MACCHIO
Publisher

DOUBLE CHIN BEGONE!

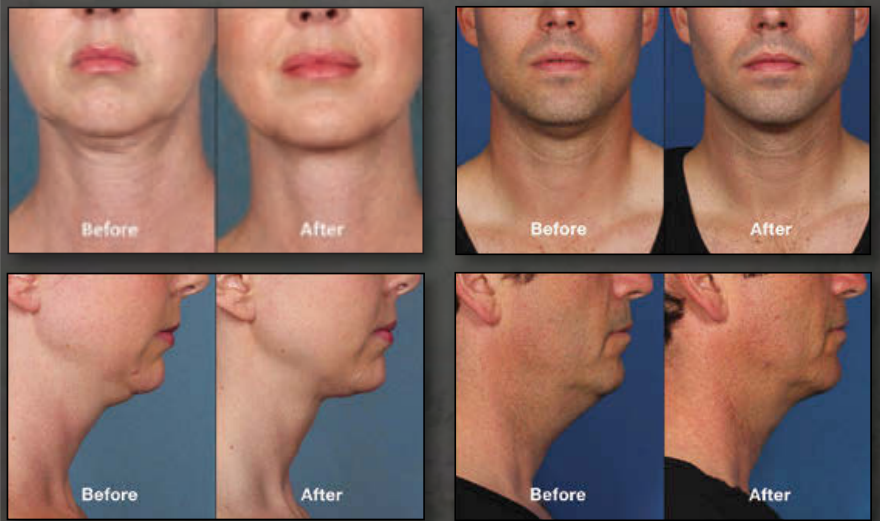


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From the Managing Editor



THIS YEAR HASN'T BEEN THE EASIEST ONE for our Lowcountry, and I've found myself thinking about the phrase "peace on earth, goodwill toward men" a little more than usual lately. I have to admit, I've always found it puzzling that we don't say those words to each other year-round as we scurry around to network with clients, run errands and visit friends.

Shouldn't it be a continuing practice – not something that happens only during the holiday season?

For our annual Biggest Hearts issue, we at *Mount Pleasant Magazine* make it our mission to find people who practice goodwill 12 months out of the year – and share their triumphs with our readers, who, I hope, turn to *Mount Pleasant Magazine* for an inspiring look at what's happening in our community. The 2015 edition focuses on the support that big hearts offer little hearts. East Cooper is filled with compassionate adults who give their time to help children this side of the river and beyond.

My kudos for a stunning cover shot go out to Jenn Cady of Jenn Cady Photography, as well as to the friendly staff at Domain Interiors & Design of Mount Pleasant. I'd also like to thank Barbara Van Thullenar Denton of Camp Rise Above; Dr. Patrick Cawley of MUSC; and Jane Locke of Carolina Children's Charity, pictured left to right behind a few of the kids whose lives are enriched by volunteers.

The kids are, left to right: Megan Burns, age 13; Stephen DeWeese, age 11; Emerson Theobald, age 5; Joshua Zuber, age 12; Dori Reaffer, age 7; and Dori's brother, Dylan Reaffer, age 11.

After you read our cover story, flip to a few other features in this issue that are guaranteed to warm your spirit. You'll love Brian Sherman's "tail" about horses that offer kids therapeutic rides; Jake Lucas' story about a generous kid who gives his birthday presents to those less fortunate; plus profiles of businesses and organizations that strive to keep our community in mind.

If you're looking for ways to feel festive, this issue should do the trick. We've got it covered, from shopping for the kids to retreating to the spa during chaos to going out to enjoy local cuisine and wear local couture. My contributing editor, Stacy E. Domingo, outdid herself with the 2015 Food and Fashion spread. Our photographers, vendors and participating restaurants should be proud as well.

As we wrap up another fulfilling year here at *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, I feel a great deal of goodwill toward our loyal readers, our supportive advertisers, our versatile team, our talented contributors and interns and pretty much everyone who shapes a piece of this publication's puzzle.

And sometimes, in between moments at a busy photo shoot, a hectic morning brainstorm or a frantic phone call in search of the right quote or photo, I find myself asking: How did I get so lucky to stumble upon my dream – to put together something important and share it with a worthwhile audience?

Stay tuned for 2016. It's going to be a great year. 🍷

Yours,
DENISE K. JAMES
Managing Editor



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Our Contributors



Christina Marie Riley is a Charleston native with a degree in digital photography. She has covered events for The Calhoun Mansion, PeopleMatter, Salon International, Bishop England High School and Charleston Fashion Week's after parties. She is also an Urban Street photo contest winner.

Erin Danly focuses on writing for and about businesses and small business owners. In addition to writing articles and marketing materials, she is a produced playwright. In her free time, she sings with the symphony chorus, teaches Italian and dances tango. She lives in Mount Pleasant with her fiancé, Gian Paolo, and her greyhound, Romeo.



A writer, photographer, marketer and lover of all things creative, **Kalene McCort** brings a fresh perspective to every medium she pursues. Having called Florida and Colorado home, she feels lucky to have recently planted her feet on the Carolina coast. Her work has appeared in the *Orlando Sentinel*, the *Sun-Sentinel*, *Chicago Tribune*-owned *Metromix*, *The Sanford Herald* and The University of Colorado's *Research Innovations* magazine.



James Stefiuk is a photo/video specialist born and raised in New Jersey. After graduating from Emerson College in Boston, he went to work at various jobs involving food photography and video editing. He recently moved to the Charleston area from Wilmington, North Carolina.

Jake Lucas graduated from Boston University with a degree in broadcast journalism, though he only got to take one radio class. In Boston, he met a girl from Charleston, and it didn't take much to convince him to move there with her. Now he's a freelance journalist and proud dad of a very good cat.



Jenn Cady, a photographer and visual branding expert, was recently selected as second best people/headshot photographer in the world by Shoot & Share. She has shot for *People*, *Glamour*, *Cosmo* & *Seventeen* magazines. Her first album cover shot was released by Curb Records for the artist Plumb. Jenn recently relocated from Nashville, TN to Mount Pleasant with her husband and two children.

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

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

After our **Mepkin Abbey** feature on page 169, you'll want to read publisher Bill Macchio's Web-exclusive article all about one of Mepkin's original residents, Henry Luce, publisher of Time, Inc. You can find it online at <http://tinyurl.com/HenryLuce>.

We had way too many **Food & Fashion 2015** photos to print, but we still want to share them with you! Look for them online in our Web Extras gallery.

And calling all families with four-legged members! We're ready for our readers to submit fun pictures and stories about your pet at MountPleasantMagazine.com/PetPhotos for a chance to show off your cuddly kitten or devoted dog in a future issue of *Mount Pleasant Magazine*. Your dog, cat or parrot deserves its 15 minutes of fame!



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BRINGING HISTORY *to life* LOCAL TEACHER EARNS NATIONAL HONOR

Story by Brian Sherman.

THE WALLS ARE ADORNED WITH military uniforms that haven't been worn in decades or longer. Flags representing units that once served proudly in the Army or Marines hang from above. The shelves are littered with memorabilia from America's past, some of it dating back to the Civil War – a grenade, ammunition, paper money, posters, shoes and lots of books and photographs. One wall is decorated with letters that might have been written by sodbusters, those resilient souls who went west when America was brand-new, battling brutally hot summers, frigid winters, wild animals, destructive insects, floods, droughts and myriad other challenges to carve out their own piece of the Great Unknown.

This shrine to American history isn't a museum – not really – but a fifth-grade classroom at Charles Pinckney Elementary School in Mount Pleasant. It's creator, Mary Huffman, recently claimed 2015 Teacher of the Year honors from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Though she also teaches her 60 students reading and writing, social studies has been her passion since she arrived in the Lowcountry in 2002.

"History is living and breathing. It's as exciting as you make it," said Huffman. "I love hands-on learning. If I'm going to be here seven or eight hours a day, I want to enjoy it. I look at the kids' faces. They are so excited to learn."

At the heart of the learning experience in Huffman's class



Photo courtesy of Mary Huffman.

is that a guest speaker shows up around once a week – and, usually, it's Huffman herself, dressed as a person living in the period her class is currently studying. Today she is a cowgirl, donning one of "40 or 50" outfits she's created since she landed at Pinckney in 2003. Her goal is to add between two

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Teacher Mary Huffman and students Quincy Lewis, left, and Sidonie Mahon display some of the props Huffman uses in her classroom.

and five costumes each year.

“I bring history to life,” she explained. “If I’m excited, the kids are going to be excited. For example, one of my students whittled a bow and arrow and brought them to show the rest of the class.”

Judging from comments from some of her students, Huffman’s teaching methods are working quite well.

“I like the way Mrs. Huffman dresses up,” said Sidonie Mahon, who pointed out that her favorite periods in history are the Holocaust and westward expansion. “It’s really fun. A lot of teachers should do it. We learn better. It feels like we’re really in that time.”

“I love this class,” Quincy Lewis added. He said he especially likes the uniforms because his mom and dad were in the Air Force and his stepdad was in the Navy. He also enjoys learn-

ing about Oklahoma and Brazil, places he hopes to visit someday. His favorite period in history is the Reconstruction era following the Civil War.

“I love how she dresses up. It feels like you’re in history,” said Sarah Moore, whose older brother and sister preceded her in Huffman’s class. “They told me about all the cool stuff.”

She added that her favorite time in history was when Chinese immigrants built the railroads that eventually stretched from the East Coast to the West Coast.

Throughout most of the school year, Huffman’s historical figures serve as guest speakers, but, in May, she turns the podium over to “real” people – usually veterans. Her husband served in Iraq, and she pointed out that half her students are part of current or former military families.

“I love honoring our local military,” she said.

Huffman explained that she obtains much of the memorabilia for her classroom during shopping trips to local antique stores, spending up to \$2,000 a year of her own money to enhance the learning experience for her students. Other items have come to her courtesy of her students’ relatives. The donation she appreciated most was from the grandmother of one of her students: her late husband’s entire collection from the Vietnam War, including his mess kit, canteen and sleeping bag.

“She loaned us the items to show, and then, at graduation, she thanked me for honoring her late husband and said we could have all the items,” Huffman explained.

One of Huffman’s favorite topics

is the Holocaust. True to her hands-on approach to teaching, she gives her students five items they can't live without, then takes them away one at a time, simulating the effect of the anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws that were introduced by the Nazi Party in mid-1930s Germany. She goes so far as to print identification cards with the names of Jews who actually lived in Europe during the Holocaust, and calls her students by their adopted Jewish names for three weeks. Her goal is to teach them what it was like for Jews who were transported in cattle cars to the Warsaw Ghetto or worse and what it was like to live in the ghetto and finally be liberated by the Soviet Army.

When that part of her innovative curriculum is over, she gives her students four items: a tissue, represent-

ing tears; a Sour Patch Kid, representing the bittersweetness of surviving while so many others died; a Hershey bar, representing liberation – that's all soldiers had to give the survivors to eat; and a globe, representing liberation and finally being allowed to move to other countries.

"I want them to realize that everyone's OK," Huffman said. "The whole message is appreciation and tolerance. They see it and they feel it."

Huffman, who has been teaching for 14 years, began developing her hands-on approach at Goodwin Elementary School in North Charleston, where she taught for a year when she arrived in coastal Carolina, before moving on to Pinckney.

"Some of the kids lived in bad conditions at home. I wanted to make school exciting for them," she said.

Huffman grew up in the Chicago



Photo courtesy of Mary Huffman.

area and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Western Illinois University. She expects to complete work on her doctorate at Walden University in May 2016. Eventually,

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she wants to teach in college, helping to train future teachers.

A testament to her success as a fifth-grade teacher, she was nominated for the National History Teacher of the Year Award by the family of Mason Yost, one of her students. Huffman was notified in October 2014 that she was the winner of the state award and in August 2015 that The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History considered her to be the best history teacher in the United States.

“I was floating on air. It showed that all my hard work paid off and how exciting hands-on learning looks. It was an honor to receive the award,” Huffman said.

She received the state award in Greenville in September. When she was presented with the national award at the Yale Club in New York City

in October, three former students were with her, ready, willing and able to tell the world what they think of their fifth grade social studies teacher: 12-year-old Jason Wolan and 11-year-olds Matthew Wolan and Mason Yost.

The award – which included a \$10,000 prize that probably will partially offset all the money Huffman has spent on memorabilia for her classroom over the past 14 years – validates her theory that learning should be fun.



Photo courtesy of Mary Huffman.

“If the kids are excited, they’ll take learning into their own hands,” she said. “They’ll talk with others in their class and share ideas. Kids become the teacher, not just the learner.” 🐝



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Most people have heard the old adage that it takes a village to raise a child, but not everyone has figured out how many different roles are essential to raising that child. Here in East Cooper, our own rapidly-growing version of a village, we've gathered some of the key organizations and individuals who work hard on behalf of children in Mount Pleasant and throughout the Lowcountry, which translates into a better future for all of us.

In the following profiles, we introduce you to an organization that hosts summer camps for extraordinary campers; a group that raises funds so kids can have lifesaving medicine; an organization that battles childhood obesity; and a physician who has fought hard for younger kids who need autism tests. These profiles will assure you that, yes, people still care in this world we live in – and they prove it every day, not just during the holidays.

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Camp Rise Above

Dreams Do Come True

EACH JULY FOR THE LAST FIVE summers, Camp Rise Above has helped the dreams of children with debilitating illnesses come true. By focusing on what they can do – not what they can't – founder and Mount Pleasant resident Barbara Van Thullenar-Denton, her husband, Don Denton, and a team of compassionate counselors have encouraged Lowcountry kids to make the most of life.

How did Camp Rise Above begin? Five years ago, Barbara Denton was attending a Bible study in Mount Pleasant when her group was challenged to come up with a philanthropic project. Denton had previously had a successful camp for physically challenged kids in North Carolina and recognized a need for something similar in the Lowcountry.

Today, Camp Rise Above is bursting at the seams: The kids love it, local businesses and organizations support it and it continues to grow. This past summer, for example, Denton and her team introduced three brand-new, two-day camps: asthma, cerebral palsy and Tourette's/epilepsy/traumatic brain injury. Returning two-day camps include heart/kidney, sickle cell and brain tumors, for a current total of six camps, all held at James Island County Park.

The six camps were chosen based on need. The Dentons and Executive Director Erin Ulmer work hard with area hospitals such as MUSC, Trident and Roper – plus schools and pediatricians – to find out which children would benefit most.

"We offer what is not out there," Ulmer explained. "We take our leads based on knowledge gained from these health organizations, then we form communities and get to know the families. The three new sessions this year were incredible. Many kids were at camp for the first time, trying out new skills."

What goes on at the camps? A lot of fun, challenges and camaraderie with ample professional support, according to

Denton and Ulmer. Standbys like snacks, songs and crafts are just the beginning – outdoor activities such as wall climbing and water slides help kids forget their illnesses and simply be kids for a while. And on the second day of each camp, there's even live entertainment.

"The children love meeting others who are like them," Denton added. "They encourage each other and understand each other's challenges."

According to Ulmer, the grown-ups get just as "fired up" as the children do about camp. An assortment of volunteers, including local doctors, nurses and students from the College of Charleston and Clemson University, all make time for these grateful kids each summer. One counselor is assigned to one child, and the bond becomes quite strong.

"We get our own counselor and, to me, they are like angels," remarked 13-year-old Tori Baruchi, who has attended the brain tumor camp more than once. "Counselors take time out of their summer to spend two whole days getting to know us and making our days at camp magical."

Denton said that she feels "the roots" of Camp Rise Above are in Mount Pleasant. It's home to many other board members, and East Cooper businesses are more than willing to support the cause. Naturally, with such encouragement from the community, future plans for Camp Rise Above are starting to take shape.

"We hope to expand our summer program and add a few more specialized sessions," Don Denton commented. "We're also looking for a place to host overnight camps with a medical facility onsite. We already have a donor base."

"[My condition] has been a bowl full of lemons in my life," admitted Baruchi. "But Camp Rise Above is a bowl full of sugar, and, with their help, I can make lemonade."

"If anyone asked me to explain my camp, I would say it's unconditional love," Denton added. 🍯

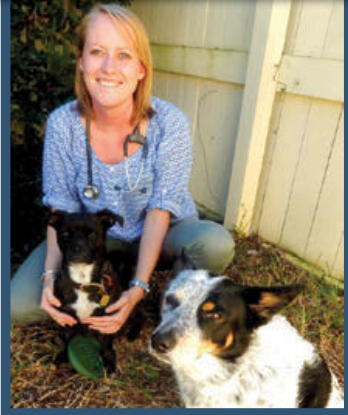
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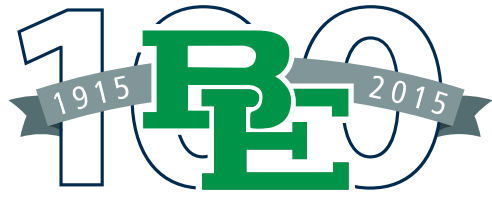
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Carolina Children's Charity

Keeping Funds Local



ASSISTING CHILDREN WITH medical expenses in Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester and Colleton counties, Carolina Children's Charity has done its share of great work in the area. Jane Locke, a Mount Pleasant resident for more than 35 years, is proud of the seed she helped plant. Of those who courageously founded Carolina Children's Charity – or CCC, as it is sometimes called – back in 1987, Locke is the only one who is still part of the organization.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

“My two daughters are now grown up, but my charity still needs me,” she pointed out with a smile.

The mission of CCC has always been twofold: to bring lifesaving medical care and supplies to less fortunate children in the Charleston metro and to keep all funds local. Locke, who has always been an avid philanthropist, said she has left more than one Charleston branch of well-known national charities because “none of the money stayed local.” CCC fixed that issue; all funds are raised in the Lowcountry and kept in the Lowcountry.

“What we buy for children must be medically necessary, things like medicine and therapy,” explained Locke. “Anything the physician deems necessary.”

Aid from CCC is available for children up to 18 years of age. The process includes the child's parent filling out

the grant application and the child's physician attaching a letter explaining what the child's needs are. A tax form also

must be attached so that CCC can verify identity. According to Locke, the organization rarely tells a family “no” unless the request is not medically required.

Money that CCC distributes comes largely from area firefighters who collect on behalf of the organization. This



year, Mount Pleasant's firefighters have raised the highest amount, despite not collecting on the streets.

“The town of Mount Pleasant took firefighters off the streets, but they've found other locations to collect funds, such as churches and shopping centers,” noted Locke.

No fundraiser is too small for CCC. The organization is constantly looking for new and creative ideas to raise money, including sporting events, church barbecues and anything that brings communities together. Locke said she tries to make herself available at the various events – and she asks board members and families who benefit from CCC to attend whenever possible.

“We try to send the families in need so that people understand,” she commented. “About 60 percent of the kids look healthy and normal to the eye but have life-threatening illnesses.”



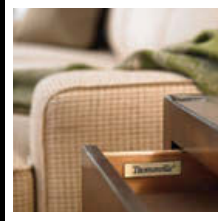
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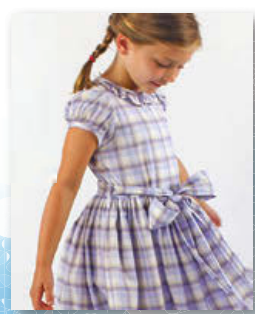


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Louie's Kids

Empowering the Family

NEARLY 15 YEARS AFTER LAUNCHING an organization aimed at honoring the memory of his father and at the same time fighting childhood obesity, Louis Yuhasz is changing the focus of the Charleston-based organization.

Starting in 2015, Louie's Kids, established in 2001 in Alexandria, Virginia, switched gears from providing individual help and became a family program. Everything the organization does, from physical training and participation in races to education about healthy eating, will include parents as well as children.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

"The biggest difference in what we are doing now is the family approach," said Yuhasz, who grew up in Alexandria but now lives in the Lowcountry. "We're not just dealing with junior anymore. We're empowering parents to work with junior."

Louie Yuhasz, a transportation officer with the city of Alexandria for nearly half a century, weighed 550 pounds when he passed away. Looking for a way to honor his father's service to the city, Louis Yuhasz found inspiration while watching Oprah Winfrey's show shortly after a stroke took his dad's life. He decided to raise money to send the children of city employees to summer camp. During the summer of 2001, the organization sent four kids to a camp in Massachusetts that provided assistance for overweight children.

"The idea was to help kids not go down the same road as my dad," Yuhasz explained. "He used food for comfort, as so many children do."

According to Yuhasz, around 25 million kids in the United States are overweight or obese, and 89 percent of them will grow up to be obese adults.

Once Louie's Kids launched its website, children from around the country started applying for summer camp scholarships. Yuhasz found a camp in North Carolina that not only offered physical fitness and nutrition education but also cognitive behavioral therapy.

"We have to help kids change their behavior and teach them a better and more responsible way," Yuhasz said. "Food addiction is not much different than drug or alcohol addiction."

Louie's Kids continued to evolve. With the support of Principal Dirk Bedford, Yuhasz started an after-school program at Mitchell Elementary School in



Charleston that lasted for seven years.

Now, for Louie's Kids, it's all about the family, whether it's training for the Cooper River Bridge Run, the Floppin' Flounder on Sullivan's Island or the James Island Connector Run – or shopping for healthy food.

"This is no longer the kid approach only," Yuhasz said. "We have our amazing licensed counselor, Margaret Taylor, assess each parent who reaches out for help. The parents get the training, they get the grocery store tour and they get the "pantry raid," where one of our volunteer dietitians go to a home and literally help them replace the crap with real, affordable food."

Yuhasz said around a quarter of the organizations 400 or so volunteers live in the Mount Pleasant area. Many families who participate in Louie's Kids programs also live East of the Cooper.

As a reward for their hard work, kids who show progress will be eligible to earn spots at summer camp or in the 2016 Big Chef Little Chef program, where they will work with some of the Lowcountry's most accomplished culinary artists.

"Weight loss has to be slow and steady," Yuhasz said. "12-year-olds can't do this on their own. They have to have engaged parents." 🍌

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Dr. Jane Charles

Solving an Autism Dilemma

DR. JANE CHARLES, A PEDIATRICIAN in the Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina, knew that children under the age of 3 who were showing signs of autism were trapped in a Catch-22 of sorts: Before they could receive intensive therapy, they had to be diagnosed with autism. But the waiting list for the necessary test was so long that by the time it was determined that they actually were autistic, they had passed their third birthday and had to move on to a different waiting list before they could be treated.

