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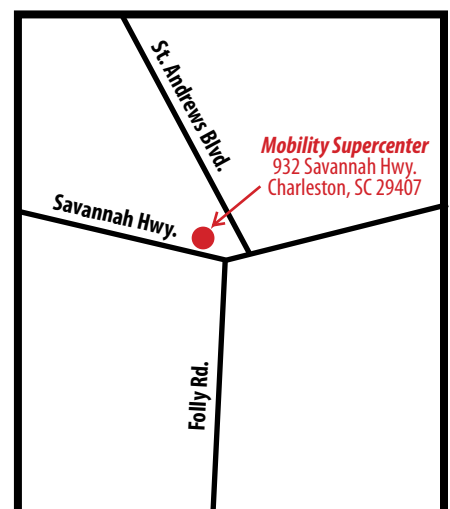


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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

I LOVE TO READ ABOUT OUR PAST AND THE WOMEN and men who helped shape our way of life on "the pleasant side of the river." Their struggles and victories provide a terrific insight into why we have the lifestyle we enjoy today.

In this issue, we touch on a piece of Mount Pleasant's past as we look at Coleman Boulevard yesterday and today. The street is being reshaped and revitalized to once again become the heartbeat of Mount Pleasant. I think we all live too much in the present. We surround ourselves with technology that gives us instant gratification and, sometimes, isolation. Learning about our past gives us a better understanding of who we are and enriches our lives.

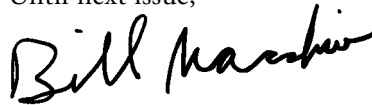
Hopefully, you will see what I'm talking about as you read our Coleman Boulevard timeline on pages 20 and 21. It starts back in 1650, when Charles II directed the Colonial governors to build a road, continues through 1791, when our first president visited Mount Pleasant and traveled on King's Highway, and finishes in 2013, with the completion of The Boulevard.

Mount Pleasant is rich in history, and there is no better place to begin than Coleman Boulevard and its close neighbor, the Old Village. If you like history, you might want to check out one of our online sister publications, www.OldVillageMagazine.com. It is full of stories about the history of the Old Village and Mount Pleasant.

Although our Coleman Boulevard articles earned a cover copy point, we've used our front cover to tell the story of nine Mount Pleasant women who fought breast cancer and survived. These amazing women have amazing stories of courage and strength. We hope these interviews will help men and women who face health crises find their own inner strength and courage to carry on.

Everyone here appreciates the time you spend with us. If you enjoy our magazine half as much as we enjoy publishing it, we know you're having a good time reading it. If you'd like to share our digital edition with friends or family members, send them to www.MountPleasantMagazine.com/green. 📧

Until next issue,



— BILL MACCHIO
Publisher



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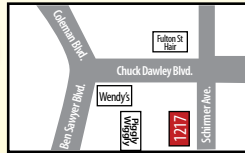
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Our Contributors



John Torsiello is a writer and editor. He has written extensively about all aspects of the golf industry for a number of national and regional publications. He is associate editor of *Golfing Magazine*, editor of *Golfing Magazine New Jersey-Eastern Pa.*, senior editor of *Fairway Living Magazine*

and a regular contributor to *Golf Course Industry*, *Lawn and Landscape*, *Cybergolf.com*, and *Hartford Magazine*. An avid golfer and tennis player, John prides himself on his writing skills, as well as his ability to meet deadlines and to work smoothly with editors and publishers. He owns a home in Dunes West and lives here seasonally.

A love of history and old buildings brought **Pam Gabriel** to Mount Pleasant 21 years ago. She earned a bachelor's in Art History from the College of Charleston and has continued to study local architecture and history. She is the co-author of "The Great Cooper River Bridge," the co-author of "Touring the Tombstones" – a series about historic



Charleston graveyards – and the author of "The Unique Charleston Single House."



Renae Brabham is a local flavor humorist. She enjoys writing for *Moultrie News* online and *Charleston Grit* and loving life on the half shell.

Kate McKinley is a photographer based in Mount Pleasant. She specializes in wedding and creative portraits. Kate uses a photojournalistic approach in all of her work and tries to capture natural emotion. In her spare time, she enjoys live music and concert photography. Kate resides in Mount Pleasant with her family.



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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About the Cover



OUR COVER FOR THIS ISSUE FEATURES several ladies who have shared with Mount Pleasant Magazine their most inspiring stories on how they beat breast cancer and are helping other women find the means and the courage to do the same. It was photographed by Kate McKinley at the Cotton Dock of Boone Hall Plantation – a place that represents the joy of being alive and in the Lowcountry to all of us. The ladies had fun getting their hair and makeup done by the Vanity Salon Style Bus, which was on-site to help everyone prepare for their close-ups. Thank you to all who participated in this fun shoot!

That said, throughout the experience of putting our September/October issue together, a certain theme seemed to resurface; that theme is storytelling. You'll likely notice the prevalence of other stories everywhere in these pages – from the tale of Coleman Boulevard, its interesting past and promising future, to the spooky legends we've included to get you into an autumn mood.

Until our next issue, keep sharing your stories, and thank you for enjoying ours.

Yours,
Denise K. James
Managing Editor

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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.

The ladies we featured in **Tales of Triumph** loved having their photographs taken and their hair and makeup done by the Vanity Salon Style Bus. Visit our website for more fun photos, taken by our photographer, Kate McKinley, at the Boone Hall Cotton Dock.

Of course, with the fall comes the celebration of Halloween. Besides our spooky tales included in this issue and ideas for family fun, we have a quiz that tests your knowledge of **classic horror movies** by matching the movie to the quote. Gather up your horror-buff friends and see how much they know!



Don't forget to vote for the **BEST OF MOUNT PLEASANT 2014** by visiting our online poll. Last year's Best of Mount

Pleasant was a huge hit; we received more than 14,000 votes in categories ranging from restaurants to medical services. Don't miss your chance to make your voice heard this time around – go to mountpleasantmagazine.com/2014ballot and tell us what you love about East Cooper.



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Letters to the Editor

I received a copy of the mag in the mail the other day. While reading it, I came across the article regarding Hurricane Hugo written by Jim Cox (July/August 2013). I was very touched; I had never seen the article before. You see, Mr. Cox was my neighbor for many years. His house (that was destroyed) was directly across the street from ours. He and his wife lived in Mount Pleasant after the storm, and, when his wife died, he decided to rebuild and come back to the island. He lived across the street for many years, eventually sold and moved to Mount Pleasant again (said he was too old to pack up for island hurricane scares anymore), and, when in his mid 80s and in poor health, moved to Atlanta with his son's family. One of his last wishes was to have his ashes scattered from our dock. His son arranged a memorial service at the church in Mount Pleasant that Mr. Cox used to attend (for his many friends in Charleston) and then we had a private ceremony for family only on our deck. It was hot as blazes (July) and I provided some biodegradable flower wreaths that were thrown into the water to float away, after the ashes were released.

After the death of his wife, Mr. Cox often took trips overseas with seniors groups. He never failed to bring me back a trinket or souvenir of some sort. I still have many of them.

Thanks for triggering some fond memories and a few sad ones as well.

Melanie Brown
Isle of Palms

Regarding the cover photo on the Mount Pleasant Magazine July/August 2013 issue: Does Mark Sanford expect the readers to believe that he used a flatware table knife to slice a ripe tomato? How stupid does he think his constituents are? Oh, perhaps we better not go there.

Stephen Claeys
Mount Pleasant

I received your magazine today. My address was not on it, so I don't know how I ended up with it. I question the veracity/purpose of your feature article on John Burn (May/June 2013). What you were thinking/trying to accomplish was lost on me. My thoughts were that you were trying to make a role model out of the proverbial sow's ear. I hope this was not a politically motivated article.

Your thoughts?

Bobby Utsey
Mount Pleasant

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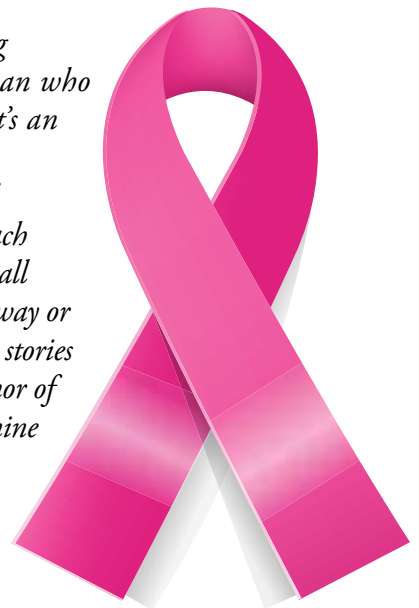
Photos by Kate McKinley Photography

SURVIVORS SHARE THEIR STORIES

The privilege of hearing a person's story is one of the greatest aspects of being human. And when that story is a particularly triumphant one – about a woman who courageously fights breast cancer and shares her wisdom with other women – it's an even more rewarding addition to the canon of experience.

Recently, Mount Pleasant Magazine writer Barbara Patrick and I had the joy of meeting nine local women. They differ in age, profession and, of course, what they each have endured. But these nine ladies have one important thing in common: They are all survivors of breast cancer, a disease that has touched the lives of most women in one way or another. We all have mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters and close friends with stories about breast cancer. Some, of course, are more heartbreaking than others. But in honor of October, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we are proud to give you these nine inspiring stories.

- Denise K. James



Lobbying for the Cure: BONNIE HANCOCK

Ten years ago, Bonnie Hancock found out that she had breast cancer. One year later, she attended the Susan G. Komen Survivor Celebration with a friend. She promptly decided, after being inspired by fellow survivors, to “volunteer her time vigorously.”



“Nine years ago, I started volunteering by helping with survivor luncheons, helping with leadership conferences and lobbying for research money,” she said.

Bonnie currently serves on the board for Komen’s Lowcountry branch, where she stays highly involved in collecting funds for the organization. This month, she is helping to produce the second fundraiser at Wild Dunes. Sponsored by the Wild Dunes Tennis Association, it features tennis, golf and a silent auction – all for the sake of the ladies who are fighting a breast cancer battle.

“We raised over \$16,000 last year,” said Bonnie. “The way I look at it is, that’s over 160 mammograms for women who aren’t able to afford it.”

Bonnie spoke about how important it is to accept help from other people, as well as to give help when it’s needed – especially when it comes to something as life-changing as breast cancer.

“It’s sometimes tough for people to accept help,” she commented. “But other women who have dealt with it have the same issues and anxieties. When it comes to being around survivors, you know you’re sitting with sisters.”

Creating Family in Charleston – and in the World: JENNY HASLAM

Jenny Haslam contemplated leaving the Lowcountry before she realized that she’d developed her own support group. Originally from the Midwest, Jenny came to the Charleston area “for an adventure after college,” she said, and got a job teaching preschool. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in March of this year.



Throughout her experience, Jenny’s colleagues at the preschool have been there for her. In fact, Jenny’s young students have been there as well. She described how the summer has been tougher than the academic year because

she hasn’t had the chance to interact with her students.

“During the school year, I would get up, go to work, laugh and have fun with them,” she said. “And it’s been cool to see my co-workers band together with me and pray with me. It brings everyone together.”

Jenny started a blog about her experience, which she said has been “really therapeutic.”

“Strangers have been reading it and emailing me,” she remarked. “Everyone has been affected by breast cancer in some way.”

She paused thoughtfully. “For me, there has to be a purpose. I want to return the encouragement I’ve received and help other young women.”

The Gift of Friends: JESSICA OTTMERS

There is no good time to receive the diagnosis of cancer, certainly not when you’re busy building a life and playing with a 2-year-old. And not when your family is far away.



But cancer did interrupt Jessica Ottmers’ busy life at age 34, in the form of a tiny pebble-like lump. What had been a “let’s wait and see” became a “stage 1.” Even though Jessica had no real risk factors, she had an uneasy feeling that the lump might be something.

The cure, a lumpectomy plus chemo and radiation, was no fun, but the black cloud of cancer often brings a silver lining – the support and care of friends and the encouragement of survivors. It also taught her that life is to be cherished and to enjoy each moment.

“I had no family here but we had good friends who helped,” Jessica said. “My husband is a chef, and he had the flexibility to change his schedule to be home in the evenings to care for Sophie. It was a blessing.”

Jessica carries that blessing forward to help those on the journey to survival through organizations that help women fight the battle. She currently serves as co-navigator and warrior liaison for Warriors 4 Warriors. She finds comfort and strength laced with friendship with “a wonderful group of survivors.”

“I am on the board of the Warriors 4 Warriors Foundation,” she said. “I met (founder) Leslie Crawford Moore in the chemo chair, and we have been friends ever since.”

Life carries more meaning for Jessica now. Even daughter Sophie, now 6, likes to help and “gets excited about the pink ribbon.”

“I learned how precious life is and not to take it for

granted. I learned to really see what matters,” Jessica said. “Life is a gift that can be taken away.”

And Jessica embraces every moment.

Leading the Warriors: LESLIE MOORE

Leslie Moore was diagnosed with breast cancer in June of 2009. She wasted no time deciding to have a double mastectomy and subsequent reconstruction.

“I felt like something was not right before I was even diagnosed,” she said. “I felt a lump and experienced exhaustion – I knew to go to the doctor.”

After her own diagnosis, Leslie decided to reach out to other young women between the ages of 25 and 45 who were experiencing breast cancer. She felt that being diagnosed at a younger age could present its own set of challenges, such as dealing with career and small children.



She even wrote her own story in a memoir titled “Warriors Wear Pink.”

“I don’t ever sugarcoat,” she admitted. “I also don’t scare people. I base information on the hundreds of women and men I’ve talked to.”

According to Leslie, the doctor “gets your body healthy,” while Warriors 4 Warriors, which is the foundation that materialized soon after her memoir, “gets your heart and head healthy.” The Warriors Foundation makes it a point to get to know the women who are currently struggling with breast cancer – including meeting the families, learning about their jobs and offering support throughout the healing process.

“Emotional and mental healing takes so much longer,” said Leslie.

In Charge of the Celebration: LISA JONES

When Lisa Jones found out she had breast cancer in 2012,



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she had been working at the Lowcountry Susan Komen Foundation for two years. In an instant, she went from empathizing with the women – and men – who sought help from the foundation to sharing their situation.

“I knew a lot of information through my work; I was lucky and informed,” she said. “But it all seemed surreal.”

Lisa, like many women who experience breast cancer, received help and support from her family and close friends. She expressed how much her two older sisters helped out during treatment, keeping house so that Jones’ husband did not have to.

“Cancer is a family and friends illness,” she remarked. “You get by with family and friends. I don’t know what I would have done without them.”

As of late, Lisa spends a good deal of time putting the Komen Race for the Cure together. Meanwhile, she has “a different understanding” when women and their family members call and ask for advice.

“I like working for an issue, especially women’s issues,” she said. “We have to help each other, whatever the case may be.”

The Komen race culminates each October with a Survivor’s Celebration, which Jones works diligently to put together with the help of music performers, speakers, film creatives and others.

“We have a stage committee,” Lisa said. “And the stage is filled with music, lights and cheering – everyone celebrating with their families. Not everyone has been affected directly by breast cancer, but it’s an inspiring experience.”

A Network of Friends: NICOLE FERRARO

Life was wonderful for the Ferraro family. Just two weeks after moving to Mount Pleasant, a new baby brought more joy. Then, eight months later, Nicole felt a lump while nursing Logan. On New Year’s Eve, a phone call brought devastating news.

“I heard the word cancer, and I couldn’t hear anything after that,” Nicole said.

Nicole and her husband, Kevin, took control of her care, seeking treatment that would allow her to see her children Griffin, now 7, and Logan, now 4, grow up. At the age of 36, Nicole was sick, bald and weak. But she was loved by her friends.

“They brought us food; I didn’t cook for six months,” she said. “And one friend would wait for me when I



dropped Griffin at school. She knew I was too weak to carry Logan in.”

Surrounded by a safety net of friends – and even strangers who would become friends, Nicole realized how fortunate she was. She realized others were less fortunate. And so she is dedicated to the goal of Share Our Suzy.

“I had so much support; I want to pay it back,” Nicole said.

Four years later, she is part of the safety net for others, providing not only information and resources but also encouragement and hope as a volunteer for Share Our Suzy. There she has found friends and survivors who work tirelessly to ease the lives of others.

Although she is forever changed, life is again wonderful for Nicole and her family. And she is grateful for her health and the opportunity to lend a helping hand.

Laughter is the Best Medicine: PAT SCHWARTZ

Pat Schwartz laughs in the face of adversity. And that’s a good thing, because she plans on staying around a lot longer.

Pat was a child in London during World War II, a fearful time of black-outs and bombs. Was she frightened? Absolutely not.

“They took us to school every day,” Pat said.

Maintaining that sense of normalcy was instrumental in developing Pat’s ability to accept the slings of life and to keep moving forward. In spite of facing medical issues, including heart surgery and a stroke, Pat always sees the glass as half full.

So when she was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 75, she took it in stride.

“I told them just to cut it off,” she laughed. Because the cancer was stage I and no lymph nodes were involved, she needed no further treatment.

She didn’t think much of the idea of a prosthesis either.

“What’s a prosthesis?” she asked.

“A boob,” she was told.

“Why didn’t you just say so,” Pat retorted.

She agreed to try a “fake boob,” but it wasn’t for her.

“It was too heavy,” Pat confided. “It made me lean to one side. I carried it in my purse and threw it across the table to my friends.”

Dominique Lamb, Pat’s daughter-in-law, said the story represents Pat’s indomitable personality.

“She is always positive,” Dominique said about Pat.



“Always laughing.”

It seems Pat always gets the last laugh.

Educating Through Word of Mouth: SHARON FOSTER

Sharon Foster feels that women need to take time for themselves and their own health, and she’s doing her part to spread the word on how important that is.

“As women, we take care of everyone else – our children, our pets, our spouses – and the nurturing part of ourselves is constantly stirred up. But we tend to forget about or put off taking care of ourselves,” she said.

Sharon, who owns a print shop in West Ashley, said she sees women all the time who neglect health routines such as flu shots, checkups and mammograms. Surprisingly, the ladies who visit Sharon’s shop for printing, packing and shipping are willing to talk candidly about their lives.

