

2015 Golden
Spoon Results Inside
• Page 133

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2015

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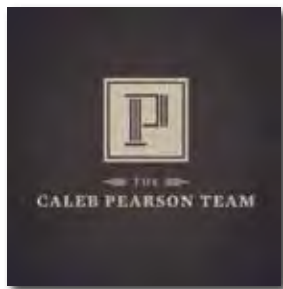
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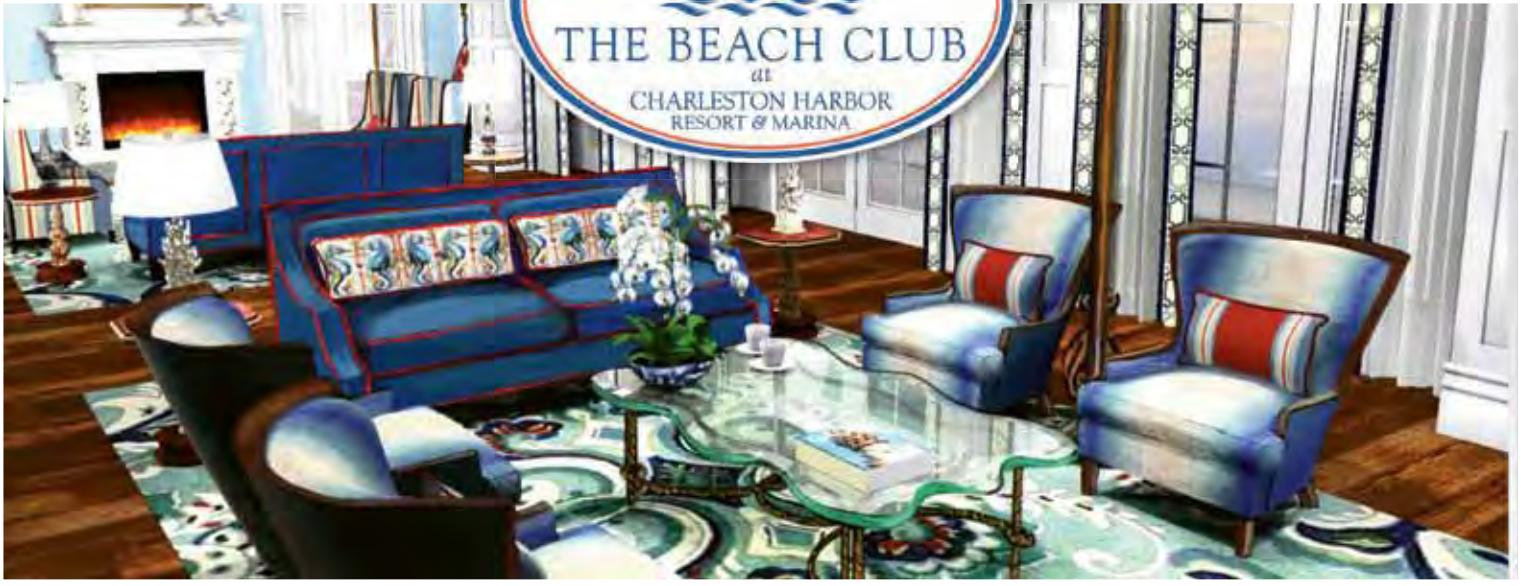
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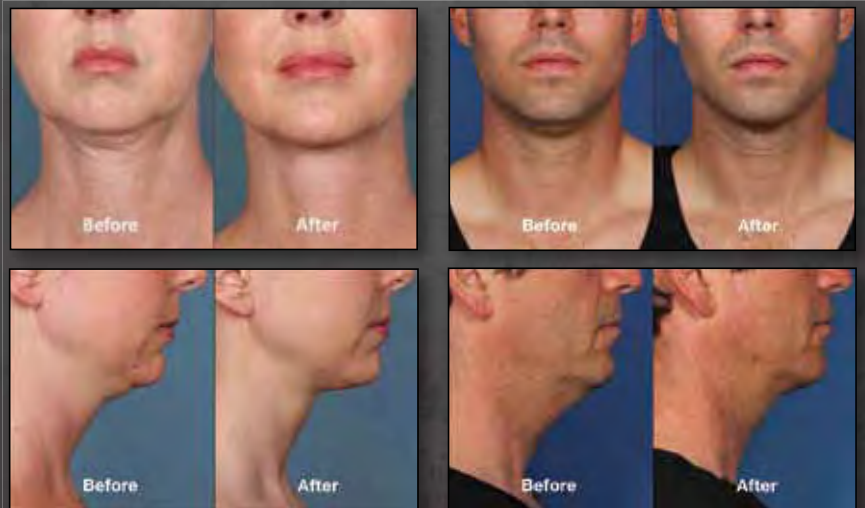


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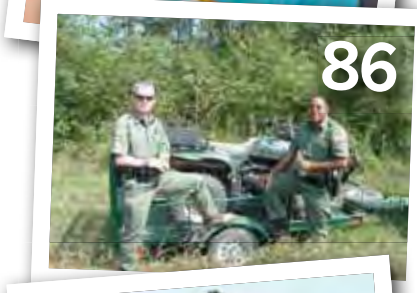
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

I SUSPECT YOU PROBABLY FEEL THE SAME WAY I DO ABOUT Mount Pleasant: It's a great place to live. As we travel around Mount Pleasant, we see the landscape of today and the future that has been nurtured over decades by hardworking and passionate policy-makers.

With Town Council elections right around the corner, I felt it was important to publish an article on the kind of government Mount Pleasant has been built on. The Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island have the same foundation: mayor weak; Council strong. Both North Charleston and Charleston have a strong mayor form of government.

When you get a chance to dive into this issue, you'll discover an article on page 66 written by longtime Managing Editor Brian Sherman about retiring Council member Thomasena Stokes-Marshall. Right after that is an article on how our local government works and why it's important to understand the values and political platform of each Council candidate's campaign. Their votes have a huge impact on our lives, so it's important to understand who they are and what they stand for.

When I think of Mount Pleasant policymakers, I can't help but look at the influence of the Mount Pleasant Planning Commission. Members of the Commission have a tough job. At their meetings, held the third Wednesday of each month, they face a parade of developers, builders, companies and individuals. Many requests they hear involve rezoning. As our town continues to grow, there are more and more reasons to change current zoning, which alters our streetscape and the use of Mount Pleasant's vacant land.

I can't think of two governing bodies that are more important to our daily lives than the Planning Commission and the Town Council. We all need to be thankful that those who take the time to serve our town are passionate and concerned people who care about Mount Pleasant. Because of the environment they have created, people dream of living in our little town of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Pictured here is our illustrious Mayor, Linda Page, wearing one of our I HEART MP hats. We're giving several of these away on Facebook. Become a fan of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* at www.Facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine. We are 21,344 voices strong – you can make us stronger. 🐾

Until next issue,



— BILL MACCHIO
Publisher



Mayor Linda Page enjoys wearing her I HEART MP hat.

MOUNT PLEASANT

MAGAZINE

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From the Managing Editor



IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD, FALL IS A TIME OF year when people hunker down and prepare for the wintry weather ahead, reluctantly setting aside dreams of the outdoor activities they somehow missed over the summer months. But this isn't the case in East Cooper or the rest of Charleston. For us, fall is charged with gorgeous weather, even more chances to be outside and a number of possibilities to love where we live.

This issue of *Mount Pleasant Magazine* shows what I mean, starting with the cover featuring several Wando High School band members. Flip back and take a look – don't they seem pumped about fall, football games and life in general?! These pleasant months are the perfect time to go cheer them on at a Wando High School football game – they make the halftime shows worth it.