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

She didn't give up, and instead worked with an "Act Early Team" comprised of parents, psychologists, the state Autism Society and departments of Education and Health and Human Services and other stakeholders. She helped pass state legislation that allows youngsters to take advantage of South Carolina's early intervention program, BabyNet South Carolina, based on the results of the Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers (STAT).



"This tool is not diagnostic but screening and it's pretty accurate," Dr. Charles explained. "You don't need a lot of training to use it. Now, you get the STAT and start with Early Intensive Behavior Intervention (EIBI). You're on the waiting list for the ADOS, but you're getting services while you're on the waiting list."

The ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule) test takes around four hours, and few people in South Carolina are trained to administer it. That's why, according to Dr. Charles, kids must wait six months or more to take the test.

"What was happening was that by the time kids were diagnosed with autism, they had aged out of early intensive services. That was a big problem. Then they had to go on another waiting list for therapy," she said.

Dr. Charles, a pediatrician for almost 25 years, said children with autism display delayed language skills and poor eye contact. They are withdrawn and don't answer to their name, and they don't point to things they want. She said the ADOS test can be done at 18 months of age or younger, but she added that 30 percent of kids with autism developed normally until 20 to 24 months, then regressed.



She said "a very small number" of children take the STAT test and are eligible for services, then later become ineligible after taking the ADOS test.

"Maybe the STAT was inaccurate or the child made progress and no longer met the criteria for autism. A child can make so much progress that he or she no longer meets the criteria for autism. That's not uncommon," she pointed out. 🐾

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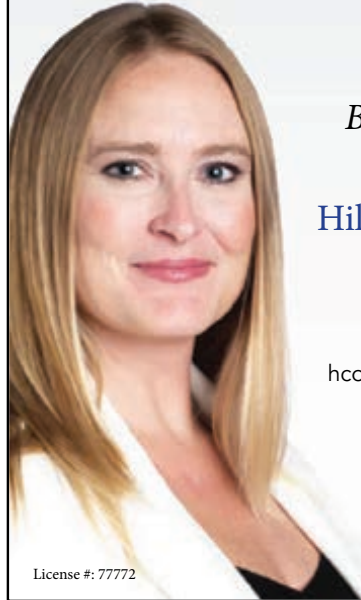
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Ken Terry manages the Publix supermarket in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

ASK A FEW locals who shop at any of the three Publix supermarkets East of the Cooper what's the best thing about that experience, and you'll likely get as many answers as there are people in that group. Is it the produce? The bakery? The meats and poultry? The cheerful, helpful staff?

While every shopper may have a favorite aspect of Publix, all would probably agree about the regional chain's commitment to the communities it serves. Just this September, for example, Publix Super Markets Charities announced a donation of \$4 million to Habitat for Humanity affiliates throughout the South, including numerous affiliates in South Carolina.

"Every family deserves an opportunity to have a roof over their heads and food on their table," said Carol Jenkins Barnett, the foundation's president. "We are delighted to continue our 26-year partnership with Habitat for Humanity."

Looking at the big picture, that's surely a significant representation of the supermarket chain's generosity.

But what about examples right here in East Cooper?

According to Media and Community Relations Director Kim Reynolds, "Publix supports thousands of local organizations across our market areas committed to youth, education and the plight of the hungry and homeless. Publix is also a large supporter of the Trident United Way via a workplace giving campaign in which Publix Super Markets Charities matches a percentage of associates' giving."

Outreach to benefit youth is of particular significance to the grocery chain's efforts. Just a partial listing of schools and youth activities that have benefited from the retailer's generosity includes Pinckney Elementary, Jennie Moore Elementary, Thomas C. Cario Middle School, Wando High School, Crown Leadership Academy, Town of Mount Pleasant Children's Day Festival, East Cooper Rotary Oktoberfest 5K and the Walk for Autism.

Reflecting on Publix' many local charity activities, Queensborough Shopping Center store manager Scott Walsh observed, "Publix has given us this great opportunity to be involved within our communities

and has opened the door to engage with local organizations such as the Special Olympics, March of Dimes, the United Way and the Lowcountry Food Bank.”

Echoing Walsh’s belief in the company’s commitment to community service, Ben Sawyer Boulevard store manager Kristin Brooks added, “As a business, it is our responsibility to give back to the community and to support those who are our customers. We give back in many ways, including through volunteering at our local schools, the Day of Caring and Habitat for Humanity.”

Such locally focused attention to



community needs is hardly surprising from a company that has been listed among *Fortune’s* 100 Best Places to Work for 18 years and as one of *Fortune’s* Most Admired Companies for 21 years.

As Reynolds put it, “Publix celebrated our 85th anniversary in September. From the very beginning, our founder, George Jenkins, instilled a culture of giving. That culture remains today amongst our associates. We have the best associates in the business. They are committed to engaging the hearts and minds of our customers and to giving their time and resources for the betterment of the community.”

“I have worked with Publix for almost 21 years,” affirmed Jeremy Schwarb, a longtime employee. “I

started as a bag boy while in high school in Georgia. They have great benefits and treat their employees right. I will retire from there.”

The stores’ associates, often with help from Publix’ community-minded customers, give to East Cooper affiliates of the Special Olympics, Children’s Miracle Network and Teachers’ Supply Closet through register campaigns and to organizations such as Lowcountry Food Bank through the company’s perishable recovery program.

Within the company, the Publix Serves program provides an additional avenue for associates to make an “impactful difference” in their communities.

Some Publix associates are potential recipients of the company’s community contributions to organizations such as Special Olympics. Employees with challenges can be found hard at work at Publix stores throughout the Lowcountry.

“At Publix,” Reynolds said, “we place a priority on providing a workplace where everyone can feel welcome, secure and valued. We focus on the abilities of each associate and help them achieve what success looks like to them. It’s a place where you can be exceptional and be yourself.”

It’s clear that Publix reaches out to a wide variety of good causes throughout the communities it serves – in addition to offering all the national and store-brand items shoppers have come to expect. But what about the question of what’s the best thing about shopping at Publix? Well, one savant opined that the one and only answer must be the outstanding, incredible fried chicken. Of course, that sage shopper was me. 🍗

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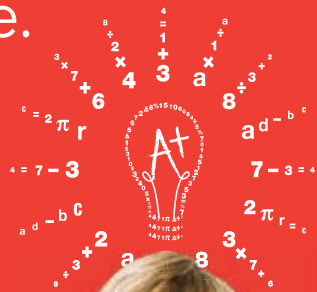
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Photo by Jenn Cady.

Visions *for* MUSC

Dr. Patrick Cawley

Story by Erin Danly.

SINCE ARRIVING AT THE MEDICAL University of South Carolina in 2003, Medical Center CEO Dr. Patrick Cawley has seen the opening of Ashley River Tower in 2008. Now he's directing the building of the new Children's Hospital, which is scheduled to open in 2019.

"A lot of hospital leaders often never get the opportunity to build a new hospital, but to be able to build two new hospitals is a special treat for a CEO," he said.

The new Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital will give MUSC the space it needs to grow and serve more people while continuing to strengthen its pediatric programs. Every year since 2007, the current Children's Hospital has been ranked as a "best hospital" in the nation for its



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pediatric cardiology and heart surgery program by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Especially gratifying to Dr. Cawley, who also is the vice president for Clinical Operations at MUSC, is how much support the project has received from the community, which has been both “mental” and financial, he said.

“Philanthropy is a big piece of that. It’s warm to see the community step up and put their own financial resources on the table to see it will be built,” he remarked.

With that community support, MUSC plans to break ground on the project in the spring of 2016.

Dr. Cawley has a vision for the Children’s Hospital to serve not only the people of South Carolina but people from across the country.

“You will see the Children’s Hospital become much more of a national resource, which is good for Charleston,” he said. “People come and see the great things here and want to move here.”

He also predicted that the future of medicine will focus more on wellness and prevention than it does today; it will be more proactive than reactive. MUSC already does a lot of that now, Dr. Cawley pointed out, and it’s an ongoing process.

“People seem to think you focus on wellness and it happens, but it really doesn’t work that way,” he said. “You need to have your doctors and nurses learn this approach. You need to have electronic records. You need to make a big investment in analytics or data. We’ve made big investments in all of those areas. We’re going to be doing that to a greater degree in the next five to 10 years.”

Success requires both internal and external resources. In addition to growing its “data shop,” MUSC also cooperates with outside companies.

“We work with IBM using their Watson technology to monitor and track people and try to predict who will get sick – and intervene before they do get sick,” he commented.

Born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Dr. Cawley received his medical degree from Georgetown University and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He completed his residency in internal medicine at

Duke University, where he was also one of the co-founders of its first hospital medicine program. He came to MUSC as director of Hospitalist Services, was appointed chief medical officer in 2006 and CEO in 2013.

Throughout his career, Dr. Cawley has focused on hospital medicine, in which patients are treated at a hospital, rather than at an outpatient practice. When he started in hospital medicine in the mid-1990s, it wasn’t common, but now it’s the fastest growing specialty in the United States, he said.

HIS OTHER FOCUS IS QUALITY.

“I’ve really worked on improving quality inside of hospitals. As an example, back in 2003, around the time I started, MUSC was about average in terms of quality and safety in the hospital. Just two years ago, we broke

into the top 20 in terms of hospitals around the nation. We greatly increased the quality and safety,” he said.

The hospital was able to make such big strides, according to Dr. Cawley, because of awareness, good timing and leadership.

“Changing quality in any industry is about having the expertise but also having the leadership ability to lead those kinds of things,” he pointed out. “I came around at the right time and happened to be part of the team.”

When Dr. Cawley isn’t at MUSC, he’s enjoying life in East Cooper with his wife and three children.

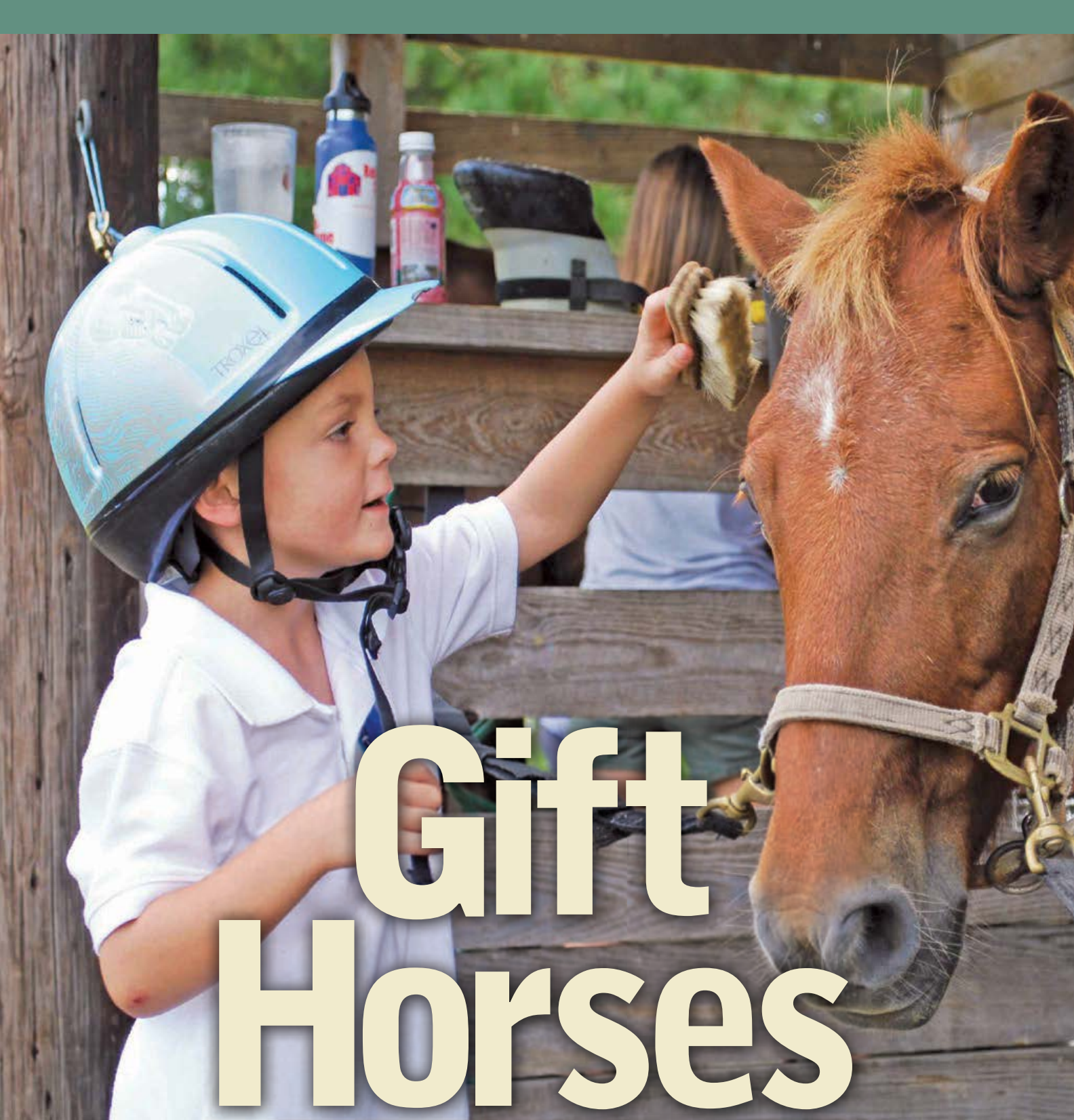
“It’s been a very welcoming place to live since we came here in 2003,” he said. “It’s been a friendly place.”

The Cawleys live in Mount Pleasant near the Ravenel Bridge and enjoy boating, sailing, swimming, walking the bridge and spending time at Waterfront Park.

And while he has a big vision for MUSC, however big MUSC gets, Dr. Cawley believes the important things will stay the same.

“I don’t see the mission changing: to take care of patients, to find new ways of taking care of patients through research and to educate the next generation of health care practitioners. That’s what we’ve been doing since 1824, and that will remain,” he said. 🐼





Gift Horses

THE BENEFITS OF THERAPEUTIC RIDING

*Story and Photography
by Brian Sherman.*



Above: J.R. Franken gets Rosie ready to ride. Right: Charlie Franken aboard Lovey. The Franken family lives in Mount Pleasant.

*“In riding a horse,
we borrow freedom.”*

– Helen Thompson

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT riding a horse that lifts a person above the bounds of the ordinary, engendering hope, optimism and a sense of self-worth and at least temporarily making life's inequities a little easier to bear. The partnership between horse and human is especially valuable for youngsters saddled with physical, emotional or social disabilities.

Just ask Catherine Tallman, executive director of Rein and Shine, an Awendaw-based organization whose mission is “to create and sustain an equine therapy facility where people with disabilities of all kinds can learn, grow and heal.”

“They have legs all of a sudden. They can do things normal people can do,” said Tallman, one of the organization's founding board members, a volunteer for nearly a decade and the director since 2010. “It gives them



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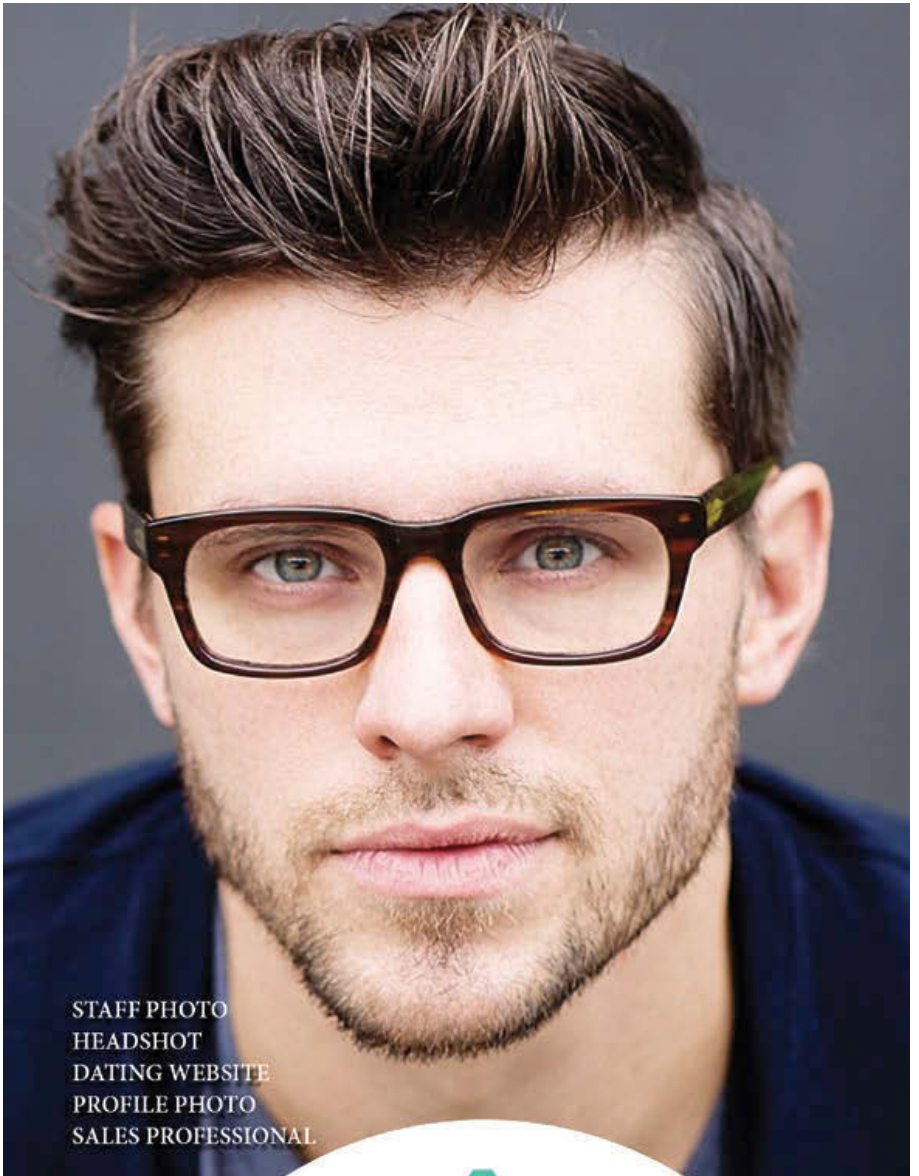


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Left: J.R. Franken and instructor Erin Bierwrith prepare Rosie for a riding session.



Right: Rein and Shine Executive Director Catherine Tallman with Charlie Franken and Lovey.

an activity that other kids are doing.”

Now accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, Rein and Shine was launched by Helen “Cokie” Berenyi in 2001 and was located on her property until moving to nearby Windwood Farm three years ago. The organization stays afloat by offering horsemanship classes to area residents, but its more altruistic job is serving children age 5 and older – and the occasional adult – who benefit from therapeutic riding.

Each rider represents a unique challenge and participates in a unique program.

“It depends on their disability,” Tallman explained. “For example, some autistic children don’t like anything different. It’s a challenge for them to even touch a horse, much less get on one. Therapeutic riding helps them focus.”

Tallman talked about several success stories that have emerged during Rein and Shine’s 14-year history. For instance, she mentioned a 21-year-old who entered the program when he was only 8 and in a wheelchair all day.

“He got to sit on something other than wheels,” she said. Another youngster who benefited from therapeutic

riding was an 8-year-old girl who was missing part of a leg, part of an arm and one hand. When she first found Rein and Shine, three people needed to walk beside her horse to make sure she didn’t fall off. Now she rides by herself.

Tallman also related the story of a boy who travels all the way from Myrtle Beach to ride at Rein and Shine. He has Angelman’s Syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects his balance and the way he walks and speaks. When he’s not riding a horse, he’s in a wheelchair.

Tallman said she’s seen autistic kids who never spoke a word – until they spent some time aboard a horse at Rein and Shine.

And then there’s the case of Tate Mikell, a Mount Pleasant police officer who suffered a brain aneurysm. When he showed up at Rein and Shine in 2008, he was using a walker to get around. Now, Tallman said, he rides independently. He recently returned to the facility after a two-year hiatus.

“He got back on like he’d never quit,” Tallman said.

Rein and Shine also has been a boon for at-risk kids from Liberty Hill School in North Charleston. Around eight of



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them make the trip to Awendaw twice a month. In addition, the organization offers four weeks of summer camp. Ten kids participate in each one-week session, and, this year, there was a waiting list to get into the program. And Rein and Shine will soon start a program for another group that will certainly benefit from the programs it offers. One of the organization's four instructors recently was certified to work with veterans, who will participate at no cost through scholarships. Some of the younger students also receive financial help.

Tallman pointed out that the kids who live at Windwood currently don't participate with Rein and Shine, though she hopes to change that sometime soon.

"It would be a great way to motivate them," she said.

Around 15 horses live at Windwood, though some of them have health issues and don't participate in Rein and Shine programs. Tallman said students pair up with 11 different horses and that most of them have been donated or loaned to the organization.

"We're not in the business of buying horses," she said.

She explained that horses are thoroughly examined by a veterinarian, then must complete a 60-day trial before earning a permanent home with Rein and Shine. If they don't react well being around kicking-and-screaming children or having balls thrown at them, or if they aren't comfortable with people standing near them or they don't get along with the other horses, they don't stay.

Though Tallman never owned a horse, she rode at boarding school and at the College of Charleston, where she earned a degree in English. She hadn't spent any time around disabled people, however, so Rein and Shine was a new experience for her and for her children as well. When she served as a volunteer, she brought Leighton and Robert, now 15 and 11, respectively, with her.

"My kids got to be around other people who weren't as lucky as they are," she said. "Now they know how blessed they are."

Tallman is no longer a volunteer, but her job is made easier by the 60 or so people who donate their time and talent to help Rein and Shine's programs run smoothly.

Rein and Shine's main fundraising event used to be a

barn raiser, complete with an auction and silent auction, music and food. Since moving to Windwood, the organization has changed its focus, hosting an annual breakfast at the Harbour Club in downtown Charleston. Joe Riley, longtime mayor of the Holy City, was the speaker at the most recent event.

Rein and Shine also receives financial support from donations and grants.

Tallman, who worked in property management before getting into the business of therapeutic riding and horsemanship, apparently has found a home at the Rein and Shine arena at Windwood Farm.