“They’ll tell me about why they’re mailing a package and then tell me about themselves,” she said with a smile. “They’re all multitasking, like usual.”

Sharon, who has two daughters, 23 and 28, believes in the importance of groups to help ladies work through the challenges of breast cancer. She currently attends a breast cancer support group at John Wesley United Methodist Church, which she discovered through one of her customers.

“Groups assist with matters such as nutrition, experiences and socializing,” she said. “There’s a lot of mentoring going on as well. Once you’ve gone through breast cancer,



there’s a bond you feel with other women.”

Connecting Mothers, Daughters – and Women: SHIRLEY NILSEN

Back in 2003, Shirley Nilsen worked for a company that offered free mammograms. One day, during one of her own routine exams, “something didn’t look right.” Thus, Shirley and her doctor decided to perform an ultrasound and biopsy.

“I was lucky because we caught it early,” she said. “I went through chemotherapy and lost my hair. It was an emotional experience, though it was 10 years ago.”

Shirley emphasized how having the support of her husband and children made all the difference. Today, Shirley is returning that support to her daughter and her four granddaughters – as well as any woman who might be affected by breast cancer. She currently serves on the board of the Susan Komen Foundation, spreading the word about the importance of regular mammograms to the ladies of the Lowcountry.

“I am concerned on behalf of my daughter and my four granddaughters,” she said. “But I really do think a cure is on the way, as long as funding and research exist.”

Shirley feels that women who triumph over breast cancer naturally reach out to one another.

“We feel like a unit or an army,” she said. “Every woman has her own story, and, when you’re surrounded by other survivors, you want to give back.”



Fighting the Good Fight: Breast Cancer Support Organizations

SHARE OUR SUZY

www.shareoursuzy.org • lowcountry@shareoursuzy.org
(843) 410-7970

Share Our Suzy honors the memory of Suzy McGrane by offering financial assistance to breast cancer patients in South Carolina.

SUSAN G. KOMEN LOWCOUNTRY

www.komenlowcountry.org • forthecure@komenlowcountry.org
(843) 556-8011

This group provides information and professional support services for patients and survivors and also sponsors the Komen Race for the Cure.

WARRIORS 4 WARRIORS

www.warriors4warriorsfoundation.org
leslie@warriors4warriorsfoundation.org
(843) 708-1918

Warriors 4 Warriors provides emotional support via email, phone and personal visits, Warrior care packages and support groups.

EAST COOPER BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

This support group meets the last Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at East Cooper Hospital. For more details, call (843) 881-9499.



RULES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE BEST OF MOUNT PLEASANT 2014

No purchase is necessary. All voters must be at least 16 years of age before voting ends on Nov. 8, 2013. Each voter may vote only once. Each voter must include a name, telephone number, email address and physical address. Your information will be automatically entered into our drawings for exciting prizes such as dinners at Mount Pleasant restaurants. The only ballots accepted for the Best of Mount Pleasant are official online voting at <http://mountpleasantmagazine.com/2014ballot> or ballots obtained from the September/October 2013 edition of Mount Pleasant Magazine. Each voter must include a total of 15 answers in order for his or her vote

to be qualified. Voting will begin at midnight, Sept. 2, 2013, and end at midnight, Nov. 8, 2013. Responses must be limited to Mount Pleasant, Awendaw, Daniel Island, Sullivan's Island, The Isle of Palms and other areas of East Cooper. If your vote in a category does not pertain to that category, the vote will be disqualified. Example: voting for a dermatologist in the Best Plastic Surgeon category. Results will be printed in the January/February 2014 edition of Mount Pleasant Magazine as well as publicized on the Web.

Best of Mount Pleasant Categories

FOOD & DRINK

- Best Asian _____
- Best Bakery _____
- Best Bar _____
- Best Barbecue _____
- Best Breakfast _____
- Best Brunch _____
- Best Budget-Friendly Meal _____
- Best Burger _____
- Best Cocktail _____
- Best Coffee _____
- Best Craft Beer _____
- Best Deli _____
- Best Dessert _____
- Best Place to Dine Outdoors _____
- Best Fried Chicken _____
- Best Frozen Yogurt _____
- Best Grocery Store _____
- Best Happy Hour _____
- Best Hot Dog _____
- Best Ice Cream _____
- Best Italian _____
- Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant _____
- Best Mac 'n Cheese _____
- Best Mexican _____
- Best Pizza _____
- Best Place to Take an Out-of-Town Guest _____
- Best Raw Bar _____
- Best Restaurant Service _____
- Best Ribs _____
- Best Seafood _____

- Best Shrimp 'n Grits _____
- Best Steak _____
- Best Sushi _____
- Best Taco _____
- Best Upscale Restaurant _____
- Best Wings _____

SHOPPING & GOODS

- Best Antique Store _____
- Best Art Gallery _____
- Best Baby Goods _____
- Best Board Shop _____
- Best Place to Buy a Boat _____
- Best Boutique _____
- Best Bridal Store _____
- Best Place to Buy a Car _____
- Best Place to Buy a Gift _____
- Best Casual Attire _____
- Best Children's Clothing _____
- Best Cocktail/Dress Attire _____
- Best Consignment Clothing _____
- Best Consignment Furniture _____
- Best Retail Customer Service _____
- Best Department Store _____
- Best Florist _____
- Best Fish and Tackle Shop _____
- Best Garden Center _____
- Best Hardware Store _____
- Best Home Goods _____
- Best Insurance Agent _____
- Best Menswear _____

- Best Jewelry Store _____
- Best Liquor Store _____
- Best Shoe Store _____
- Best Sporting Goods _____
- Best Swimwear _____
- Best Thrift Shop _____
- Best Toys _____
- Best Women's Accessories _____

ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

- Best Apartment Community _____
- Best Boat Ramp _____
- Best Concert Venue _____
- Best Custom Builder (Over \$500,000) _____
- Best Kids Activity _____
- Best Movie Theater _____
- Best Neighborhood for Families _____
- Best Neighborhood for Retirees _____
- Best Park _____
- Best Place to Fish _____
- Best Place to Fly a Kite _____
- Best Place to Go for a Run _____
- Best Place to Have a Picnic _____
- Best Place to Meet Singles in Person _____
- Best Place To Paddleboard _____
- Best Place to Play Golf _____
- Best Place to Play Tennis _____
- Best Place to Ride a Bike _____
- Best Place to Walk Your Dog _____
- Best Place to Watch Sports on TV _____
- Best Playground _____
- Best Place to Have a Children's Birthday Party _____
- Best Place to View the Ravenel Bridge _____
- Best Public Beach Access _____
- Best Volume Builder _____

LOCAL PERSONALITIES & SERVICES

- Best Assisted Living Facility _____
- Best Attorney _____
- Best Body Shop _____
- Best Car Wash _____
- Best Dance Studio _____
- Best Child Care _____
- Best Financial Planner _____
- Best Place to Get a Mortgage _____
- Best Hair Salon _____
- Best Home Cleaning Service _____

- Best Interior Decorator _____
- Best Place to Hold an Event _____
- Best Home Cleaning Service _____
- Best Hotel _____
- Best Kennel _____
- Best Loan Officer _____
- Best Local Celebrity _____
- Best Automobile Technician _____
- Best Nail Salon _____
- Best Pet Groomer _____
- Best Place to Have a Wedding _____
- Best Place of Worship _____
- Best Private School _____
- Best Public School _____
- Best Radio Personality _____
- Best Radio Station _____
- Best Real Estate Company _____
- Best Realtor _____
- Best Tanning Salon _____
- Best Television Personality _____
- Best Veterinarian _____

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Best Allergist _____
- Best Audiologist _____
- Best Chiropractor _____
- Best Dentist _____
- Best Dermatologist _____
- Best Eye Doctor _____
- Best Gerontologist _____
- Best Fitness Center _____
- Best Hospital _____
- Best Lasik Surgeon _____
- Best OBGYN _____
- Best Oral Surgeon _____
- Best Orthodontist _____
- Best Orthopedic Surgeon _____
- Best Pediatrician _____
- Best Physical Therapist _____
- Best Plastic Surgeon _____
- Best Primary Care Doctor _____
- Best Urgent Care _____
- Best Urologist _____
- Best Weight Loss Program _____
- Best Yoga Studio _____

Please submit this ballot online or return to:
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MOUNT PLEASANT'S MAIN STREET

Then and Now

IT STRETCHES JUST 2.4 MILES, FROM the foot of the Ravenel Bridge to the intersection of Ben Sawyer and Chuck Dawley boulevards, but the story of what is now Coleman Boulevard reaches back to the earliest days of Colonial Charles Town.

Georgetown Road was the main thoroughfare in Christ Church Parish when Robert Mills surveyed the area in 1825. It followed an old Native American route that once brought tribes to the coast to enjoy the ocean's bounty of shellfish. These old "Indian" pathways become the roads of the early colonists. King's Highway was established as early as 1650, when King Charles II instructed the Colonial governors to build postal routes linking the Colonies.

Following the American Revolution, newly-elected President George Washington traveled to Charleston on King's Highway during his Southern Tour. He arrived in the city on a barge he boarded at Shem Creek. After his visit, memorialized in a painting by John Trumbull that now hangs in Charleston's City Hall, colonists often referred to the road as Washington's Highway.

President James Monroe also visited Charleston, accompanied by his Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, a South Carolina native.

In the late 1800s, many Charlestonians summered at Sullivan's Island. Barges and ferries brought city residents to the wharf on Hibben Street in Mount Pleasant. From there, they boarded trolleys that traveled down Pitt Street, across the Cove Inlet Bridge to the island. Another line, the Cooper River Ferry, landed at Hog Island – today Patriots Point – and dropped off passengers for a trolley which followed old Georgetown Road into the village of Mount Pleasant, where it continued to Sullivan's Island.

When the federal government established the Ocean Highway early in the 20th century, the route followed much of Old Georgetown Road and King's Highway. In

South Carolina, it was known as Route 40. When the 'motor car' arrived, improvements such as paved surfaces became necessary.

The opening of the first Cooper River Bridge in 1929 – a private enterprise financed by the owners of Isle of Palms, who wanted to bring tourists from Charleston to their island resort – brought many changes to Mount Pleasant. The bridge deposited tourists onto Old Georgetown Road, where a toll booth was located. The bridge offered a shortcut along the coast, since Highway 17 now crossed the Charleston peninsula to the bridge and linked up with Route 40. Previously, Highway 17 turned inland at the Ashley River.

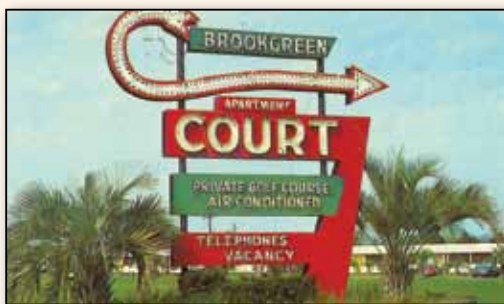
The Great Depression slowed progress in the Charleston area, and it was not until the prosperity following World War II that Mount Pleasant experienced a growth spurt. Soon businesses and motels popped up along Highway 17 as it passed through Mount Pleasant. Shem Creek, once the site of water-powered mills, became a haven for fishing boats and shrimpers, and the lure of fresh seafood attracted tourists and locals to the restaurants on its banks.

Mount Pleasant grew, annexing land in old Christ Church Parish and building roads that brandished the names of town leaders. Old Georgetown Road received a new name in 1958: Coleman Boulevard,

after Mayor Francis Coleman, who served the town from 1946 until 1960. The roadway was increased from a two-lane, 18-foot-wide road to four lanes, ranging from 52 feet to 62 feet wide before connecting to the fork leading to Sullivan's Island.

A second bridge opened in 1967 that connected to a new Highway 17 bypass, built through the former tomato and okra fields. The highway drew travelers away from Coleman Boulevard businesses, and Hurricane Hugo in 1989 proved to be the final death knell for many Coleman Boulevard businesses.

In the early 1990s, plans were launched to revitalize Coleman Boulevard. A newer plan continues to transform the boulevard into Mount Pleasant's main street. 🏡



COLEMAN BOULEVARD

A small roadway with a big history



1650 – King Charles II of England directs the Colonial governors to build a road to connect the Colonies.

1735 – The King's Highway, a 1,300-mile wagon route from Boston to Charleston, South Carolina, is completed.

1819 – President James Monroe visits Charleston with his secretary of war, South Carolina native John C. Calhoun. They are entertained by a number of prominent citizens in the East Cooper area.

1898 – A ferry service brings tourists from Charleston to Mount Pleasant, where they board a trolley that takes them to Sullivan's Island and what is now called Isle of Palms, a new resort.



1929 – The Cooper River Bridge opens and Route 17 joins with Route 40 in Mount Pleasant, by way of a road across the Charleston peninsula, therefore shortening the route north.

1770 – Andrew Hibben operates Hibben Ferry, the first ferry service connecting Charles Town to the King's Highway.

1791 – President George Washington makes his Southern tour along the King's Highway. John Trumbell's painting of Washington celebrates this visit.



1825 – A survey by Robert Mills denotes a road between Georgetown and Charleston as Georgetown Road, an old Indian "broad path."

1927 – Ocean Highway is incorporated into Route 17, a North-South federal road that runs along the coast from Porta Gunda, Florida, to Winchester, Virginia.

1900 – Ocean Highway is created by designating existing roadways along the East Coast for motor vehicles. The route runs from New Brunswick, New Jersey, to Jacksonville, Florida. In South Carolina, where the route turns inland to the village of Mount Pleasant, it is known as Route 40.

1958 – A 2.4-mile section of Old Georgetown Road – also known as Route 17 – that begins at the foot of the Cooper River Bridge and ends at the fork where it becomes Route 401 – Ben Sawyer Boulevard – is renamed to honor Mayor Francis F. Coleman.

1960s – The first restaurants open on Shem Creek.



1980s – Businesses shift away from Coleman Boulevard to Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, a frontage road that parallels the Route 17 bypass.

1989 – Hurricane Hugo destroys struggling businesses on Coleman Boulevard.

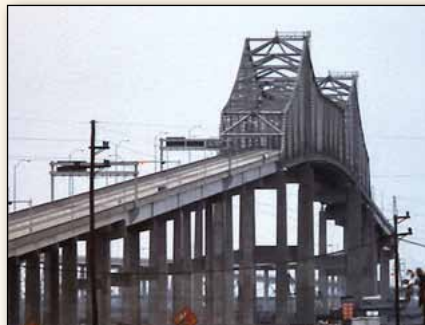


2005 – The Arthur Ravenel Bridge opens, replacing the two old Cooper River bridges. Two traffic lanes lead directly onto Coleman Boulevard, where Palmetto trees and decorative lighting greet those entering Mount Pleasant.

TimeLine brought to you by www.MountPleasantMagazine.com and www.ColemanBoulevard.com

1959 – A two-year project widens Coleman Boulevard from a two-lane, 18-foot wide road to a four-lane roadway ranging in width from 52 feet to 62 feet. The Shem Creek Bridge is also widened, from 26 feet to 56 feet.

1958 – Plans call for a second bridge across the Cooper River and for Route 17 to bypass Coleman Boulevard. It will later connect to Route 17 near the present-day K-Mart store.



1966 – The Pearman Bridge across the Cooper River opens, bringing more people into Mount Pleasant, and construction gets underway on the bypass for Route 17, through former farmland in Christ Church Parish.

1993 – A revitalization program is announced for Coleman Boulevard.

2008-Present – A revitalization/enhancement is announced for Coleman Boulevard as part of the “Main Street” project. Decorative crosswalks, landscaped medians, on-street parking and a traffic circle at the intersection of Coleman, Ben Sawyer and Chuck Dawley boulevards is planned.





Three of the key players in the Coleman Boulevard Revitalization Project are, left to right, John Darby, Chief Executive Officer of The Beach Company; Kate Darby, who chaired the Coleman Revitalization Advisory Board; and Elton Carrier, a CRAB member and chair of the Town Council's Finance Committee.



The Heart of Mount Pleasant Beats Again

story by Brian Sherman

photography by Kate McKinley Photography

ONCE UPON A TIME IN COASTAL Carolina, long before Mount Pleasant was anything more than a sleepy suburb of Charleston, the town's main street stretched lazily along part of what is now known as Coleman Boulevard.

As Mount Pleasant's population exploded, rocketing to its current status as the fourth largest municipality in South Carolina, Coleman Boulevard's importance diminished greatly. Businesses old and new opened up shop in burgeoning areas of economic development such as Towne Centre, Belle Hall and Highway 17.

But now, fueled by an aggressive

revitalization plan set in motion by then-Mayor Harry Hallman and the Town Council in 2006 and a combination of public and private spending, Coleman Boulevard is making a comeback. In 2009, the town funded improvements at Moultrie Middle School and Shem Cree, and by mid-summer 2013, the Beach Company had already rented more than 125 apartments of The Boulevard, an imposing 325-unit complex that will be one centerpiece of Coleman Boulevard's renaissance.

"It wasn't pedestrian friendly, and it could have been more economically vibrant," Mount Pleasant Town Administrator Eric DeMoura commented. "We wanted to restore Coleman Boulevard to its rightful place as Mount Pleasant's main street."

DeMoura, who was promoted to his current position in October 2010, facilitated the work of the CRAB – the Coleman Revitalization Advisory Board – a group of local citizens who helped put together a plan to return the



Photo by Brian Sherman.

Once known as the King's Highway, Coleman Boulevard is now Mount Pleasant's busiest thoroughfare.

town's former main street to its previous place of prominence in the community. Serving as deputy town administrator at the time, he pointed out that public involvement in a project that eventually would cost \$17.85 million was a necessity from the beginning.

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Kate Darby, who lives just off Coleman Boulevard, served as chair of the 24-member CRAB. The group of area residents and businessmen met regularly for almost two years to come up with a plan that would establish the boulevard as Mount Pleasant's downtown area.