My appreciation goes out to band director Bobby Lambert, my photographer, Jenn Cady of Jenn Cady Photography, as well as Managing Editor Brian Sherman for their help and support with the shoot. For the whole scoop on this band's musical genius, turn to page 24 and read Brian's cover story. There's lots more cool photos, too. The kids on the cover are, left to right, front row: Emily Olack, Emily Kozma and Jared Imholz; middle row: Jaryn Valdry, Cody Robinette, Spencer Shellnutt and Cameron Glass; and back row: John Caddell and Evan Robinette.

Aside from attending a football game, this issue has plentiful ideas on how to venture out and enjoy fall, like going to The Charleston Cup, The Mac Off, *Southern Living's* Taste of Charleston or Hogs for the Cause, or dining at one of the Golden Spoon-awarded restaurants. We know y'all love reading about cuisine and cocktails, so turn to page 129 for the 2015 Golden Spoon Results. They'll make your mouth water.

The change of seasons also offers the inspiration to try new things at home. If one of your goals is to do more for the environment, you might find inspiration in our feature about beekeeping around East Cooper or our story on the sustainable seafood movement. And speaking of the environment, don't miss our profile on Willie McRae, owner of Boone Hall – it'll make you want to spend a day enjoying the beauty of a well-preserved Southern plantation.

Fall's arrival is symbolized by many things to different people. For me, it's that first afternoon I can turn off the air conditioning unit, open all the windows of my little house and take in that fragrant Lowcountry air.

Consider this issue your open window to East Cooper. Until next time, dear readers, make the most of these brisk, sunny days. 🍂

Yours,
DENISE K. JAMES
Managing Editor



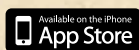
Left to right, front row: Emily Olack, Emily Kozma and Jared Imholz; middle row: Jaryn Valdry, Cody Robinette, Spencer Shellnutt and Cameron Glass; and back row: John Caddell and Evan Robinette.

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Our Contributors



Valerie Smith, a senior at Clemson University, is working on a bachelor's in English and plans to continue her education in pursuit of a master's in Arts and Professional Communication in Digital Publishing. She has interned with Clemson University's *UPIC Magazine* and at *Mount Pleasant*

Magazine and is involved with the college campus newspaper, *The Tiger*. She lives in Clemson but visits the Lowcountry often to see her dad, who is a Mount Pleasant resident.

Brian Barrie grew up on Sullivan's Island and graduated from Wando High School with dreams of becoming a journalist. At the College of Charleston, however, he discovered a talent for graphic design, which led him into the production side of publishing and eventually into the then-burgeoning world of the Internet. After spending years living and working in Tennessee and Washington, D.C., Brian came back to Mount Pleasant in 2005 to raise his son in the Lowcountry. He is finally returning to his roots as a writer.



Anne Shuler Toole was born and raised in Mount Pleasant. A marketing professional by day, she moonlights as a freelance writer and baker and is active in the Charleston area community. She enjoys writing about the people, places, culture, history and food that shape the Lowcountry and resides in her childhood home with her husband, new baby and two German border huskies.

Pamela Brownstein, an award-winning designer and columnist who has worked at daily, weekly and monthly publications across the Lowcountry, recently moved to Mount Pleasant from Beaufort, South Carolina, with her husband and two children, ages 3 and 1. She is a freelance graphic designer and writer, in addition to her role as a stay-at-home mom.



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



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Notes from Friends

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

I cried when I saw poor Caitlyn's mouth taped shut (The Dog Days of Summer, July/August 2015). I sure hope that she is able to eat again and has the love of a home and family that will give her the respect that she deserves.

-Maureen Gibbons

via MountPleasantMagazine.com

Of all the moments the bridge has had over the 10 years (Our Lowcountry Skyline, July/August 2015), nothing will be more meaningful then the Unity Bridge Chain in honor of the Holy 9.

-Dave Creaturo

via MountPleasantMagazine.com

So how do I get Bradford watermelon seeds? (Lost Flavors, Found, July/August 2015)

-Jeana Dinkelspiel

via MountPleasantMagazine.com

Great story and perfect role for the thoughtful visionary Beckham (Creating a Vision, July/August 2015). Thank you CCSD for putting the reins in her hand on the future of both old and new Wando.

-Coleen Martin

via Facebook.com/MountPleasantMagazine

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

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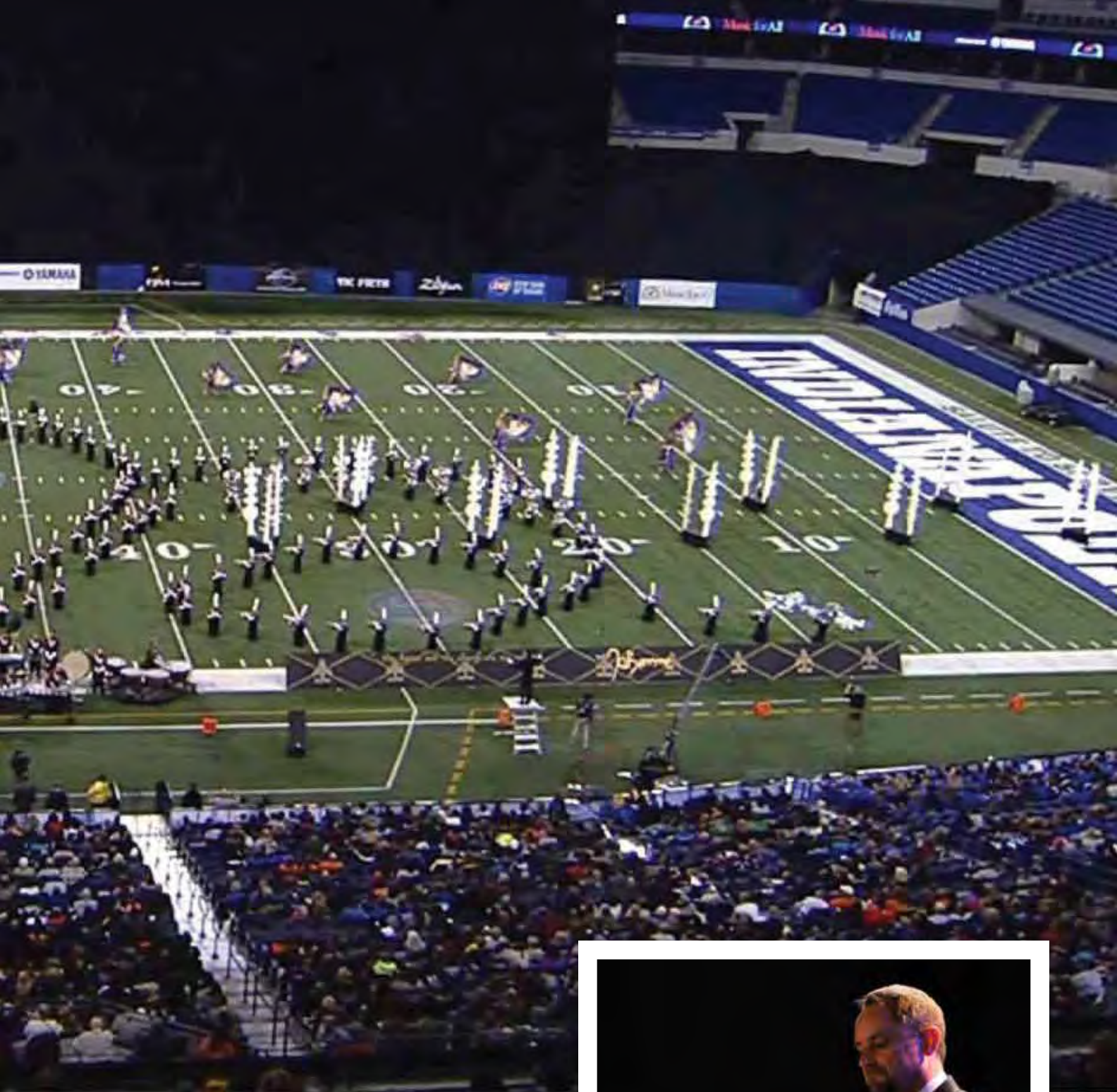
WANDO'S AWARD-WINNING BAND

Story by Brian Sherman.