"Every day is so rewarding. There's no reason I wouldn't continue doing this," she said. "And I love the idea of not having to dress up to go to work." 🐾



J.R. Franken is living proof of the benefits of therapeutic riding.

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Songs *of the* Season

WHERE TO LISTEN

*Compiled by Stacy E. Domingo.
Photography by William Quarles.*

IN THE BUSINESS OF magazines, we always have to be thinking ahead. For instance, during the holiday season last year, our publisher had the idea to get a few photos of area churches from various denominations so we could show them off in this year's holiday issue. Many thanks go out to William Quarles for these stunning images.

Of course, as beautiful as a photo

might be, it can't duplicate the feeling we get when we're somewhere in person, enjoying the holiday magic and listening to our favorite festive tunes. That's why I asked my contributing editor, Stacy E. Domingo, to compile a list of places to do just those things.

On behalf of everyone at *Mount Pleasant Magazine*, may this season fill you with joy.

—Denise K. James, Managing Editor 🦋

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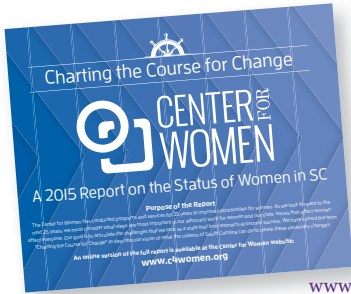
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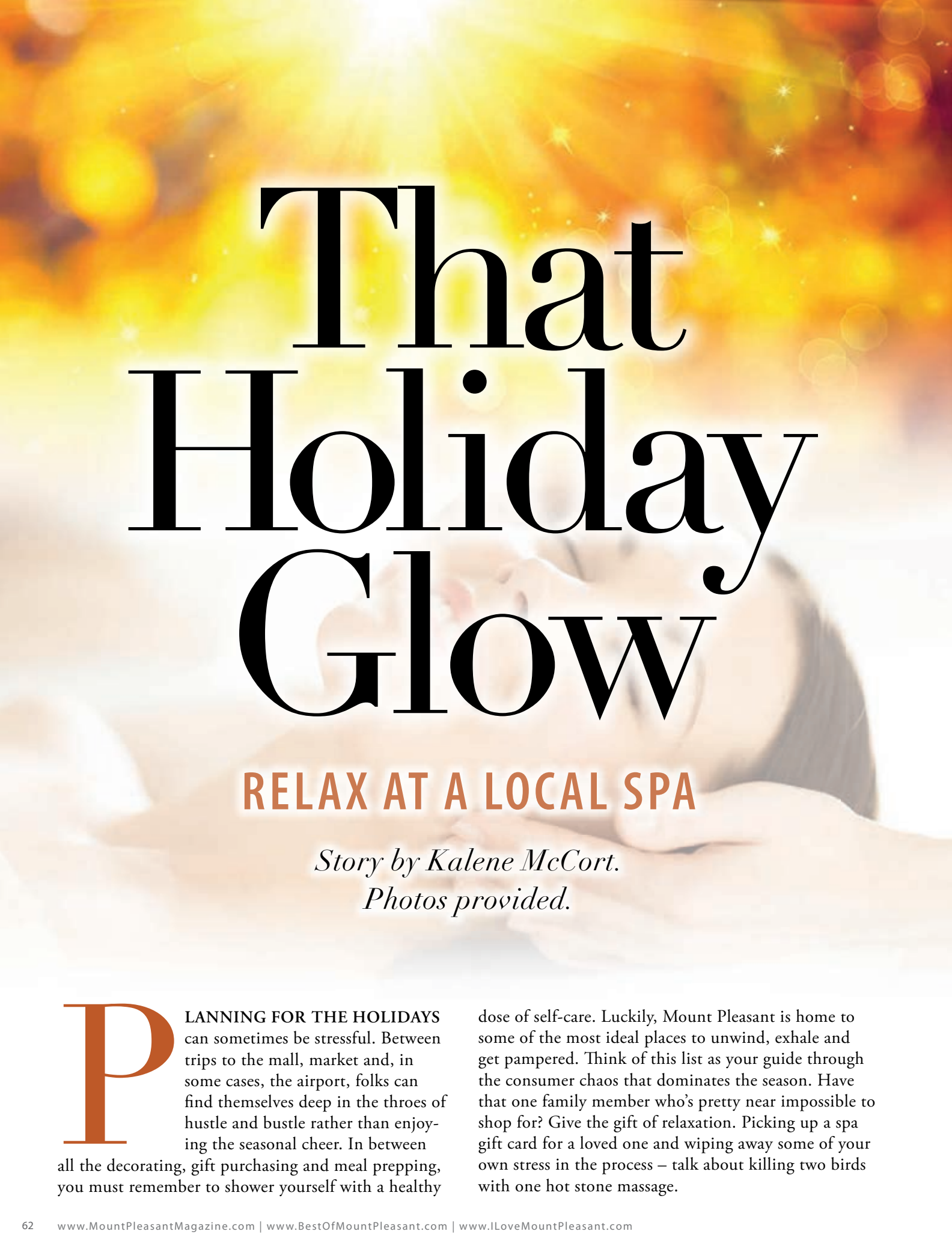
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A person is lying face down on a white towel at a spa, with their hands clasped in front of them. The background is a warm, glowing bokeh of yellow and orange lights, creating a relaxing and festive atmosphere.

That Holiday Glow

RELAX AT A LOCAL SPA

*Story by Kalene McCort.
Photos provided.*

PLANNING FOR THE HOLIDAYS can sometimes be stressful. Between trips to the mall, market and, in some cases, the airport, folks can find themselves deep in the throes of hustle and bustle rather than enjoying the seasonal cheer. In between all the decorating, gift purchasing and meal prepping, you must remember to shower yourself with a healthy

dose of self-care. Luckily, Mount Pleasant is home to some of the most ideal places to unwind, exhale and get pampered. Think of this list as your guide through the consumer chaos that dominates the season. Have that one family member who's pretty near impossible to shop for? Give the gift of relaxation. Picking up a spa gift card for a loved one and wiping away some of your own stress in the process – talk about killing two birds with one hot stone massage.

THE WOODHOUSE DAY SPA

The name alone conjures up an image of a cedar-laden abode high in the Swiss Alps. Fortunately, you can save on airfare and experience this resort-like spa right here in the Lowcountry.



“When a new guest walks in, they are blown away by how luxurious the spa is and how attentive we are,” said Woodhouse Day Spa owner Kimberly Powell. “We love welcoming our guests. They love the complimentary glass of wine, the heated lavender neck wrap and fireside relaxation room.”

Offering a number of services, Woodhouse provides a cure for just about all that ails. From sleep treatments that incorporate the use of therapeutic sound and essential oils to age-defying seaweed facials, the possibilities are endless.

“The Woodhouse Day Spa gift card truly makes the perfect gift,” said Powell. “This allows the recipient to come in and select the perfect service for them and enjoy the spa.”

For those that truly want to feel the bliss there is “The Woodhouse Experience” – five hours and 15 minutes of some of the best treatments offered. Enjoy a four-handed massage, a Minkyti facial and finish off the day with delicious food meant to delight your senses.

“Woodhouse Day Spa is a boutique franchise, and the CEO and amazing team at headquarters devote a great deal of time into making sure we are always offering the latest and most results-oriented and relaxing treatments for our guests,” said Powell. “Dr. Linda Torrey, with a Ph.D. in Ayurvedics, helps develop world-class protocols for Woodhouse Day Spa.”

Want to experience the pampering with a partner? “Two’s Company” consists of duet Swedish massages and warm agave nectar pedicures. Leave feeling renewed and rejuvenated in a way you never knew you could.

“We will have several holiday promotions throughout

the season,” said Powell. “Black Friday, Cyber Monday and the two weeks prior to Christmas we will promote by email and on our Facebook page.”

Visit www.charleston.woodhousespas.com to learn more.

AESTHETISPA COSMETIC SKIN & LASER CENTER

Located on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, AesthetiSpa has been a household name in cosmetic skin care for over a decade. With an engaging staff and innovative treatments, it’s clear to see why this establishment continues to attract a loyal following looking to spruce up.

“The most rewarding part of my job is working with women and men to help them feel more confident and beautiful every day,” said owner Dr. Christy Cone. “It’s so much fun.”

From microdermabrasion to laser vein removal, AesthetiSpa provides guests with the latest techniques the industry has to offer.

“We do offer a full range of wonderful, nonsurgical aesthetic services,” said Dr. Cone. “The most popular are Botox, Dysport, wrinkle fillers, Thermage and IPL Photorejuvenation.”



Explore your options in an environment that aims to soothe and deliver optimal results time and again.

“I want a guest to feel comfortable, safe and at home when they walk through the doors at AesthetiSpa,” remarked Dr. Cone. “It’s of utmost importance to us to provide very individualized service and the best care possible for each and every client.”

Be sure to check their website to register for a 25-percent-off coupon and to keep up with seasonal specials.

Visit aesthetispa.com to learn more.

STOX & CO.

Ideally located in the heart of Mount Pleasant, Stox & Co. is your one-stop shop for all things elegant. Sprinkled with vibrant greenery and sleek chandeliers, the vibe is



undeniably chic. While the décor is magazine-worthy and teeming with Zen-appeal, the staff and services are even more inviting. Before heading in to indulge in a deep tis-

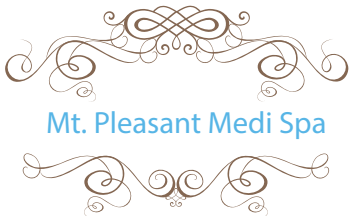
sue massage or Sweet T Sugar Scrub, you'll most likely be dazzled by the jewelry for sale in the foyer. Sourced by international artists, these natural gemstones are sure to add just the right amount of bohemian bling to your ensemble.

"I believe that the unique atmosphere of the Stox & Co. brand sets us apart from others," said manager Margaret Rogers. "Whether coming in for a salon or spa service or to shop in our boutique, we strive to maintain a relaxing escape for everyone from the moment you enter our doors."

This award-winning spa and salon franchise has provided patrons with two decades of memorable pampering in several South Carolina locations – its latest establishment is on Coleman Boulevard. Residents of the neighboring apartment complex, The Boulevard, always receive 10 percent off any service.

From customized airbrush tans to botanical hair therapy, the list of services they offer is vast. Be sure to follow Stox & Co. on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with seasonal specials.

"The most rewarding aspect of my job is seeing guests' transformations from the time they walk in the door to the time they leave," said Rogers. "Such transformations go far beyond a new hairstyle; rather it is the sense of their renewed,



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Thanks Mount Pleasant for voting Dr. Heidi Williams as one of the best plastic surgeons.



uplifted spirit. Being able to witness that and help cultivate an atmosphere where people can escape from life's circumstances is ultimately the most rewarding aspect to me."

Visit www.stoxandco.com to learn more.

MOUNT PLEASANT MEDI-SPA

This trusted name in the industry continues to serve the folks of Mount Pleasant and beyond. Uniquely, the spa



is a sister project of Dr. Heidi Williams, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, combining spa services with surgical procedures.

From laser hair removal to facials that are guaranteed to leave you glowing, the services are varied. With highly-skilled aestheticians on hand to brighten up your dark circles and shrink your pores, you'll leave looking and feeling like a new version of yourself.

Mount Pleasant Medi-Spa's in-house makeup artist is also available to get people glammed up before a photo shoot or special event.

Call 843-375-0270 to learn more.

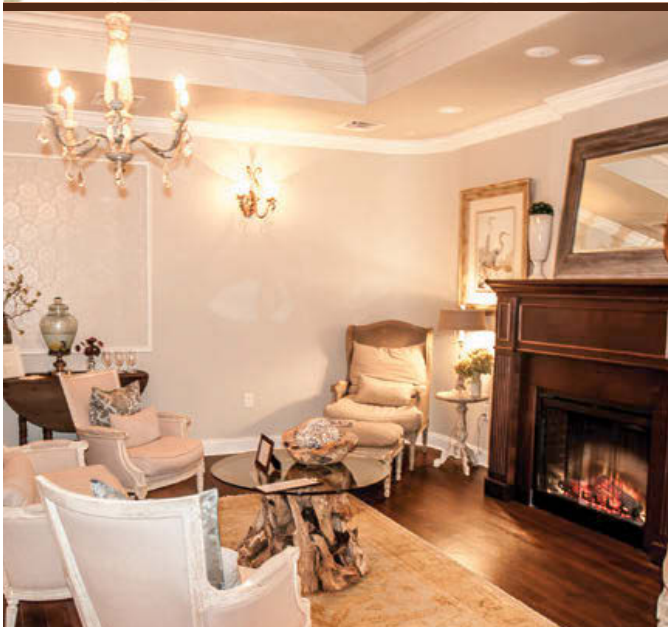
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WHAT TO GET THE KIDS

Story by Barbara Millen Patrick.

Photos provided.

WHEN IT COMES TO THOSE lengthy holiday shopping lists, your child is hoping for an iPhone 6S. And the newest iPad. And an Xbox. But you probably already knew that. So here are some other great holiday gift ideas for the young tech buff in your life.

This year, trending toys for kids of all ages include STEM products. These are designed to encourage an interest in all phases of technology, including math, building and coding – and they’re not just for boys. Plus a few old favorites such as Barbie have gone high-tech.

These products are available online and at local retailers. Happy shopping!



Joyous holiday wishes to you and your family ...

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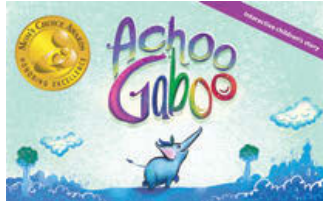
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FOR THE WEE ONES

These days, even toddlers engage with a smartphone or a tablet, so they might as well learn while they're swiping. "Achoo Gaboo" is an imaginative, educational and fun application specifically designed to encourage reading. Developed locally by Pixure Books Publishing, "Achoo Gaboo" is an engaging app featuring an elephant named Gaboo who has a sneezing problem. Every time he sneezes, his trunk blows out rainbow bubbles. Kids love popping the bubbles. And his monkey friends find all those achoos hilarious.



"Achoo Gaboo" was created by Mount Pleasant resident Timothy Banks, an illustrator and designer whose specialty is "beautifully quirky illustration."



Leapfrog is well-known for innovative products, and its "LeapPad Ultra" is no exception. It's designed to give 4- to 9-year-olds the tablet experience with Wi-Fi and kid-safe sites. They can

download apps, play games, take pictures and listen to their playlist.

FOR THE STEM KIDS

Toys that employ the STEM theme – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – are among the hottest gift ideas. After all, it's never too early to learn how to code and create future technology.

"Dot and Dash" are two cute robots designed for kids age 5 and up who are interested in coding. Kids can play using apps and eventually learn to write simple codes.



Dollhouses have gone interactive in a big way.



"Roominate" is a clever new way for kids to build a studio apartment or a miniature mansion, including wiring light fixtures and creating tiny motors to run the elevator.

Stay tuned for the **2016 Best of Mount Pleasant** Winners in Our Next Issue!

A full list of winners is available in our special annual edition!

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Bigger kids might like bigger robots, such as the **“Meccanoids,”** which can be programmed three different ways. A smartphone and a free app are required, but kids will have a blast programming sounds and motion. The robots will even mimic your kids’ motions.

FOR ACTION KIDS

Encourage your kids to engage in fitness. If you’re wearing a FitBit or other activity tracker, they’ll love the **“Kidizoom Smart Watch”** by VTech. It includes game, tools (calculator and calendar), a motion sensor and lots of memory for photos and videos.



FOR GAMER KIDS

“INNO TV” is a special gaming system for kids between the ages of 3 and 8. It connects to the TV, includes a kid-friendly controller and comes with several games. The expandable memory allows enough room to download additional games from VTech’s Learning Lodge.



FOR THE GIRLY GIRLS

Barbie never ages – rather, age improves her. Thanks to creative new apps, the newest Barbie can chat with your child. She can tell jokes, play interactive games, remember conversations and engage in girl talk.

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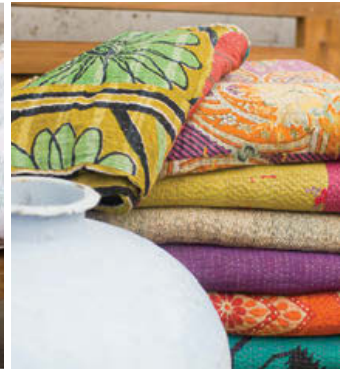
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Spirit of Christmas Competition

THE ELVES OF EAST COOPER MEDICAL CENTER

Story by Pamela Brownstein.

Photos courtesy of East Cooper Medical Center.




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THE BRIGHT LIGHTS AND SEEMINGLY EFFORTLESS festivities of the Mount Pleasant Christmas Light Parade mask a spirited competition in which more than 100 businesses, schools and community groups try to one-up holiday cheer.

At East Cooper Medical Center, hours are spent plotting behind closed doors, all in an effort to create a memorable float that will outshine the competition and secure a first-place finish

for yet another year.

A dedicated committee begins holding private meetings in May – more than six months before the actual event – in order to start developing a theme, breaking down duties and hashing out details.

“Imagine a bunch of guys in a room talking about floats, and their eyes light up,” said Tracy Hunter, East Cooper’s chief human resource officer and leader of the clandestine crew. “We are extremely proud of our float, and we take it seriously.”



The core group of Dick Hayes, Keith Holley, Mike Foster and Dr. William Stroud has been working as a team for years, and the fruits of their labor seem to get better every year.

“As we go through this process, we design, we build, we collaborate,” Hunter said. “Each committee member brings a different skill set – a construction worker, an IT guy, a designer. It’s a very diverse group that comes together; they’re the ones that keep it rolling.”

Hunter has been holding the reins since she moved to Mount Pleasant and started her job at the hospital five years ago.

“When I got here, no one else wanted the position,” she admitted.

Putting the float together had been taboo before – a lot of effort for little reward – but she helped turn that around.

A pivotal moment came when East Cooper Medical Center CEO Jason Alexander, who started in August 2011, described his philosophy: “If you’re going to do something, do it right.” Hunter said those words motivated the entire Float Committee to step up their game.

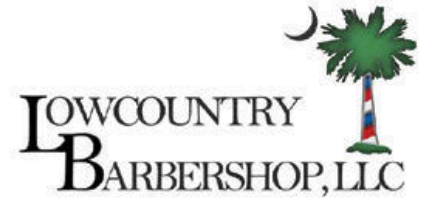
After taking second place in their category in 2012, they channeled renewed determination and in 2013 emerged in first place. Each year, the theme of the float focuses on a certain service line within the hospital. For example, in 2014, the winning float featured the Emergency Department. Volunteers dressed in scrubs and danced beneath disco balls to the 1970s hit “Stayin’ Alive.”

“Taking first place for the past two years has really built enthusiasm and excitement around the float because it’s so much fun for us,” Hunter said.

It’s also put a bit of a target on their back.

Beyond the accolades from the community, the success of the parade floats has been a huge morale builder among hospital staff. Now everyone wants to be a part of the float. Hunter estimates that 60 to 70 people contribute in some way – whether planning, building, painting or walking in the parade.

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The elves of East Cooper Medical Center are headquartered in a big red barn located on the hospital campus. Every other Friday in October, the hospital holds events at the barn — featuring hot dog roasts or hot apple cider — that focus on getting employees involved with the float.



throned the two-time victors. So the question remains: What eye-catching concept will the hospital reveal this year? Just like the suspense that shrouds Christmas morning, Hunter wasn't willing to divulge even the slightest clue.

Regardless of the outcome of the parade

“People will come out on their lunch break or after work to the barn to help out,” Hunter said. “It’s a wonderful time.”

awards, Hunter is proud of all the hard work that goes into the float and is thankful for everyone who volunteers to put a smile on residents’ faces.

Even with all the preparations and employee participation, the last phase of the float process always presents challenges. The Friday before the parade is when the hospital gets its chariot, an 18-wheel truck, so it isn't until the final weekend that all the pieces of the float come together.

But behind the pleasantries is the reality: “Second place isn't an option,” she said with a wink. 🐛

“There have been a lot of times when things go wrong,” Hunter said. “It can be stressful.”

The 20th annual Mount Pleasant Christmas Light Parade and Tree Lighting will be held Dec. 13 on Coleman Boulevard. The lighting of the town of Mount Pleasant Christmas tree and a fireworks display begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the parade.

East Cooper Medical Center is feeling pressure to maintain its top-dog status, and others are undoubtedly vying to de-



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A Lowcountry Christmas at Boone Hall

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT: Trey Smith has a knack for bringing back people's fondest memories. As the owner of Dream Vision Entertainment – DVE – the same production company that scares us witless each year at Boone Hall Fright Nights, Smith is unveiling a new project this holiday season: A Lowcountry Christmas at Boone Hall Plantation.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Although it is quite a different challenge from Fright Nights, Smith and his crew are getting into the holiday spirit.

"The challenge with Christmas is to present the traditional elements in a way that people haven't seen," Smith remarked.

Fans of Fright Nights, in particular, will note the tight turnaround in transforming Boone Hall from a nightmare into a magical wonderland. A Lowcountry Christmas begins in earnest Thanksgiving weekend, right on the heels of goblins and ghouls permeating Boone Hall. Owner Willie McRae has wanted to bring a new Christmas event to the plantation for some time. Smith expanded DVE's operations at the beginning of this year where the company could take on multiple major projects at the same time, so he and McRae decided this past May the time was right to bring a new Christmas event to the Lowcountry for 2015.

"We knew about Christmas when we started planning Halloween in May," said Smith, who affirmed that plans for Fright Nights always begin as early as the spring. "We had people working on both Halloween and Christmas at one time. We're all working seven days a week."

But as much work as Smith has put into A Lowcountry Christmas, he still refused to take full credit – instead, he pointed out how invaluable his team has been this year and every year.

"The team I've put together – the same crew since May – has worked through the summer heat and even the recent flood," he mused. "They work hard, and I have

to acknowledge them. They are phenomenal. We've all made sacrifices."

There will be a bit of crossover between the two holiday events – some lights and technology, for example – but, unlike Fright Nights, A Lowcountry Christmas will be "great for any age," according to Smith. Admission tickets allow event goers to experience all three attractions featured at the new event for one price: Scrooge's hayride (which me and all my literary friends are thoroughly pumped about), strolls through Christmas Town and, perhaps the most magical part of the event, Santa's 3-D castle, which is sure to delight both young and old.