"I was interested in seeing the town grow the right way. This was a great opportunity to get involved," Darby commented. "We talked with people from other towns, such as Greenville and Charleston. We wanted to slow traffic down and have more walking and more outside restaurants. In many ways, it's turning

CRAB before he was elected to the Town Council in 2009. He's aware that the project was unpopular among some local residents but added that the CRAB didn't make its final recommendations until members received input at public meetings. He agreed with Darby that members of the group learned a lot from what's been accomplished in the Upstate.

"We're copying Greenville in a lot of ways," he commented. "They have 150 restaurants on Main Street and lots of pedestrian traffic."

Carrier, a banker for 35 years before he retired and the current chair of the Council's Finance Committee,



out to be what we wanted."

She noted that the CRAB's work led to some unintended but welcome consequences. The CRAB's achievements were among the factors considered by the National Civil League when it named the town of Mount Pleasant an All-America City in 2010.

Elton Carrier was a member of the

said the town has spent \$5.835 million on the project so far, for construction, land acquisition, improvements, design work and to move some utility lines underground.

Greenville's economic development plans included private sector participation, which is also a key aspect of the Coleman project. In addition to 325 apartments in five

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buildings located on a six-acre tract in the heart of Mount Pleasant, The Boulevard will be the home of several retail spaces, including a top-of-the-line restaurant owned by Maverick Southern Kitchens. Across the street in a 45,000-square-foot facility in Brookgreen, Southern Season, a combination upscale grocery store, restaurant and cooking school, is preparing to open its second location.

“We’re ecstatic. It’s working out as planned,” John Darby, president and chief executive officer of The Beach Company, commented, adding that Southern Season is “a game changer.”

He denied that The Beach Company brought Southern Season to Mount Pleasant, insisting instead that “Coleman Boulevard recruited them to come here.”

“We wanted to create an environment where people live, work and play,” Beach Company Vice President Daniel J. Doyle added. “The character of Coleman Boulevard needs to change. It needs to be a destination, not just a place you pass through. Mount Pleasant needs a main street.”

Responding to opposition to the Coleman Boulevard project, Darby pointed out that not everyone in town was happy more than two decades ago when The Beach Company announced plans to build Brookgreen. The



Photo by Brian Sherman.

A pocket park near Moultrie Middle School is part of the Coleman Revitalization Project.

shopping center, which at one time included a Food Lion store, was completed in 1994, five years after the Brookgreen Motor Court was all but wiped out by Hurricane Hugo.

“There was a large town hall meeting, and some people opposed the building of the shopping center,”



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Darby remembered.

According to DeMoura, much of the opposition to the Coleman Boulevard revitalization project was a result of misinformation. He said he's had to answer several questions based on hearsay rather than fact, including: How can you let The Beach Company build The Boulevard?; How can you reduce Coleman to one lane each way?; and How can you make it so emergency vehicles won't be able to respond?

He added that he doesn't think The Beach Company "got a fair shake."

"They were the first entity to take a chance on the revitalization effort. They have stepped up," DeMoura said. "Some of the treatment they got was unfair. They should be applauded."

In addition to participation by both public and private entities, the town administrator pointed out that another key factor in the success of the Coleman project was Mount Pleasant's willingness to change its zoning code to encourage private development. For example, buildings



Photo by Brian Sherman.

Improvements at Shem Creek Park were among the first visible results of Mount Pleasant's Coleman Revitalization Project.

along Coleman now can be 55 feet tall – 75 feet tall in three places: The Boulevard, Moultrie Plaza and Sea Island Shopping Center. Developers will no longer be able to build traditional shopping centers, with large parking lots in front, on Coleman.

"This gives us opportunities for focal points along the boulevard," DeMoura said. "The zoning changes gave individual property owners great use of their property. They have greater flexibility, so their land is worth more."

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We asked only one thing in return: All new buildings must be on Coleman Boulevard."

Since 2009, work as part of the revitalization project has included the farmers market, a small park, decorative fencing and landscaping at Moultrie Middle School, the construction of Shem Creek Park, the landscaped median in the middle of the road between The Boulevard and Brookgreen, and moving utilities underground from Broadway Street to Fairmont Avenue. DeMoura said eventually all utility poles will be eliminated along Coleman.

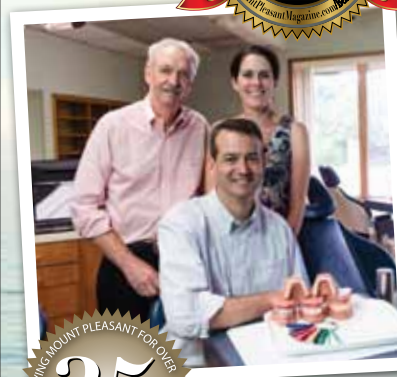
The Council recently voted not to extend the project west of Shem Creek right away, though DeMoura said design work on the stretch of Coleman between the creek and the Ravenel Bridge should begin sometime before phase 1 is completed during the summer of 2015.

How important is the plan to revitalize Coleman Boulevard? According to DeMoura, it might be the most crucial thing he will do as town administrator. He said because Mount Pleasant offers quality people, quality education and quality government services, coupled with low taxes and a low crime rate, the town's population has soared above the 73,000 mark.

"People recognize that this is a special community. They're coming and we can't stop them. They want a better life," he said. "People are moving here at alarming rates, and that's an issue. They need places to live, work and shop. If we don't manage this issue, it will manage us."

"We can either build density in our urban core, or the town will sprawl and become a community we don't recognize," he added. "The decisions we make today will affect us for the next 25 to 50 years."

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Coleman

More Than the Name of a Busy Boulevard

IT'S A SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AND I'M sipping an iced coffee in the window of Starbucks on Coleman Boulevard. A typical day in Mount Pleasant, the road is abuzz with shoppers, bike riders and diners. I sit watching the smiling faces pass by, imagining what errands these people are running on the boulevard today.

It seems that everyone around here turns to Coleman Boulevard for all their needs. A hub of Mount Pleasant commerce, the highway is home to restaurants, bars, boutiques, furniture stores, exercise studios, supermarkets, schools and, of course, people.

However, most local residents don't know "Coleman" is more than the name of a street; the boulevard, once called King's Highway, was renamed in 1958 to honor the mayor who was mostly responsible for transforming Mount Pleasant into the growing town it is today.

Francis F. Coleman was mayor of Mount Pleasant from 1946 to 1960. When Coleman began his tenure, the town had only 1,500 residents. By the time he left office 14 years later, the population had soared past the 5,000 mark and its infrastructure had grown along with it.

According to "The History of Mount Pleasant," by Petroyna Royall McIver, Coleman played a key role in improving the town's infrastructure. On his watch, roads and highways were paved and widened, a fire station, a baseball field and a public fishing pier were built and sidewalks were added.

"It doesn't matter what year it is, the issues are all the same. I'm sure Mayor Coleman had to deal with improving traffic, construction, garbage and police just like I did," said Cheryl Woods-Flowers, who served as mayor of Mount Pleasant from 1992 to 2000 and considered Coleman to be a mentor.

"We always used to talk over coffee and tea – Mayor Coleman only drank tea – and he used to call me Madam

Chairman," she remembered fondly. "He was always sharing advice about governing with me."

For Coleman, being mayor was all about giving back.

"I think every citizen has got to be willing to give something to the community," he said in a 1976 News and Courier article. "When I was mayor, I gave everything I had. It was time-consuming, and there were headaches and heartaches, but I enjoyed it."

According to Woods-Flowers, that was typical of Coleman. "He was very much a trusted advisor to me," she said. "He liked to talk about his experiences. It was always a fun conversation when I talked to him."

In an undated interview, Coleman told an East Cooper Pilot reporter that his biggest accomplishment as mayor was "no doubt about it ... the four-lane highway that extended from the Cooper River Bridge over to the Sullivan's Island road." That would be current-day Coleman Boulevard.

According to the interview, Coleman had to maneuver politically with local highway department officials and persuade more than 90 percent of the town population to support the project to get approval for widening the road from a two-lane to a four-lane highway.

"I think that's one of the finest things we were able to accomplish during our administration," he said in the article.

Today the only memorial to the past mayor and his accomplishments is a marker near the Moultrie Shopping Center. But according to Woods-Flowers, that is probably the way Coleman would have wanted it.

"He was not a boastful man," she said. "But he was a great mayor and a dear friend."

"If you didn't know him, you probably would have thought he was gruff," she added. "He was a very direct person, but I knew he wasn't that way. In truth, he was extremely kind and a valuable consultant for me." 🍵

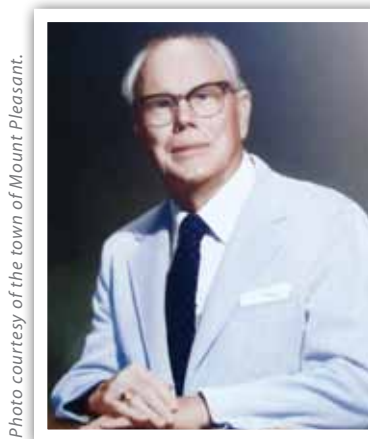


Photo courtesy of the town of Mount Pleasant.

Francis F. Coleman served as mayor of Mount Pleasant for 14 years and as a mentor for at least one mayor after that.

Four Seasons of Food in the South

Southern Season

EVERY COOK KNOWS THAT A great recipe has several key ingredients that don't appear in a cookbook or on an index card in a metal box – things such as a fully stocked kitchen, a good chunk of time, some talent and an endearing love for food. But for this foodie, it's time to add another ingredient to the list: Southern Season.

Coming to Coleman Boulevard this September, **BY TAYLOR GRIFFITH** Southern Season is “absolutely a destination for people who love food,” according to company President Brian Fauver.

The store features more than 70,000 products, including specialty ingredients, craft beers and wine, unique candies, freshly prepared foods and the latest in cookware. There's also a restaurant and a cooking school on-site.

I'm already drooling.

If you're thinking Southern Season doesn't sound like a normal grocery store, you're absolutely right, and that's the way Fauver likes it.

“We don't have any produce, there is no butcher – very few customers walk in the store with a list,” he said. “We are the place where you can pick up your favorite fair trade coffee and have it ground for you fresh, try a new cheese that our cheese-monger discovered on his last trip to Wisconsin, or find that specialty kitchen tool or unique ingredient that will put your recipe over the top.”

Fauver described the store as exciting and engaging, with food and entertaining at its core. To him, Southern Season should “help focus on (the customer's) passion for food, whether that's through a new technique, a new product or learning from cookbook authors and well-known chefs who come in and teach classes at our cooking school.”

Meeting a cookbook author? Double drool. I will definitely be writing about this on my food blog.

Fauver thought the food blog was a delectable idea.

“One thing that makes us unique is that we want to be a part of that blog story. ... I envision you going into our store, talking with a vendor about why they do their pimento cheese the way they do it, then going home and trying the cheese their way – or your own way – but the point is that you have that story with it. You engaged with our store. It becomes a special part of your recipe and food experience.”

As a foodie and a writer, that's exactly what I want in a food spot. My culinary dreams are starting to come true, and it occurs to me that I must be the luckiest girl out there to live in a town where this store is opening. After all, the company was founded in 1975 and yet Southern Season has not expanded outside of its flagship store in Chapel Hill, N.C. – until now.

“We wanted to identify areas like Mount Pleasant that have a really strong food culture,” Fauver said. “The

headlines that your area makes in terms of being a destination, being the home to some really accomplished chefs, having a culture around food ... that's exactly what we're all about, so Mount Pleasant is a perfect destination for us. We will feed right into that scene.”

Nice food pun, Fauver.

He's right though: The food culture of the Charleston

area, combined with the popularity of Coleman Boulevard and the ease-of-access Mount Pleasant can offer, will surely be a recipe for success for the store.

Southern Season isn't the only place with a few recipes for success up its hypothetical sleeves, though. All this food talk has inspired a new recipe of my own: to make a happy food writer, mix together in a tiny apartment kitchen one food blog and several trips to Southern Season. Add wine to taste. Bon appetit! 🍷

Drop by the new Southern Season store this fall at 730 Coleman Blvd., or visit www.southernseason.com.



Southern Season offers more than 70,000 products, as well as a restaurant and a cooking school.

Photos provided.

Think Pink Outfitting Ladies and Girls

THAT QUINTESSENTIAL MOTHER-daughter shopping experience is one reason to visit Blush on Coleman. Blush opened nine years ago to provide trendy clothing for girls as well as the newest styles for ladies, all at affordable prices.

Brands such as Ella Moss and Splendid continue to be favorites for little girls, with sizes ranging between 7 and 16. Current owner Deborah Jonas has introduced new and interesting options.

“We’ve added KC Parker and Lucky on the girls’ side,” she said. “For women, we’ve kept brands such as Jude Connally and Joy Joy and added MM Couture, Zashi, Pure and Kerisma.”

Stroll around the boutique and you’ll find handmade candles by Monica Jung as well as jewelry by local designers.

“We’ve also started carrying jewelry made with vintage Chanel buttons,” said Jonas. “We do birthday and Christmas gifts and gift certificates. People know they will leave with the

perfect, beautifully-wrapped gift.”

Jonas is knowledgeable about any item – from brands to ideas on how to sport trends. It’s no wonder both big and little girls enjoy shopping at Blush.

“I love meeting customers who’ve shopped here for years,” Jonas said. “We have ladies who shopped here when they were girls and ‘graduated’ to the women’s side. Our customers know they can always find unique styles from casual to cocktail.”

Stop by Blush at 426 W. Coleman Blvd., call (843) 388-9091 or visit www.blushofcharleston.com.



Photo by Marie Rodriguez

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All in the Family

Campbell's on Coleman

WHEN I WALKED INTO Campbell's Jewelers on Coleman Boulevard, my mind drifted back to the years spent at my own family's independent business. As a child, I would watch my uncle and other family members run the shop – and by running the shop, I mean much more than selling shoes. They'd stretch shoes to fit correctly, measure feet to determine a customer's perfect size and offer advice on how to care for leather and suede.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Campbell's Jewelers is also a family business, nurtured in the tradition of not only selling remarkable pieces of jewelry but also of caring for gold, silver and precious stones for years to come. Bruce Campbell and his wife, Cyndy, son, Kyle, and daughter-in-law, Leslie, have enjoyed providing the best service possible to East Cooper residents since 1987. And though they have changed locations since opening on Simmons Street all those years ago, the Campbells have always stuck with the Coleman business district as their home.

"I always wanted to be on Coleman," acknowledged Bruce Campbell, owner and founder. "I thought this was the place to be, even then."

All of the members of the Campbell family have been jewelers from the start. During his years in the U.S. Navy, Bruce Campbell's job was to repair clocks and watches of all sorts onboard submarines. Following the Navy, he worked with pawnshops in downtown Charleston and partnered with Montgomery Ward, J.C. Penney and Friedman's. Later, while working at Northwoods Mall for D. P. Paul, Bruce made the leap from strictly timepieces to all types of jewelry and never looked back. Today, he describes Campbell's Jewelers as a place where the love for manufacturing and repairing fine jewelry is alive and well.

Bruce's son, Kyle Campbell, began learning the ropes of the business from his parents at the shop's original location, 307 Simmons St. Young Kyle was a natural, to the point that Bruce and Cyndy sent their budding

jeweler to jewelry school after his graduation from Wando High School – only to find out that Kyle's skills were too sophisticated for the basic courses.

Word spread about Kyle Campbell's talent for making and repairing jewelry. After a stint "on the road" as a traveling jeweler, he returned home to assist with the family business and help it flourish. His wife, Leslie, who shares the same artistic eye as her husband and the rest of the Campbell family, recently became certified in jewelry appraisal.

"Our kids, Kyle and his sister, Lange, both went to school here, and our family has lived in Mount Pleasant since 1970," remarked Cyndy Campbell, when I asked how the Campbell name has stood the test of time. "And we're honest people. We tell our customers whether we can fix something or not."



Photo provided by Campbell's Jewelers.

Campbell's offers an assortment of unique jewelry items, many pieces crafted in-house.

Besides offering an assortment of unique fine jewelry, many pieces crafted in-house by Bruce and Kyle, Campbell's often repairs unusual items such as silver candle holders and teapots – even a silver horse bridal once – in addition to jewelry.

"We can do things that other shops can't do," said Bruce Campbell. "You could say that repairs are our true love." 🛠️

To learn more about why Campbell's Jewelers has been in business in Mount Pleasant for 26 years, visit www.campbellsjeweler.com, call (843) 884-8232 or drop by the store at 405 W. Coleman Blvd.

Still Solving Problems

Sullivan's Island Mayor

THE IDEA THAT YOU SHOULDN'T complain if you don't have a solution was the driving force behind Michael Perkis' political aspirations – that and the issue of whether dogs should be allowed on the beach.

Perkis, elected mayor of Sullivan's Island in May 2013, moved to the island full-time with his wife, Linda, in 2003. They bought their lot in 1988 but had to rebuild their home after it was destroyed by Hurricane Hugo a year later. It didn't take him long to get involved.

BY HELEN RAVENEL HAMMOND

"I felt strongly that I had to be engaged in the community," said Perkis.

He was given the opportunity in 2003, when the Sullivan's Island Town Council was wrestling with the issue of revising the island's dog ordinance. Perkis, the proud owner of Paddy, a mixed-breed, and Rosie, a Newfoundland, stepped right into the controversial issue. He led a citizens' group of dog lovers, along with those who were less enthralled with animals of the canine persuasion, crafting an ordinance that "gave everyone time on the beach." The meetings were held at the Perkis home, and, "in true consensus, we worked hard together to get something we all could live with."

The Sullivan's Island Council accepted the group's recommendations and passed an ordinance that set the standards still in use today.

"It was positive feedback on a touchy subject," Perkis explained.

Elected to the Town Council in 2005, Perkis has continued to face controversial issues head-on. The demolition and rebuilding of the island's elementary school and management of the accreted land area on the beachfront come to mind. He said he and the Town Council will work with the Charleston County School District to complete the school by August 2014.

During his first term on the Council, Perkis served on the Ways and Means Committee and the Water and Sewer Committee. When he was re-elected in 2009,



Photo provided by Michael Perkis.