Photos courtesy of the Wando Band.

IN HIS FIRST YEAR AT THE HELM OF the Wando High School band, Bobby Lambert has done his best to make his own kind of music without changing the direction of the school's award-winning band program.

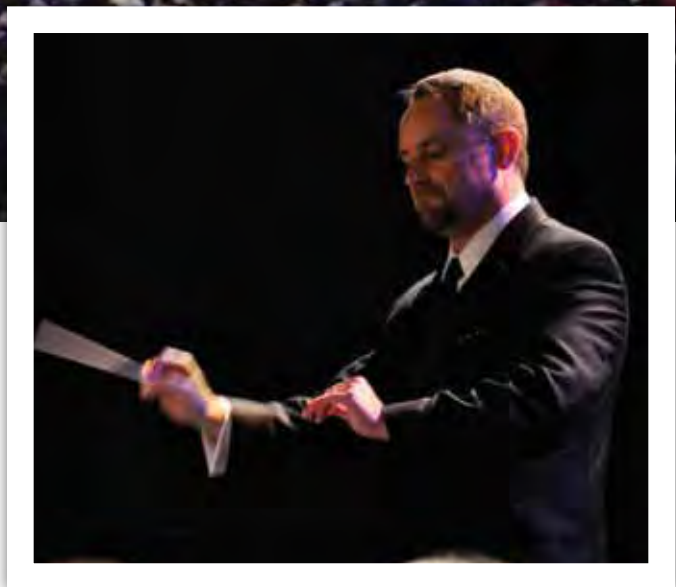
Lambert arrived at Wando in July 2014, replacing Scott Rush, who held the position for 15 years before moving on to another district. The school's marching band was already on the national high school music map, having earned a spot among the finalists twice



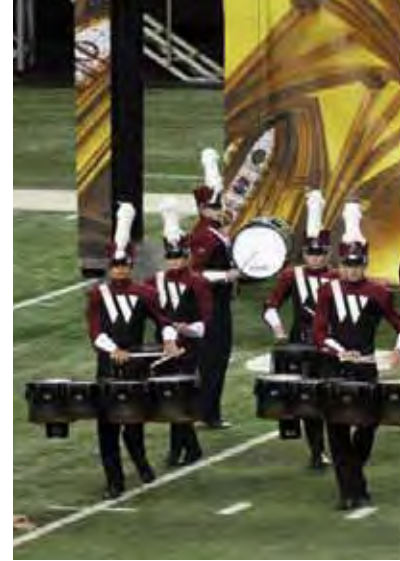
at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis. Lambert was well aware that a change in leadership can sometimes bring less than melodious results.

“Changing the band director can get really crazy, really fast,” he commented. “Often when there’s a new director, there are problems because there’s a new way of doing things.”

He added, however, that he and just about everyone else involved with Wando’s highly-successful band program



Bobby Lambert took over as the director of the award-winning Wando High School band in July 2014.



have survived the change at the top with flying colors.

“Once we were into the first month, parents, students and staff were open to what we were trying to do,” he said. “We’re successful in that we’re all still here.”

Lambert came to Wando from a school with a storied pedigree in the world of high school bands. A native of Cherokee, North Carolina, he earned his undergraduate degree in music education at Western Carolina University and his masters in saxophone performance at the University of Massachusetts. He landed his first job as assistant band director at Marian Catholic High in Chicago, which he said had “the most successful band program in the country.”

Lambert left his mark during his 13 years at Marian Catholic. He was the director of and designed the curriculum for the school’s leadership program, which

touched the lives of the 240 students in the band and the entire 1,200-strong student body. He also directed the school’s national championship marching band and the highly-decorated concert band. Lambert was honored as a Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator in 2009 and was inducted into the Marian Catholic Fine Arts Hall of Fame four years later.

After 12 years as an assistant band director, Lambert felt it was “starting to become time” to take on another challenge. Talking with Rush at a band camp in North Carolina a few years ago, he learned that the longtime director might soon be leaving Wando. Lambert was interested, and, before long, he was packing up his family of four and leaving the Midwest for the Carolina coast.

The move east brought Bobby and Alysia Lambert and



their two daughters, Maria and Olivia, now ages 6 and 3, closer to home – his parents live in North Carolina while hers are in Summerville. But there was another reason Lambert chose Wando to start “an exciting next chapter in my life.”

“One of the draws of coming to Wando was that I’d be working with the great team that was already here,” he explained, mentioning his associate directors, Lanie Radecke and Jeff Handel, as well as the directors at the three middle schools that feed Wando.

Radecke was the associate director of bands at Central Gwinnett High School in Georgia and the director of bands at Carolina Forest Middle School in Myrtle Beach prior to coming to Wando eight years ago. Handel was the percussionist for the Dallas Brass, which traveled through-

out the United States, performing clinics for students from elementary school through college, before coming to Wando five years ago.

According to Lambert, the team would not be complete without the middle school directors: Jeff Scott at Cario; Nick Nafpliotis at Laing; and Marie Evans, who recently left Moultrie Middle School. She was replaced by Mason Mumford.

“They are the foundation of our band program,” Lambert said. “We have such great middle school teachers and fabulous middle school directors.”

Lambert admitted that he might face some pressure in taking over the reins of a successful band program, but he apparently has responded well to the challenge. The South Carolina All-State Band includes 59 Wando musicians,



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and 10 students earned national honors for the 2014-2015 school year. Morgan Skelley, Olivia Monty and Hunter Kane are part of the National Honor Band; Spencer Shellnutt, Amelia Wingard, Emily Caron, Marissa Hoenig, Jeffrey Williams and Morgan Monty are in the National Honor Orchestra; and Derek Brundage was chosen for the National Jazz Band.

Lambert pointed out that all students in the program, 280 to 290 of them, participate in the marching band, and they also perform in other areas of the program, including the concert band, color guard, symphonic band and jazz band.

In addition to supervising all the activities of Wando's band program, the school's band director operates his own business, Lambert Leadership. He travels throughout the country, usually around one weekend a month, making presentations to high school and college band and music programs.

Lambert's duties at Wando include fundraising, which provides a large chunk of the band program's budget. In addition to selling items ranging from oranges to cookie

dough, Wando hosts the Lowcountry Invitational, a competition for 15 to 20 bands. The Harmony Sponsorship Program, a partnership with local businesses, also is important.

"The businesses in Mount Pleasant have been incredibly generous," Lambert said.

And Wando High School's marching band has been incredibly successful, both before and after Bobby Lambert's arrival. In 2009, the first time the school competed at the Bands of America Grand National Championships, Wando was a finalist, claiming 11th place among 93 schools from 34 states. Two years later, Wando was 12th, and, in November 2014, under Lambert's tutelage, the school finished seventh in the nation.

During the coming year, Wando will travel to Jacksonville, Alabama; and Atlanta. Winning is not necessarily the ultimate goal, Lambert said.