"We wanted to create that storybook atmosphere,"

Smith explained, "meaning that whatever people see in their favorite holiday books, television specials and movies, we're bringing that to them."

And when Smith says he is bringing it to us, he means in a hands-on, interactive fashion. The Christmas Village is an actual village, complete with a post office, where kids can send their heartfelt letters to Santa Claus; a charity bank, where visitors can donate to

local organizations; a gift shop just for kids, where they can buy presents for just \$5; shops with cookies and holiday beverages like hot chocolate; and much more.

As for favorite holiday books, the holiday hayride will not only spotlight "A Christmas Carol," it'll share the thoughts, ideas and moods of Ebenezer Scrooge as it winds through scenes of Christmas past, present and future, complete with custom-built figures wearing the costumes of the era.

"Our hope is that people will want to experience something fresh and different this season," Smith remarked. ❄️

To experience the inaugural "A Lowcountry Christmas at Boone Hall Plantation," visit <http://alowcountrychristmas.com> for details and tickets. Prices for tickets, which include admission to all three attractions, are \$15 for adults, \$8 for children or – available online only – \$36 for a family four-pack with additional tickets discounted \$1.



Photo courtesy of Boone Hall Plantation.

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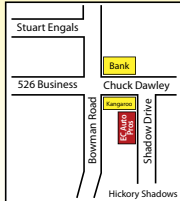
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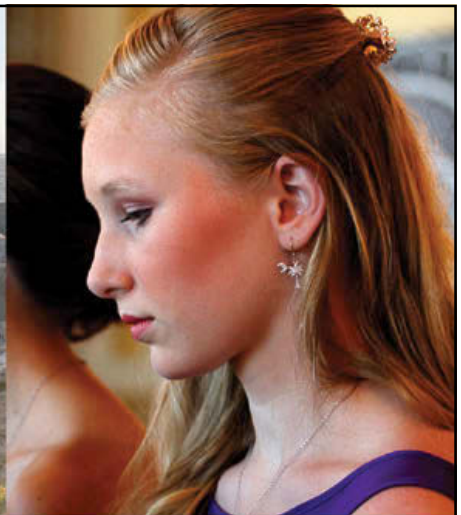
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Around 500 people showed up for the groundbreaking ceremony for The Center for Jewish Life, including Mount Pleasant Mayor Linda Page.



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Above: An artist's rendering of what the new building will look like. Below: Eli Bakalo and Chaya Refson helped out at the groundbreaking ceremony.



JEWISH FAMILIES SEEKING A TASTE OF their religious heritage will soon have an array of appetizing options.

The Charleston Center for Jewish Life, a 12,000-square-foot building currently under construction on 2.5 acres of land in a secluded, wooded area on Mathis Ferry Road in Mount Pleasant, is scheduled to open its doors in May 2016. According to Rabbi Yossi Refson, the center will offer “a buffet or smorgasbord of Jewish life.”

“The idea was to create a space where people can come to discover and celebrate their Jewish heritage,” said Refson, who arrived in the Charleston area with his wife, Sarah, and 3-and-a-half-year-old son from New York eight years ago and established Chabad of Charleston and the Lowcountry. “A synagogue is wonderful, but this is not a synagogue. It’s a hybrid.”

According to Refson, a native of Great Britain, local residents will find a wealth of options at the center. In addition to sustenance for the spirit and soul, nourishment for the body will be offered as well in the form of healthy living workshops, yoga and meditation sessions. There also will be social programs, activities for seniors and singles and even

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Sarah Refson, Richard Star and Jerry Scheer at the groundbreaking.

classes to help local residents learn about or refine their skills in the area of Jewish cooking.

“People will be able to find whatever interests them, from Jewish mysticism to making chopped liver or matzo ball soup,” the rabbi explained. “There will be networking and celebrations around the Jewish holidays. You can celebrate and taste Jewish life in whatever form or fashion you want.”

Chabad is the second largest Jewish organization in the world, trailing only the state of Israel in numbers. Since arriving in the Lowcountry, the Refsons – local Chabad leaders always operate as a husband-and-wife team – have hosted Sabbath meals and other gatherings at their home, and they’ve also rented space for well-attended programs in local hotels. They had been looking for the perfect building to renovate and call their own but couldn’t find one large enough to suit

their needs.

“Then we found a wonderful, pristine piece of land,” Refson explained.

Though it will be much larger than the average house, the center will resemble the traditional Jewish home in that its center will be the kitchen.

“The spine of this building is the kitchen. In life, especially in Jewish life, the kitchen is the most important part of the house,” he said.

The building will include a dining room that adjoins the kitchen, along with a social hall, classrooms and a coffee bar. A chapel is to serve as a venue for events such as bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs, but religious services won’t be held regularly at the center.

Refson said other Jewish and non-Jewish groups will be able to use the center.

The pre-school will be open to children of all religious persuasions as well, though it will offer a Judaic-



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based curriculum.

"This is an ideal opportunity to learn Jewish values at an early age, values that will be an ideal foundation for life," Refson said.

Today, there are more than 3,000 Chabad centers in over 65 countries around the world, and, according to

Refson, each one is different, depending on the needs of its local community. Chabad chose to establish its presence in Mount Pleasant because "it is a vibrant, growing town."

"There are lots of Jewish people in Mount Pleasant and moving to Mount Pleasant," Refson said. "There



U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford was on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony, along with Emily and Jayda Rabin.

are young families and retirees, and they are looking to engage socially and spiritually.”

Jews have a long history in the Charleston area, first settling in the Holy City around 1695, according to www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org. Many of them were shopkeepers, traders and merchants. In 1749, they organized a formal religious congregation, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, which is now housed in the second oldest synagogue building in continuous use in the United States. The first Jewish person to hold elective public office in the New World, Charlestonian Francis Salvador, was also the first to die during the American Revolution.

Nearly two-and-a-half centuries later, the Charleston area is still home to a thriving Jewish community. The proof that there is interest in the Charleston Center for Jewish Life is that around 500 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony in July of this year, Refson said.

The center is not being built by Chabad but by local donors, Refson explained, pointing out that the project, including the land, will cost almost \$6 million. He went on to say that local residents won't have to pay membership dues to take advantage of the opportunities offered at the center. There will be a charge for some programs, while others will be free.

As for the Refsons, they intend to remain in the Lowcountry long after the center is completed.

“We’re here for the rest of our lives. You don’t leave,” the rabbi said in explaining Chabad tradition. “Once you go, you’re there for life.”



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LOWCOUNTRY HOMES APPEAR IN NATIONAL CATALOGS

Story by Denise K. James.

Photography by Cassandra Richerson and Brandon Clark.

NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN CLAIM that they've based a profession on scouting beautiful places, but Lowcountry native Arthur Howe can. Born into "a family of judges and attorneys" and raised East of the Cooper, Howe regularly searches for and finds picturesque locations to grace the pages of national catalogs. For example, photo production crews hired by a national home improvement store ven-

tured to Charleston this year and shot a home in the Old Village and a home on Sullivan's Island – both suggested by Howe – for their spring 2016 outdoor living catalog.

Though he loves finding homes worthy of photo shoots, Howe actually began his career working in film, after earning a degree in Media Arts at the University of South Carolina. He said that at the time of his graduation, the film industry in Charleston was booming.

"They made lots of movies here in the 1970s and



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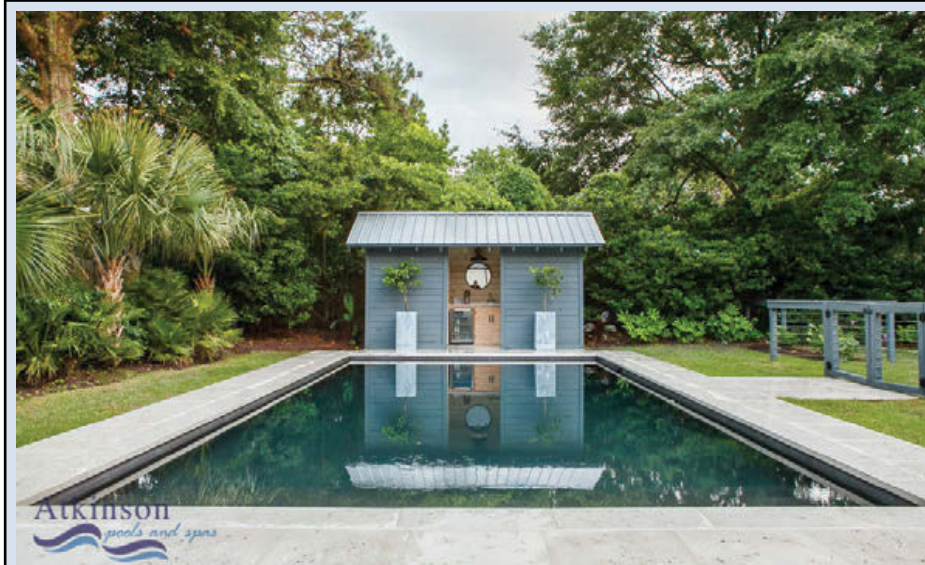
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Thanks to the seamless work of the folks at Blackbox and Kreber, each shoot is done with little hassle to the surrounding neighborhood, most likely a reason so many homeowners are willing to do it again.

'80s," he commented. "I cut my teeth on films such as 'Swamp Thing,' 'The Lords of Discipline' and 'The Prince of Tides.'"

The film industry "ze-nith" lasted until the early '90s, causing Charleston to implode culturally, according to Howe. He credited artistic happenings around the Lowcountry such as Spoleto Festival USA and live theater as reasons the area is not only appealing to those who visit but also to those who remain and raise families here. Thus, even after the film scene slightly declined, Howe made the decision to stay in the area and seek what else his hometown could offer him. He found it after "swapping" jobs with his longtime friend,



Oliver Mayfield. "I worked on movies for 15 or so years – my last major ones being 'Forrest Gump' and 'Rich in Love' – then realized I wasn't ever going to be a director here," Howe explained. "But I wanted to be here with my children, not out in Los Angeles. I had a buddy working in catalogs. We traded places. It sort of happened organically over the next six months." Carla Hughey, a Sullivan's Island resident, is more than happy for her home to be on Howe's list of attractive abodes. She said that the privilege of having her home photographed for catalogs "came with the house," since the builder and original owner, Sammy



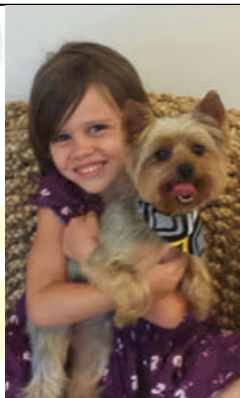
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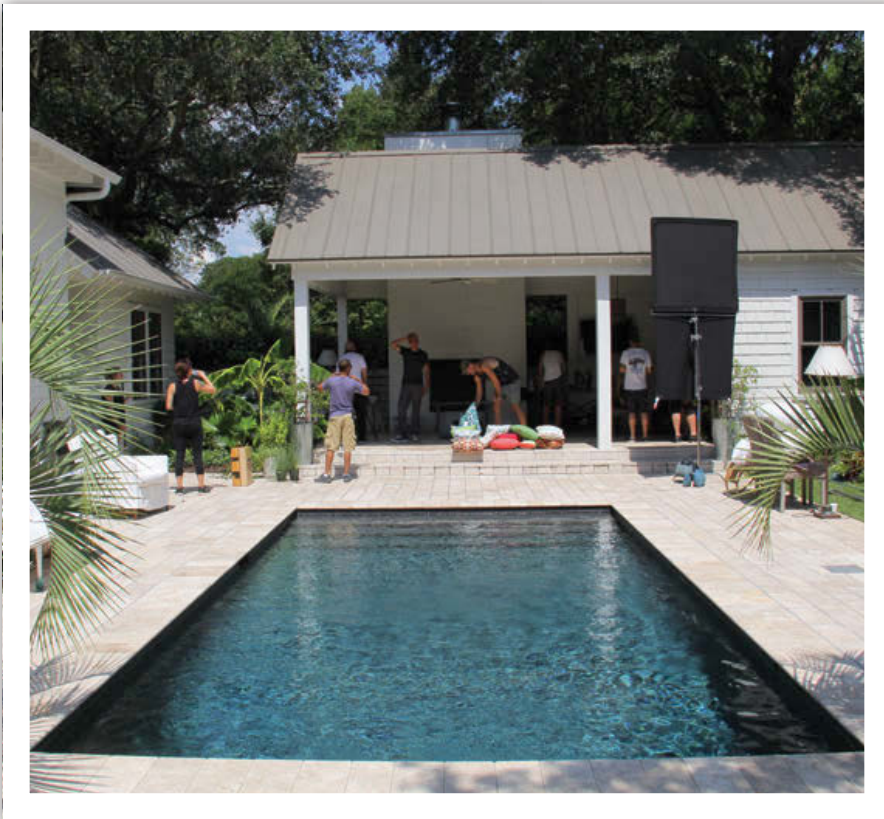
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Aside from the Hughey family, the Strauss family – Edward, Jennifer and their children – had their home in Mount Pleasant’s Old Village, pictured above, photographed for 2016 catalogs as well.

Rhodes, had a connection with Pottery Barn and *Better Homes and Gardens*. Over the last few years that the Hughey family has lived on Sullivan’s Island, they’ve enjoyed working with Howe and various production crews that assist in making their home a national star. Hughey also said she enjoys having a photo shoot at her home so that she can introduce her children to interesting opportunities within a creative industry.

And how, exactly, is a specific home chosen? It starts with the client reaching out to an advertising agency – in this case, Pure Red, a company based in Mooresville, North Carolina – and the agency reaching out to a production studio – in this case, Kreber, Inc. of High Point, North Carolina. Kreber often brings in Blackbox Studios, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, for larger projects such as this one. Kreber Producer Adam Belaj and Blackbox

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Producer Shane Baskin have partnered on similar projects for three years, and both know who to call when they need a home that oozes Southern charm and photo-worthiness – trusted scout Arthur Howe.

“Generally, when we find out (from Pure Red and Kreber) about the shooting dates, we reach out to location scouts and give them a description of what we need,” Baskin explained. “Arthur is part of our family. He’s our go-to for finding homes.”

According to Baskin, several photo galleries of potential homes go back to the client for selection purposes. After the team gets word on which homes will be used – “Hopefully homes we can spend more than just one day shooting,” Baskin commented – the crew tries to visit the home ahead of time and figure out the best shots. Sometimes, as in Carla Hughey’s case, the home has changed slightly.

“We’d recently sanded the floors down, and we added cables to our back porch,” Hughey noted.

“Pre-shoot, we ideally go look at the location,” Baskin added. “It’s called a tech scout. We figure out parking and logistics and speak to the neighbors to make sure they’re OK with it, too. We also take a photo of how things look,

so we can leave them the way we found them.”

Aside from the Hughey family, the Strauss family – Edward, Jennifer and their children – had their home in Mount Pleasant’s Old Village photographed for 2016 catalogs as well. Thanks to the seamless work of the folks at Blackbox and Kreber, each shoot is done with little hassle to the surrounding neighborhood – most likely a large reason Howe and Baskin know so many homeowners who are willing to do it again.

“One of my favorite memories was when one of our homeowners said, ‘I’m going to cook you guys lunch,’” Baskin recalled with a chuckle. “He then had to prepare lunch for 23 of us! I ended up cooking along with him. We had a great meal – steaks, salmon, asparagus. We usually end up becoming friends with the owners.”

And, no doubt, Charleston and its hospitable homeowners will continue to appear in catalogs and other marketing photography, at least if Arthur Howe has anything to say about it.

“I’ve been fortunate living here,” he mused. “It’s the perfect infrastructure. And did you know the number two export in the United States is media – movies, television and magazines? We’re all about the art of communication.” 🐝

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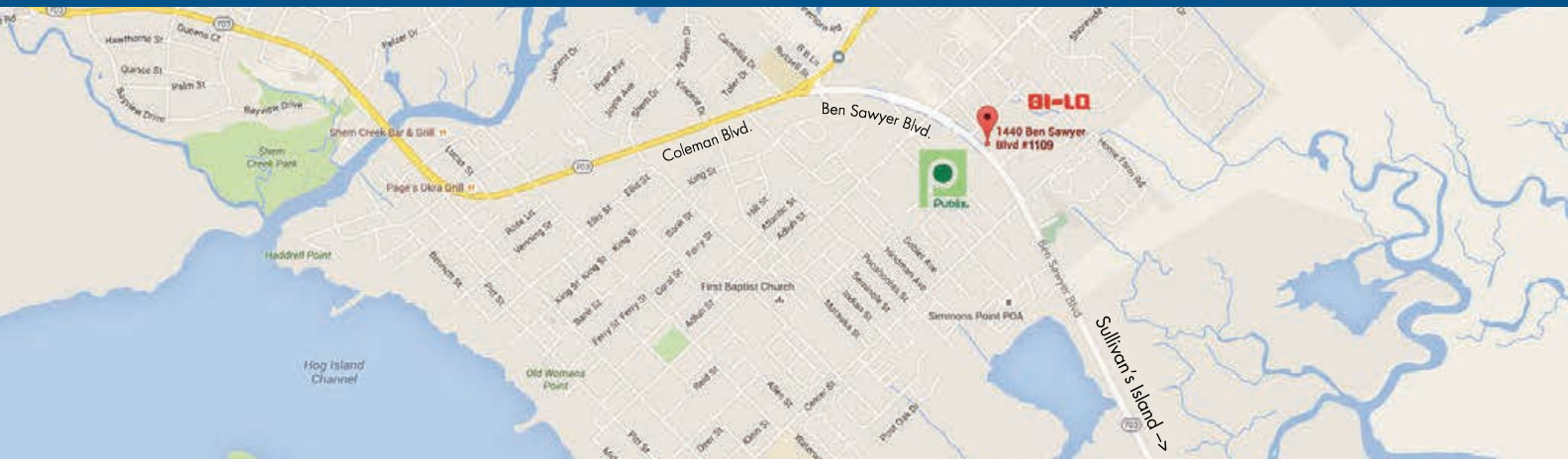
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BERT'S PHARMACY AND BAR

Story by Brian Barrie.

Photos courtesy of the Wurthmann family.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU CAN'T THROW A SAND dollar down Middle Street in Sullivan's Island these days without hitting a bar or restaurant, but that hasn't always been the case.

Before Poe's, before Dunleavy's ... before all of that, there was Bert's Bar. And if you were at Bert's, you weren't there to Instagram your dinner, you weren't meeting friends before a night on the town and you certainly didn't

arrive there in a golf cart. Bert's was a bar's bar.

That's not where Bert's story starts. If you walk back a bit further in time, Bert's was something else entirely.

Bert's Pharmacy – as it was originally known – was the social hub of the school-age crowd on the island, serving milkshakes and cheeseburgers to Sullivan's Island's young baby boomers.

Bert Wurthmann opened the pharmacy on his



beloved Sullivan's Island in 1954, and, along with his wife and eventually their children, operated the store as a one-stop-shop for everything from milkshakes to medicine, serving the locals as well as the occasional day-

tripper from off the island.

When Gina Wurthmann Lesslie was probably not quite old enough, she went to work for her father in the family business, initially at the candy counter before graduating to



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Many young residents of Sullivan's Island got their first taste of the real-world workforce at Bert's Pharmacy.

running the grill while still only a pre-teen.

"The drugstore was about families and kids – no tourists really," Lesslie recalled. "Very few people lived on the island year-round, so everybody knew everybody. Some people would come in every day, sit at the counter and just hang out."

"It was a little bit like Mayberry back then,"

Lesslie continued. "I'd sit at

the penny candy counter and do my homework. You'd know everybody who came in."

It wasn't just family that Wurthmann hired to help with the business – a lot of islanders got their first taste of the workforce serving customers at Bert's.

Wurthmann hired Dolleah "Dee" Summer Estrada to work there in 1968, the summer she turned 15, and she remembers it vividly.

"The front was all glass, and, when you walked in on the left, there was a long counter with red leather stools. Behind the counter there was a flat grill and the soda fountain," Estrada remembered. "On the very end of the

counter, on the left-hand side, was a big candy counter. I remember one of the hottest selling items that summer was cinnamon clove chewing gum for 5 cents a pack."

"In the very back of the store was the actual pharmacy, slightly raised above the level of the rest of the store so Wurthmann could keep his eye on me," recalled Estrada, "so he could be

{ *"If it Hurts, Go to Bert's."* }

sure I was working. He watched everything

like a hawk from that perch of his back there in the store."

Patrons of the bar that followed the pharmacy may recall the slogan "If it hurts, go to Bert's," but that wasn't meant as advice to drink your troubles away. It was painted on the side of Bert's red VW bus that he used to deliver prescriptions to his customers after the store was closed.

In the early '70s, facing increased competition, Bert divided the building in half, relegating the pharmacy to just one side and replacing the soda fountain with a long wooden bar serving beer and wine instead of ice cream and candy. That arrangement lasted for

much of the decade before the bar ultimately took over the whole building, becoming the Bert's Bar that many of us remember fondly.

Tim Gunyon wasn't the first person to run Bert's Bar after the pharmacy faded into history, but he was the last. Gunyon took the reigns of the bar in 1986 and was in charge until December 2007, when it served its last customer.

"Business was OK when I took over, but the previous owners had run some folks off," Gunyon explained. "We usually had about 30 or so regulars who showed up every day for happy hour. They were lawyers, teachers, fishermen, carpenters ... they were all locals, and they would talk about just about anything except politics.

"The place was most interesting in the late '80s when 90 percent of the customers were either from Sullivan's Island or used to be," Gunyon recalled. "After the hurricane, when



Before there was Bert's Bar, the building housed Bert's Pharmacy.

they got the bridge fixed and everything started to calm down, people started to come in who weren't from the island. The crowd became more diffused. A lot of regulars disappeared after the hurricane."

Longtime residents of the island know how much it changed after Hugo, and the demographics and rising property values eventually got the best of Bert's Bar.

Bert Wurthmann's name might not be on the building anymore, but the current tenants, Home Team BBQ, are happy to pay homage to the man who started it all over 60 years ago, with pictures and signs from the old days on display.

"We go to Home Team all the time," said Lesslie. "I think my dad would be happy that the building was not torn down, and they're using the bar he had made. He'd be proud that the family is still on the island and amazed at how busy and crowded it is year-round." 🍷

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The Gift of Giving

**HOSPITALIZED KIDS BENEFIT FROM
7-YEAR-OLD'S GENEROSITY**

Story by Jake Lucas.