Michael Perkis, elected mayor of Sullivan's Island in 2013, has been a full-time resident of the island since 2003.

he became chairman of the Water and Sewer Committee and was elected mayor pro-tem by his peers on the Council. He has continued to work to make Sullivan's Island an excellent place to live and visit.

Perkis explained that Mount Pleasant's rapid growth has created a "new reality" of increased traffic on Sullivan's Island, which is not necessarily a bad thing. He said the island's eating establishments have become destinations.

"People are actually coming to the beach to eat, as

opposed to spending time on the beach and then finding a place to eat,” he said.

The town of Sullivan’s Island has taken action to help handle the influx of beach-goers. Additional parking spaces have opened up at Battery Thomson, and beach patrols are out in full force. Charleston County law enforcement personnel are on duty on the island on weekends, and state troopers have set up DUI checkpoints for drivers entering and leaving the island on the Causeway, according to Perkis.

Another issue that must be tackled is the construction of the new town hall/police station. Employees and Council members have been at a temporary location on Middle Street since June 2011, when they vacated the old, mold-and-rodent infested facility. An architect has been selected and, according to Perkis, with input from local residents, the new building will be an image of Sullivan’s Island.

It’s no surprise that the island’s water/sewer capital plan is on the list of Perkis’ priorities. The plan will improve the town’s sewer collection system and address deferred investments in the plant and equipment.

“Funding will be through a combination of grants, low-interest loans and sale of town-owned property.

The objective is to keep property taxes from increasing,” Perkis explained.

There just might be some significance to how Perkis ended up near the water. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, he was a four-year letterman on the swim team at the University of Buffalo. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he worked in the soft drink industry, first in New York, later in Houston and finally in Charleston. Changing companies, he moved to Miami and Charlotte before retiring to Sullivan’s Island in 2003.

The ever-fit Perkis is an active member of the Coastal Carolina Surf Club and is a second-degree black belt in martial arts. To find his inner musician, Perkis is learning how to play the ukulele. He and Linda just celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary. They have two children, Josh and Laurie, and they are the proud grandparents of Claudia Rose, Amelia and Lindsay.

Island life is busy for Perkis, because of his duties as mayor and his many interests and activities. An approachable person with years of business experience, he is well-equipped for his new post. And that is just fine for his pups, Ashley and Cooper, who look forward to their daily morning walk on the beach. 🐾



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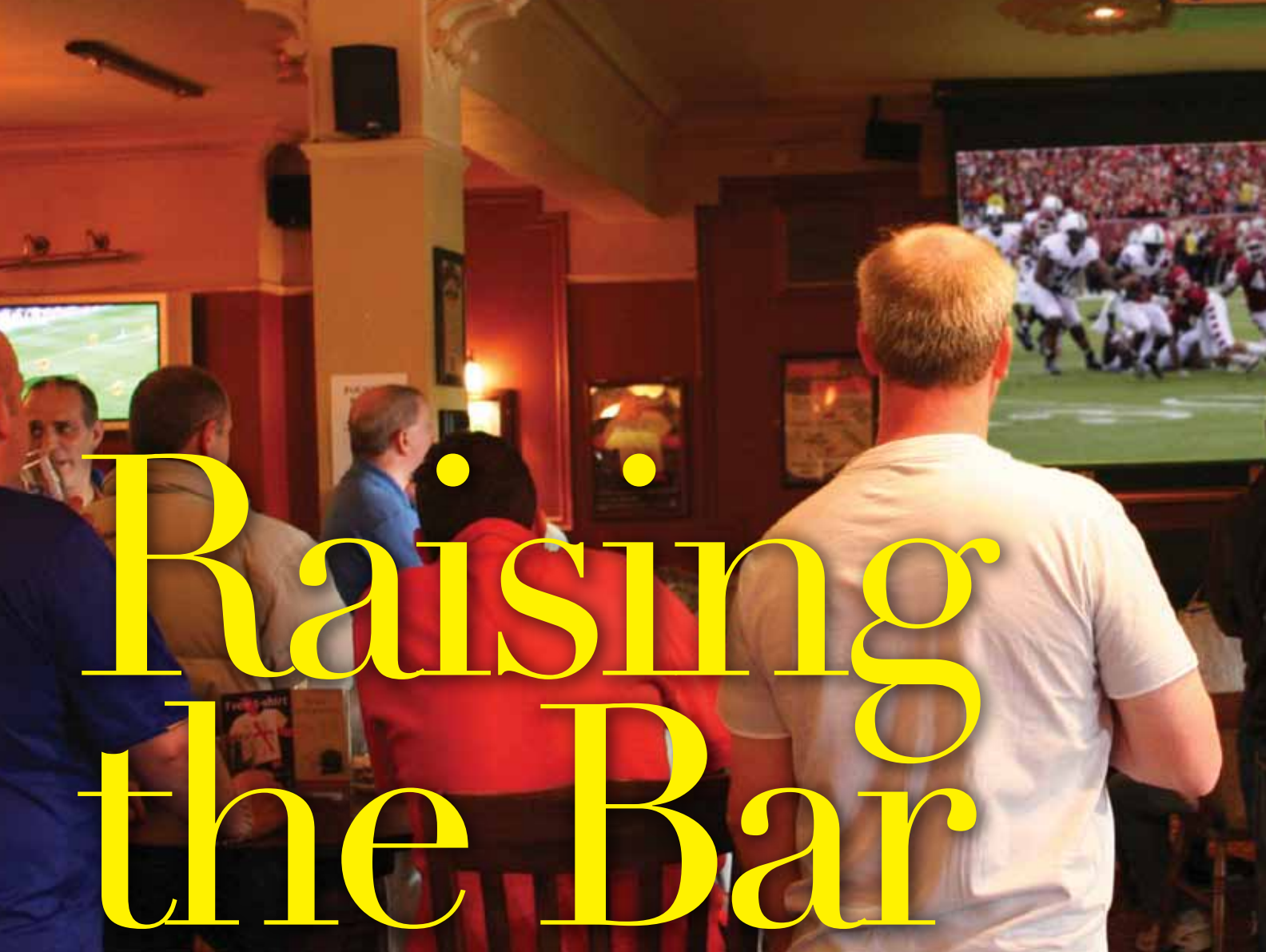
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Raising the Bar

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IT'S TIME FOR SOME FOOTBALL! AND at Mount Pleasant bars and cafes, that means hanging out with your friends, enjoying a few refreshments and watching the games on big-screen televisions.

"There is nothing like the fun of being with your friends and watching your team play with a big crowd at a local bar or restaurant," said Adam Daniel, a rabid University of Georgia Bulldogs fan. "The give and take between the fans is what makes it cool."

Steel City Pizza Co., home of the "Game Day Mega Slice," is a great place to watch your favorite college or pro team. With plenty of 50-inch high definition televisions, patrons are sure to have a great view no matter where they are sitting.

Deals during games include discounts on both draft

and bottled beers as well as Bloody Marys and mimosas on Sunday. If you choose to watch your game from home instead, Steel City Pizza Co. is also an excellent takeout or delivery option.

"The crowds here show a lot of team spirit, but it's kept clean enough for the whole family," remarked Adam Carb, co-owner.

The Big Game Bar and Grill, formerly Foster's Pub on Bell Station Boulevard, is opening up just in time for football season. Owner Addie Culler and his wife have 12 years of experience as servers, but this is Culler's first venture as an owner. The Cullers have been in the corporate world for the past 20 years.

"Everyone is raving about every change we have made so far, and all we have heard is that people are planning to be here for the games," said Culler. "They are very excited



Regardless of which college or professional football team you root for, you can find fun and camaraderie at just about any Mount Pleasant area bar.



to have a designated 'sports bar' in this area."

There's sports memorabilia scattered around the bar, six new 50-inch TVs, a new menu and new video games. The bar will offer \$12 buckets of six domestic beers, 50 cent wings after 4 p.m. every day and during games, \$3 fireball shots, \$5 Jameson, \$5 Grand Marnier all day every day.

"We have 14 TVs in all, including one big screen, all perfectly placed to view multiple games at once," said Culler. The bar will offer Sunday Ticket, GamePlan and the MLB Package to keep customers happy.

"We have designated ourselves a Gamecocks bar and Bobby Hartin (a Charleston sports talk show host) will be in watching games with us Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays," said Culler. "We are installing Buzztime trivia and will be giving away prizes on Monday nights to players of the QB1 game, where you can guess the next play to win points."

At O'Brion's Pub, which has locations on North Shelmore Boulevard and on Highway 41, you're never far from the action – even if you're visiting the restroom. Yep, there are television screens there as well, 19 in

all scattered about the establishment, which gets a bit boisterous on Saturdays and Sundays during the warm Carolina autumns.

"We literally plan our weekends around what times the South Carolina or Clemson games are on television," said co-owner Richard Turoto.

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“I don’t think there is a television package we don’t have. If Direct TV is carrying a game, we’ll have it on.”

The joint is also hoppin’ at the Kickin’ Chicken on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, said Meg Watson, a marketing team leader for the bar and restaurant chain.

“Football at The Kickin’ Chicken is a tradition. Buckets of ice cold beer, fried chicken wings or nuggets and a good game-day matchup on one of 25-plus big screens. You can’t beat it. We may have ‘chicken’ in our name, but we don’t discriminate. We welcome all fans of any color, shape or size – garnet, orange, feathers and claws.”

There are three Wild Wing Cafe locations in Mount Pleasant, on Coleman Boulevard, Lowcountry Boulevard and Oakland Market Road, and all of them bristling with flat-screen televisions to keep the clientele enter-

tained while they down an assortment of chicken wings and suds. In fact, the Wild Wing Cafe on Coleman puts football fans in the mood with a draft party package that gets customers free wings, a draft board, a set of player stickers and free Wi-Fi for a fantasy football draft party.

Art’s Bar and Grill on Coleman has the NFL Sunday Ticket and is jammed on Sundays. And Blue’s Local Grill on Highway 41 serves up tons of wings and burgers on the weekend and has a number of flat-screen televisions scattered about the bar and restaurant, flags of various teams hanging from the walls of the establishment adding to the football mood.

You can pretty much walk into any bar in Mount Pleasant and watch football with the gang. So kick off your weekend at these and other local watering holes this fall. 🍷



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TAILGATING TREATS

Carolina vs. Clemson

As the waning summer gives way to fall, pig smokers, ice chests and lawn chairs are relieved of their duties as dust collectors in the garage. The tailgating season is upon us. Some residents of East Cooper tote their garnet and black Jadeveon Clowney jerseys, while others dress in orange and blue from their hats to their underwear, confident that Tajh Boyd will be the real deal again this year.

BY CULLEN MURRAY-KEMP

Regardless of whether your heart beats for Carolina or Clemson, Gamecock or Tiger, The Ol' Ball Coach or Dabo, there is one thing that fans on both sides of the rivalry have

in common: They like to eat.

Over the years, football food staples such as burgers, pulled pork, chicken wings, mac 'n cheese, coleslaw and assorted dips have all received tailgating twists. Folks tried to find creative ways to take care of the ravenous appetites of their friends and family members. Since the theme behind tailgating, especially tailgating in the South, is sharing, what better way to share than to provide our readers with the favorite recipes of the wives of the two most famous football coaches in the land?

Without further ado, we bring you the recipes of Carolina's Jerri Starr Spurrier and Clemson's Kathleen Bassett Swinney.

JERRI SPURRIER'S SEAFOOD ROLL-UPS

Although Jerri struggles to find much time these days for cooking, she still loves to "cook for the masses." She isn't big on measuring either – she says that for the best Southern cooks, it's a feel thing.

INGREDIENTS:

Fish fillets
Spinach (lots: cooks down quickly)
Cream cheese
Shrimp, crab and lobster
Chopped green onions
Hollandaise sauce
Yellow rice with sauteed red and green peppers added
Cherry tomatoes and sliced tomatoes
Paprika and parsley
Salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS:

Season dry fish fillets. Mix cream cheese (softened), green onions, salt and pepper. Add cooked and VERY drained and dry spinach to the cream cheese mixture. Combine VERY drained shrimp, crab and lobster pieces. These need to be cut in smaller pieces. Roll up this cream cheese and seafood mixture onto the fish fillets. Place the fillets on a Pam-sprayed surface (light spray). The fillets should have the loose side down, and you may have to use a toothpick to secure them. Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 to 25 minutes.

Place on a serving platter (carefully). Cover with Hollandaise sauce, and top with added shrimp, crab and lobster (not cut up) and previously sauteed in a small amount of butter to warm.

Surround with yellow rice, sliced tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, parsley and a little paprika for color.

KAT SWINNEY'S COCONUT MACAROONS

Dabo and the kids go crazy over Kathleen's Coconut Macaroons. For Christmas, Kathleen adds dried cranberries to her macaroons for a festive look. The coconut macaroon recipe yields about two dozen cookies, which, in the Swinney house, won't last one night.

INGREDIENTS:

1 large bag of baker's coconut
1 can of sweetened condensed milk
2 egg whites
A half bag of miniature chocolate chips
Dash of sea salt

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In large mixing bowl, mix coconut and sweetened condensed milk by hand. In a small bowl, beat two egg whites until soft peaks form. Gently fold beaten egg whites into coconut mixture. Add half a bag of miniature chocolate chips (or more, if you like) into the coconut mixture. Add a dash of sea salt. Mix gently with a wooden spoon.

Spray the cookie sheet with a non-stick cooking spray. Use a medium sized melon scooper to make your macaroon balls to place on cookie sheet. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until light brown on top. Let cool about five minutes on sheet before removing.



Jerri Spurrier and family.



Kathleen Bassett Swinney and family.

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The Fun Side of Education

Children's Discovery Center

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I MET WITH Children's Discovery Center Director Cooper Williams to tour the new Mount Pleasant facility. There are currently seven other centers in Ohio, but CEO Lois Rosenberry saw a need for early child care in the Lowcountry

and made the move south last year. I don't have any kids, nor do I plan on having any in the near future, so I feared that my interest level in the story would waver.

A lack of interest would not be a problem.

I didn't talk much as I followed Williams around the \$2.8-million facility that sits just off the corner of Venning Road and Highway 17. Rather, I found myself reverting to my childhood days – playing with light fixtures and pretending I was cooking a brick oven pizza. Instead of listening to Williams explain the history and learning procedures behind the Children's Discovery Center, I was imagining all the opportunities of enjoyment I could have had there if I were just 20 years younger.

Needless to say, I had to return for a second interview to learn more about the place. This time, Vice President Jessica Deviney met me at the door and began my tour by showing me a state-of-the-art touch screen that identifies parents' fingerprints and checks their children in and out of the center.

Deviney expressed that first impressions are vital for parents.

"We understand that parents are probably feeling a little guilty about dropping their infants off while they are at work," she said. "So we want to provide a

sense of belonging and give parents and their children home-like comfort."

I followed Deviney from room to room, each designed for a specific age group of children between 6 months and 5 years. Deviney explained how the learning environments were uniquely designed to pair with the world-renowned Reggio Emilia learning philosophy, which engages children in learning by seeing, touching and doing. The

teachers, all extensively trained in the Reggio Emilia learning style, use nature, color, furnishing, texture, display, elements and focal points to instruct children.

For example, there was a natural scene in the Pre-K room with plants, animals and terrain.

"The children learn interactively through role play," Deviney explained. "The idea is to follow their interests. After interacting with them, our teachers will be in tune with what the children want and then base the lessons off that."

My eyes drifted from the bakery and pizzeria to the miniature rocking chairs that sat in front of the fireplace, places of inspiration that excite and energize children to develop and learn.

Just then, a stream of about 10 kids came running into the building.

"Whoa," one boy exclaimed as he peered up at the rendition of the

Ravenel Bridge that doubles as a jungle gym and the center structure for the facility. Soon enough, all 10 were playing with the nature scenes and serving one another pastries and pizza. They were learning and exploring – but to them, it was just fun. 🍷



Photo provided.

At the Children's Discovery Center, a rendition of the Ravenel Bridge doubles as a jungle gym.

Visit Mount Pleasant's Children's Discovery Center at 1110 Venning Road or on the Web at www.childrensdiscoverycentersc.com.