"It's fun to compete, but the only thing we have control over is our preparation," he explained. "If we've done everything we possibly could, we've won, whether we finish first or 93rd. The pursuit is just as rewarding as the result." 🍪

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The Road to Musical Success Starts in Mount Pleasant's Middle Schools

WANDO HIGH SCHOOL Director of Bands Bobby Lambert is well aware that the band's long-term success depends on the innate talent and hard work of his students, the enthusiastic participation of their parents and the undying support of the school administration and the East Cooper community.

He also knows that without the help of the band programs that feed Wando, that seventh place finish at the Bands of America Grand National Championships last November probably would have been more dream than reality. The directors at the three Mount Pleasant middle schools, Cario, Moultrie and Laing, agree that their programs have been vitally important to Wando's march to the pinnacle of musical excellence.

"Wando really took off when the middle schools took off," said **Jeff Scott**, band director at Cario for the past 15 years. "You can't have a successful high school band unless the middle schools are just as good. As a team, we approach it from the ground floor up."

Scott knows how important feeder school programs can be. Prior to taking the job at Cario, he spent 12 years in Goose Creek, first at Sedgefield Middle School and then

as the band director at the high school.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Scott chose music as a career because "I was good at it in high school, and I grew up in a poor Appalachian town. Scholarship money goes a long way." He now heads up one of the largest middle school band programs in South Carolina, serving the needs of around 350 students.

Five years ago, Scott enhanced the musical experience for area middle schoolers by establishing the Cario Lessons Academy. Participating students receive private instruction from some of the Lowcountry's most accomplished musicians, including members of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, college professors and local jazz artists.

Nick Nafpliotis, also a graduate of the University of Kentucky, is starting his 11th year as band director at Laing Middle School, where approximately 120 students are in the program. He credits Wando's success to "ownership."

"Wando is fortunate to have great directors and access to private teachers, but that's not enough to make a program great," he pointed out. "Mr. Lambert, Mrs. Radecke and Mr. Handel foster an atmosphere that makes the students take pride not just in themselves but in the organization as a whole."

"The students understand how their individual efforts can make a huge difference to the group's overall success," he added. "They have a chance to do something truly

STORY & PHOTOS BY
BRIAN SHERMAN



Jeff Scott



Nick Nafpliotis



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amazing every time they step onto the field if everyone is prepared and focused.”

A native of Marietta, Georgia, Nafpliotis was a member of the highly-regarded Pope High School Band, and he cited his director, Gary Gribble, as an excellent mentor. After earning his undergraduate degree at Kentucky, Nafpliotis taught private lessons for a year in Georgia before taking his current position at Laing.

“I remember loving music in high school but also thinking it was just a temporary thing,” he commented. “Then around my junior year, I started to realize that there was no way I could live without it in my life.”

Mason Mumford is the junior member of Mount Pleasant’s middle school music team. He started his first year as the band director at Moultrie Middle in August, after teaching music for seven years in Easley, near Greenville. A graduate of Furman University, his program will include around 150 students. His wife, Samantha, is the new assistant band director at Cario Middle.



Mason Mumford

Mumford said a major reason for their move from the Upstate to the coast was the reputation Wando and its feeder schools have established in the world of music.

“There are dedicated, hardworking and resourceful teachers, and a very supportive community as well,” he pointed out. “We wanted to be a part of that.”

“The work previous directors did is the reason we have Bobby Lambert here,” Scott commented. “The reputation of the Wando band brings national attention when there’s a job search.”

“As middle school teachers, it means a great deal to us that our kids go on to something that successful,” he concluded. 🐼



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**GERRITA POSTLEWAIT IN
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By Brian Sherman.

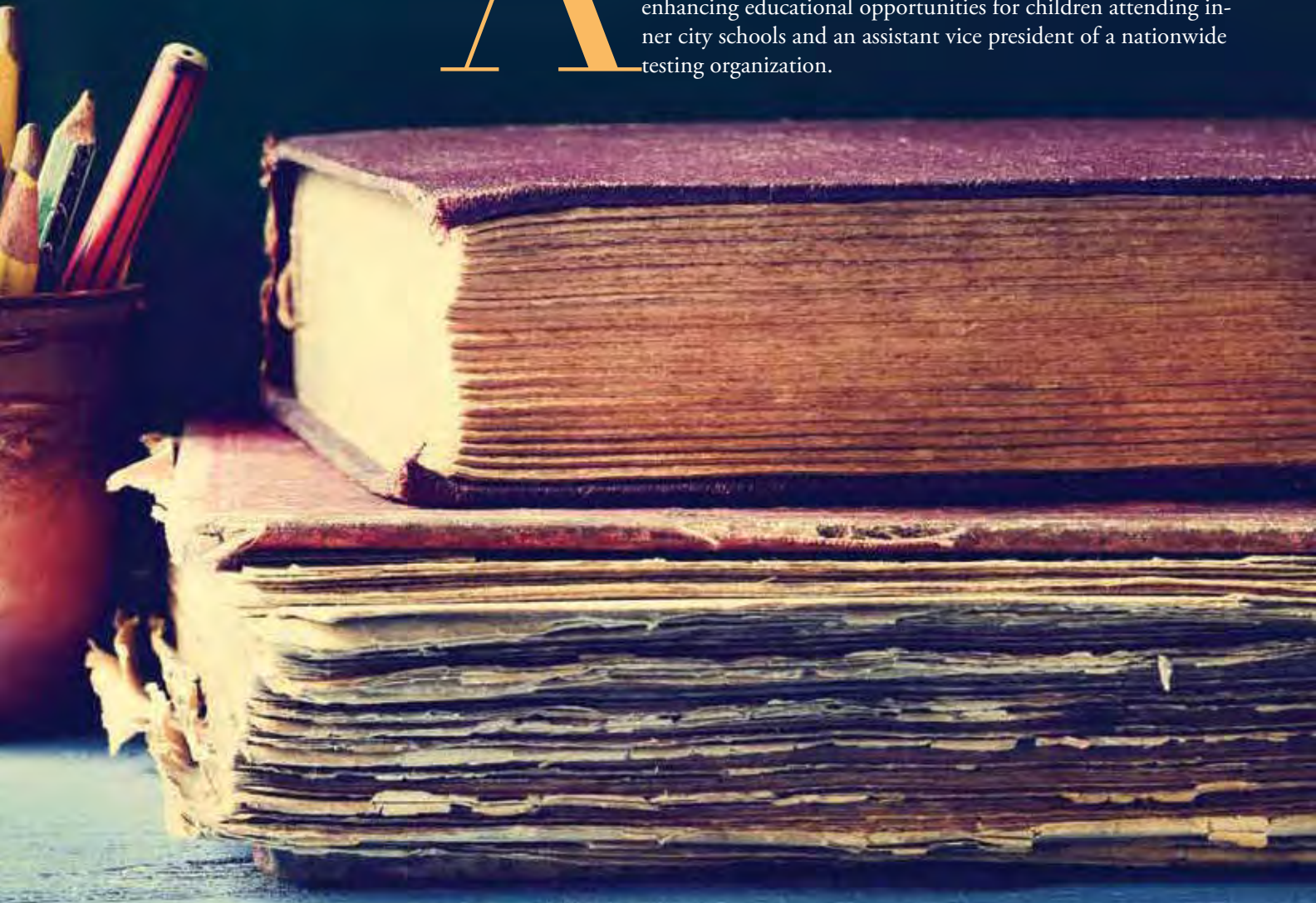




Photo by Rick Welo.

A

CAREER EDUCATOR, GERRITA POSTLEWAIT HAS been an elementary, middle school and high school teacher, a principal, a member and chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education, a key player in a foundation tasked with enhancing educational opportunities for children attending inner city schools and an assistant vice president of a nationwide testing organization.