Photos courtesy of the Yarborough family.



This was not the first time Wilson Yarborough gave his presents to kids who might never know the joy of being the guest of honor at a birthday party.

TAKE A SECOND AND THINK BACK to what it was like to turn 7 years old. Remember the anticipation from the minute you woke up, the growing excitement as balloons and streamers filled the room and, most important of all, the uncontrollable joy of opening a mound of presents?

Wilson Yarborough, a first-grader at Sullivan’s Island Elementary School, turned 7 on Aug. 13. He celebrated the occasion at a superheroes-themed pool party with Marvel plates and masks, lots of games and a large pile of presents. By most accounts, it was the kind of party any 7-year-old would dream of, except for one thing: Wilson didn’t get to keep any of those presents.

Instead, they went to MUSC Children’s Hospital, where anticipation and excitement are in many cases fleeting emotions. This was not the first time Wilson gave his

presents to kids who might never know the joy of being the guest of honor at a birthday party. He did it last year, too, and his older sister, Georgia, now 9, chose to donate her presents when she was in kindergarten and first grade.

“I thought it was nice,” Wilson said. It’s as simple as that.

The parties and the donations were orchestrated by Mount Pleasant-based Teacups and Trucks. Corrie Silvers, the company’s founder, said in the six years the business has been throwing parties, the Yarboroughs are the only kids who chose to give their gifts away.

Silvers said more than 40 toys were donated to the hospital from Wilson’s parties alone. The 7-year-old did get presents from his parents, grandparents and cousins, so he did not give up gifts altogether. Still, Silvers said it is especially rare for kids his age to make the choice to share with others. She pointed out that children who opt for philanthropy generally are older – 9- to 12-year-olds – and usually ask guests to donate to causes such as the Charleston

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Animal Society or a food drive. Asking guests to bring presents for other children is unique, she said.

Wilson's mom, Jessica Yarborough, said the idea came from her time working for a cardiac device company, when she often found herself in children's hospitals and saw firsthand the need for toys. She realized that they could help and brought up the possibility of donating some of their gifts to children in need, even before the opportunity presented itself through Teacups and Trucks.

"We are so fortunate to have things that a lot of children don't," she said. "It's something that we always talked about. We started donating during the holidays instead of exchanging presents with our close friends."

When the Yarboroughs presented the idea to Wilson and Georgia, they encouraged them to think about it empathetically. They explained that children with medical problems do not get to have a big birthday party or gifts and asked them to consider how they would want someone to do the same for them if they were in the hospital.

The Yarboroughs also took their kids to the hospital, where they met with nurses who explained where their gifts would be going and how they would be helping children in need. Wilson added MUSC's online wish list



of needed items to the invitations to his birthday party, along with a request that guests bring unwrapped toys for kids at the hospital.

Teacups and Trucks got the idea to ask families who plan parties to donate gifts from the Confetti Foundation, which provides kids in hospitals with supplies for birthday parties. Teacups and Trucks is the Confetti Foundation's "birthday fairy" for MUSC, which means the company puts together the party supplies for the hospital.

In Wilson and Georgia's case, Jessica Yarborough said they were completely willing to make the sacrifice.

"It wasn't like a fight or I had to struggle with them to do it," she said. "They don't ask any questions. They're happy to do it. They understand that they're trying to help someone." 🐼

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MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$3,800,000	Everett Presson Carolina One	Everett Presson Carolina One	152	\$3,550,000
2) \$3,251,000	Janice Harper Keller Williams Realty	Non-member	6	\$3,251,000
3) \$3,499,000	Ralph Mellard Daniel Ravenel Sotheby's	Non-member	259	\$3,200,000
4) \$3,000,000	Everett Presson Carolina One	Randy Walker Dunes Properties	93	\$2,800,000
5) \$2,889,250	Betty Poore Dunes Properties	Betty Poore Dunes Properties	805	\$2,700,000
6) \$3,195,000	Robertson Allen Cassina Group	Gary Langhoff Boulevard Company	366	\$2,650,000
7) \$2,700,000	Ashley Haynes East Islands	Mary Curry East Islands	112	\$2,600,000
8) \$2,500,000	Walter Mueller Seaboard	Ellen Bonner Charleston Gateway	1	\$2,500,000
9) \$2,600,000	Everett Presson Carolina One	Everett Presson Carolina One	11	\$2,450,000
10) \$2,500,000	Everett Presson Carolina One	Ron Davis Ron Davis	248	\$2,350,000

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Rita Langley stands on the widow's walk added to her home by a previous owner. In the background is the Ravenel Bridge.

Photo by Rick Walo.



Labor of Love

At Home in the Post Quartermaster's Office

Story by Brian Sherman.

VACANT FOR MORE THAN A year, the building was in foreclosure. A large number of the windows were shattered, and most of the doors cried out to be replaced. Much of the original wood had fallen victim to the insatiable gluttony of Lowcountry termites. There was no central heating and air conditioning, no appliances, the wiring was in desperate need of the expertise of an experienced electrician and, for at least a year, the only residents of the build-

ing had been stray cats – lots of them. In short, the spacious but oddly-configured structure was a mess, maybe even a candidate for demolition.

It was exactly what Rita Langley had in mind when she went looking for a permanent home for herself and her three sons.

Built near Fort Moultrie by the U.S. Army sometime between 1897 and 1915, the house at what is now 1618 Middle St. on Sullivan's Island is part of a military complex that was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. Langley hoped

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to spend no more than a few years transforming what had been a warehouse and then the post quartermaster's office into a home near the beach for her family.

That was 1992, and much has changed since then for Langley. She got married, added to her family, retired from a 30-year teaching career and ran a successful campaign for a seat on the Sullivan's Island Town Council. Her home has seen vast changes over the years; little remains the same

save the solid slate roof that has covered the building since its Army days. And, well into its third decade, Langley's renovation project rages on with no end in sight.

Langley arrived on Sullivan's Island from Laurens, in the South Carolina Upstate, in 1991. She and her sons lived in an apartment on Sullivan's Island for a year-and-a-half until she discovered her dream home.

"I wanted to renovate an old house," Langley explained.



Photo by Rick Walo.

Above: Today the Langley home features a modern kitchen. Below: That obviously was not the case when Rita Langley bought the building that once served as the Army's post quartermaster's office in 1992.



Photo provided by Rita Langley.

"My first house was a 1950s brick ranch, but I've always been interested in historical property. And we wanted to live near the beach. The first time I saw this house, I said, 'This is it.'"

She's still tweaking, seeking perfection for the home that captured her imagination 23 years ago. Not long after she and Milton Langley were married – they exchanged their vows in the living room of the post quartermaster's office – she remembers her husband asking: "Next time, can we renovate something a little smaller?" She apparently planned to finish the work sooner, but her quest has



Photo by Rick Waldo.

Walk through what is now the front door, turn to your left and you'll find yourself in the dining room of the Langley home, a building that once served as the Army's post quartermaster's office and also has been home to a lawnmower repair shop and a print shop.

continued, one summer project at a time during her lengthy teaching career.

"I thought we could get it all done in two years," Langley said. "But the house has grown with us. As always, Milton

has been very patient with me."

By the time Langley and her sons moved in, a former owner had divided the post quartermaster's office into three apartments. Today, Milton and Rita Langley and their 17-year-old daughter, Sydney, live in a five-bedroom – one downstairs and four upstairs – 3,800-square-foot house that in the past has been home to a lawnmower repair shop and a print shop. They rent out a three-bedroom apartment that, like Sullivan's Island's former Town Hall next door, was part of the original building.

When Langley first moved in, she hired a contractor to repair the termite damage, move some walls and doors, replace the glass in the windows and doors, hang sheetrock, bring the plumbing up to snuff and paint the cypress siding on the outside of the house, which, she said, had been "an ugly pale green."

After about six months, the Langleys took over most

family meals ~ in lieu of flowers ~ tailgating ~ prepared food ~ private chef

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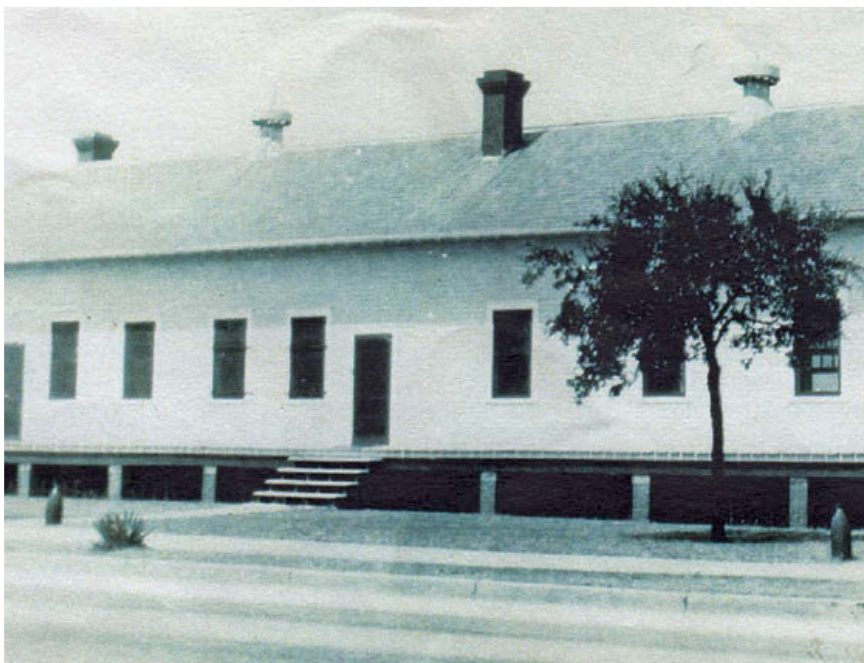
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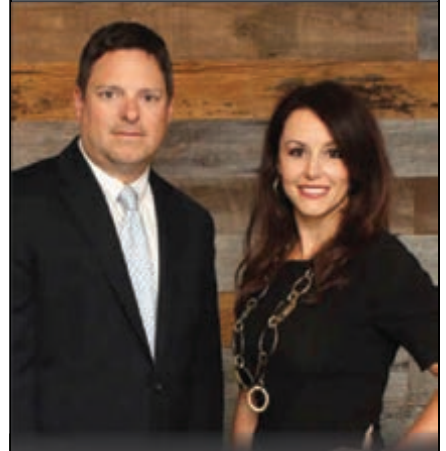
Some windows and doors have been moved since the Army days of the post quartermaster's office. The tree in front has grown, and many other shrubs and trees added over the years enhance the appearance of the building.

Photo provided by Rita Langley.



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the work themselves, much of their effort aimed at returning the building to its original state. For instance, a former owner put up walls to cover beams and built a closet to hide the chimney, reminders of the past that now are exposed, as they were early in the 20th century. The wood floors upstairs have been there since the building's Army days. Downstairs, some of the floors are original, while others have been replaced, in some cases with linoleum, then later with another layer of wood.

Besides remodeling the kitchen, moving, adding and subtracting walls, painting, paneling, replacing floors, fixtures and the heat and air system – eight times – the Langleys have created a patio made of reclaimed brick behind the house and built a kitchen cabinet with wood that once covered the walls in the adjoining room. Langley is especially proud of the tiling work she did in an upstairs bathroom.

“Some of the house looks more like it did when it was military than when we bought it,” she said.

The house at 1618 Middle St. is part of the Fort Moultrie Quartermaster and Support Facilities Historic District, which includes a group of buildings constructed by the

Army beginning in 1897, among them a non-commissioned officers' club, a theater, a storehouse, a barracks, two warehouses, a dispensary/provost marshal's office, the quartermaster's dock and the post quartermaster's office, now the Langley home.

The Army sold the buildings when it abandoned the complex in 1947. When Langley purchased her house, it had four different addresses between 1610 and 1620 Middle St., depending on whether you asked the local utility companies or the U.S. Postal Service. In fact, Langley pointed out, in the beginning, she was constantly receiving mail that was supposed to go to Town Hall next door. She finally determined that the address would be 1618, and apparently the post office went along with her decision.

So when will the work be completed at 1618 Middle St.? “Never,” Langley stated with conviction. “It's a labor of love. But as I'm getting older, I'm not as excited about doing the work as when I was younger.”

And how much money have the Langley's poured into their decades-long project?

“It's better not knowing,” she admitted. 🍷

A Slice of Sullivan's Island History

According to the U.S. National Park Service, more than a dozen buildings besides the post quartermaster's office made up the Fort Moultrie Quartermaster and Support Facilities Historic District, which is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Administration Building • 1701 Middle St. • Built around 1905, the two-story frame building was converted into apartments after the fort was deactivated in the 1940s.

Post Exchange • 1714 Middle St. • The T-shaped, one-story frame building with a slate roof was built to be the post exchange and gymnasium in 1906. It was later converted for use as the post engineer's office and then became a private residence.

New Post Chapel • 1753 Central Ave. • The rectangular one-story brick veneer building was built around 1914 and was rented to Sullivan's Island Baptist Church in 1947. The church bought the building two years later.

Commissary Storehouse • 1504 Middle St. • A rectangular, 1.5-story frame building on a raised brick foundation, it was built around 1905 as part of the commissary storehouse complex. The building was converted into apartments when the Army deactivated the fort.

Bakery • 1603 Middle St. • The bakery, a one-story frame building with a gable slate roof, has been changed over

the years, and, according to the Department of the Interior, “recent alterations and additions have substantially compromised its historic appearance, and the building no longer retains integrity.”

Dispensary/Provost Marshal's Office • 1617 Middle St. • The rectangular 1.5-story frame building with a slate roof was built around 1900 to be Fort Moultrie's dispensary. It was later used as the provost marshal's office.

Ordnance Storage and Office • 1514 Middle St. • The one-story building on a raised brick foundation has been remodeled over the years.

Quartermaster's Warehouse • At the northeast corner of Thompson Avenue and Station 16, the warehouse is an H-shaped, one-story brick building with a composition shingle roof.

Electric Shop • 1712 Thompson Ave. • The one-story rectangular building, constructed around 1925 as part of Fort Moultrie's maintenance complex, was later converted into apartments.

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Heart and SOL

Giving Back to East Cooper

WHEN SOL SOUTHWEST Kitchen & Tequila Bar opened its doors in November 2013, the owners wanted to serve up more than just good food and drink.

Right from the start, David Clark, Andy Palmer and Joe Sciortino knew they would use their restaurant as a way to give back to the community.

BY TAYLOR GRIFFITH

“Everybody can serve local food, but we wanted to do more right from the beginning. This wasn’t an afterthought,” said Clark. “You can’t sit your restaurant in the middle of a community and not give back.”

The partners developed their Kitchen Karma project specifically for that purpose. Every six weeks, they pick a local charity, which must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit, as the beneficiary of Kitchen Karma. They choose one food and one drink item on the menu, and, each time a customer buys those items, \$1 is donated to Kitchen Karma.

Clark said \$1 per order may not seem like a lot, but the fundraiser is typically so successful that each charity receives around \$1,500.

And it’s been a success from the start, he said. The Charleston Animal Society received a check for \$1,760 after SOL’s first round of Kitchen Karma in November and December 2013.

Since then, the beneficiaries have grown to include a wide variety of charities across East Cooper, including Louie’s Kids, which works with obese children; The First Tee of Greater Charleston, which uses golf to help children build character; and Happy Wheels at MUSC Children’s Hospital, which brings gifts to and provides activities for hospitalized children.

“We’ll support any charity that does work locally where the money stays local, but you can tell we have a soft spot for children’s groups. All three of us owners have children, so that speaks to us,” Clark said.

He explained that hearing what the charities do with the funds is even more exciting than presenting them with a check.



Photo courtesy of SOL.

By the time it had been open for only a year, SOL had already raised more than \$10,000 for locally-based nonprofits.

“In July and August this year, Kitchen Karma benefited East Cooper Meals on Wheels. With the \$1,200 we raised, they were able to serve 500 meals at no cost to the recipients. Five hundred meals – that’s incredible, and they’re right next door! There are so many good causes here. It’s unbelievable, and we want to help as many as we can,” Clark said.

At the restaurant’s one-year anniversary, SOL had raised more than \$10,000 for locally-based nonprofits. Clark said they hope the trend will continue, and the owners can announce they’ve raised more than \$20,000 at their second anniversary party.

SOL has also been working to raise money and awareness for groups that aren’t tax-exempt nonprofits through its Spirit Nights, when a group can host an event at SOL and earn 10 percent of the sales.

“We’re locally owned and operated, our food is local, but that wasn’t enough for us,” Clark said. “How could we be locals and support local food producers and not put that good to use? Looking back, Kitchen Karma has been awesome. It’s turned out to be everything we wanted when we set out to do this. We can’t wait to help more nonprofits, raise more money and build more awareness as SOL grows.” 🍷

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WITH THE HOLIDAYS comes an opportunity to wow party guests with cocktails that go beyond the basic beverages of years gone by. Why sip on the drinks of last year's

Thanksgiving, when you can savor the innovative spirits of now? Charleston Distilling Company is changing the

BY KALENE MCCORT

way folks experience liquor, one handcrafted

bottle at a time. Whether you enjoy sugar-rimmed stunners or shaken staples with a twist, you're sure to find a base for that ideal refresher.

"The most rewarding aspect for me is to get out from behind a desk and work with my hands every day," said Master Distiller Brent Stephens, president of Charleston Distilling Co. "It is very rewarding to create something from scratch, controlling the entire process from start to finish. I love being able to interact with people and see them enjoy what we have created."

Unlike megabrands, Charleston Distilling Co. sources local wheat, corn, rye and millet to craft their one-of-a-kind blends. From hand-selecting the finest Carolina-grown ingredients to milling them at their own millhouse at Flowers Farm in Summerton, these professionals take the extra step to ensure the contents of your frosted glass are the very best.

"The response has been extremely positive. Many people are surprised to come into the distillery and see that we make award-winning craft-distilled spirits right on King Street in downtown Charleston," said Stephens. "All of our spirits are also unique in their own way, so we have many people that have their eyes opened to something they enjoy and that they may not have ever tried in a bar."

Think you know exactly what pleases your palate? A trip to Charleston Distilling Co. could change your perspective when it comes to your own taste. From barrel-aged gin to "Tolerance" – whiskey adorned with tinges of ginger and cinnamon – the range of flavor found in each product is vast.

"We have a lot of people that say they don't drink gin before the tasting and end up leaving with a bottle of each of our gins," said Stephens. "Our Jasper's Gin goes beyond the basic juniper flavor with heavy citrus notes and ginger on the finish, whereas the Jasper's Bourbon Barrel Gin is

lemon grass forward with notes of star anise on the finish."

A visit to their King Street distillery has a Willy Wonka-like appeal for those who live for the smooth and botanically infused. A golden ticket comes in the form of a guided tasting tour, where folks can sample the liquors crafted right on-site.

Charleston Distilling Co. has brought us favorites such as King Charles Vodka and Jasper's Gin and will follow suit with three additional products in the coming months. A mouth-tingling vodka infused with Carolina Reaper peppers, which are certified as the hottest in the world, will soon be added to the collection. Also on deck are two varieties of rye whiskey, distilled and aged from scratch. One will be Charleston Distilling Co.'s spin on a single-malt whiskey and the other is

more of a traditional American peppery rye.

Don't let your friends and family go thirsty this holiday season. You can find Charleston Distilling Co. products in liquor stores statewide. Stock your home bar with the highest quality spirits made from the best ingredients the Lowcountry soil has to offer. Now that's drinking responsibly. 🍸

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Photo by Jenn Cady.

Charleston Distilling Co. is changing the way people experience liquor, one handcrafted bottle at a time.

Food & Fashion 2015

Director: Stacy E. Domingo

Mount Pleasant Magazine's annual Food & Fashion layout is an event we look forward to, and we hope you do, too. This year, we even had extra help on our photo shoots due to the massive flooding the entire state experienced. For an entire week, it became "take our children to work." It was a wonderful experience for all involved and brought new perspective to every location.

Cover photo: Taylor Cristo, a junior at Porter-Gaud School, is breathtaking in a cinnamon rose dress by Ralph Lauren. She holds a black clutch by Jessica McClintock. All items provided by Belk of Mount Pleasant.

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Accessories: Heather Key Tiller Jewelry Design, Filigree Charleston

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Photographers: Jenn Cady (fashion), Cassandra Richerson (food)
Stylists: Stox & Co.
Retailers: MODE and Belk of Mount Pleasant

Tavern & Table • 100 Church St. • Mount Pleasant
Photographers: Jenn Cady (fashion), James Stefiuk (food)
Stylists: Stox & Co.
Retailers: Worn Consignment & Wear for Men, Blush, and Belk of Mount Pleasant

Laura Alberts • 891 Island Park Drive • Daniel Island
Photographers: Christina Marie Riley (fashion), James Stefiuk (food)
Stylists: Vanity Salon



Tavern & Table's pan-seared duck breast is served with house-made spätzle (German pasta), duck confit, roasted fennel, braised red cabbage and cherry gastrique.



Above: Genifer Hartman, guest relations coordinator for Stox & Co., is wearing a cream top with a plaid bottom made by THML Clothing, available at Blush of Charleston. She joins Merv Epstein, owner of Budget Blinds, who is wearing an Andrew Fezza sports coat from Worn Consignment; and Jill Gioia, marketing director for Budget Blinds, in a French Connection patterned dress from Belk of Mount Pleasant. **Below:** Jill and Merv enjoy dinner with Denise K. James, editor of Mount Pleasant Magazine, at Tavern & Table. Denise is wearing a French Connection purple lace top, also from Belk.





Above, left to right: Lexi Rettenmyer, a senior at Hanahan High School, poses in a suede dress and suede C. Luse boots from Blush of Charleston. Sydney Langley, a senior at Wando High School, wears THML Clothing from Blush of Charleston, jewelry from Henry & Eva and carries a clutch from Henry & Eva. Sydney Lord, a senior at Stratford High School, showcases the popular Active USA, Army green jacket and Level 99 blue leggings from MODE. **Below:** Mary Huffman, a teacher at Charles Pinckney Elementary, wears a Bella Luxx tank top and an Active USA black sweater and necklace from MODE. She is joined by Kolbi Lungaro, a sophomore at Fort Dorchester High School, wearing a C. Luce black dress from Blush.