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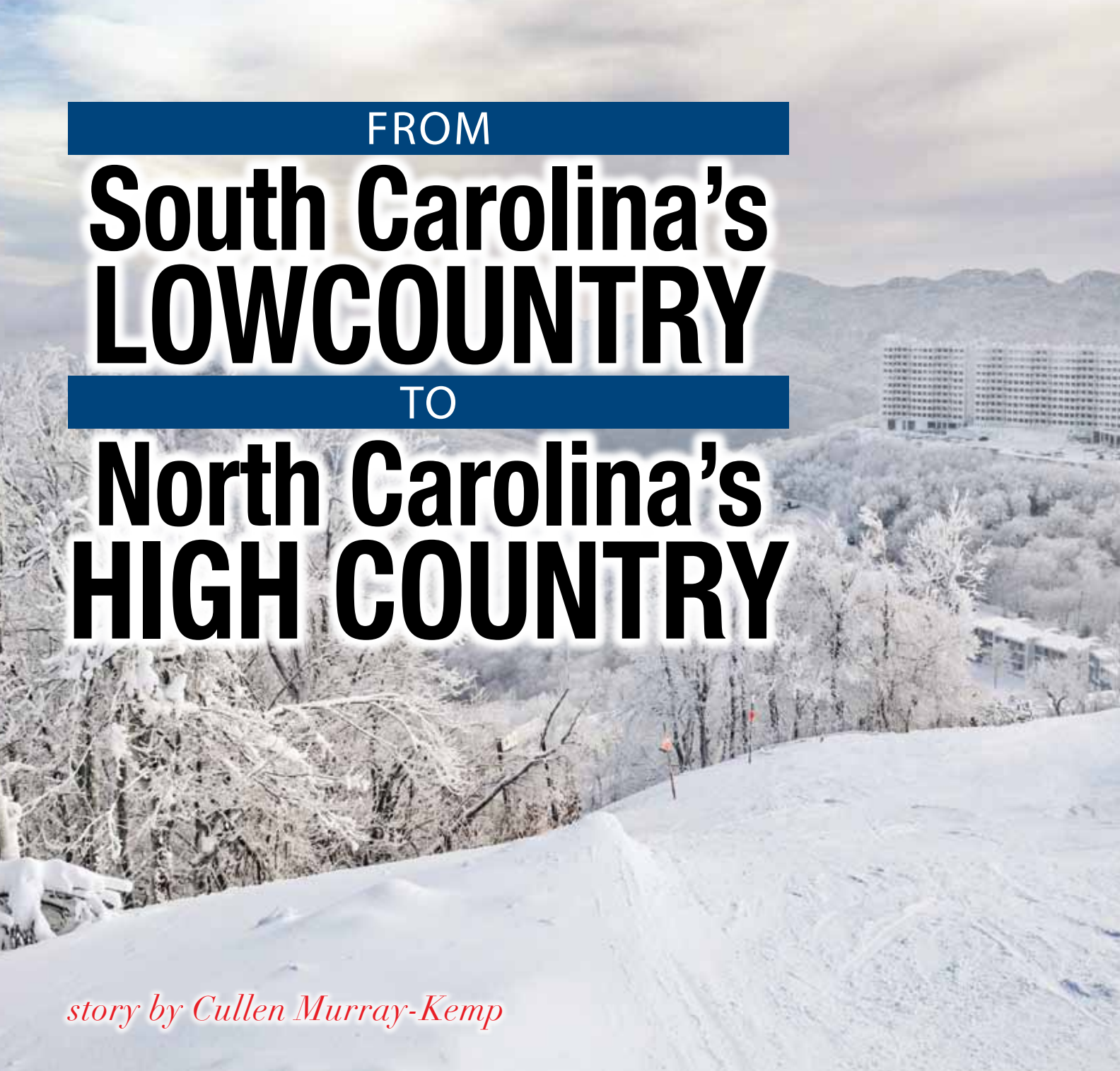


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FROM

South Carolina's LOWCOUNTRY

TO

North Carolina's HIGH COUNTRY

story by Cullen Murray-Kemp

A LONG THE EASTERN SEABOARD between Myrtle Beach and Savannah, it seems that just about every road dead-ends into a beach and each sun-splashed, sandy getaway has its own unique aura. It's a place rich with history where folks walk, bike or putt-putt along in their golf cart down quiet, palmetto-lined streets. Seasoned chefs and their eager understudies prepare creative meals, drawing interest from the Travel Channel and the Food Network every few months. Everywhere you

turn, people are smiling, holding open doors and saying please and thank you. The sweet scent of the ocean pairs perfectly with the aroma of a Lowcountry boil, and, as what I call the Charleston cologne wafts gently in the direction of your nose, you ask yourself: Where else in the world could I possibly want to be?

It's the Charleston conundrum: Where are we supposed to vacation if we already live in paradise?

That's the question Mount Pleasant resident Dick Casey's parents asked themselves many years ago.

"Growing up in Isle of Palms, my parents didn't



Photo provided by the Casey family.

Anna Casey, right, and her dad, Dick Casey, enjoy spending time together at Sugar Mountain in North Carolina.

in Banner Elk, North Carolina.

As Casey got older, his surfboard began to cake with dust while his skis cut through the North Carolina mountain slopes. At the age of 24, he moved to Sugar Mountain permanently.

“I started out doing ski patrol, then coached a junior ski team, then coached the Appalachian State ski team, then ran race programs, then worked sales for Sugar Mountain,” Casey said with a laugh. “That’s just how Sugar Mountain operates – it’s run by people who love to ski filling in where needed.”

One evening at the annual Sugar Mountain Oktoberfest, Casey met a local tennis pro. He immediately bonded with the cute tennis instructor over their passion for skiing and their love for the Sugar Mountain slopes. Eventually the tennis pro and the ski instructor would get hitched.

These days, when Casey is not selling real estate in East Cooper, he can be found scooting down the slopes with his 5-year-old son Doyle in between his legs – the tandem carving along the novice slopes.

“My daughter Anna is 2 and will begin skiing this season, just as her brother did when he was 3,” Casey said.

Sugar Mountain is just one of the six high country North Carolina ski resorts that are close enough for Lowcountry residents to visit. Just 10 miles north of Sugar Mountain is Beech Mountain, an area known for its moderate to intermediate terrain.

“Beech Mountain is more family-oriented than Sugar. It has a real mountain town feel to it, but the slopes certainly aren’t as steep,” said Casey.

Ginn Myers, a friend of Casey’s, grew up in Wyoming and, since moving to Mount Pleasant, has not been able to shake the skiing buzz, either. Luckily, Myers’ in-laws own a mountain house just a couple of miles away from Beech Mountain Resort, and for years she has been enjoying the slopes

want to go vacation at another beach,” said Casey.

His family searched for a vacation destination that was equally appealing but did not resemble the Lowcountry paradise they called home. They found that place just a five-hour drive north, and, when Casey was 6, they began taking him to Sugar Mountain



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with her husband Brad.

When Myers tires of skiing, other winter activities are not too far away. Typically, with an average of 85 inches of snowfall per year, Beech Mountain is able to offer plenty of alternatives, such as ice skating, snowshoeing and sledding. Over the years, Myers and her family have gotten creative with their skiing substitutes.

“Every year the big event was an ice luge down our long, winding driveway. We would have races and prizes for the winners. It got pretty serious,” said Myers.

Not everyone who travels to North Carolina’s high country in the winter spends time cutting along the steep slopes or cascading down a homemade ice luge. For the last 30 years, Mount Pleasant local Tom Murph has been “busting his butt” on the slopes. He now enjoys visiting



Photo provided by the Casey family.

There’s more to do than ski in the North Carolina mountains. After a day of fun, Doyle and Anna Casey relax in front of a comforting fire.

Banner Elk not so much for the Sugar Mountain slopes but for “the beautiful mountains, waterfalls and caves, social events like Art in the Park and the wineries.”

Sometimes Murph and his wife Beth will just retire to the lodge, drink in hand, and watch the young folks ski and “bust their butts like I used to,” Murph chuckled.

The incredible part about the short journey from the South Carolina Lowcountry to the North Carolina high country is how one world morphs into another. Sand turns to snow; flat terrain transforms into vast mountain ranges; the elevation sprouts from just a few feet to nearly a mile; and palmettos become evergreens weighed down by dense white powder.

Blue skies juxtaposed with white mountains are on the horizon for Mount Pleasant residents this winter. ❄️

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Southern Gothic

Ghosts East of the Cooper

The kiln at Brickyard Plantation. Photo by Hope Rechea.

The Kiln Ghost at Brickyard Plantation

Near Wampancheone Creek and the ruins of a 19th century brick kiln chimney appears the startling image of a woman standing in the grass on the side of the road. The woman moves her hands close together in repetitive, spastic thrusts as if in a trance. She is dressed in ragged, dark clothes. Her face is unclear, tilted down toward her jerking hands and masked by long, straw-like hair.

The woman has only been seen at dusk. The longer the sunset, the more pale light passes through her image, revealing that she is not of this world. All the sightings have occurred within 20 yards of one another. Because of her proximity to the kiln and the creek, she is believed to be the

ghost of a slave from an 18th century industrial brickyard. The Wampancheone waterway, on the side of the original Boone Hall Plantation, is where creek mud was used to make bricks and tile for much of Charleston, including Boone Hall's slave quarters.

Speculation as to the cause of her death could present darker, more tragic possibilities. An inventory of Horlbeck slaves from January 1854 is kept in the manuscript section of the Southern Historical Collections at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, but the records only show the death dates and not the cause of death for a few of the slaves in the Horlbeck brickyard. While the work is intense and demanded much of the slaves' energy, it was not often

dangerous, except when the large kilns were lit up to cook the clay.

It was at sunset, the same time Boone Hall's Brickyard Phantom appears, that the slaves stopped work and shifted their chores. At this time, the day's clay molding was done, and, in the shadowy light of dusk, the bricks and tiles were put into kilns. During this process, the appearance of firelight and sunlight could easily become blurred to an exhaustive slave like the one who may be replaying her tragic ending at the side of the road near the remains of the kiln. Perhaps she was inside a kiln, laboring over bricks, when she gave in to her exhaustion. At dusk, the kilns were fired to extreme temperatures and left to cook over the course of the night.

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Shadows Aboard the USS Yorktown

The USS Yorktown was decommissioned in 1970 after three decades of service. She became the centerpiece of Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in 1975. She has been the location of quite a bit of paranormal activity. There are two very active apparitions there. One is known as Shadow Ed and the other is Shadow Sam. These are nicknames given to the apparitions by Patriots Point personnel and security. Shadow Ed is the name given to the transparent, shadowy entities seen on the ship, while Shadow Sam is a nickname given to a solid apparition seen on the hangar deck.

Shadow Ed is seen throughout the ship, although he is predominantly seen in the Shipyard Museum. Ghost Hunters encountered him there in February 2012. TAPS team founders Jason Hawes and Grant Wilson saw an apparition on their equipment, and, as they investigated, it disappeared. Patriots Point security have had experiences in this location and in fact involved Mount Pleasant Police during one of the events. Officers were dispatched and, upon investigation, discovered a "...large mass twice my size..." according to one of the officers. As they investigated, it disappeared. Most recently a group of tourists on the Yorktown Ghost Tours encountered Shadow Ed. The members of this group were from four different states – South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Ohio – and all observed a shadowy figure moving about the area and interacting with them. It originally appeared to be standing in a corner, as if observing, and then would disappear and re-manifest itself in another area, peering around corners.



The kiln at Brickyard plantation, looking up from the inside. Photo by Hope Rechea.

Shadow Sam has been seen for decades. He is a solid apparition dressed in a black Navy uniform and has been observed on the hangar deck. He has been witnessed by many, including retired law enforcement officers, Patriots Point fire safety and security and also guests. He was observed by

guests in December 2012 as they were exiting the ship and observed a man in a black coat carrying a duffle bag entering the ship. Three nights later, security encountered him three times in one night, and, a month later, a mother, three teenage girls and a tour guide encountered him. They originally thought it was a security officer until he failed to respond to their shouts. Fearing it was a trespasser, the guide – a retired law enforcement officer – ran in the direction of the person, only to have him disappear in front of the astonished group.

He was recently observed by a guide and three guests on a tour. He was seen standing on the hangar deck at the fantail of the ship near the snack bar area. He was watching the group, and, as they approached, he disappeared.

Courtesy of Bruce Orr, author of "Ghosts of the USS Yorktown: The Phantoms of Patriots Point" (Haunted America), Copyright 2012. Visit <http://lostinlegend.com>.

The Ghost of Hamlin Plantation

The plantation located in McClellanville is said to be haunted by the ghost of John Henry Rutledge. He was heir to a very prominent family and expected to marry well, yet he fell in love with the daughter of a Georgetown pharmacist. His mother forbade him to marry her, and, when he approached the young lady's father, he, too, forbade the marriage. He felt as if his daughter would be chastised and looked down upon by the Rutledge family. He also told him never to set foot in his pharmacy again. John Henry Rutledge returned to the plantation dejected and depressed. Day after day, he sat in his rocker in his room, staring out the window. As he became more and more depressed, his family began to mock him. On March 30, 1830, they threw a party in the downstairs ballroom. A storm set in and this only added to his misery. That night he shot himself in the head. He would suffer an additional two more days before dying. He is buried on the property and is said to haunt the house there. The rocking chair is often found near the window, rocking on its own. The property is also reported to be the sight where Edgar Allan Poe wrote "The Gold Bug" and used Sullivan's Island as the site of the tale. He was stationed at Fort Moultrie as Edgar A. Perry, according to records, and would have been quite familiar with the Island. 🐞

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Editor's note: We received this mysterious essay, signed by a character known as "Grace the Ghost," during the production of the September/October issue of Mount Pleasant Magazine. She claims to have been watching managing editor Denise K. James during her research about East Cooper ghosts. Decide for yourselves, readers, whether you think this is the real deal. We can't say one way or the other.

IF SOMEONE WERE TO ASK ME WHAT THE best part is about being a ghost, I'd say it's realizing that human beings actually do have interests outside of themselves. People (live ones) aren't able to see what happened before the time of their birth or understand what happens after death. So their fascination with ghosts is, in my opinion, interesting. It's the best evidence of curiosity I can think of.

My own venture into ghost-hood is quite the tale. I won't go into the grisly details of how I passed from one world to the next – it wasn't a violent departure from the land of the living, but aren't all death stories rather grim? – but the manner in which I realized I was still in the company of humans was comical.

One day, I simply materialized in a brocade chair at a party. Considering that the day before I'd been lying in my bed, feeling quite ill, I was surprised, as you might imagine.

My, I thought to myself. As long as I'm here, I may as well go for cocktail.

But when I got up out of the chair and approached the well-dressed ladies and charming fellas (it was the 1940s, when people had party manners), I noticed something peculiar: no one was responding to me.

"Excuse me, but where is the wet bar?" I asked a guy whose glass was brimming with bourbon and garnished with a lemon wedge. He looked right through me – literally, as it turned out.

I wrote the man off as being rude and approached another couple. They, too, refused to turn around. Disgruntled, I reached out and tapped the woman lightly



on her shoulder.

My hand went right through her.

I was sad for a moment once I realized that I was no longer among the living. But that sadness was replaced by impishness fairly quickly. Finally, I'd be able to see what people were doing when they thought no one was watching! The possibilities seemed endless. I cocked my ear closer to the couple, listening to what they thought was a private conversation.

"So then, I told Michael that there was no way I was sky diving!" the woman exclaimed, gesturing wildly, her drink sloshing out the sides of her glass. "I cannot stand high places – why would I jump out of an airplane?"

After the party, I found myself wandering the streets of Mount Pleasant, feeling lonely yet fascinated. I had so many questions. Would I see everything from the year 1949 forever? Would I eventually know what would become of Mount Pleasant in, say, 2013? Would I meet other ghosts?

My questions were answered with time. Now it is the year 2013, and I still reside in Mount Pleasant. I know plenty of other ghosts, so I'm constantly busy. We have

our own little world, you know.

Anyway, when I heard that Mount Pleasant Magazine's editor, Denise K. James, was looking for ghost stories, I was immediately intrigued. I wasn't sure how she planned to encounter a ghost without a ghost making the decision to reveal itself. I also wasn't sure if she knew that ghosts choose whether people see them.

One night, I went to Media Services and found Denise's computer file. She had labeled it "Ghost Research" so it was easy to figure out which one I wanted. I saw that she was planning on visiting the U.S.S. Yorktown, Fort Moultrie and Brickyard Plantation. I scoffed to myself.

She'll never find anyone roaming around in those places. She's better off going to a graveyard at night. Those famous ghosts are too busy. I mean, Osceola is on the Board of Specters, for gosh sakes.

I wanted to know if I was right, so I made plans to visit the places on Denise's list. This is something else that I've noticed about being a ghost – you aren't as good as you were when you were human. For example, if you never thought of yourself as selfish, mischievous or apt to haunt someone, there is a good chance you'll change your

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mind if you become a ghost.

The night she went to the Yorktown, absolutely no one was around. I watched the small group of “ghost-hunters,” led by an experienced book author, tour the ship and look for evidence. Honestly, I’ve met all the ghosts who live on the Yorktown and I don’t even know where they were. There were a few parties going on that evening, so who knows?

At one point, Denise thought something touched the top of her head in the Medal of Honor Museum. It was probably just the air conditioner. At any rate, it was dark in that particular corner – she’d walked away from the rest of the group – and she was so freaked out at the idea of actually encountering a ghost, she spun on her heel and left the corner as quickly as possible.

I have to chuckle to myself when I see things like that.

People are so spooked at the notion of ghosts, we don’t even have to do anything or show ourselves, and they think we are there based on the pure power of their overactive imaginations. It’s fun to play tricks once in a while, but it’s usually much more humorous to watch humans trick themselves.

Some ghosts, the ones who were already unpleasant while they were alive, are downright nasty after becoming ghosts. Admittedly, there a few places where even I won’t go. Because of that, I’m not certain whether Denise found something out of the ordinary.

What I am certain about is that ghosts are everywhere, even if they don’t have a story to go along with them. You may want to keep that in mind, Mount Pleasant, if you’re walking around at night and thinking you’re all alone. I can almost guarantee that you aren’t. 🦇

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Not Just Skin Deep

Cosmetic & Surgical Dermatology

MOST CHILDREN DON'T figure out that they want to become doctors while stuck in a hospital bed, craning their neck to catch a fuzzy episode of "The Smurfs" on a television bolted to the ceiling. Oddly enough, however, Dr. Jon Jacobs discovered as a 7-year-old outpatient that he'd found his calling in medicine.

"I was getting my tonsils out and realized I wanted to be a doctor," he said.

Fast forward to his high school education in Mount Pleasant, where Jacobs put down some teenage roots after many years of being moved around by his father, who was in the Air Force and called the Lowcountry "the best place in the world they'd lived."

BY DENISE K. JAMES

Jacobs graduated from the old Moultrie High School on Coleman Boulevard, then completed his undergraduate work in pre-med at Davidson College in North Carolina. He returned to the Lowcountry for medical school at the Medical University of South Carolina and decided he would become a surgeon.

"As a surgeon, I could take care of more patient issues without having to refer them for possible operations," he explained.

Jacobs completed five years of general and vascular residency and began learning techniques that revolutionized the world of medicine. He studied in Paris with a French doctor, Francois Dubois, who instructed Jacobs how to perform laparoscopic surgery – a technique that Jacobs brought home to the Southeast.

"I developed a laparoscopic approach to fixing a hiatal hernia (an esophagus/stomach hernia that causes acid reflux). I returned to Paris and showed the technique to Dr. Dubois," he said.

Because of his background, it was natural for Jacobs to take a "surgical approach" to dermatology. And the art of dermatology appealed to Jacobs as well; he took several courses with Dr. Kathleen Riley at MUSC.

"Many dermatological problems happen to require surgery," he mused. "I especially appreciate the cosmetic

outcome of these procedures."