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Gerrita Postlewait is back in the job that she thinks gives her the best chance to guide each child down the road to success. Her ideas about education were forged in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, when she taught in a Catholic school for kids who had been kicked out of public schools.

All these positions have provided her with the opportunity to help students reach for their individual educational goals, dreams and aspirations, but, after a nine-year hiatus, she's back in the job that she thinks gives her the best chance to guide each child down the road to success. She officially started work July 9 as superintendent of the Charleston County School District.

Postlewait began her education career as a teacher – mostly math and science – and she and her husband, who was in the Army, moved around quite a bit. She taught in urban, suburban and rural areas of West Virginia, Alabama, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Her ideas about education were forged in the Steel City, Pittsburgh, when she taught in a Catholic school for kids who had been kicked out of public schools.

“That’s where I really learned how

to teach,” said Postlewait, who earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate in Education Administration at West Virginia University.

That’s also where her outlook changed from simply teaching from a textbook to providing opportunities to engage students – and their parents – in the learning process. She saw children whose families had been living in poverty for generations and, in many cases, who had lost all hope of ever going to college or landing a decent job. And she realized that public education is not a cookie-cutter business – that, depending on a variety of factors, students learn at diverse levels and at different speeds.

Postlewait put her theories to good use as a superintendent in West Virginia and in Horry County in South Carolina, and she hopes to do the same in Charleston County. She admitted that the gap between stu-

dents who are receiving a top-quality education and those who aren’t is “a huge issue” in some parts of the district.

“It’s a problem in some schools, while in others, the opportunities are world-class,” she commented. “The goal is to continue to provide these opportunities and, at the same time, put forth an intensive effort to take care of our needs where student achievement is lagging.”

Postlewait was hired as a superintendent for the first time in 1986, taking the reins of the Wetzel County School District. Because the schools were in one of the poorest counties in West Virginia, few people seemed to care that educational opportunities were lacking. Postlewait cared.

“In theory, our district didn’t offer the same learning opportunities,” she pointed out, adding that during her six years there, Wetzel County

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became one of the highest-performing districts in the state. Voters approved a bond campaign, new schools were built and, under Postlewait's leadership, the district survived a statewide teacher strike and severe budget cuts.

Postlewait's next stop was Horry County, where she was hired to serve as chief academic officer. When the superintendent resigned, she was appointed to replace him on an interim basis. The school board later asked her to take the position permanently, and she held the job for a decade, from 1996 until 2006. During that time, she helped close the achievement gap, in part through the district's "First in Five" campaign, an effort to make the district one of the state's best by the year 2005. She established advisory councils consisting of parents, business and community leaders and students "so all voices could be heard."

"In Horry County, the people were highly motivated to come together to create a school system of which they could be proud," Postlewait pointed out.

She added that while the district concentrated on leading low-achieving students in the right direction, it also worked to provide opportunities for those at the other end of the educational spectrum. In cooperation

with Coastal Carolina University and Horry Georgetown Technical College, students were able to compile college credits. In fact, she said, some of them

earned their high school diplomas and their two-year degrees from HGTC at the same time.

earned their high school diplomas and their two-year degrees from HGTC at the same time.

tion, a California-based organization that works with schools to make sure children of color and those living in poverty receive a quality education. During her seven years with the Foundation, she helped create "a national network to try to re-invent schools." In 2013, Postlewait was asked to join the Strategic Planning and Outreach Division of the national ACT organization. She left that job in April 2015, shortly after her mother passed away, to return to the nuts and bolts of education. When she was contacted about the superintendent's job in Charleston County, she realized "how much I love that work."

"I was given the privilege of coming back into this field, and I intend to make the most of it," said Postlewait, now 67. "If Charleston hadn't worked out, I would have gone elsewhere."

Five of the nine members of the Charleston County School Board didn't want Postlewait to seek a superintendent's job elsewhere.

"Dr. Postlewait had very impressive credentials, experience and success, and she has connections across the state because she was a member of the State Board of Education," said Board Co-chair Chris Staubes.

Postlewait hopes to put to good use her vast experience in the field of



Photo by Rick Walo.

When Postlewait was superintendent of the Horry County school system, the district concentrated on leading low-achieving students in the right direction but also worked to provide opportunities for those at the other end of the educational spectrum.

earned their high school diplomas and their two-year degrees from HGTC at the same time.

Postlewait left Horry County in 2006, moving to Arizona to help take care of her mother after her father died. She continued working in education with the Stupski Founda-

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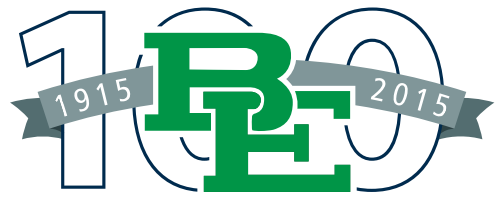
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Postlewait will work with the school board, constituent boards and community leaders "to make it clear what business we are in."

public education. She said she would immediately concentrate on three main areas:

"We're going to work with the school board, the constituent boards and business and community leaders to make it really clear what business we are in and what business we are not in. We're in the business of creating student achievement."

"We're going to move from five learning communities to three: elementary, middle and secondary. There will be times when all the elementary schools will meet to talk about where their students are and how they can succeed when they leave elementary school. The same will be true at the middle and secondary level."

"We're going to decide what to keep – what's working. We need to decide what evidence we will accept that

it's working that makes sense to kids, parents and the community. We need to get a really clear view of evidence that kids are thriving. We have to have evidence that we're on the right track."

"She's going to streamline the leadership," Staubes said. "Now there seems to be some duplication. She's going to give people some more concrete ideas of what their position is so they can do good things for the district."

Postlewait said she would seek help and advice from the longtime principal of Wando High School who recently was promoted to the job of executive principal of the system's District 2.

"We're going to tap heavily into Lucy Beckham's vision. Lucy has a strategic plan in mind to link secondary and post-secondary education. When I talked to her, she was enthusiastic in terms of making opportunities available in all parts of the school system," she said.

Postlewait, who said she will look for a place to live in downtown Charleston, "within walking or biking distance of the office," noted that her enthusiasm for her new job hasn't been blunted by the fact that the school board hired her by a 5-4 vote.

"I understand there was some deep disappointment in some elements of our community, and that does concern me," she said. "But I trusted the integrity of the process. There have been some misunderstandings, and that's not ideal, but it's a great reminder that we have to make sure we're in touch with everyone in a diverse community."

"We need all our leaders who are interested in supporting the success of our schools to come together," she concluded. "It's about service to the community and the youth of the community. It's about adding value to the lives of kids." ❀

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CREATING A BUZZ

HONEY BEE
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Story Denise K. James.

Photos by Cassandra Michelle Photography.

THINK ABOUT THE LAST MEAL you prepared and how tasty it was. Thanks to the “locavore” movement sweeping the nation, you might feel gratitude to local farmers for such a spread – but what about the humble honey bee? Despite their misunderstood reputation, honey bees are a critical part of the food cycle, and they’re not going to sting you out of pure malice, either. In fact, according to the beekeepers and bee lovers I’ve met, it’s time we stop fearing these fuzzy beings and begin honoring and protecting their hard work for our own good.



Tami Enright talks with local kids about the importance of honey bees. As of press time, educational hives are hosted at Sullivan's Island Elementary, Whitesides Elementary and East Cooper Montessori.

Isle of Palms resident Tami Enright is the founder of the Bee Cause Project, a popular organization that helps get honey bee hives installed in area schools for educational purposes and also promotes justice and respect for our honey bee friends. The morning Enright and I met downtown at 1600 Meeting St., the hive installed in the conference room had narrowly missed “a swarm,” meaning that about half of the hive’s members tried to leave the hive and relocate elsewhere.