Laura Alberts on Daniel Island serves wonderful dishes. Above: Pan-roasted bone-in pork chop with oyster mushrooms, artichokes, roasted garlic, pan gravy, sweet potato hash and thyme. Below: Sesame crusted tuna salad with bok choy slaw, Asian vinaigrette and wasabi mayo, paired with McKenzie's Lazy Lemon Cider.





Above: Amy Learn, a loan officer assistant for Prospect Mortgage, enjoys the sunshine outside Michael's on the Alley with Catherine Maine, executive director of the East Cooper Land Trust. Amy is wearing a lola & sophie sleeveless dress from MODE, while Catherine wears a Trina Turk dress from Belk. **Below:** WTMA morning talk show host Charlie James and his wife, Sheila Kern, an artist, enjoy Michael's on the Alley. Charlie is wearing a Ralph Lauren blazer, brown slacks and Johnston & Murphy loafers. Sheila is wearing a Vince Camuto dress with Steve Madden heels. Outfits provided by Belk.





Michael's on the Alley, located on Hutson Alley off John Street in Charleston, serves simple yet sophisticated dishes. Above: Local peanut hummus with cornbread, house pickles, vegetables and crackers. Below: Artisan house cheese board with fruit, preserves and traditional accompaniments. In the background are wagyu filet/frisée, beet red wine gastrique, pickled onions.





Above: Morgan Westbrook, co-founder and events coordinator for Westbrook Brewery, basks in the entryway of R.B.'s on Shem Creek. She wears a High Low lace tank from MODE. **Below:** Elayne Smith, funeral director and human resources manager for McAlister-Smith Funeral Home, joins Morgan. Elayne wears a pearl tank by Jessica Simpson, provided by Belk. Her jewelry is made by Heather Key Tiller Jewelry Design, provided by Filigree Charleston.





R.B.'s, a staple on Shem Creek since 1967, has served many generations of East Cooper residents and innumerable visitors. Above: A fresh fillet of mahi mahi with blue crab stuffing, baked, then topped with blue crab hollandaise sauce. Below: A seafood trio, known as the R.B.'s Special, served in a spicy tomato broth with toasted garlic bread.





Left to right: Jane Locke, founding member of Carolina Children’s Charity and a Realtor with Century 21 Properties Plus, wears a Trina Turk dress and heels by French Connection, all provided by Belk, and jewelry by Heather Key Tiller Jewelry Design, provided by Filigree Charleston. Lauryn White, an ABA behavioral therapist, greets the ladies wearing an Olive + Oak dress from MODE and jewelry by Heather Key Tiller. Kelly Phillips, sales manager with Prospect Mortgage, dons a Mickey and Jenny sweater and black NikiBiki leggings from MODE. The three ladies enjoy drinks and dinner at the Drawing Room.



Great food with real flare can be found at the Drawing Room, located alongside East Bay Street in a 1780s Charleston warehouse building. Above: Heirloom beets with duck prosciutto, smoked goat cheese, orange and licorice soil.

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Recipes

Enjoy these recipes from some of our friends!

CAULIFLOWER SOUP

Michael's on the Alley

ROASTED CAULIFLOWER SOUP

Ingredients:

- 1 head cauliflower (cut into florets)
- 2 large carrots (peeled and cut into 1/8" cubes)
- 5 stalks of celery (peeled and cut into 1/8" cubes)
- 1 large yellow onion (small dice)
- 2 cups roasted garlic bulbs (roast garlic covered in canola oil at 350 F for 20 minutes.)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 pound unsalted butter
- 1/2 gallon whole milk
- 1 quart heavy cream
- 1 quart vegetable stock
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 1 cup sour cream
- Kosher salt to taste
- Fresh cracked pepper
- Garnish the soup with chopped Maine lobster and fresh burgundy truffles, if available.



Method:

Heat a large sauce pot with olive oil on medium high heat. Add the cauliflower florets and season the cauliflower pieces generously with salt and pepper. Add the butter and use a wooden spoon to mix and incorporate. The cauliflower should be golden brown in color. Add the carrots, onions and celery and re-season with salt and pepper, using

a wooden spoon to prevent burning. Once the carrots are cooked through, add the roasted garlic bulbs, vegetable stock, milk and heavy cream and bring the mixture to a slow simmer.

Reduce the cream/vegetable mixture by one-third and transfer to a vita prep or household blender.

Add the sour cream to the mixture and start blending small amounts at a time.

Alternatively, you can garnish the soup with an aged balsamic or balsamic reduction of your choice.

BLACK GARLIC BALSAMIC REDUCTION

- 1 head of black garlic
- 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- Reduce all ingredients slowly until the mixture can coat the back of a spoon. Transfer to a blender to fully incorporate. ■

DIRTY PUMPKIN CIDER

The Victor Social Club

Ingredients:

- 1.5 ounces vanilla infused vodka
- 1 ounce pumpkin purée
- 1/2 ounce maple syrup
- 1 dash nutmeg
- 1 dash all spice
- 2.5 ounces apple cider
- 1 honey crisp apple, half cut into slices, half cut into cubes
- 1/4 ounce ginger simple syrup
- 2 ounces ginger beer

Method:

Combine pumpkin purée, vodka, maple syrup, apple cider, apple cubes and ginger simple syrup in a large shaker. Shake vigorously to combine. Use a strainer and pour into a highball glass with ice. Top with ginger beer. Garnish with sliced apples, nutmeg and allspice. ■





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VEAL SALTIMBOCCA

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Ingredients:

1 pound boneless veal loin (cut into 4 ounce pieces)
½ cup cherry tomatoes
1 tablespoon minced garlic
¼ bunch Italian parsley, chopped
½ pound unsalted butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 pound box of dried fettuccine pasta
2 cups beef broth
8 ounces mozzarella cheese
1 package sliced prosciutto (3.5 ounces)
¼ bunch fresh sage
2 ounces olive oil

Method:

Preheat oven to "broil" – 425 F.

Heat a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the dried pasta and cook until the pasta is al dente. Transfer pasta to a colander and run cold water over it until it is completely cooled. Toss pasta in olive oil and season lightly with salt.

Heat a large sauté pan with olive oil over medium high heat. Dredge the veal pieces in all-purpose flour one piece at a time and dust off any excess flour. Sear the pieces of veal in the sauté pan for two to four minutes. When the meat is golden brown on one side, flip and transfer to an aluminum foil lined sheet pan.

In the same pan the veal was seared, add the beef broth, minced garlic, tomatoes and butter. Reduce the beef broth slowly over medium heat.

If mozzarella cheese isn't pre-sliced, cut the cheese into ¼ inch rounds and top each piece of veal with 1 round of mozzarella. Next add one sage leaf and finally one slice of prosciutto. Repeat this process for all veal pieces. Put the veal saltimbocca into the oven

on the broil setting for five to eight minutes. When the cheese is melted and prosciutto is crispy, pull the veal from the oven.

Add the pasta to the reduced beef broth mixture and season with salt and pepper. Let the pasta absorb the beef broth by letting the mixture reduce by half in the sauté pan.

Serve by plating the pasta separate from the veal saltimbocca. Garnish with fresh parsley. ■



CHEF MATT'S GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

Drawing Room

Ingredients:

2 pounds French green beans (haricot verts)

Gravy:

2 tablespoons chopped shallots
1 tablespoon chopped garlic
4 cups oyster mushrooms, roughly chopped
1 cup red wine
4 cups beef stock
3 tablespoons cornstarch
3 tablespoon water
½ cup heavy cream
1 large onion



2 cups flour, seasoned with salt and pepper

Method:

Blanch beans in boiling water for five minutes, then shock in ice water.

Drain well. For the gravy, saute shallots, garlic and mushrooms in oil for two minutes on high. Add wine and stock and bring to a boil. In a separate bowl, mix the cornstarch and water to make a paste and add to the boiling pot. Add cream once thickened and remove from heat. Thinly

slice the onion, toss in flour. Deep fry until crispy. Toss the beans in the gravy and transfer to a baking dish. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes. Top with crispy fried onions. Enjoy! ■

VINTAGE

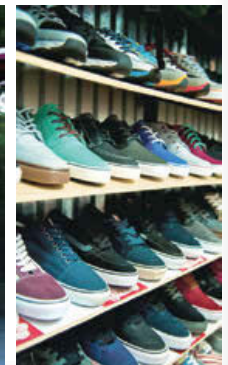
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OYSTER SOUFFLÉ

Drawing Room

Ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- ¼ cup Spanish onion, small dice
- ¼ cup bell pepper, small dice
- 1 teaspoon shallot, fine brunoise
- 1 teaspoon garlic, fine brunoise
- 1 cup andouille sausage, small dice
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 12 oysters, shucked
- 4 eggs, beaten together
- 1 tablespoon hot sauce
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire
- 3 cups French bread, small dice
- 4 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon whole butter, small dice

begin to sweat. Once the vegetables are soft, drain and cool. In a small sauce pot, bring cream to a simmer. While cream is heating, add whole eggs to a mixing bowl. Once cream is simmering, slowly add the cream into the eggs, stirring constantly to temper the two together. Add the diced bread, Worcestershire, hot sauce, shucked oysters, sausage, peppers and onion to the cream and egg mixture. Allow this to sit for five minutes, and then mix until well incorporated. In a separate bowl, whisk egg whites to stiff peaks. Gently fold egg whites into the bread mixture. Once incorporated,



Method:

Preheat oven to 400 F. Add vegetable oil to a medium saute pan and place over medium heat. Once the oil is warm, add peppers, onions, garlic, shallots and andouille sausage and

spoon mixture into buttered ramekins or baking dish. Bake at 400 F until soufflé has risen and is set. The top should be golden brown. Serve immediately. ■

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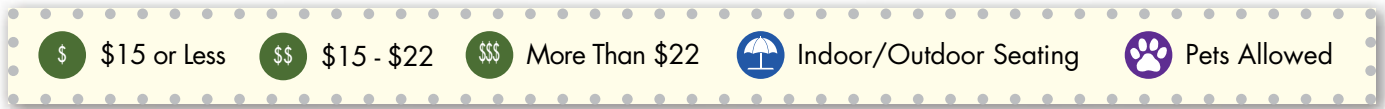
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East Cooper Dining Guide



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162 Seven Farms Drive, #335 • 843-881-8686 •

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The Boathouse at Breach Inlet serves dinner nightly and Sunday brunch. Cuisine: Seafood • 101 Palm Blvd. • 843-886-8000 • www.boathouserestaurants.com • \$\$-\$\$\$ • 🌂

The Long Island Café is open for lunch and dinner as well as brunch on Sundays. Cuisine: American/grill/French • 1515 Palm Blvd., Suite A • 843-886-8809 • www.longislandcafesc.com • \$-\$\$

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

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

Poe's Tavern is located two blocks from the beach on beautiful Sullivan's Island. It is named for Edgar Allan Poe, who, at the age of 18, enlisted in the Army and called Sullivan's Island home. Cuisine: American • 2210 Middle St. • 843-883-0083 • www.poestavern.com • \$ • 🌂

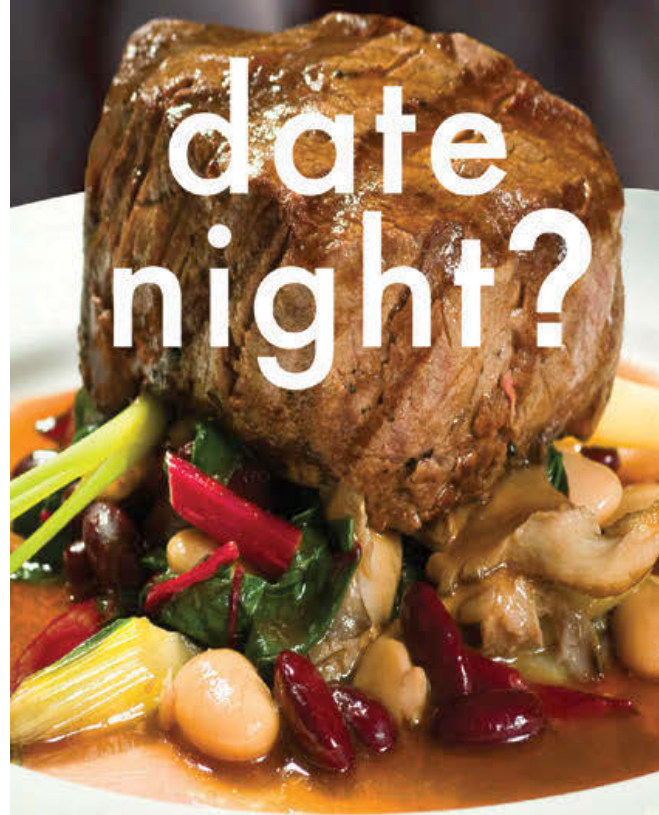
SALT at Station 22 is smack dab in the middle of Sullivan's Island, just blocks from the beach and in the center of where it is all happening. Dinner is served daily, with brunch on Sunday. Cuisine: American • 2205 Middle St. • 843-883-3355 • www.saltstation22.com • \$-\$\$ • 🌂

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

My Father's Moustache Eatery & Pub is where the past is brought to life. The restaurant serves weekend brunch and English breakfast. Cuisine: English/American • 1405 Ben Sawyer Blvd. • 843-884-2425 • www.myfathersmustache.com • \$

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Red's Icehouse is a public gathering place at the water's edge, where locals and visitors 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* 🍴

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 & 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. Cuisine: Seafood/American • 843-352-9510 • www.tavernandtable.com • \$\$\$ • ☂️

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Marketing Manager Kaela Mast.

Kitchen & Company recently opened its doors in

BY JAKE LUCAS

Mount Pleasant, and Mast said the 19,700-square-foot store is now the store’s flagship location. With a 120-foot wall featuring more than 3,000 kitchen tools, a beer and wine section to round out dinner party plans and a carefully constructed layout, Mast said it will serve as a model for future stores and renovations.

Kitchen & Company wants to be the destination for cooking, dining and entertaining supplies, Mast said. Its Mount Pleasant store will be just the second to sell beer and wine, but, like

all locations, it will offer everything from baking mixes and ice cream makers to plates, glasses, silverware and cookware.

The Mount Pleasant Kitchen & Company is located in Bowman Place – the old K-Mart shopping center – alongside Nordstrom Rack and Dick’s Sporting Goods. Mast said she is excited to share a home with those franchises, but, in some ways, she doesn’t feel like Kitchen & Company quite fits in.

“You’re not going to see a Kitchen & Company in every shopping center, but that’s what makes us unique,” she said.

At first glance, Kitchen & Company looks like any other retail chain, with corporate offices in Delaware and a parent company – Calvert Retail. Looks can be deceiving, however.

The Mount Pleasant store is just the company’s ninth, and the corporate office houses all of 13 people. Plus, Kitchen & Company is independently owned, and Mast said that – along with the company’s size – gives it the opportunity to really listen to its customers. When people have suggestions for something they would like to see in the store, Mast said Kitchen & Company tries to make it happen. They even refer to their corporate offices as “store support.”

“We live by the mentality that our guest is our boss,” she said.

The Mount Pleasant store will join the Asheville location as the company’s only forays into Southern territory.

Company owner Eric Brinsfield visited the Charleston area in 2012 in search of the next place to expand and fell in love with the city.

When the opportunity arose to open a store in the Lowcountry, he jumped on it.

Mast said Brinsfield cares deeply about where people get the food they eat and how it’s prepared, and she said Kitchen & Company hopes to incorporate that mentality into the new



Photo courtesy of Kitchen & Company.

store.

“We really want to connect with local food providers,” she said. “We realize they are the engine in the car for us.”

All Kitchen & Company stores provide weekly demonstrations to educate people about products and food preparation. Mast said those range from tips and advice on knife sharpening or grilling to the advantages of mandoline slicers.

“We’re really excited to educate the people of Mount Pleasant about how you’re preparing your food,” she concluded. 🍷

To learn more, visit www.kitchenandcompany.com.



The Golden List

The following restaurants received votes in the 2015-2016 Golden Spoon competition. For more about the Golden Spoon Awards, please visit www.GoldenSpoonAwards.Restaurant.

39 Rue de Jean
82 Queen
Acme Lowcountry Kitchen
Al Di La Trattoria
Amalfi's
Angel Oak
Annie's Bistro
Bacco
Banana Cabana
Barony Tavern
Basil
Bay Street Beirgarten
Big Game Bar and Grill
Bistro Toulouse
Blossom
Bohemian Bull
Bone Island Nuts & Fudge
Bougnat
Boxcar Betty's
Bricco Bracco
Bocci's
Bubba Gump Shrimp Company
Burtons Grill
Bushido
Butcher & Bee
California Dreaming
Carmen Y Juan
Charleston Cafe
Chez Nous
Charleston Crab House
Charleston Donuts
Charleston Harbor Fish House
Coast
Coda Del Pesce
Coleman Public House
Crave
Cru Cafe
Cypress
Dog & Duck
Drawing Room
Eli's Kitchen
EVO
My Father's Moustache
FIG
Fish

Five Loaves Cafe
Fleet Landing
Fuel
Fuji Sushi Bar & Grill
Fulton Five
Gennaro's
Gilligan's
Momma Goldberg's
Graze
Grill 225
Grimaldi's
Halls Chophouse
Hank's
High Cotton
High Thyme
Hominy Grill
Husk
Hyman's
JB's Smokeshack
Jestine's Kitchen
Jim 'N Nicks
La Hacienda
Langdon's
Leon's Oyster Shop
Long Island Cafe
Lost Dog Cafe
Magnolias
Marco's
McCrary's
Melvin's Barbecue
Middleton Plantation
Minero
Molly Darcy's
Momma Goldberg's
Ms. Rose's
Mustard Seed
Nigel's Good Food
Old Village Post House
Olive Garden
On Forty-one
Opal
Page's Okra Grill
Pattaya Thai
Pearlz
Peninsula Grill

Philly's
Poe's
Poogan's Porch
Prohibition
Queology
R.B.'s
Red Drum
Red's Icehouse
Rusty Rudder
Santi's
Sesame Burgers & Beer
SeeWee Restaurant
Senor Tequila
Sermet's
Shem Creek Bar & Grill
Slightly North of Broad
SOL
Steel City
Swig & Swine
Tabbuli
Taste of India
Tavern & Table
Tbonz Gill & Grill
Texas Roadhouse
Thai Elephants
The Americano
The Boathouse at Breach Inlet
The Fat Hen
The Granary
The Islander
The Obstinate Daughter
The Ordinary
The Palmetto Room
The Pickled Palate
The Wreck
Toast
Tokyo Bistro
Trattoria Lucca
Triangle Char & Bar
Vickery's
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Wild Olive
Wild Wing Cafe
Xiao Bao Biscuit

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Enhance Your Coastal Experience

The Lowcountry Visitors Center

TRAVELING ALONG THE CAROLINA coast is an adventure in itself, but you can enhance the experience by stopping along the way at the South Carolina Lowcountry Visitors Center and Museum. Located just off Interstate 95 at Exit 33, where it meets tree-lined Highway 17, the Center is in the historic Frampton House, rebuilt after the Civil War in 1868.

The Visitors Center and Museum, free and open to the public every day, occupies the building's first floor. Visitors can appreciate firsthand the front room of a re-created plantation house parlor, complete with antique furnishings.

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

The original Frampton House and farm were burned by General William T. Sherman's Union troops in 1865. Behind the building, visitors can stand atop Civil War berms erected by General Robert E. Lee's Confederate troops, who were defending the important railroad supply line from Savannah to Charleston. Display cases feature artifacts left behind by Lee's soldiers and from the 10 museums located in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties.

According to the Lowcountry Resort & Islands Tourism Commission, established in 1991, there is much more to see along the Carolina coast besides the Visitors Center.

"Our mission is to promote economic development through a formal program of tourism promotion," said Peach Morrison, executive director of the Commission. "In 1993, the Frampton House was donated to assure restoration of the old farmhouse, and it is now our home from which we promote all of the surrounding areas."

Hilton Head Island is known internationally as a world-

class destination, while Beaufort provides a glimpse of Lowcountry life and history. Nearby Port Royal boasts the Parris Island Marine Recruit Depot.

Walterboro is home to the South Carolina Artisans Center, and Edisto Beach, which hosts one of five state parks in the area, is the perfect locale for a quiet, family beach vacation. Bluffton is quaint and historic but with an eccentric twist.

Hunting Island is a popular state park near Beaufort. Once a layover location for sailors and pirates such as Blackbeard, it is now a public beach, campground and nesting ground for endangered loggerhead turtles. The 5,000-acre park hosts more than a million human visitors a year as well. It also is home to the only historic lighthouse

in South Carolina open to the public.

"One of the important things for visitors to the South Carolina Lowcountry to remember is that we have over 30 challenging golf courses, and weather is nice year-round. You don't have to go further south to find great beaches, and we aren't as commercialized as many other beach communities," said Morrison.

"Visitors who stop in can pick up a free guide. Our trained staff is very knowledgeable and has explored, visited and dined at almost all of the locations we promote. Our website,

of course, can be utilized 24 hours a day and has links to all area attractions, hotels and dining."

Golf, kayaking, freshwater and saltwater fishing, museums and art galleries, camping, African-American Gullah culture, garden tours, dining and shopping are all a part of the South Carolina Lowcountry. To learn more or to receive a free guidebook, visit the Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission online at www.SouthCarolinaLowcountry.com, call 800-528-6870 or drop by the Visitors Center at Exit 33, just off Interstate 95. 🐼

Photo courtesy of the South Carolina Lowcountry Visitors Center.



The Frampton House is the home of the South Carolina Lowcountry Visitors Center.

The Keys to a Great Neighborhood

Palm Coast Group, LLC

THERE ARE TWO KEYS TO developing a great neighborhood, according to Kevin Popson: “First you have to create a destination, a sense of place, by having the right land plan, entrance features and amenities. Then you build quality, architecturally rich homes.”

That’s what he and his business partner, Dave Durham, do at Palm Coast Group, LLC. The two have 60-plus years of experience between them in home building and land development and share a passion for creating special places for people to call home.

BY ERIN DANLY

“Our approach in developing our company was not just to build new homes, but to create, develop and manage terrific neighborhoods,” said Kevin. “We feel our resumes and relationships will help us accomplish our plan.”

The two men met while they were both working at John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods, Kevin as the Charleston Division president and Dave as the North Carolina Division president. They collaborated on several projects, including Dunes West, Hamlin Plantation and Brickyard Plantation in Mount Pleasant. When the time came to move on from John Wieland Homes, they hit on the idea of forming a new company together.