As of late, Jacobs has kept up with the technological advances regarding dermatology without sacrificing his attention to his patients. His practice offers most of the lasers that you'd see in many dermatological offices today – plus a few surprises. One, known as radio frequency treatment, is gaining popularity and notoriety for blasting fat and wrinkles.

"Radio frequency, which is similar to the technology used in microwave ovens, sends a signal through the skin and painlessly melts the fat," Jacobs explained. "As for wrinkles, the heat shrinks collagen and causes skin to tighten."

But the office of Jon R. Jacobs Dermatology is more than just probing and zapping with laser equipment. Jacobs takes pride in listening to his patients' stories.

"When I have a new patient, I ask them to tell me their story," he said. "Perhaps their mother just died, perhaps they've gone through a divorce – but I check out their spiritual and mental health first. It shows that I care and establishes trust."

Though his office is located in North Charleston and his residence is in West Ashley, Jacobs spends ample time East of the Cooper, enjoying his secondary home on the Isle of Palms.

"I read a lot, write poetry and work on making wooden pens and other articles," he said. "My artistic knack feeds into my profession; I can tell what would make my patients look best. Everyone wants to be the best version of themselves." 🐼



Dr. Jon R. Jacobs has brought a "surgical approach" to dermatology.

Photo by Marie Rodriguez.

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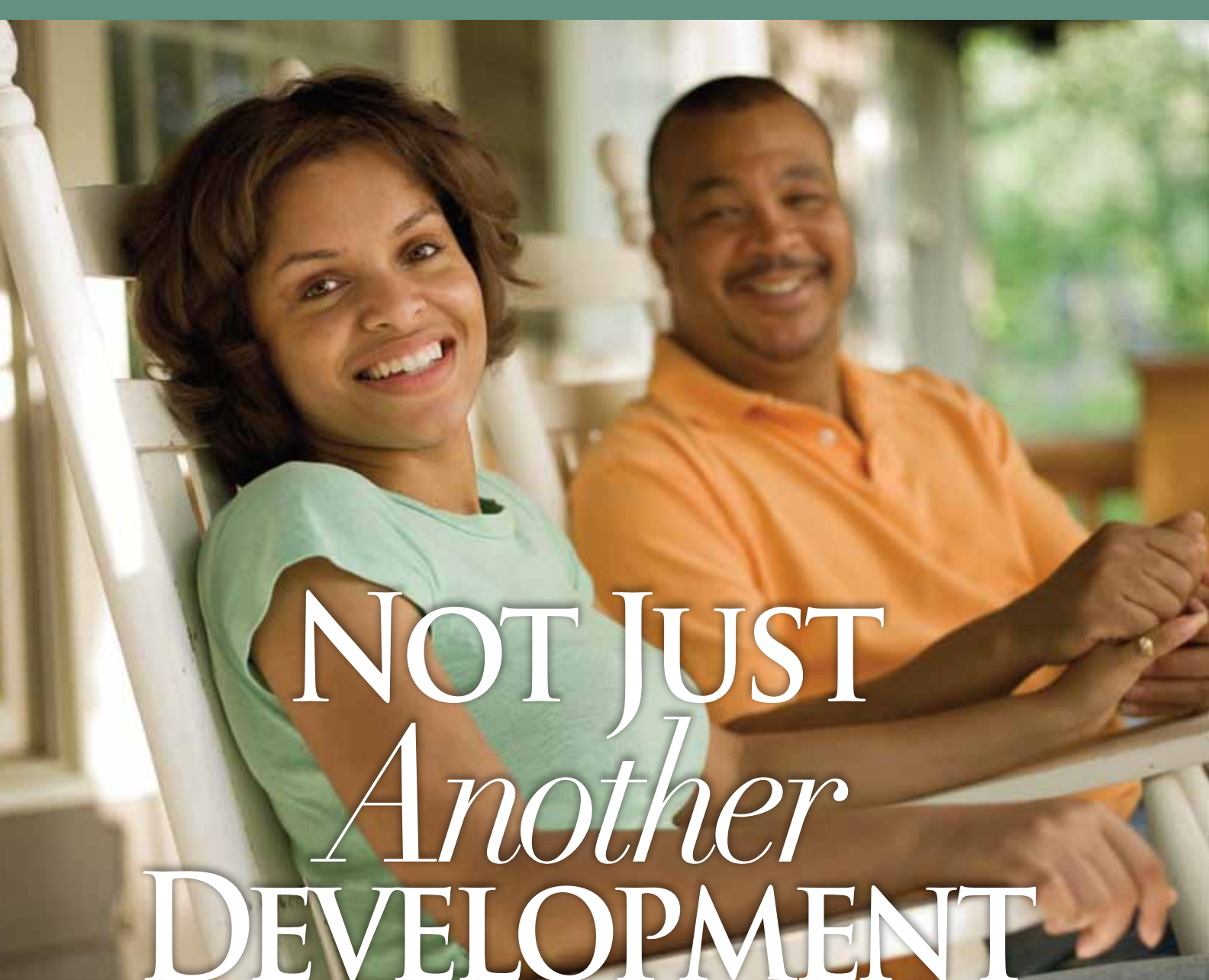
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NOT JUST *Another* DEVELOPMENT

Carolina Park Offers a Unique Opportunity

CAROLINA PARK IN MOUNT Pleasant boasts many alluring elements, and, as a result, nearly 100 homes in the master-planned community have either sold or been placed under contract since November 2012. What else can be expected of a neighborhood with seven renowned local and regional builders, fantastic amenities and an unparalleled location?

“With Carolina Park being the last approved master-planned community in Mount Pleasant, it is likely a buyer’s last chance to purchase a new home in a setting of this kind,” said Brian Keels, marketing director for Carolina

Park Development, LLC. “We have a great product and location, and buyers, both local and from out of town, are taking advantage of the opportunity.”

Carolina Park eventually will have nearly 2,000 single-family and multifamily custom and semi-custom homes.

“Our builders offer well-crafted homes that focus on architectural detail and energy efficiency,” said Community Sales Manager Haley Cuzzell. “We have Ryland Homes, David Weekley Homes and Saussy Burbank in Carolina Park that all start at the \$300s. We also have Saussy Burbank, Cline Homes and Sabal Homes building in Riverside at Carolina Park and Structures Building Company and The Burton Company just coming on board for that neighborhood, with homes starting in the \$500s.”

BY STACY E. DOMINGO

Photos provided.



Among Carolina Park's amenities is a junior Olympic pool with a cool beach entry, kid-friendly water features and a nautical-themed playground.

Carolina Park offers something for everyone, with Lowcountry architecture that incorporates welcoming porches, scenic landscaping, 10-foot ceilings, hardwood and tile floors, gourmet kitchens and granite countertops.

"We have gone through a rigorous process to specially select our award-winning builders," Keels explained. This past summer, the 1,700-acre master-planned community celebrated the grand opening of the Residents

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Club, which features a junior Olympic pool that boasts a very cool beach entry, kid-friendly water features and a nautical-themed playground. Future phases include an open-air pavilion with an outdoor kitchen, tennis courts and more.

“One of the goals we had in mind with the master plan was to build a place where residents can live, work, play and learn in one setting,” said Keels. “We didn’t want to create just another development but a community that takes into account land preservation, recreation and convenience.”

Lifestyle and location are part of what makes Carolina Park a remarkable living experience. Residents can walk, bike or drive to Wando High School, the Center for Advanced Studies at Wando, The Children’s Center or Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital

without leaving Carolina Park.

Currently, two churches are on the property and three more are within biking distance. In the near future, Seacoast Church, a fire and EMS station, a library and an elementary school will be added on-site.

“Carolina Park is different,” Cuzzell explained. “The on-site amenities and desirable Mount Pleasant location create a unique environment where everything is at your fingertips. The thoughtful and detailed approach to the architecture, landscaping and aesthetics in general set us apart. We will even have an extensive trail system running throughout the entire community – an extra step toward our goal of connectivity and practicality.”

Residents who use the trail system have plenty of options from which to choose, with 220 carefully preserved acres of wetlands and wetland buf-

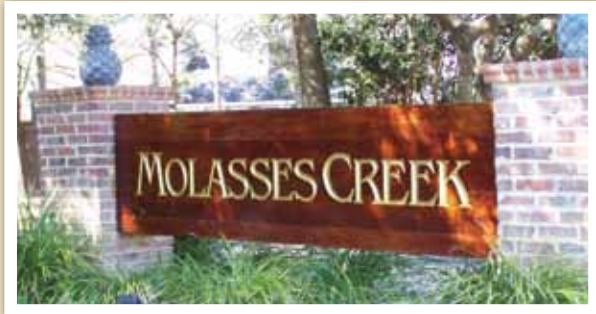
fers, 80 acres of passive parkland and a 54-acre active park with access to the town of Mount Pleasant multi-use sports fields. The integrated trail system features miles of winding trails and sidewalks for biking, hiking and walking.

Carolina Park’s location just off Highway 17 North is difficult to beat: It’s only minutes from the beaches, great shopping and interesting restaurants.

“We encourage people to check us out,” Keels said. “Our community stands for more than just a piece of land.”

If you are interested in learning more about Carolina Park, stop by the main sales center, managed by Carolina One New Homes, for information on the community, builders and homesites. You can also visit www.CarolinaPark.com or call Haley Cuzzell at (843) 654-5083.

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RIVERSIDE AT CAROLINA PARK

Construction in Riverside at Carolina Park, a much-sought-after place to call home, began in April 2013. Riverside features custom designed homes ranging from 2,400 to 5,200 square feet by preferred builders such as Saussy Burbank, Cline Homes, Sabal Homes, Structures Building Company and The Burton Company. Each home provides a wide range of floor plans and design options that offer both luxury and convenience.

"Buyers in Riverside can expect complete satisfaction with their fully customizable experience," said Haley Cuzzell, community sales manager for Carolina Park Development. "It's really a worthwhile experience, as every home in Riverside will be unique. Our sales team is highly trained with the preferred builders to take the time to help buyers create their dream home."

Whether you choose to use an existing design or a custom home, the sales team can help pair you with the right builder. Buyers have a say from the kitchen to the bedrooms, choosing options from open floor plans to tray ceilings.

The homes in Carolina Park showcase timeless Lowcountry style, and Riverside takes distinct architectural design, energy efficiency and quality construction a few steps further.

Pricing starts in the \$500s, and each quarter to half-acre homesite offers stunning natural views of parks, water or woodlands.

To learn more about Riverside at Carolina Park, stop by the main sales center, managed by Carolina One New Homes, or visit www.CarolinaPark.com.

By Stacy E. Domingo

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Out With the Old; In With the New



Photos provided.

The Snee Farm Clubhouse

Once a run-down facility, a \$2-million makeover has made the Snee Farm Clubhouse a source of pride among members.

I WAS SITTING IN AN ILLUSTRIOUS banquet room, at a table covered neatly by white cloth. To my left was a game room of sorts, where a group of chirpy women were playing bridge. Ten months previous, the newly-renovated clubhouse at Snee Farm Country Club in Mount Pleasant was no more than a “dilapidated, leaky, muggy, smelly and run-down” facility, but none of these adjectives would properly describe the location of my interview with Director of Membership Sally Marschner, Director of Golf Pete Dunham and General Manager Mike Ashton.

BY CULLEN MURRAY-KEMP

The idea of a new clubhouse for the 800-member private club was hatched nine years ago when Marschner was hired to spearhead marketing for the project. Never having visited the old clubhouse, I asked about what changes had been made. When silence followed, I wondered if I had somehow offended my new acquaintances.

“You must have never seen the old clubhouse,” Ashton

finally answered with a smile.

He went on to describe a derelict building that would scare most Snee Farm members away rather than serve as a comfortable place where they could get together after work or a day of recreational activities. Invite guests over to relax and enjoy the view of the golf course? Not a chance.

“The old clubhouse had become unusable. There were leaks in the ceiling, the carpets were stained, the AC didn’t work. We didn’t really have a choice,” Ashton lamented.

Ashton hired architect Stephen Russell, contractor SouthCon Building Group and engineers SeamonWhiteside Associates. The team had to put their heads together on the project and work creatively under a budget.

“We worked collaboratively with Mike (Ashton) and the design team on the project to give the club members the clubhouse they deserved,” said SouthCon President Chris Spach.

It wasn’t going to be easy.

The initial plan was to demolish the old clubhouse and rebuild at a new location. But after careful consideration, Ashton and crew deemed that the old clubhouse was in the

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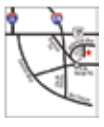
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perfect place, surrounded by the 18th hole, the swimming pool and the tennis courts.

“This new clubhouse ties everything back together,” said Ashton. “It’s a place where everyone wants to convene after a day at the pool, on the golf course or playing tennis.”

I wanted to get a firsthand account of what Snee Farm members thought of the \$2-million makeover, so Dunham interrupted Walter Pringle’s practice session and asked him to chat with us.

When I queried Pringle, who joined Snee Farm in 1999, what he thought of the new clubhouse, his eyes rolled to the back of his head as he relaxed in the comfort of his chair.

“I’m amazed, pleased and relieved all at once,” said Pringle. “We’ve always had the best golf course around. Now we can bring our friends and family to the clubhouse, too.”

“Shoot, I must eat at this place four or five times a week,” Pringle boasted, seemingly trying to win over the club directors who were sitting at the table, listening intently.

They all smiled, and I quickly asked, “And what’s your favorite meal?”

“The Ultimate BLT right now, but I still have a few more things to try,” Pringle responded without hesitation.

After a few more minutes discussing events that have been and will be held at the new clubhouse – including the



The initial plan was to demolish the old clubhouse and rebuild elsewhere. That idea was scrapped because the old clubhouse was in an ideal location, surrounded by the 18th hole, the swimming pool and the tennis courts.

41st annual Rice Planters Amateur Tournament in June – Ashton spoke directly to me.

“Creating this new clubhouse was a long process,” he said, looking around at the building. “We certainly had our ups and downs in the project, but it is so gratifying to see all of our club members walk around with a smile on their face.”

“There’s just such a positive vibe around here now. Everyone’s happy,” Marschner added with a smile. 🍍

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Winning Isn't Everything For Snee Farm Swimmers

Jason Kreutner has coached the Snee Farm Swim Team during a string of highly successful seasons since 1990, but he believes that winning is secondary to the fundamental values of caring, fun and sportsmanship.

The team, consisting of kids from 4 to 18, has claimed 26 Coastal Carolina Aquatic Association championships since it was established in 1971.

Kreutner, who is also the headmaster at University School of the Lowcountry, has grown to treasure the bonds created among kids during their summers spent at the Snee Farm swimming pool.

"People participate in (summer) sports for all sorts of reasons, but the kids who join our swim team will become part of a team and a family," said Kreutner.

To encourage interaction among team members and negate the trepidation that young swimmers might feel, Kreutner decided that once one of his swimmers reaches a certain age or skill level, he or she becomes a coach.



"Then in turn they can help coach and lead the younger kids who look up to them," Kreutner explained. "I remember when I was a young member of the Snee Farm Swim Team, I used to be nervous and try to avoid the older kids."

Nicola Tirpak is a rising senior at Academic Magnet and has been swimming with the Snee Farm Swim Team for the last 10 years. Tirpak was promoted to coach just last year and now works with younger kids.

"It's a wonderful feeling, helping the kids and seeing them progress," said Tirpak. "I wouldn't be where I am today without my Snee Farm family."

That's a statement that would be music to Coach Kreutner's ears.

- by Cullen Murray-Kemp



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EXPERIENCE IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR for East Cooper residents who want to make sure they are carrying the proper amount of coverage on their homes and automobiles, and that's one of the major attributes offered by Tony Pope and State Farm Insurance.

Pope recently opened a new location in Mount Pleasant, and he's dedicated to providing the same quality service he's offered his customers in Summerville for more than two decades. He's backed by one of the nation's top insurance companies.

"State Farm Insurance is the number one auto insurer in the state, and more people buy homeowners insurance from State Farm than any other insurer," Pope pointed out, adding that the company has been the number one auto insurer in the United States since 1942.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Pope knows the meaning of being a successful State Farm agent.

"We have 15 licensed agents in our agency alone who bring years of service to our clients and to the community. It's important to have an agent who is familiar with the area and who can respond quickly if you suffer a catastrophic event," he said.

"Going with the cheapest rate isn't always the best," Pope continued. "You need an agent who can explain the basics of insurance and be sure you have adequate coverage to replace your home and its contents."

Mount Pleasant's population continues to grow rapidly, and it's important for insurance agents to be knowledgeable about the needs of the town's residents and others

who live East of the Cooper.

"It is critical that homeowners have hurricane and wind coverage. Many policies exclude wind and hail or have very high deductibles," said Pope. "It's important to understand exactly what you are paying for and to know what deductibles your policy has for wind and hail."

Homeowners in the Lowcountry also should be concerned about flood insurance, a necessity even for homes that aren't in a flood zone. They must be concerned about storm surges that accompany hurricanes and flooding that occurs as a result of heavy rains.

Being aware of your options is crucial because, obviously, you can't buy insurance for an unforeseen event after it occurs. In many cases, you must be insured a month in advance. For example, flood insurance doesn't go into effect until after a 30-day waiting period. Once the coast is under a hurricane or tropical storm watch or warning, it is too late to purchase homeowners or renters insurance.

State Farm rewards its customers who insure their home as well as their cars through the company with a multi-line policy discount, and consumers also can

save money by taking common safety precautions and using items such as deadbolts and fire extinguishers. State Farm's claims network, one of the largest in the world, can be accessed online or by phone. 📞

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Moving On Up (Highway 17)

Eddie White Embraces Life in Darrell Creek

FOR EDDIE WHITE, MOUNT PLEASANT and its surrounding islands are all one big, happy family. After all, Awendaw Green, his haven for the music community, is populated each Wednesday night during what is affectionately known as “Barn Jam” and draws musicians and music lovers from every corner of the Lowcountry.

BY DENISE K. JAMES

And years ago, before White began his own dental practice in Mount Pleasant, he drove from his then-home on Sullivan’s Island to work in West Ashley every day. White eventually moved from his cottage on the island, where he and his family lived happily for 10 years, to a house he built in a Mount Pleasant neighborhood known as Darrell Creek.