“I don’t know how the bees decide who stays and who goes,” Enright said, “but the departing bees will find a new home a few miles away, like a hole in a tree. A few go at first to find the new “real estate,” and then the entire group follows.”

Enright’s love for bees is obvious, from her words right down to the hive necklace hanging around her neck. Her fascination with them started when she took a gardening course through Clemson Extension, followed by a weekend beekeeping course at The Citadel. She now has two hives of her own in her front yard, not to mention more than 60 requests for honey bee hives throughout the Charleston County school system through the Bee Cause Project. The first school with a hive was Sullivan’s Island Elementary; now SIE is having its second hive installed. Other schools in East Cooper with hives include White-

sides Elementary and East Cooper Montessori.

“I write grants to get funding for Bee Cause, and we also have a lot of businesses who are willing to sponsor a hive,” Enright explained. “For example, Cinebarre donated money for the second hive at Sullivan’s Island Elementary; the owner’s daughter attends there.”

Perhaps you have heard the dismaying news that honey bees are currently in trouble. I brought this up to Enright, and she confirmed it.

“The bees are dying – 30 to 40 percent this year,” she said. “The reasons bees are dying include no diversity in their diets. Think how humans can’t live on carrots alone; bees are the same way. Secondly, many plants are sprayed with chemicals. They’re also suffering loss of habitat.”

My face fell, but Enright was swift to keep me engaged and hopeful, pointing out that “the more you learn about bees, the more addictive it is – and it helps you understand the natural world.” She taught me that honey bees pollinate one out of three bites of our food. Without them, what we eat would be pretty bland. Who knew, right?

Sensing my natural love for bees (I’ve always had a soft spot for them, and I’ve never been afraid of them), Enright suggested that I might want to adopt a hive of my own. I sheepishly reported that I live in a condo, so it probably wouldn’t work. Then I learned about the



“Beekeeping is not a science; it’s an art.”

- Jim Strohm, president, Charleston Community Bee Gardens.



Charleston Community Bee Gardens.

Currently led by president Jim Strohm, Charleston Community Bee Gardens is an organization that installs public gardens to create a safe haven for bees and bee lovers alike. There are currently four hive locations in the area: Awendaw, Johns Island, Wadmalaw Island and West Ashley. The mission, according to Strohm, is to provide a place for beekeepers who don't have their own hives. As you can imagine, I soon made plans to visit the bee garden at the Sewee Visitor & Environment Education Center in Awendaw.

"It's like a community gathering place for bees," Strohm pointed out. "We put the hives near flowers so the bees have food."

Charleston Community Bee Gardens, a nonprofit that is open for everyone to join, has been around for about three-and-a-half years. In fact, if you're interested after reading this article, you can sign up for beekeeping courses at the Sewee Visitor & Environment Education Center. Completion of the two-day course grants membership in the organization, plus certification and membership in the South Carolina Beekeepers



Jim Strohm shows off the bees at the Sewee Visitor & Environmental Education Center in Awendaw, home of a community bee garden.



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Association. It's also a fantastic way to cover important bee topics, according to Strohm, who mentioned that mentoring new beekeepers is one of his favorite aspects of leading the organization.

"Beekeeping is not a science; it's an art," he commented. "There are different theories on how to do things, and all beekeepers do things differently."

Strohm and Enright are both enthusiastic about teaching Lowcountry children – the next generation of beekeepers and bee lovers – how to understand and protect these fascinating critters. The Bee Cause project has just been approved for the entire Charleston County School District – depending on the approval of individual principals – and Enright is looking forward to educating even more youngsters about honey bees. Meanwhile, Strohm's long-term goal for the Charleston Community Bee Gardens is to offer summer camps in Awendaw for junior beekeepers.

"Kids do basketball and soccer camp, so why not beekeeping camp?" he asked.

"It's all about educating others about bees and what we can do for them," added Enright. "Since I've been doing it, I've learned something new every day." 🐝

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THE BEES?

- ❖ Create a small habitat – such as compost, bushes or bramble – to provide a home for honey bees.
- ❖ Keep a water source in your yard for the bees during warmer months. Hives have to be kept at a certain temperature and water helps cool them down.
- ❖ "Bee" conscientious about chemicals and pesticides you use in your yard and garden.
- ❖ Educate yourself and your family regarding year-round blooms and plants that can survive slightly cooler temperatures, and consider planting a few in your yard to feed the bees during the winter months.
- ❖ Eat locally, and get to know your farmers.
- ❖ Join a bee-friendly organization and donate to the cause.



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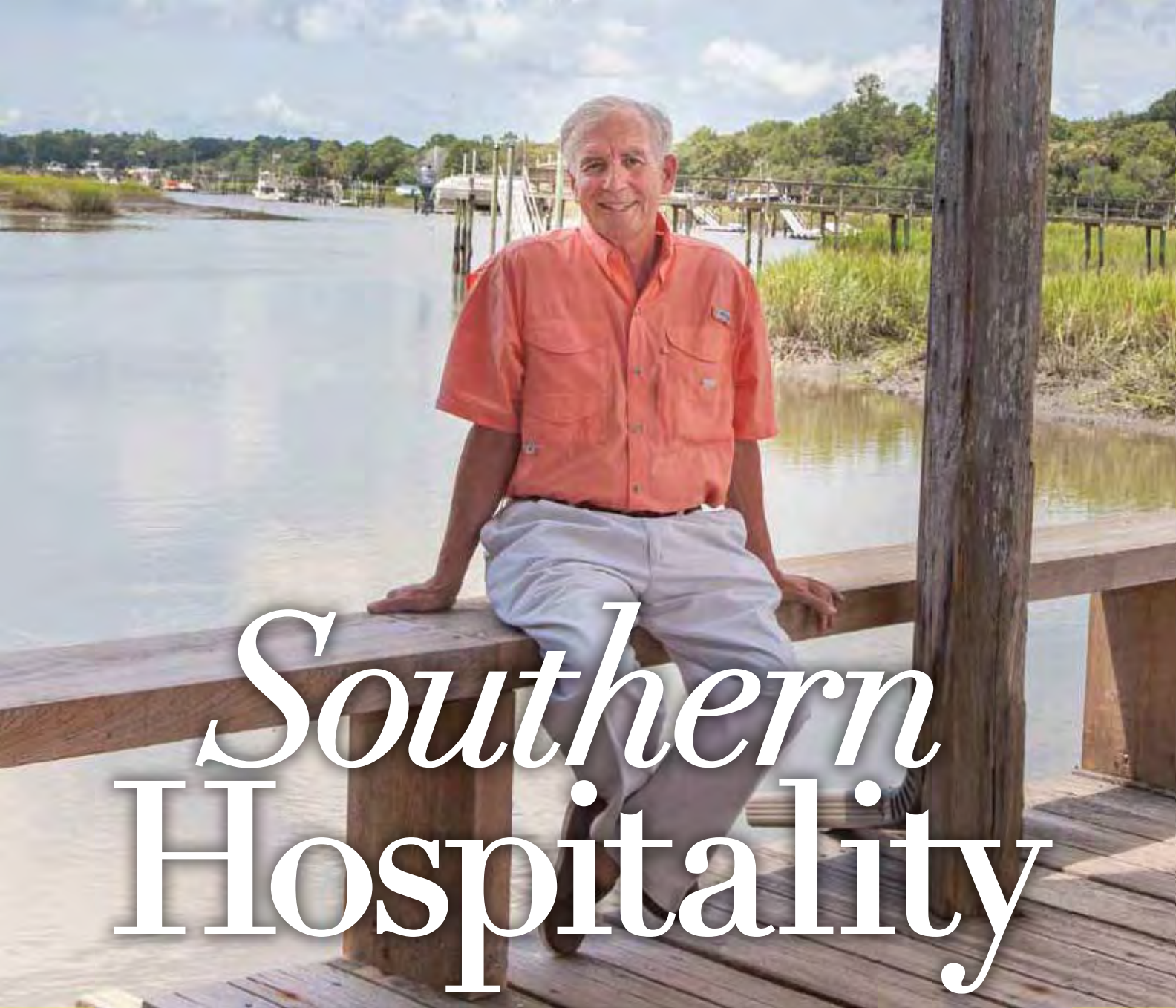
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Southern Hospitality

WILLIE MCRAE OF BOONE HALL PLANTATION

Story by Denise K. James.