We had friends who had started companies,” Dave explained, “and we said, ‘We should do that.’” And Palm Coast Group was born.

The Palm Coast Group consists of four companies – Palm Coast Development, Palm Coast Living, Palm Coast Sales and Palm Coast Property Management – which means Dave and Kevin can do everything from developing the land to building and selling the homes and managing the neighborhood until it is completed.

One project they’re working on now is building the Sea

Palm, a custom-designed home on the Isle of Palms.

“It’s a one-of-a-kind,” said Dave. “We named the project, had an architect custom design a plan specifically for our homesite and worked with a designer on features and selections.”

The \$1.6 million, 3,803-square-foot, five-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath house sits just a block from the beach and features wide porches, an elevator, a plunge pool and views of the Atlantic.

Kevin also noted that with the Sea Palm, you not only get a great home but the Isle of Palms lifestyle, which people tend to overlook. Beach access is just around the corner. Restaurants, the marina, recreation center and great golf

courses are minutes away. As a 30-year resident of the Isle of Palms himself, he’s seen how it’s grown over the years.

“The island has definitely changed. I think it’s gotten better every year,” he said.

The Sea Palm is currently in the framing stage, and Kevin expects it to be ready in the spring of 2016.

Future projects for the Palm Coast Group include developing a 149-lot

piece of land in Charlotte, where Dave lives. The two also are looking to develop lots in West Ashley, another home on IOP and a waterfront home in Charleston that takes full advantage of the views and lifestyle.

Whatever they do, it will be with the people who will eventually live there in mind, turning the vision Dave and Kevin share into reality.

“It starts with an idea and a piece of paper,” said Kevin. “You start drawing lots on a piece of paper, and, a year or two later, you’ve got the roads in, amenities in and homes in, and you’ve got kids playing at the playground. It’s always really gratifying to create something like that.”

To learn more, call Kevin Popson at 843-514-7878 or Dave Durham at 678-776-3806.



Photo courtesy of Palm Coast Group.

The Sea Palm features wide porches, an elevator, a plunge pool and views of the Atlantic.

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WES BISHOP, OWNER of the newly-opened More Space Place in Mount Pleasant, knows his target demographic. What do active 55-plus consumers who have downsized to smaller residences really want and need? More space, of course.

They want the space to comfortably accommodate family members and friends who visit with all their stuff; they want the space to maintain a home office or garage and workshop storage; and they want the space for laundry, space for pantry and utility storage. And – everyone’s dream – they want more closet space.

More Space Place serves Charleston, Dorchester and Berkeley counties and offers wall and side-tilt panel beds, the top-selling Murphy beds – mattresses included – and custom closets and home office furniture that can fit most budgets.

The uncluttered path to more space begins with a free in-home consultation, where important information is gathered, your height and whether you are right- or left-handed included. Then a professional designer takes measurements to create a 3-D rendering of a viable and aesthetically pleasing solution. And there’s more: Installation comes with a full warranty.

As a nod to simplicity, all systems are priced on the amount of material used, not on the size of the closet or room. More Space Place offers a variety of wood products for closet and bed systems, including premium wood, and those options can be as traditional or as contemporary as you like. Additionally, customers can visit the 2,000-plus-square-foot retail showroom to view layouts, materials and designs.

More Space Place is located at 1907 Highway 17 North, Suite 102, near the corner of Highway 17 and the Isle of Palms Connector in Mount Pleasant. For more information, call 843-352-7241 or visit www.mtpleasant.morespaceplace.com.

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Story by Erin Danly.

What a Site!

Senior-Friendly Resources

WITH WARM WEATHER, friendly people and the beach close by, it's no wonder more and more people are making Mount Pleasant their new home. Seniors moving to the area are welcomed by a wealth of opportunities to meet new people, pick up new hobbies, volunteer, explore the city and try the cuisine that made the Lowcountry famous – shrimp and grits, anyone?

To help the 55+ crowd figure out what's going on around town and how to make an informed decision about what to do, we've discovered eight essential websites that

will help you discover the city and have fun doing it.

FINDING AND BUYING YOUR NEW HOME

If you're looking for a 55+ community, check out 55 Places. It's packed with information on active adult communities across the United States, including eight in the greater Charleston area. These communities are built with seniors in mind and offer great amenities, chances to socialize with like-minded people and programming such as holiday parties, casual socials, game nights, club sports and more.

URL: www.55places.com

Did you know that some Realtors specialize in helping seniors relocate? These seniors real estate specialists (SRES) are qualified to help seniors buy and sell their homes during

one of the biggest transitions of their life. If you'd like that extra level of attention and care when you move, find an SRES through the National Association of Realtors site.
URL: www.seniorsrealestate.com

WORKING AND VOLUNTEERING

Find a senior-friendly job through Workforce 50, a website that posts job openings and provides resources for seniors and baby boomers who want to work. You can find both full-time and part-time opportunities.
URL: www.workforce50.com

Over 400,000 members make up Senior Corps, the senior volunteer organization equivalent of AmeriCorps. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and learn about and serve your community. Senior Corps connects seniors with volunteer opportunities that match their interests, such as animals, disaster relief, faith-based, hunger, veterans and military and many more.
URL: www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps

RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

Line dancing, golf lessons, conversational French and more – the Lowcountry Senior Center, located in James

Island amid beautiful live oaks, offers seniors more than 250 classes each month and lots of opportunities to grow, learn and meet new people.

URL: www.lowcountryseniorcenter.org

The town of Mount Pleasant Thomasena Stokes-Marshall Senior Services Center caters to Charleston County residents over 50 but is open to 50+ non-residents, too. Members take local and out-of-town trips, play bridge, take up the shag and much more.

URL: www.tompssc.com and search for "senior center."

The Bees Landing Recreation Center in West Ashley isn't exclusively a senior center, but it does have a lot of activities and trips just for seniors. Pickle ball, knitting, a dinner cruise and trips to Myrtle Beach are just a few of the things they've got going on.

URL: www.charleston-sc.gov and search for "Bees Landing."

Find senior-friendly activities at many of the 16 branches of the Charleston County Public Library, including Senior Social Hour, mahjong, memoir writing, knitting and book club.

URL: www.ccpl.org and look under the "Adult Programs" category under the "Programs and Events" tab at the top.



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150 New Best Friends

Somerby of Mount Pleasant

SOMERBY OF MOUNT PLEASANT is redefining the term “retirement community.”

Surrounded by the neighborhoods of Park West, Somerby is a vital part of the community, a place where residents are encouraged to grow socially, intellectually, spiritually and physically. Its campus is home to around 250 people who are leaving behind one chapter in their lives and moving on to another, enjoying new experiences

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

along the way.

And,

according to Executive Director Lisa Kinsella, they're having fun.

“Our goal is to surprise and delight the folks who live here,” said Kinsella. “That’s why this job is so much fun. The things we can do are limitless.”

As an example of her efforts to make life interesting at Somerby, Kinsella cited last February’s Red Dress Ball, where an orchestra provided the entertainment and “everyone came dressed to the nines.” In addition, those who call Somerby home have the opportunity to attend cooking demonstrations a few times a month, events that always draw a large crowd. Then there are the mystery rides, where residents board a bus to who knows where. Kinsella said they usually end up at a local beach or one of the area’s many historic sites.

Kinsella pointed out that many residents take in the sights and sounds of the Lowcountry on their own, traveling to Charleston for theater and symphony performances and visiting other sites of cultural and historical significance.

“This is not a sedentary group,” she commented.

Many Somerby residents connect with the community by participating in activities that help local charities. For instance, the Ladies Club staged a fashion show to support My Sister’s House, a nonprofit that provides services for victims of domestic violence. And Ladies

Night Out raised \$3,000 last year for the mobile mammography unit at MUSC.

Another fundraiser, the Festival of Trees, where local businesses and Somerby residents decorated 30 Christmas trees, benefited the East Cooper Senior Food Bank.

Well over half of Somerby’s residents are in independent living, either in one-, two- or three-bedroom apartments or two-bedroom villas that include a one-car garage. Either way, they have a full kitchen, modern appliances and a 24-hour monitored emergency response system. And, when they don’t feel like using their kitchen, they can eat breakfast and either lunch or dinner in the main building.

Possibly the most important aspect of independent living is meeting people with similar interests, according to Kinsella.

“They move in to Somerby and they have 150 new best friends,” she explained.

Residents on the assisted living level receive help with daily chores such as bathing, dressing and medicine management, while those in memory care are dealing with

Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

Regardless of which level of care they require, residents at Somerby are given ample opportunity to enhance their intellectual growth as well as their spiritual well-being. That, Kinsella pointed out, can mean different things to different people. Residents of various denominations attend services at various local churches or at Somerby, and Bible studies and devotionals also are an option.

On the physical side, residents can participate in pool aerobics, balance classes, daily exercise classes, walks on the beach and even cornhole.

“We want the people who live here to stay as mentally and physically fit as possible,” Kinsella said. 🍌



Photo courtesy of Somerby of Mount Pleasant.

Artwork created by Somerby resident Young Daniel hangs on the walls at the local retirement community.

Somerby of Mount Pleasant was recently designated a Caring Star by the website www.caring.com. To learn more, visit www.somerbyofmountpleasant.com or call 843-849-3096.



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A Variety of Resources Rehabilitation and Nursing at Sandpiper

RESIDENTS AT SANDPIPER Rehabilitation and Nursing get the best of both worlds – the comfort of a private room plus support from other patients on a daily basis.

“You’re constantly around other patients that have similar goals. You get familiar with seeing the same faces in the gym. You build friendships,” said Jeff Walrond, an administrator at Sandpiper.

Sandpiper Rehabilitation and Nursing, located off Anna Knapp Boulevard in Mount Pleasant, is a 176-bed skilled

BY ERIN DANLY

nursing facility dedicated to

helping patients recover from joint injuries, head injuries, heart attacks, strokes and more.

“The residents are working on getting back home, and they motivate each other,” said Walrond. “You hear, ‘You’re doing well, you’re looking well,’ when you walk down the hall. It really does help motivate folks that may need or want that encouragement.”

While at Sandpiper Rehabilitation and Nursing, patients have access to a variety of resources and programs, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, recreational therapy and speech therapy. Skilled nursing care helps patients who need assistance eating, bathing and dressing themselves. All patients receive the medication and care they require from a dedicated team of nurses, caregivers and doctors.

“We have a physical medicine physician on staff who is here every Tuesday and Thursday and focuses on rehabilitation and pain management,” said Walrond. “That helps patients who have questions about what to do when they get home or about the program they’re in.”

Team members are committed to helping patients improve and to keeping them informed of where they are in their progress. Patients come in with a variety of rehabilitation needs, but the goal is the same for everyone:

to get them back to their previous level of function.

The entire team is involved in the decision to discharge a patient “as soon and as safe as possible.” While some remain at the Center for long-term care, most return home.

Some patients decide to move into one of Sandpiper’s other facilities when their treatment is completed. Depending on their needs, they may choose Sandpiper Courtyard, the assisted living facility, or Sandpiper Village, the independent living community, both located nearby on the same 11-acre campus. Residents of the 56-apartment Sandpiper Courtyard can stay busy and entertained through

exercise, music events, arts and crafts and outings. They can also take advantage of amenities such as the library, courtyard patio and full-service salon, all while receiving the care they need.

Residents of Sandpiper Village live a more independent lifestyle, with many opportunities for socializing through dozens of cultural and recreational activities and excursions. The 114 cottages at Sandpiper Village were recently renovated, and the community center offers activity rooms, a heated swimming pool, a

gym and a living area with cozy furniture, a fireplace and a beautiful dining room.

Whether patients return home after rehabilitation or decide to stay at Sandpiper, they can expect personalized, hands-on care and state-of-the-art equipment at Sandpiper Rehabilitation and Nursing during their stay. They also can expect to make lasting friendships and to help other patients in their recovery.

“They spend a lot of time around each other during that brief stay,” said Walrond. “They get friendship, encouragement and motivation.”

Sandpiper Rehabilitation and Nursing is located at 1049 Anna Knapp Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, call 843-881-3210 or visit www.premierseniorliving.com.



Photo by Rick Walo.

The entire team at Sandpiper Rehabilitation and Nursing is involved in the decision to discharge a patient “as soon and as safe as possible.”

A Mini-City Franke at Seaside

ONE WAY TO TELL IF SOMEONE is “from off” is to hear what they call this sprawling, 42-acre retirement and assisted living community located in the heart of the popular Seaside Farms neighborhood.

If they pronounce the name “Franke” to rhyme with “hanky,” they’re natives or have been here for a while. If it’s “Franke,” as in “bank,” they’re newcomers.

Founded in 1982 in downtown Charleston as Franke Home, the acclaimed facility moved to its present location amid the many restaurants, shops and private homes of Seaside Farms in 1996, changing its name to “Franke at Seaside” in 2002 to reflect its desirable location.

Today, Franke at Seaside serves as an upscale retirement world with built-in options for assisted living and extended round-the-clock personal attention and medical care.

A mini-city, Franke at Seaside provides residents with resort-like living without the responsibilities of home ownership. Additionally, it offers a continuum of care that includes a comprehensive wellness program, fitness and physical rehabilitation services, full meal plans and 24-hour nursing care.

Many retirees begin their Franke at Seaside journey in independent living apartments. These handsome private residences range to more than 2,000 square feet and include groundskeeping, landscaping, weekly housekeeping and laundry service, a flexible monthly culinary and dining allowance, basic utilities, a state-of-the-art health club with heated pool and full staff, 24-hour emergency response by trained personnel and much more.

Independent living also gives residents priority access to Franke’s more specialized living choices as health and medical necessity dictate.

Another option is The Cove, month-to-month rentals in spacious apartments from studios to two-bedroom configurations, with the same independent living features.

For those requiring a more structured environment, Franke offers assisted living units in studio and suite options. In addition to the other amenities, assisted living provides the BeWell personalized wellness program, a full meal plan and complete access to all care programs on the campus.

Assisted living also offers individually tailored programs, including 24-hour caregivers and memory support for persons with Alzheimer’s disease or similar impairments.

For many, Franke might be synonymous with gourmet dining. All ingredients are fresh, not frozen, local sourced when available and exemplifying a farm-to-table philosophy. As a result, casual or formal dining at Franke at Seaside is on par with the finest restaurants in the area.

Activities abound, from art classes and concerts to lectures, field trips, religious services, social gatherings, games and Broadway-style shows. One popular entertainment is the Remington Concert series, featuring leading artists from a range of musical disciplines.

While roaming Franke’s quiet nooks and sunny courtyards, one might encounter the series’ founder and guiding light, “Miss Emily” Remington. At age 99, she is enthusiastic about the 10 years she has spent as a resident. For a moment, she and friend Annabelle Jenkins spar good-naturedly about who is the most senior, with Miss Emily winning by a few months.

Like their fellow residents, the two women are enjoying their lives at Franke each and every day, though it’s unlikely that they give much thought to there actually being a namesake “Franke.” He was Charleston native and successful Atlanta businessman Joseph Washington Franke, who lent his name to the organization’s first retirement home. He undoubtedly would be more excited about all that Franke at Seaside has become today than about how anyone pronounces his name. 🍷

Information about Franke at Seaside is available by contacting Community Outreach Director Kassie South at 843-856-4713 or visiting www.frankeatseaside.org.



Emily Remington, seated, founder and guiding light of the Remington Concert Series, enjoys a musical moment with her friend, Annabelle Jenkins. Both are residents at Franke at Seaside.

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Retirement: Guarantees That Count


IF YOU ARE COUNTING ON UNCLE SAM and your pension – or both – during your retirement years, you would be wise to think again, according to Tom McCarty, president of Williamson McCarty and Associates, LLC.

A recent study revealed that 70 percent of Americans plan to continue working once they have retired. Why? It could be that nearly half of all American workers are not covered by a pension plan, and only 11 percent of Fortune 100 firms offer a traditional defined-benefit plan.

McCarty explained that research shows that retirees feel better about Social Security payments and pension income than they do about any other source of income because they are more confident spending money when they know another check is coming right around the corner.

Guarantees also help people become more confident investors in a fluctuating market because they know they have some protection built into their portfolio. And because Americans are living longer, guarantees in their overall retirement plan might help make sure their money lasts as long as they do.

Individual retirement options vary, and so do guarantees, so it's important to understand which options are available. To learn more about making your money last longer, contact McCarty at 843-549-9576 or 843-557-9030, or email him at tpmccarty@ft.newyorklife.com. His offices are located at 800-A N. Jefferies Blvd. in Walterboro and 200 Meeting St., Suite 401, in Charleston.

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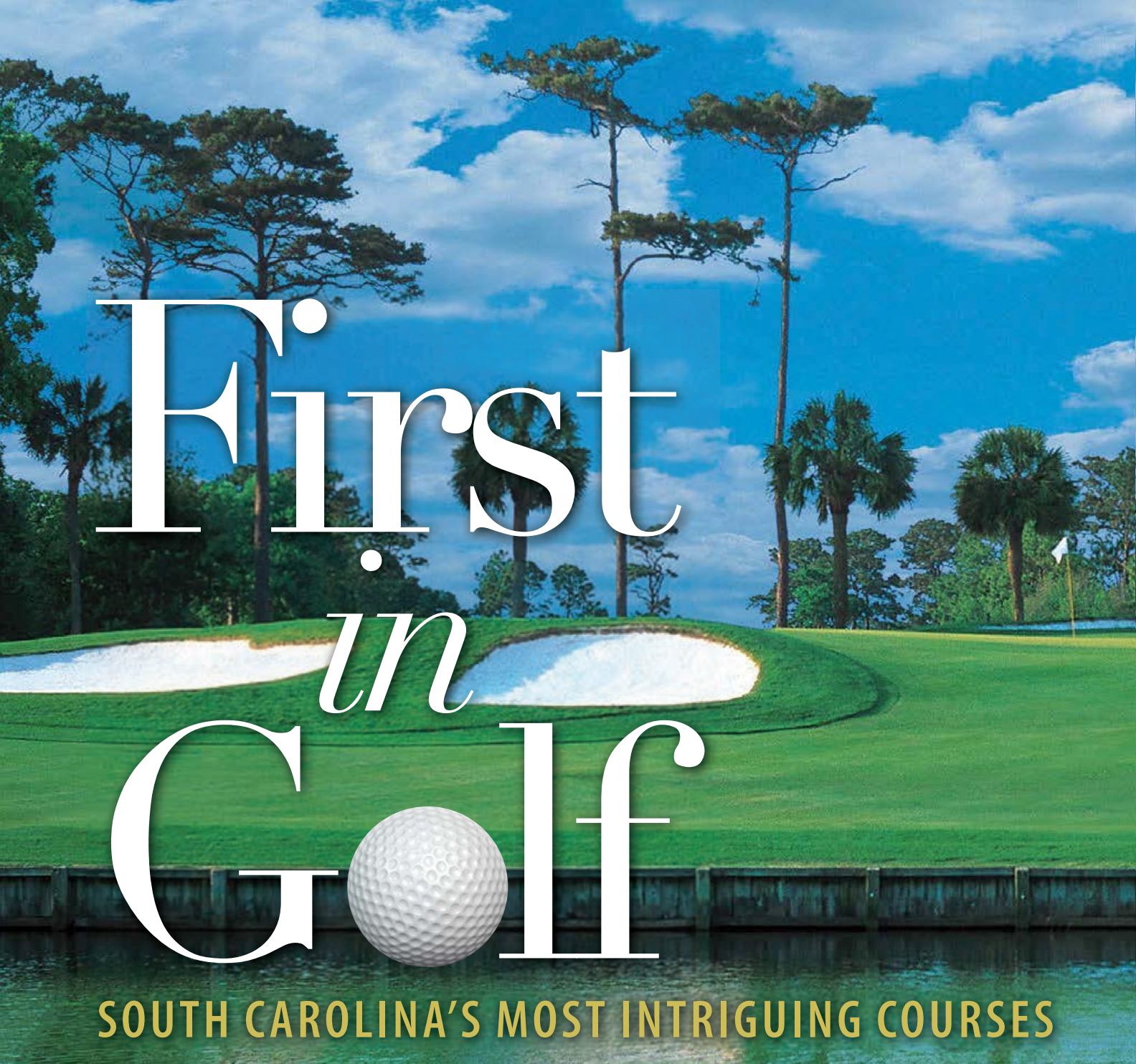
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First *in* Golf

SOUTH CAROLINA'S MOST INTRIGUING COURSES

*Story by John Torsiello.
Photos provided.*

A STATE THAT HAS A LICENSE plate proclaiming it as “First in Golf” had better live up to the boast – and South Carolina certainly does that. Whether it’s Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Hilton Head or Santee, there are a number of quality golf courses in the Lowcountry area of the Palmetto State that can rightly stake claim as among the best in the country.

Naturally, every golfer worth his or her titanium driver knows about Myrtle Beach and its “Grand Strand” of layouts that stretch from Pawleys Island in the south to the



The Dunes Golf and Beach Club might be home to the toughest course on the Grand Strand.

Brunswick Islands in southeastern North Carolina. There are almost 100 courses scattered along the Grand Strand, which also features active lifestyle communities, beaches, night life, restaurants, entertainment and more.

Pawleys Plantation Golf and Country Club and The Dunes Golf Club both have received numerous awards over the years for their exquisite designs, fabulous scenery and challenging routes that wander through the area's wetlands and marshes. Champion golfer-turned-architect Jack Nicklaus designed the course at Pawleys Plantation, and he believes it is one of his best works, sprawling over 582 lush acres.

"I have a particular fondness for the Lowcountry area,"

Nicklaus said. "We used what's here, without forcing or changing what Mother Nature provided."

The course's challenge hits you right away with the 511-yard, par-5 first hole, the monstrous 461-yard par-4 second (the number one handicap hole), the 194-yard par-3 third and the 543-yard par-5 fourth.

Not far away, in Myrtle Beach, is a classic Robert Trent Jones design – The Dunes Golf and Beach Club. This may be the toughest course on the Grand Strand, with a rating of 75.1 and a slope of 145. "Waterloo," number 13, where Lake Singleton comes into play, is the signature hole and is regarded as one of the greatest golf holes in the world.

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Santee National Golf Club is considered to be one of the best layouts in the Palmetto State, and the course's managers pride themselves on its immaculate condition.