“I never thought North Mount Pleasant seemed far – I was always accustomed to commuting,” he remarked.

The process of finding the property where White and his family would build their current home was a serendipitous one. One day, on a standard trip up Highway 17, White and his wife encountered a sign that said “waterfront property.” They decided to pull over and check it out.

“It was a homesite owned by a couple who lived in another nearby neighborhood,” he remembered. “The funny thing is, they wanted to move to Sullivan’s Island and ‘get out of the country’ – and we were seeking the rural life.”

White and his family have lived in their home, nestled between Alston Creek and Darrell Creek, since purchasing the lot in 2000. It was already a proper neighborhood back in those days, according to White, owned by a combination of savvy investors as well as developers.

“Darrell Creek has always been known as a rural subdivision,” he explained. “Many of the homes have generous lots with more wooded atmospheres, less restrictions for homeowners and the freedom to keep a boat in the yard.”

Naturally, as time goes on and the north area of Mount Pleasant continues to grow, Darrell Creek grows along



Photo by Andrew Mylander.

The White family enjoys living in Darrell Creek. Left to right: Clay, April, Eddie, Ivy and Laura.

with the rest of the town. Today, the neighborhood offers plenty of modern amenities but maintains its original charm that White spoke about.

“Ed Hunnicutt – of the Hunnicutt Real Estate Team – shows many of the homes in the neighborhood now,” he said. “The developed area of the community has matured. We have a swimming pool now, lush landscaping and everything else you would desire within a community.”

But for White, the best part about living in Darrell Creek is the proximity of the neighborhood to other important aspects of his life.

“My dental practice was the second business to locate above Highway 41 in Mount Pleasant,” he said.

Darrell Creek is also a short drive to the 100 acres of wilderness property that White owns between McClellanville and Jamestown. He spends a great deal of time there, working on recording music during what he called “swamp sessions.”

“We play music and record with numerous regional musicians, mostly from South Carolina,” he said. “We just shot a video there with Brendan James, for example.”

And, of course, one of the Lowcountry’s best outdoor

music venues is near Darrell Creek. White began the legend that is Awendaw Green in 2008, after befriending the guys from Hootie & the Blowfish and “discovering the Charleston music scene,” he said.



The dock at the White home on Darrell Creek. Photo by Ivy White.

“When people ask me what we do at Awendaw Green, I reply that we get people off of their couches,” he said with a smile. “We provide a place for people to interact.”

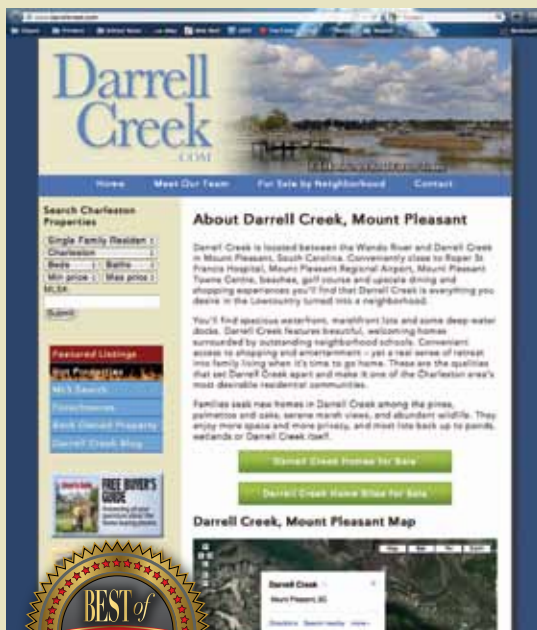
Despite the fact that White brings musicians together every week, and despite the fact that all three of his children are musically gifted as well, he himself cannot do any more than whistle. His own talents lie in dentistry and, interestingly, in building treehouses.

“I love treehouses,” he said. “I built one on Sullivan’s Island, and, at my current home in Darrell Creek, we have a swing set treehouse. It’s a great getaway, and I think it’s good to build things yourself. It creates a sense of self worth.”

When asked how Darrell Creek has changed in the last 12 years, White tends to think that the community is still the same place he chose as his home.

“The original pack of people is still there,” he said. “We draw a lot of newcomers, particularly with exceptional schools like Pinckney and Laurel Hill close by, but Darrell Creek is still what you make of it. It’s spacious enough that people can enjoy privacy, but it’s friendly enough that people can get to know each other, too.” 🌲

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BEFORE I MET TERRI BALDWIN of TCB Design-Interiors, I didn't think much about the feel of a room or house. I didn't try to color coordinate or draw my guests' eyes in a certain direction. Rather, I was content with family pictures hanging on my walls, a couple of comfortable couches and a decent-looking coffee table.

But for Baldwin and her clients, "every room tells a story."

Intrigued by this concept, I asked Baldwin to describe the story behind

BY CULLEN MURRAY-KEMP one of her favorite "trademark" rooms, which she recently renovated in Jim and Sharon Scott's McClellanville home.

Before the Scotts moved into their new home, it was owned by an older "eccentric" couple. The house, as Baldwin put it, was "stuck in the 70s." She said it was decorated with deep purple and mauve, the mantels were painted black and their beautiful pine floors were covered by green carpet.

Baldwin was faced with the delicate task of bringing the Scott family's personality into the room and implementing the formal feeling Sharon Scott wanted, while still creating a place where the family could spend time.

"I started with the furniture," said Baldwin. "These wing-back chairs are traditional in style, but the chair's arm profile brings contemporary value to the pieces."

The next step for Baldwin was to find the perfect color coordination.

"Sharon wanted muted colors,

you know, creams and blues. But the key for me was not allowing muted to become boring," she said.

For this room, it was all about finding balance – formal but not tiresome, contemporary but still traditional.

Baldwin used a sea grass rug to tone down the reserved nature of the vegetable-dyed Persian. As I was admiring the space, I noticed how my eyes were drawn to the sunburst mirror above the shipyard painting, which Baldwin chose to represent the fishing town of McClellanville.

"The mirror plays a trick on us, causing our eyes to notice the tall ceiling – it's a visual balance between vertical and horizontal space," said Baldwin.

In addition to balance, Baldwin used the Scott's personal décor. "I knew it was important for people to be able to recognize themselves in a room – especially in a new home," said Baldwin, who is currently working on revitalizing a cottage in Mount Pleasant's Old Village.

Above all, Baldwin wants to dispel the notion that consulting an interior designer is only for the elite. In fact, she enjoys budgeted projects, such as the catchall closet she turned into beautiful dressing quarters for Margaret Crouch. Baldwin knows that working within a budget forces her to test her creativity to get the results she wants.

"Margaret's husband works for Bird Hardware, so we decided to use surplus doorknobs for the curtain tiebacks," said Baldwin.

To find out more about TCB Design-Interiors, visit www.tcbdesign.net or call (843) 817-0432.

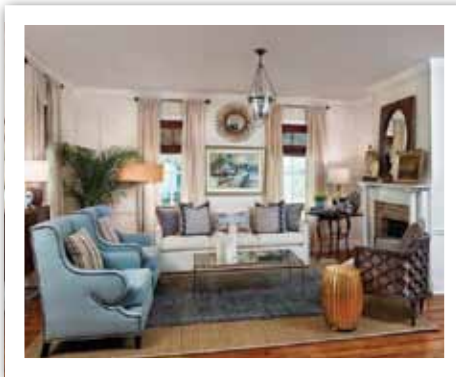


Photo by Holger Obenaus.

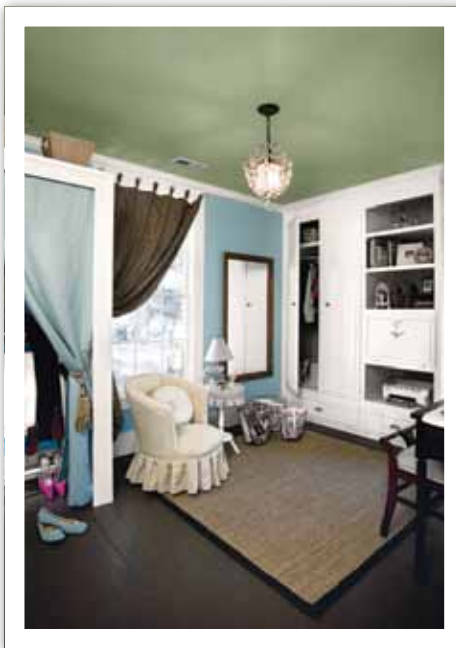


Photo by Christopher Shane.

Top: Terri Baldwin recently renovated a room in the home of Jim and Sharon Scott in McClellanville. Bottom: Baldwin helped turn Margaret Crouch's closet into beautiful dressing quarters.



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Foxworth Decorative Hardware

THE PRODUCERS OF THE CBS drama “Reckless” knew who to contact when they needed hardware that would make the doors in their sets look as genuine as possible. They called Foxworth Decorative Hardware in Mount Pleasant, a local business with a sterling reputation for serving the needs of Lowcountry contractors and homeowners.

“They sent me pictures of what they wanted and said they needed it yesterday,” Rob Reilly, vice president of sales and operations, explained. “They called Friday at 3 p.m. We placed the order and they had what they needed by 11 a.m. Saturday.”

BY BRIAN SHERMAN

Foxworth Decorative Hardware is more than just a supplier for hit TV shows, of course. The business, started in downtown Charleston by Colonel Gene Foxworth, has been in Mount Pleasant since 2005. It is currently located just off Coleman Boulevard on Lucas Street, behind Page’s Okra Grill.

Today, the business is run by Foxworth’s daughter, Christine Foxworth Reilly, who can rely on 35 years of experience in the industry. She and her husband Rob agree that the main reason for their success is their own brand of customer service.

“Whether they’re buying two knobs or a whole house, they get the same attention from us,” Rob stated. “We even service items we didn’t sell. We know they’ll come back if they need something else. There’s nothing more important than customer service.”

In addition to door hardware, Foxworth Decorative Hardware sells bath accessories, vanity mirrors, heat and air registers, switch plates, door knockers and doorbells of all shapes and sizes and an item almost anyone would be happy to have when Lowcountry temperatures begin to drop: towel warmers.

Foxworth Decorative Hardware also offers a wide range of unusual pulls and knobs, including those shaped like seashells, starfish, frogs and various other denizens of the land and ocean. In addition, the business carries several hard-to-find lines, such as handmade Maitland-Smith cabinet knobs and pulls.



Photos by Brian Sherman.

Christine and Rob Reilly agree that customer service is the foundation of their business. They sell a wide range of unusual knobs and pulls, including the frog below.

“Hardware is the jewelry of your home,” Christine commented. “People can find things on the Internet, but they can come in here and see, touch and feel all the lines we offer. They can check out a knob or two and take them home. If they don’t work, they can bring them back and go on to their next choice.”



Foxworth Decorative Hardware’s customer service extends beyond the confines of the store on Lucas Street. Within a 90-mile radius, Rob will visit a home and help its owner decide which hardware would work best.

The Reillys work with contractors, interior designers and individual homeowners to make sure their customers are happy with the look of their hardware. They install everything they sell, and they’re open on Saturdays, which is unusual in the industry.

“We help people navigate through the end of the building process,” Christine said. “And along the way, we make a lot of new friends.” 🐸

Foxworth Decorative Hardware is located at 304 Lucas St. in Mount Pleasant. For more information, visit www.foxworth-hardware.com or call (843) 881-0827.

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Meeting the Challenge

Dennis O'Neill

THE FIELD OF LAW IS COMPLICATED, structured by laws and rulings yet fluid and malleable as it applies to human behavior. Some areas of law can be routine, such as real estate, with its mounds of paperwork and figures. Others, including criminal and civil cases, are much more complicated, and the pathway to satisfactory results can be ambiguous. But no matter the area of expertise, there is no substitute for experience.

BY BARBARA MILLEN PATRICK

"Give six different lawyers the same set of facts and you'll get six different proposed solutions," said Dennis O'Neill of the O'Neill Law Firm, pointing out that the path to the best solution is reached through a combination of knowledge and experience. "Practicing law is a tremendous challenge. Putting together the pieces is like solving a puzzle."

O'Neill solves puzzles for his clients, but he is also a "lawyer's lawyer." His counsel is sought by his peers as well.

"He has a knack for seeing the solution," according to fellow lawyer Frank McCann, past president of the Charleston County Bar Association. "He has a clarity of thought that I envy. I consider him my lawyer."

Over the course of his career, O'Neill has faced hundreds, if not thousands, of challenges. After graduating from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1978, he took advantage of virtually every opportunity that came his way in order to gain experience, including offering his services as a public defender to the city of Charleston.

"My friend and I thought it was a good idea to offer to be public defenders at the age of 25," O'Neill said, adding

that they were immediately put to work.

Throughout his career, O'Neill gained experience in criminal trials – he defended his first murder case in 1979 – as well as in civil court, serving as counsel and co-counsel in cases ranging from automobile accidents to custody disputes.

In 1983, having spent several years arguing cases for both the defense and the prosecution, O'Neill was tapped to be a judge for the Mount Pleasant Municipal Court; he was chief judge for seven years. He also has served the municipal courts on Sullivan's Island and the Isle of Palms and as a special Circuit Court judge for the Court of Common Pleas for the Ninth Judicial District.

Today, O'Neill continues to concentrate on criminal cases, personal injury, real estate, probate and related matters. For the past 14 years, he has been judge of the Seabrook Island Municipal Court.

O'Neill is well respected by his peers for his experience and his approach to solving the legal challenges of real life.

"Dennis is the go-to guy," said Stanley Feldman, a lawyer and a longtime friend. Feldman added that life can be complicated, and people sometimes have difficulty understanding the difference between "their rights" and "the best thing to do under the circumstances."

"Dennis has a good sense of which battles to fight," Feldman said. "He is the cream of the crop."

The O'Neill Law Firm is located at 1473 Stuart Engals Blvd. in Mount Pleasant. For an appointment, call (843) 884-9494. Additional information can be found at www.OneillLawFirm.com.



Dennis O'Neill offers his clients the advantages of his years of experience in various areas of the field of law.

Photo by Brian Sherman.



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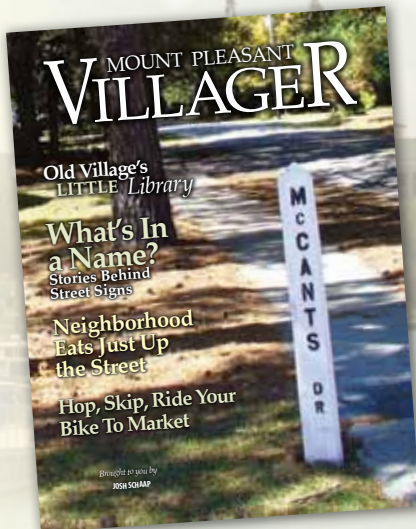


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Shall I Compare Thee to a Somerby Day?

NESTLED IN THE PARK WEST community, Somerby of Mount Pleasant is enriching the lives of Lowcountry seniors. Its residents enjoy well-maintained apartment homes and villas on the meticulously groomed property of the gated community.

When I dropped by Somerby, I was greeted by the aroma of coffee from the café and pleasantly surprised by the immense selection of books in the adjacent library and computer center. Lyn Iseman is the community relations coordinator; her enthusiasm for Somerby's residents, facilities and core values made for an enlightening visit.

Dominion Partners, Somerby's parent company, has developed senior communities for more than 20 years. Somerby embodies its mission statement: "To inspire and nurture successful aging each and every day."

Somerby of Mount Pleasant, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary, provides a place where residents "enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding life without upfront entry fees or buy-ins. This means that residents and families are in control of their finances," according to Iseman.

Somerby offers three distinct levels of care: independent, assisted and memory. With a 24-hour monitored emergency response system and full-time registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in the community at all times, the quality care staff exceeds state guidelines.

The community offers Masterpiece Living, a research-based initiative developed in partnership with the Mayo Clinic that provides residents with an exclusive, groundbreaking approach to wellness.

As I walked through the facility, it was easy for me to

see what sets Somerby apart. Its open plan design features windows looking out over welcoming paths dotted with benches and rest areas. The Château Restaurant compares to fine dining anywhere in the Lowcountry; multiple entrée options prepared by an experienced chef are a highlight of Somerby living.

As we breezed by the day spa, Lyn professed it to be "one of the popular amenities with the residents." The next doors down house therapy rooms and a fitness center. Dedicated professionals assist with physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology. The spacious fitness center houses state-of-the-art equipment, and an indoor heated exercise pool is nearby.



Residents at Somerby of Mount Pleasant enjoy well-maintained apartment homes and villas on meticulously groomed grounds, as well as open, airy interior designs.



Photos provided.



Each apartment has a full kitchen, modern appliances, verandas, walk-in showers and a washer/dryer. Guest apartments are available, as is a private dining area for parties and other celebrations. 🍷

To find out more about what Somerby of Mount Pleasant has to offer, visit www.somerbyofmountpleasant.com or www.SomerbySpark.com, or call (800) 914-4870.

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A Sea of Plaid: EVERYONE IS SCOTTISH FOR A DAY

A SEA OF PLAID WILL ONCE again descend on Boone Hall Plantation in Mount Pleasant on Sept. 21, welcoming everyone with or without a tartan to enjoy the Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering.

The Scottish Society was formed in 1971, an effort to keep the Scottish culture and heritage alive in the Lowcountry. As the 42nd year of the Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering approaches, it's safe to say that the tradition is thriving along the Carolina coast.

"When we started out, we were very small and nobody knew about us for years," said society president Karolea Lucas. "If we had 100 people, it was great."

The games will offer something for everyone to enjoy throughout the day. Steve Lanier, a longtime attendee and proud father of a bagpiper, recommends getting there early to procure a good spot to enjoy the festivities. Another reason to show up when the gate opens at 9 a.m. is to catch the opening ceremonies. As the pipers and massed bands march up the front lawn of the majestic Boone Hall Plantation, you will literally feel the thunderous spirit of the games.

"If there is one event you would not want to miss, it is the opening ceremonies," said Lucas.