*“The land is the only thing in the world worth working for,
worth fighting for, worth dying for – because it’s the
only thing that lasts.”*

– Gerald O’Hara • “Gone With The Wind.”



Photo by Cassandra Michelle Photography.

IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT MANY years before Willie McRae, proprietor of Boone Hall in Mount Pleasant, moved to the graceful plantation along with his father and mother, he was already destined for growing things from the earth and sharing them with others. A third-generation descendant of “fruit shippers” from North Carolina, McRae and his father handled much of the fruit crop for the region, including well-known local farmers such as the Hamlin and Heath families, shipping produce to chain stores, distributors and importers throughout the United States and Canada during the 1940s and 1950s.

“My dad used to tell me that he found me hanging from a peach limb one day and brought me home,”



Photo courtesy of Boone Hall Plantation.

Willie McRae enjoys a day at Boone Hall Plantation with his mother, the late Mrs. Harris McRae, circa 1993.

McRae joked.

Mount Pleasant was a small, sleepy town in those days, and families such as the McRaes would visit their friends for meals and take leisurely drives around the area. On one such occasion, when Willie McRae’s parents were visiting the Buck family – they farmed land where the Wando terminal is now located – the couples rode through Boone Hall Plantation during a routine Sunday drive. According to McRae, the beauty of the plantation took his mother’s breath away; she referred to it as “the most beautiful place she had ever seen.”

It didn’t take long for McRae’s father to discover the plantation was for sale – and, in a grand, romantic gesture, he purchased all 738 acres for his beloved wife. McRae himself doesn’t remember any of this, of course. The family officially moved to the plantation when he was just a year old, in 1955.

“I first fell in love with this place during my childhood,” he mused. “It was a magical, mystical place for me, growing up here as a kid.”

McRae said it was his mother who “first started the tourism business” for Boone Hall, encouraging visitors to check out the big plantation house and other points of historic interest. By the time McRae finished military school in the mid 1970s, it seemed appropriate for him to take the plantation off his parents’ hands, as his father’s health was on the decline. He decided to

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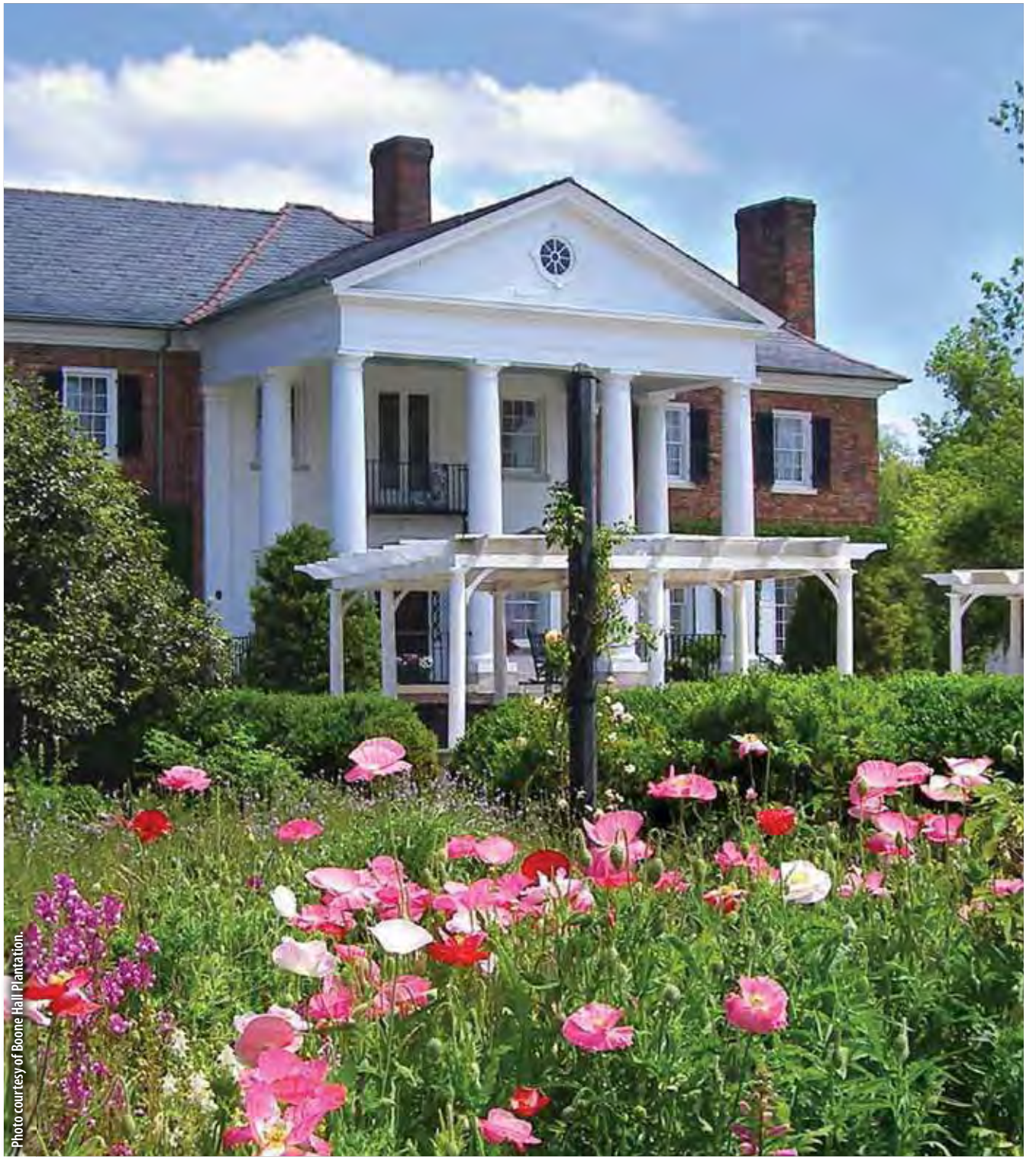


Photo courtesy of Boone Hall Plantation.

Willie McRae lived in "the big house" until Hurricane Hugo arrived in 1989. Now he's a resident of one of the restored tenant houses.

take business classes at Palmer College in downtown Charleston, in preparation to greet the 22,000 visitors to Boone Hall each year.