You can take a ride down Highway 17 and try out several of the state's best Lowcountry tracks near Charleston, where the living is easy and the fun never ends. The famed Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, southwest of Charleston, is a must on every golfer's list. Everywhere you look, it is one delicious view after another. The course has hosted a Ryder Cup, the PGA Championship and the Senior PGA Championship, and it will be the site of the 103rd PGA Championship in 2021.

The Ocean Course has more seaside

holes than any course in North America – 10 along the Atlantic Ocean, with the other eight running parallel. The course stretches along nearly three miles of ocean at the eastern end of Kiawah Island and can be extended to 7,676 yards (ouch). The front nine is pretty, yes, but it isn't until the back nine that The Ocean Course unfolds its ultimate splendor. If the breeze is up – like it is on most days – holes five through 14 can be brutal.

Driving into Dunes West Golf and River Club in Mount Pleasant is a bit



The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Golf Resort has hosted a Ryder Cup, the PGA Championship and the Senior PGA Championship, and it will be the site of the 2021 PGA as well.

like stepping back in time, riding up a long entrance that takes you past tall live oaks draped with Spanish moss. The Arthur Hills golf course plays at anywhere from 6,859 yards down to 5,208 yards. Water comes into play on seven holes, and the fairways are fairly large and forgiving. The greens are mildly undulating and guarded by bunkers, both sand and grass.

I find Dunes West a pleasant challenge in that there is enough bite to keep your attention on matters at hand but open enough off the tees, with a minimum of forced carries. Dunes West is a well-rounded sporting club, with nine tennis courts, three pools, a fitness and aerobics room, a playground, a boat ramp and miles of sidewalks for walking, running and biking.

Wild Dunes Resort on the Isle of Palms is a place to relax, golf, swim and play tennis. The resort is located on a barrier island, only 30 minutes from downtown Charleston, and occupies about 1,600 acres between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. Wild Dunes has become famous for its two Tom Fazio-designed layouts: the Links Course and the



Daniel Island is an ideal place to work, live and play golf. The two courses at The Daniel Island Club include Ralston Creek and Beresford Creek, above.

Harbor Course, which offer 36 holes of championship golf. Their unique, thoughtful routings serve as pleasant contrasts to one another. I've had the opportunity to play both courses, and they are challenging, visually-pleasing and enjoyable for any level of golfer.

One of Fazio's first courses, the par-72 Links Course, captures the natural beauty of the area, with rolling fairways

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Sea Pines Resort's Harbour Town Golf Links is the home of the PGA Tour's RBC Heritage Golf Tournament, the only regular PGA stop in South Carolina. The course is among the toughest in the world.

framed by lush palms and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The par-70 Harbor Course is shorter in total length than its sister and features various water views, from lagoons to saltwater marshes to the Intracoastal Waterway.

Daniel Island is an ideal place to work, live and play in the Carolina sunshine. The Daniel Island Club has two superb courses: Ralston Creek and Beresford Creek. I've played both. Ralston Creek is a Rees Jones work that is newer than its sister course, designed by Tom Fazio, but just as good. In fact,

picking one over the other is like choosing between pecan and peach pie. Ralston Creek is a bit flatter than Beresford Creek, and its routing brings the wetlands a tad more into play. Both private layouts offer a sense of tranquility.

If you get back on Highway 17 and head south, you eventually will find Hilton Head, a community and island that really needs no introduction to golf aficionados. Sea Pines Resort's Harbour Town Golf Links is the home of the PGA Tour's RBC Heritage Golf Tournament, the only regular PGA

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stop in South Carolina. The course, one of the toughest in the world, places a premium on finesse, imagination and shot-making, rather than on simply hitting the ball a long way. You can put your game to the ultimate test against a collection of par-3s ranked among the world's finest, and the par-4 18th hole, with its iconic candy cane lighthouse, is considered one of the most feared in all of golf, particularly when the wind is blowing off Calibogue Sound. Hilton Head has been a haven for retirees and second-home owners for years.

Meanwhile, the town of Santee is located just off Interstate 95, about an hour northeast of Charleston. It has become a golfing hotbed in its own right, offering a palatable combination of very good courses at affordable prices.

Santee National Golf Club is considered one of the best layouts in the Palmetto State, and the course's managers pride themselves on its immaculate condition. The routing offers a pleasing blend of traditional Lowcountry holes, designed over a somewhat atypical rolling terrain. Five strategically-placed lakes bring water into play on a number of holes. The course plays 6,858 yards from the tips, with three other sets of tees. Number 18 is a great finishing hole – a 524-yard, par 5 that has a lake guarding the right side of the fairway and green. 🏌️



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adjective

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*Source: dictionary.com

Knowledgeable About Creative Options Your SRES Agent

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN Association of Retired Persons, 108.7 million Americans are older than 50, a whopping 20 percent of the entire population. Many of these baby boomers will have to address issues relating to their lifestyle as they age, and they'll want to be completely informed about the options that directly relate to their future physical and financial comfort.

For many 50+ adults, home ownership probably represents their single largest asset. As such, it might not

BY EILEEN CASEY

seem necessary

for them to spend time worrying about how making the most of what owning a house can mean in regards to a sound and comfortable future – at least not right now. After all, many of them are still in the workforce and enjoy extremely active lifestyles. However, most of them would agree that proximity to family and excellent amenities suited to their individual needs eventually will factor into their real estate decisions.

Those who find themselves considering their many options should consult with a real estate agent trained as a Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES), who can advise on whether that old homestead is still a viable home.

An SRES agent can offer assistance with housing needs and considerations such as age-restricted communities, age-in-place homes and even assisted living alternatives. These specially-trained real estate agents have furthered their

professional expertise by taking courses that emphasize areas of the real estate market that affect maturing home buyers, owners and investors.

The SRES designation was originally developed by the Senior Advantage Real Estate Council in 1997 to focus on the needs of home buyers and sellers who have passed the age of 50. It became an official designation in 2007, according to www.seniorsrealestate.com.

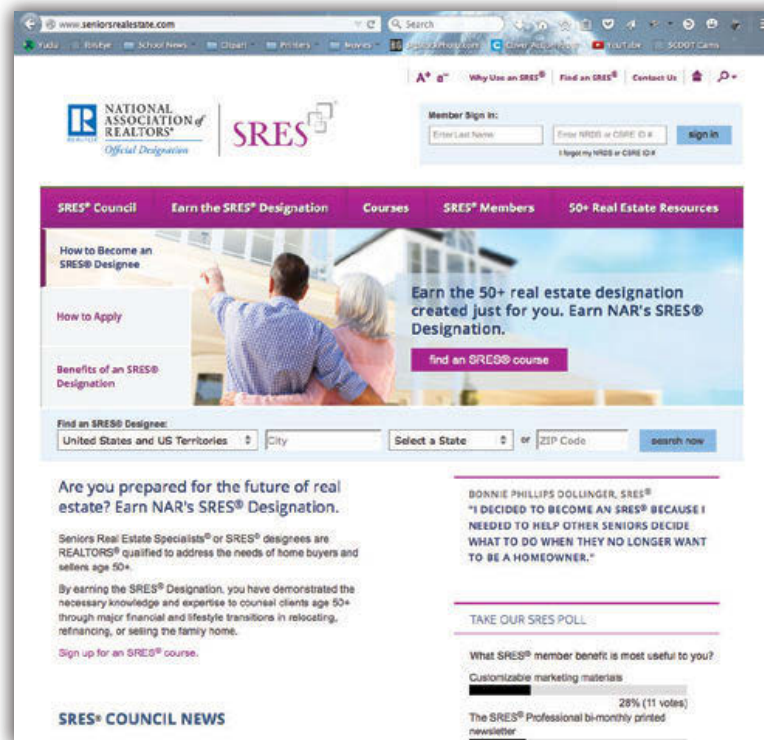
SRES coursework and training delve into reverse mortgages, specific applications of the Housing of Older Persons Act and protection from “mortgage finance and loan schemes and scams that target 50+ borrowers,”

according to the website. SRES agents can inform clients how pensions and other investments in real estate transactions can produce beneficial results, as well as “ways in which Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security affect real estate decisions of clients and customers.”

Remember when location was the golden rule of real estate? That may still be the norm today. However, other considerations impact many seniors, including housing

trends, financing options, market conditions, cost, amenities and the need for specialized care in the future.

An SRES broker is knowledgeable about the creative options that include independent living arrangements, smaller homes, adult family homes, continuing care retirement living communities, active adult communities and facilities specializing in personal care. 🏠





Honoring Silence

**A MOUNT PLEASANT RESIDENT GOES TO
WORK AT MEPKIN ABBEY**

Story by Denise K. James.

Photos by Barbara Gore.



Visitors who book a room at the Retreat Center come from all walks of life and all faiths.



Guests stay at the Retreat Center either Friday through Monday or Monday through Friday.

IT IS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT TO escape the outside noise these days. Whether we are at work, at home or out to dinner, the world begs for more of our attention through media – and, in turn, the window of time for doing something meaningful can feel as though it is shrinking away, leaving us with no space for our breath and our thoughts.

More than 10 years ago, Mount Pleasant resident Carole Nicolini, assistant to the director at the St. Francis Retreat Center at Mepkin Abbey, recognized the benefit of a quiet place to foster a relationship with the spiritual world. A new resident of East Cooper at the time and a “cradle Catholic,” Nicolini became a devoted member of Christ Our King Church in Mount Pleasant. One evening, while attending a lecture at the church with friends, she learned about Mepkin Abbey.

“The keynote speaker that evening was Abbot Francis Kline, who was the abbot of Mepkin at the time,” she remembered. “He impressed me with his intellect and his humility. I thought to myself, ‘Once I get settled in South Carolina, I want to know more about Mepkin Abbey.’”

Nicolini answered her first calling to visit the Abbey in the form of assisting its community gardens. She’d recently taken a gardening course through the Clemson University Extension Service and received a list of properties in search of someone with a green thumb and extra time. Nicolini commented that although many other possibilities were on the list, she zeroed in on the Abbey and made immediate plans to volunteer.

“I came here to the gardens and fell in love,” she admitted.

Nicolini’s relationship with her beloved Abbey, now led by Abbot Stan Gumula, has remained fruitful. For about a

Experience Mepkin Abbey during the 2015 Creche Festival

from either Nov. 16 to 22 or Nov. 27 to Dec. 5

A creche is a representation of the infant Jesus in the manger, typically surrounded by the figures found in a Nativity set. Mary, Joseph, the Wise Men, animals and shepherds are often included in the scenes. Visitors from around the country flock to Mepkin Abbey for an incredible display of unique, handmade Nativity sets from around the world. Mepkin Abbey’s Creche Festival is a Lowcountry holiday tradition. The monks transform their conference center into a forest of trees and candles which serve as the backdrop for the Nativity sets.



Reservations are required. Find out more at:

www.mepkinabbey.org/wordpress/2015-mepkin-abbey-creche-festival.

decade, she volunteered as the bulletin editor in the parish office at Christ Our King and eventually gave her time at the Retreat Center at Mepkin as well. She marveled at how her home church and the Mepkin Abbey communities “helped each other in every way they could,” and made it easier for her to stay in touch. Eventually, she was offered the chance to be on staff at the Retreat Center after about a year of volunteer work.

“I was in awe that I would have such an opportunity,” she said.

Now, many months later, Nicolini has settled into her position, fully embracing the Retreat Center, which was recently remodeled and is frequently booked with individuals looking to escape everyday life. Hospitable and calming, Nicolini struck me as the ideal person for the job when we met; her soft-spoken voice and earnest belief in the importance of quiet time in nature convinced me, as it has convinced others, that such a retreat is worthwhile.

Though the Abbey is Roman Catholic, visitors who book a room at its St. Francis Retreat Center come from all walks of life and all faiths, according to Nicolini. During their scheduled stay – either Friday through Monday or a Monday through Friday – guests can choose to experience either absolute silence or to mingle with others staying at the Center. There are 12 retreat rooms, each with a private bath, and couples are accommodated in adjoining suites. Aside from soaking up the solitude and natural beauty of the landscape, retreat-goers are also invited to participate in prayer sessions each day with the monks. They have simple but tasty meals in the guest refectory, adjacent to where the monks eat. And they can choose to meet with Father Gueric Heckel, director of the Retreat Center and a Trappist monk, who offers what Nicolini called “spiritual guidance.”

While guests of the Retreat Center are able to sleep in, the monks of Mepkin rise every day at 3 a.m. for prayer, Mass and breakfast before beginning their daily duties. The monks work six days a week – mostly agricultural tasks such as growing Mepkin Abbey mushrooms or tending the grounds – and take only Sunday for rest. Nicolini believes that the monks are a major reason peace prevails throughout the Abbey.

“The presence of the monks, who have sacrificed their lives to prayer, make Mepkin Abbey a place of peace with prayers all around,” she mused.

Though Nicolini spends a good bit of her time at the Abbey, she likes coming home to Mount Pleasant – and her son and daughter-in-law, who reside in San Diego, enjoy visiting her as well.

“I love Mount Pleasant,” she remarked heartily. “We have amazing people from all over who make it a strong community.”

LOVE ON THE BANKS OF THE COOPER RIVER

By Bill Macchio, Publisher

On the outskirts of Moncks Corner, on the grounds of Mepkin Abbey, is a garden framed by hanging Spanish moss, surrounded by the cheerful colors of azaleas and camellias and sitting on a high bluff overlooking the Cooper River. In this harmonious setting is the grave of the man who created the world's first multimedia company – the publisher of *Time*, *Fortune*, *Life* and *Sports Illustrated*.



Clare Boothe Luce and Henry R. Luce

Henry Robinson Luce was co-founder of Time, Inc., the cornerstone of what is known today as Time-Warner. In his day, he was the most influential private citizen in the world. Because of his love affair with South Carolina, he chose to call Mepkin Abbey his permanent home.

Born in Dengzhou, China, in April 1898, Henry Luce traveled extensively throughout his life and was comfortable anywhere in the world. In 1923, shortly before his 24th birthday, he and a Yale classmate co-published the first issue of *Time*. Six years later, Luce launched *Fortune*, and, in 1936, he bought *Life*, a general interest weekly magazine, acquiring the name so he could relaunch the publication as we remember it today.

Like most publishers, Luce was always looking for new readers and challenging opportunities. He was the consummate media innovator. In 1948, *Life* magazine was the exclusive sponsor of the first televised national political convention. Yet, as accomplished and well-traveled as his life was, Henry Luce and his wife, Clare Boothe Luce, chose to be buried 40 miles from Mount Pleasant in Mepkin Abbey.

Clare Boothe Luce was a war correspondent; playwright; the first woman to be appointed as a U.S. ambassador; managing editor of *Vanity Fair*; and wife of Henry Luce. In 1943, she served as Connecticut's first female congressman. It was well-known that Clare Luce expressed her ideas to Henry Luce regarding his publishing business. At the time of their marriage on Nov. 23, 1935, Clare had begun writing her play, “The Women,” which became a contemporary hit.

Years before her marriage to Henry Luce, Clare read...

To learn more about Henry and Clare Boothe Luce, visit <http://tinyurl.com/HenryLuce>.

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Playing

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The Recreation Department's Volunteers

ASK THE PEOPLE AT THE Mount Pleasant Recreation Department what keeps the bats cracking and sock hops bopping and the answer is simple. “I can say without a shadow of a doubt that the most important part of a Recreation Department is the volunteers,” said Scott Koth, who coordinates the department’s softball program and manages part-time staff.

BY JAKE LUCAS

The department has more than 1,500 volunteers who handle duties such as coaching youth sports teams, chaperoning sock hops and staffing the café at the Thomasena Stokes-Marshall Senior Center.

In the fall season alone, more than 100 soccer and flag football teams have provided fun and exercise for 5- to 8-year-olds participating in the FUNdamental Leagues, according to FUNdamental and Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator Shelli Davis.

“We can’t do this without volunteer coaches,” Davis said. “They are making the difference in our kids’ lives.”

One of those coaches is Damien Sobieraj, who, like most volunteer coaches, got involved when his 5-year-old son took up soccer. Sobieraj played the sport for much of his life and jumped at the opportunity to share his passion for soccer with his son and other kids.

Unlike most volunteers, however, he continued to coach even after his son decided he no longer wanted to play. Sobieraj said he likes coaching and takes pride in watching kids pick up on the intricacies of the sport.

“I get to teach them a game that I have a passion for,

that I love,” he said. “I enjoy watching kids grow up and seeing, in a sense, the light bulbs start to go on.”

The Recreation Department staff will tell you that volunteers do more for the community than simply teaching kids how to be great goalies and strikers. They also provide a way for youngsters to enjoy exercise, make new friends and learn important lessons they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Sobieraj said that part is rewarding. In the FUNdamental Leagues, the teams don’t keep score, but Sobieraj said some players keep track in their head, which provides him with the opportunity to talk about winning and losing.

“I get to teach them those little lessons about being a good sport and keeping your head held high,” he said.

One of the most important ways the Recreation Department thanks those who donate their time and talent



Photo courtesy of the Mount Pleasant Recreation Department.

is an annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, held every year the Thursday after Thanksgiving at Alhambra Hall. Two coveted awards are presented at the event, to the top volunteer and for sportsmanship.

Koth said the department always needs volunteers to help run more than 500 programs year-round. Davis, the FUNdamental coordinator, added that the experience is just as valuable for the coaches as it is for the kids.

“These kids aren’t going to remember the score of the game. They’re not going to remember what color the jerseys were,” she said. “But they’re going to remember the impact that one coach made on their life.” 🐾

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THE HOLIDAYS ARE ALWAYS hectic, and, with kids to keep busy, visitors to entertain and big meals to cook, it can be a challenge to keep your home looking beautiful.

The trick, according to David Poole, owner of Molly Maid of Greater Charleston, is to have a plan.

“There’s a lot going on in people’s lives during the holidays,” he said. “Focus on cleaning the major areas that your guests are going to see. The kitchen, the downstairs living area and downstairs half bath.”

BY ERIN DANLY

Directing your attention to those areas will allow you to cut down on cleaning time but still maintain a visitor-ready home.

You can also call in Molly Maid, a fully-insured, licensed and bonded residential cleaning services company serving homes all the way from Kiawah Island and Seabrook to Mount Pleasant and the Isle of Palms. Let them take care of it so you can spend your time the way you want to. After all, holidays are about being with loved ones – not about chasing dust bunnies out of your bedroom.

Sparkling kitchens, clean carpets and a clutter-free living room – Molly Maid does it all. Typically, a team of two will clean your home.

“So many people clean before the cleaners – but it really does help if the home is decluttered. If the home is a little less ‘lived in,’ we can focus on cleaning,” said Poole, adding that, as professional cleaners, they are much more efficient than the typical homeowner.

To keep that just-been-cleaned feeling as long as possible over the holidays, Poole recommended that you divide and conquer.

“Take a Monday night to thoroughly clean your

kitchen. Take Tuesday night to thoroughly clean the bathroom. Divide it up into manageable chunks,” he advised. “If you have children, make sure you have them involved in the process, at least to clean their own rooms.”

Many people find they love having a cleaning service so much, they make it a regular occurrence.

“Our typical customer has us in their home every two weeks, and it’s more affordable than you might think. We can customize a cleaning plan to meet individual needs and priorities,” Poole explained.

Molly Maid was founded in 1979 in Canada and now has more than 500 franchisees around the world.

Poole and his wife, Jennifer, opened Molly Maid of Greater Charleston in 2004, and they are proud of the service they provide to happy customers.

“Any company can say that they’ll make sure you’re happy, but we have a 10-year track record,” said Poole. “We have customers who have been with us for 10 years. We have employees who have been with us for

10 years.”

People who have never had a cleaning service may be on the fence, but Poole encourages them to think again.

“We’re licensed, bonded and fully-insured, so we take all that risk out,” he said. “And we’ve always focused on trading time for happiness. How valuable is removing stress from your life?”

Let’s face it, most of us (with the rare exception) don’t find cleaning fun, and there’s always something else to do instead, especially during the holidays. It’s the perfect time to treat yourself, call in Molly Maid and “spend your time on things that are important in your life.” 🧹

To learn more, call Molly Maid of Greater Charleston at 843-216-6130 or visit www.mollymaid.com.



Photo courtesy of Molly Maid.

Our Mount Pleasant Neighbors

WE'RE SPENDING A LITTLE TIME WITH SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORS TO HELP YOU GET to know them better. Get to know *us* better by liking us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MountPleasant-Magazine. If you want to appear in Facetime or to suggest someone you find interesting, please email the name and contact information (email and/or phone number) to Facetime@MountPleasantMagazine.com.



Stephanie Bullock

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: South Carolina.

Education: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Employment: Marketing manager at Sip in Mount Pleasant.

Favorite reading: James Patterson, John Grisham.

Favorite music: Music from my college years: Pearl Jam, Counting Crows, Alanis Morissette, Barenaked Ladies and country.

Activities: Reading, going to the beach, hanging out with my awesome friends.

Interests: Finding new and interesting places to eat and drink. We have the best food scene here in Charleston!

Likes: I love food! It is one of the things that makes me happiest in the world!



Andy Bonner

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Cookeville, Tennessee.

Education: BS in Business Marketing from USC.

Employment: Owner of Signarama.

Favorite reading: Facebook and the Bible.

Favorite music: Anything country.

Activities: Playing with my kids, trying new restaurants.

Interests: Building things (businesses, signs, playhouses).

Likes: Meeting new people; kayaking; and the beach.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "What is your desired outcome?"



Mark DeWitt

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Atlanta.

Education: BBA and MBA from the University of Georgia.

Employment: Owner/operator of SIP, owner/operator of DeWitt Enterprises, owner/operator of DeWitt Properties, owner/operator of Ardsley Park Properties, owner/operator of Low Country Rentals.

Favorite music: '70s, '80s, '90s and country.

Activities: Boating; offshore and inshore fishing; snow skiing.

Interests: Traveling and volunteering.

Likes: Live music, college football, pro football and college basketball.



Stephanie Blue

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Salem, Indiana.

Education: Bachelors in Business from Indiana University.

Employment: Owner of Vail Travel Agency.

Favorite reading: Biographies.

Favorite music: Patsy Cline, John Mellencamp and Bon Jovi.

Activities: Reading, traveling and shopping.

Interests: Helping the Bulldog Rescue - www.bullies2therescue.com.

Likes: Spending time with friends and family.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Never forget where you came from."

HAVE A BRIGHT AND SHINY SMILE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



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