The games will host one of the largest piping and drumming competitions in the Southeast, while throughout the day, attendees will be able to sample flavors of Scottish music from performers Colin Grant-Adams, Rathkeltair

and Smithfield Fair. As the sun goes down, the evening will culminate with a Celtic concert under the stars.

And then, of course, there's the athletic competition. Professional and amateur athletes will vie for honors in categories such as the sheaf toss, stone of strength and caber toss.

"Last year, we had a fellow trying to break a world record for hammer throw," said Lucas. "The whole crowd was holding their breath as he threw, but he ended up missing it by a short amount."

Even the wee little ones will have their own caber toss event. Other children's activities include Scottish crafts, Celtic storytelling, a bounce castle, a magic show, a Scottish egg relay, face painting and the opportunity to build a kilt for a favorite stuffed friend or doll. In other words, you are not likely to hear the words "I'm bored."

A creature also not likely to tolerate boredom well is the Border Collie. These fine canines will show off the herding instincts and skills of the esteemed workaholic breed, which originated in Scotland.

Take a break and partake of some Scottish food as you watch the drumming, piping and dancing competitions held throughout the day. I have it on good authority that the meat pies, and strawberries and clotted cream are not to be missed.

"Everyone is Scottish for a day," said Lanier. "It's great to come out and enjoy the people, watch the events and perhaps even have a cold pint."

Tickets to the event are available at the gate or online at www.charlestonscots.org. The majority of the proceeds benefit various charities. Since its inception, the society has donated \$50,000 to the Ronald McDonald House alone. 🍷

Photo courtesy of the Scottish Society.

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A Real-World Look at Education Webster University

Editor's note: Mount Pleasant is growing, and the impact through our people and businesses is becoming more apparent. Thus, we at Mount Pleasant Magazine have decided to begin a new department called Around Our Lowcountry. This series of articles will illustrate how East Cooper influences important aspects of the Tri-county area – and how East Cooper is influenced in return. We hope you enjoy the first article in the series. If you have future suggestions for this department, please email editor@mountpleasantmagazine.com.

FOR THE PAST 29 YEARS, WEBSTER University in North Charleston has provided high-quality higher education for Lowcountry residents from all walks of life.

Much of the success enjoyed by Webster students can be attributed to the school's teachers, a tightknit group of experienced educators who are well-connected

BY CULLEN MURRAY-KEMP in the local business community. They all have had real-world work experience, a valuable asset for students anxious to succeed in private industry, in the military or with growing companies such as Boeing, located virtually next door to Webster.

Webster professor Dr. David Snyder insists that since many student already are working, professors can focus on applying their curriculum to real-world situations.

"Many of my students have working experience that they can draw from and blend it into the classroom," said Snyder.

With its recipe for success already in place, Webster University has grown out of its current campus on International Boulevard. "The big move," as the school's new director, Dr. Vivian Gallman-DeRienzo, calls it, will transport the campus down the road to Leeds Avenue, in the Faber Pointe complex. With a fresh location and state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, Webster will be looking to expand upon its present enrollment



Photo courtesy of Webster University.

Thank You Mount Pleasant!



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Photo by Brian Sherman.

Dr. Sharon Balcome and Dr. David Snyder are among the Webster University instructors who believe in the school's real-world approach to education.

of 400 to 500 students per term.

“Our new location will not only be able to accommodate Webster’s growing enrollment but also will be attractive to perspective students,” the school’s director pointed out.

Gallman-DeRienzo came to Webster with hopes of bringing energy and revitalizing the Charleston-based institution.

“We know that our students are smart consumers. That said, we will continue to expand and enhance our quality programs, networking with local chambers-of-commerce and businesses to ensure we meet their educational needs and optimize our outreach efforts to recruit exceptional students,” Gallman-DeRienzo said.

Since its inception in St. Louis nearly a century ago, Webster has expanded to more than 100 locations all over the world, including North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. This approach has provided Webster University with a uniquely diverse student body.

Merry Miller, an East Cooper resident, decided to enroll at Webster to advance her Air Force career.

“I was looking to get promoted to the rank of major, and, to do so, I needed my master’s,” said Miller. “Webster’s extended hours and flexible schedule made it so convenient. And I love the idea that I could go to Webster anywhere I move.”

Another Webster student, Frederick Malle, spent 24 years in the Air Force and, in 2010, was hired at Boeing as an employee development specialist. He, too, had aspirations of advancing his career, requiring a master’s to become a program manager. Since he was already working full-time, he needed the convenience of night and weekend classes and Webster’s practical approach that allowed him to apply his classroom lessons directly to his job at Boeing.

“I began using the project management techniques I learned at Webster immediately at work. There’s no lag time between education and actual application,” said Malle.

Photo courtesy of Webster University.



Dr. Vivian Gallman-DeRienzo came to Webster University with hopes of bringing energy and revitalizing the school.

Fortunately for Miller and Malle, their Webster professors had both academic and applied backgrounds that allowed them to take what they were learning in the classroom directly into their respec-

tive workplaces.

“Many schools offer theory in their education. At Webster, we use theory followed up by specific examples of application,” said Snyder who has been with the school for 10 years and sees the Webster approach as a mentoring process. “In a regular college, students move on after class is over. I interact with my students after a Monday class for the rest of the week over the phone or in chat rooms. That way they are already prepared for the next class. After students graduate, I generally remain close. It’s just the way we approach things.”

Dr. Sharon Balcome has been a Mount Pleasant resident for 30 years and an academic advisor at Webster University for 19 years. She calls both places home.

“I’ve found our progressive manner at Webster to reflect the strong education system in Mount Pleasant,” said Balcome, who appreciates the personal relationship between staff and students at Webster. “We get a lot of feedback about how personable and friendly the instructors are, and, in turn, how this creates a stronger learning environment.” 🍷



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A S I APPROACHED FINZ BAR & Grill, a local restaurant with a funky feel located just off of Coleman Boulevard, my stroll slowed and my nostrils were engulfed by the scent of slow-smoked barbeque brisket, beef tips and wings. I opened the restaurant's swinging glass door and was greeted by the friendly chatter of the 4 p.m. regulars.

"Man, the Cowboys are looking tough this year,"

BY CULLEN MURRAY-KEMP

boasted a man to his friend sitting across the bar, as he munched down on a plate of 35-cent happy hour wings.

Soon, owner/chef Chad Shores greeted me at the bar. After a lifetime in the restaurant business, Shores decided to open Finz four-and-a-half years ago and is proud of how it has developed into one of the more popular eateries East of the Cooper.

"I've put a lot of work and pride into this place, and, after being in the industry so long, it really feels great to find something that works," said Shores, gesturing to the restaurant's inviting design.

Although the place was fairly busy for a Tuesday at 4 p.m., Shores said it doesn't compare to Fridays, when customers begin showing up from the moment the doors open at 11 a.m.

"So, how many people do you think come in here on a Friday?" I inquired.

"Well, we usually sell anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 tacos, so figure that one out," Shores chirped with a grin.

Tacos aren't the only food guests can find at Finz. Recently, the restaurant began offering a Sunday brunch that pairs late-morning eats, such as smoked corn beef Reubens and lobster and grits, with early-afternoon drinks such as the Freaky Flamingo.

A central feature of Finz is its relaxing atmosphere. As the hot Lowcountry summer turns to fall, Shores opens the retractable windows and turns his place into an indoor/outdoor bar. His customers apparently appreciate the ambience.

"I love when someone comes in for one drink and stays for dinner," he said.



Photo provided.

A central feature of Finz Bar & Grill is its relaxing atmosphere.

I gazed at the flat-screen TVs, folks in sandals, boat murals, fishing trophies, fishing rods and pictures of Shores' friends fishing.

"This place definitely doesn't feel like work," I thought out loud.

While I gawked at Finz unique décor, Shores opened the menu. "You hungry?" he asked.

Just minutes after nodding my head in confirmation, he brought out a four-course meal that displayed Finz' ever-changing and fresh menu. I was staring longingly at black and white sesame encrusted tuna with a wasabi aioli, twin-seared peppered scallops with a citrus chutney, three tacos – tuna, buffalo shrimp and steak – and blackened tenderloin beef tips with a Southwestern horseradish.

I was in heaven.

While I ate, Shores and I began discussing typical Finz customers.

"That's the thing," Shores said. "Our crowd here is always diverse. Our rotating menu, live music five nights a week and daily specials give our guests something different to look forward to every day." 🍷

To find out more about Finz, call (843) 654-7296, check out www.finzbar.com or pay a visit to the restaurant at 440 W. Coleman Blvd. in Mount Pleasant.



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Claudia Grimes

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Baltimore, Maryland.

Education: College and life itself.

Employment: Owner – Don't Sweat It.

Favorite reading: Tom Robbins.

Favorite music: Eclectic in this area, but listening to G. Love & Special Sauce right now.

Activities: Tennis, sailing, hiking, anything to do with water.

Interests: Good music, good food.

Likes: Art and traveling.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy." - Tom Waits.

"No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does." - Christopher Morley.



Robert A. Reese, DC

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Freehold, New Jersey.

Education: University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Life University School of Chiropractic.

Employment: Reese Chiropractic, "A Family Experience."

Favorite music: Everything with a hard lean toward hair bands of the '80s.

Activities: Family time, beach, boogie boarding with my son, surfing, fishing/crabbing and, of course, football.

Interests: Having the best family centered chiropractic office in Charleston – "Babies and kids have spines, too!"

Likes: My wife Kim (we've known each other since third grade) and kids; honest people who want to take care of themselves.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Don't take life so damn seriously."



Amanda Brooke Robles

Lives in: Charleston, South Carolina.

From: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. I was born in San Francisco but moved here when I was 6 months old.

Education: Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, USC.

Employment: Owner of Rock Paper Scissors Craft Studio – opened June 2013.

Favorite reading: Realistic and historical fiction, fantasy and anything involving art.

Favorite music: It depends on my mood. Singer/songwriter, bluegrass, blues, classical, pop, electronic.

Activities: Creating, running, rock climbing, cooking, drinking.

Interests: Art, crafts, football, food, fun.

Likes: Beaches, Charleston, friends and family, opportunities.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls" - Pablo Picasso.



Lisa K. Smith

Lives in: Charleston, South Carolina.

From: James Island, South Carolina.

Education: James Island High School.

Employment: Clerk at Mount Pleasant contract postal unit.

Favorite reading: Anything by Stephen King.

Favorite music: Classic rock.

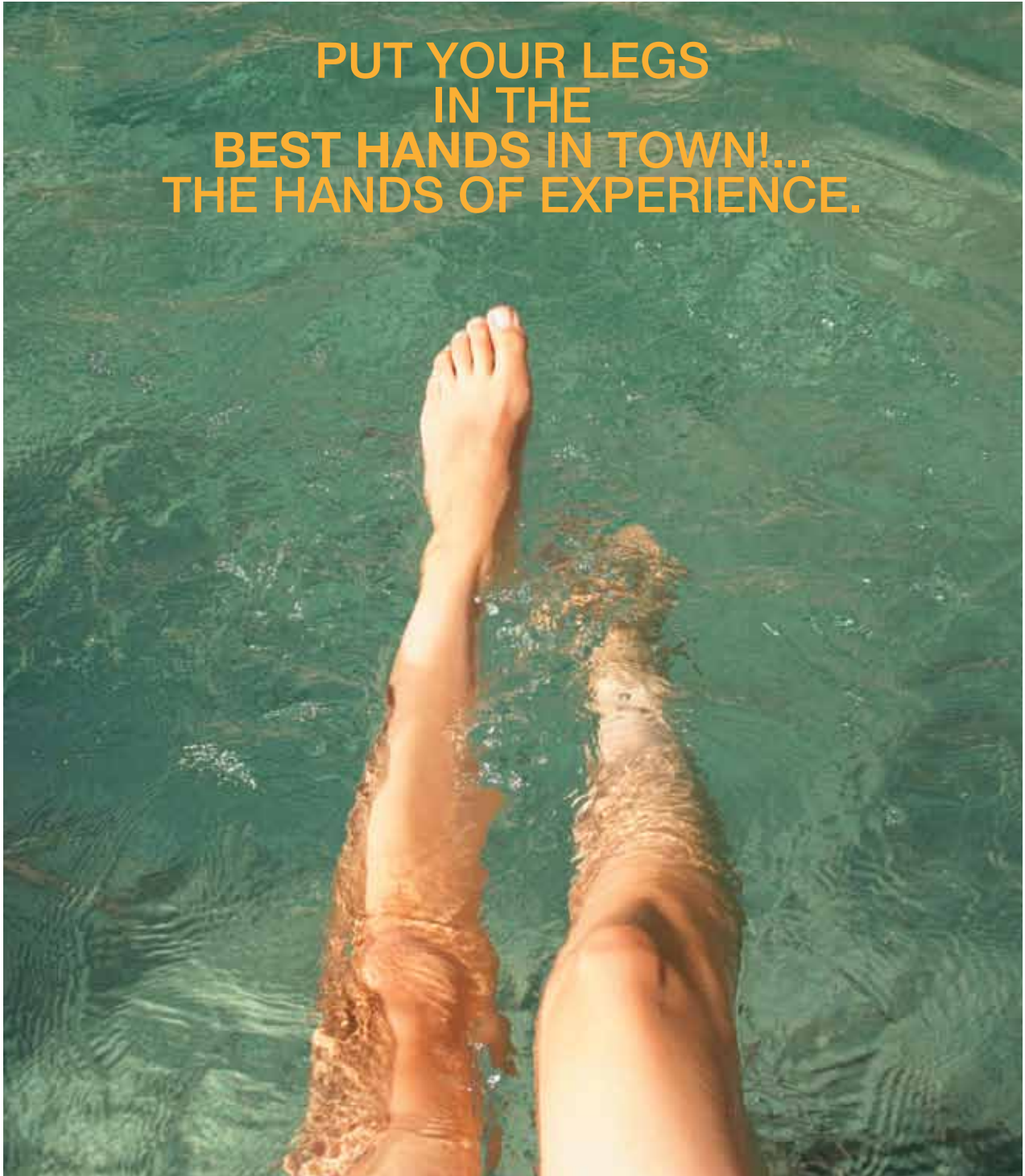
Activities: Sailing and fishing.

Interests: Singing and guitar.

Likes: People who are honest and look me in the eye.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "I try to treat people the way I would like to be treated. I hope the more positive things I put out into the world, the more positive my life will be."

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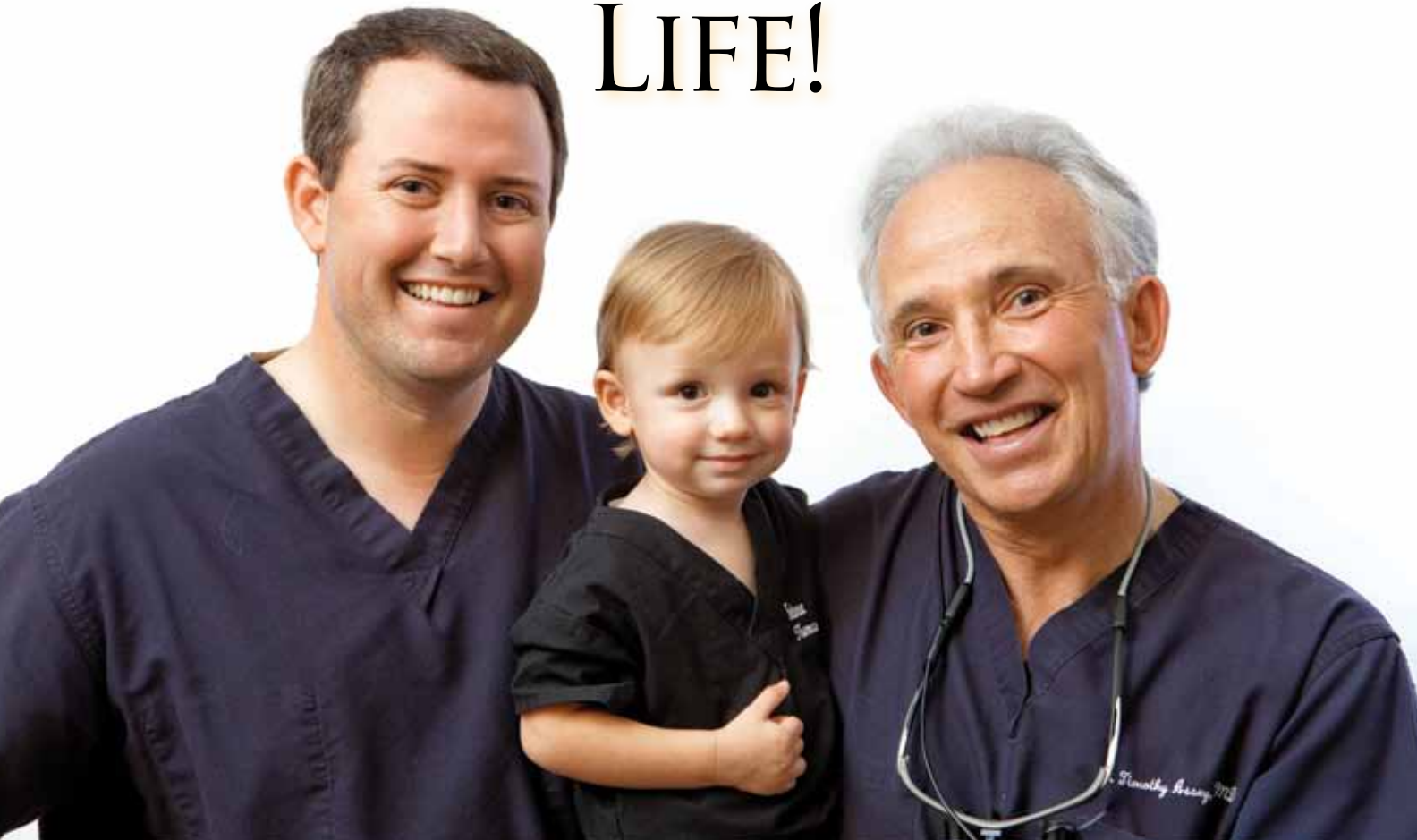
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