Naturally, with young Willie's fresh perspective came a few changes to Boone Hall and to the burgeoning business. McRae described how he wanted to bolster

tourism by hosting lively events. He had noted that the locals were useful for spreading the word about Boone Hall and wanted to provide a venue for various types of entertainment that his neighbors could enjoy. His first official party at the plantation was an outdoor art show and barbecue, which proved to be successful. Encouraged,

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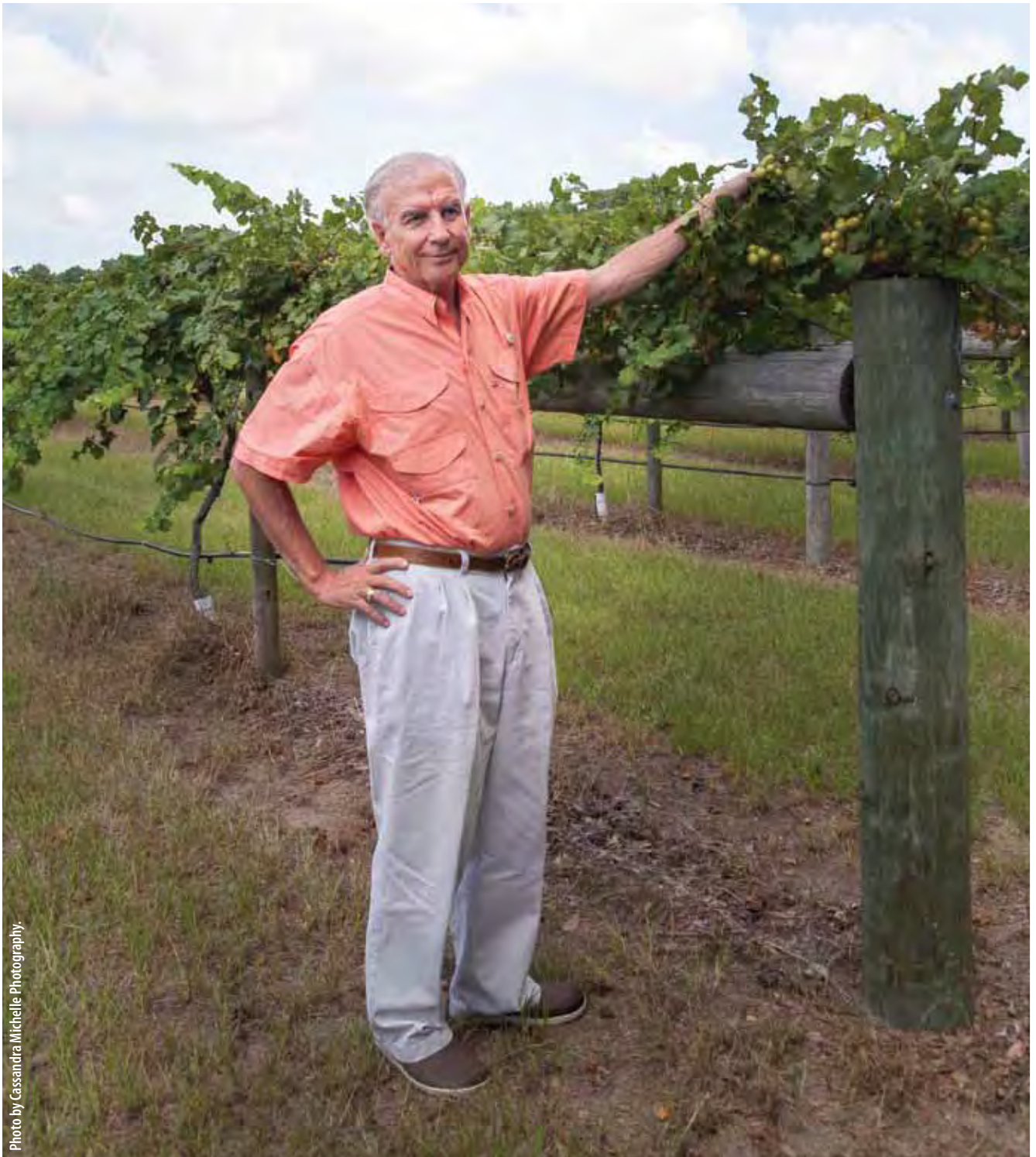


Photo by Cassandra Michelle Photography.

The plantation serves as an active farm, providing fruit and vegetables to the Boone Hall Farms market, outdoor produce stand and area restaurants.

young McRae added new events, such as regular polo games and porch performances by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band of New Orleans and other musicians. Today, the plantation has many popular annual events and more than 200,000 visitors each year.

“Sometimes, now, I feel like I might have created a

monster,” he admitted with a crafty grin.

But joking aside, McRae truly loves the land that he cares for – as well as the community that keeps it active. Though he spent many happy years in the family produce and lumber businesses – even long after his father passed away when McRae was just 30 – he gave it up a few years



Photo courtesy of Boone Hall Plantation.

Willie McRae with Ryan Seacrest during the American Idol auditions in 2007.

back and now concentrates solely on tending to Boone Hall. While he misses the family business and “hated to give it up,” McRae appreciates the time he can give the plantation now.

“We’ve made a lot of improvements in the last three or four years,” he pointed out. “I believe that my parents would be proud.”

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serves as an active farm – providing fruits and vegetables to the Boone Hall Farms Market, outdoor produce stand and area restaurants – as well as a historic landmark and a community venue. McRae takes all three of these endeavors quite seriously. His gratitude for the public’s support is obvious, and it’s fair to say that Boone Hall gives back to the community that supports it. These days, events such as the Lowcountry Oyster Festival, the Boone Hall Pumpkin Patch, the Lowcountry Strawberry Festival, the Taste of Charleston, Wine Under the Oaks, plus countless other outdoor festivals and concerts provide a place for locals and visitors to gather.

“We really try to have a family-friendly atmosphere here,” McRae said. “The community’s involvement is what has made us what we are.”

But it isn’t just during events that Boone Hall is a great place to while away the hours. There’s always a history lesson to be learned or shared with a loved one. Just recently, the original slave cabins on the plantation have been restored to feature several engaging lessons about plantation life. Plus, there’s a live performance celebrating Gullah culture every day during the peak season.

“We like to say that we interpret history with a modern day flair,” McRae pointed out.

As we walked through the beautiful, elegant rooms inside “the big house,” as it’s called, I asked McRae if he lives inside the grand, Southern home and gazes out at the Avenue of Oaks each morning. But nope – he’s made the exchange for a more private corner of the plantation.

“I lived inside the big house until Hurricane Hugo,” he said. “Now I live in one of the restored tenant houses. The big house started to feel like a goldfish bowl with everyone always touring it!”

But for all the hundreds of thousands of visitors that Boone Hall Plantation welcomes into her bosom year after year, the vast expanse of land still feels, in many places, like the mysterious, secretive place that McRae knew in childhood. Drive – or walk – through the plantation, and you’ll find several peaceful fields, home to thriving fruits and veggies that Mount Pleasant residents are happy to obtain from a local, trusted source. Asked what his personal favorite fruit or vegetable happens to be, McRae admitted that he’s always had a special affection for



Willie McRae was awarded the prestigious Golden Pineapple Award in 2012 by Roger Warren, president of the Kiawah Island Golf Resort.

peaches, both because they’ve “been a big hit” for Boone Hall and because he handled so many during his years in the produce business. And, as a farmer and proponent of a healthy crop and community, McRae commented that he strives to “practice good agriculture and to keep chemical use down.”

But, really, what is Willie McRae’s favorite part of owning Boone Hall? Though he confessed to loving the events – particularly the Taste of Charleston and the concerts on the lawn – as well as the rewarding opportunity to carry on his parents’ legacy, it’s shaking hands with every fascinating individual he encounters, all of them with a story to tell.

“I have met so many people I would have never had the chance to meet otherwise,” he remarked, “from U.S. presidents and politicians, foreign dignitaries, corporate CEOs, television stars, movie stars and producers – right down to someone’s grandmother who’s just visiting for the day.”

Sounds like Willie McRae practices true Southern hospitality. 🍌



SURROUNDED BY EAST COOPER'S PAST

Local Cemeteries

Story and photos by Mary Coy:

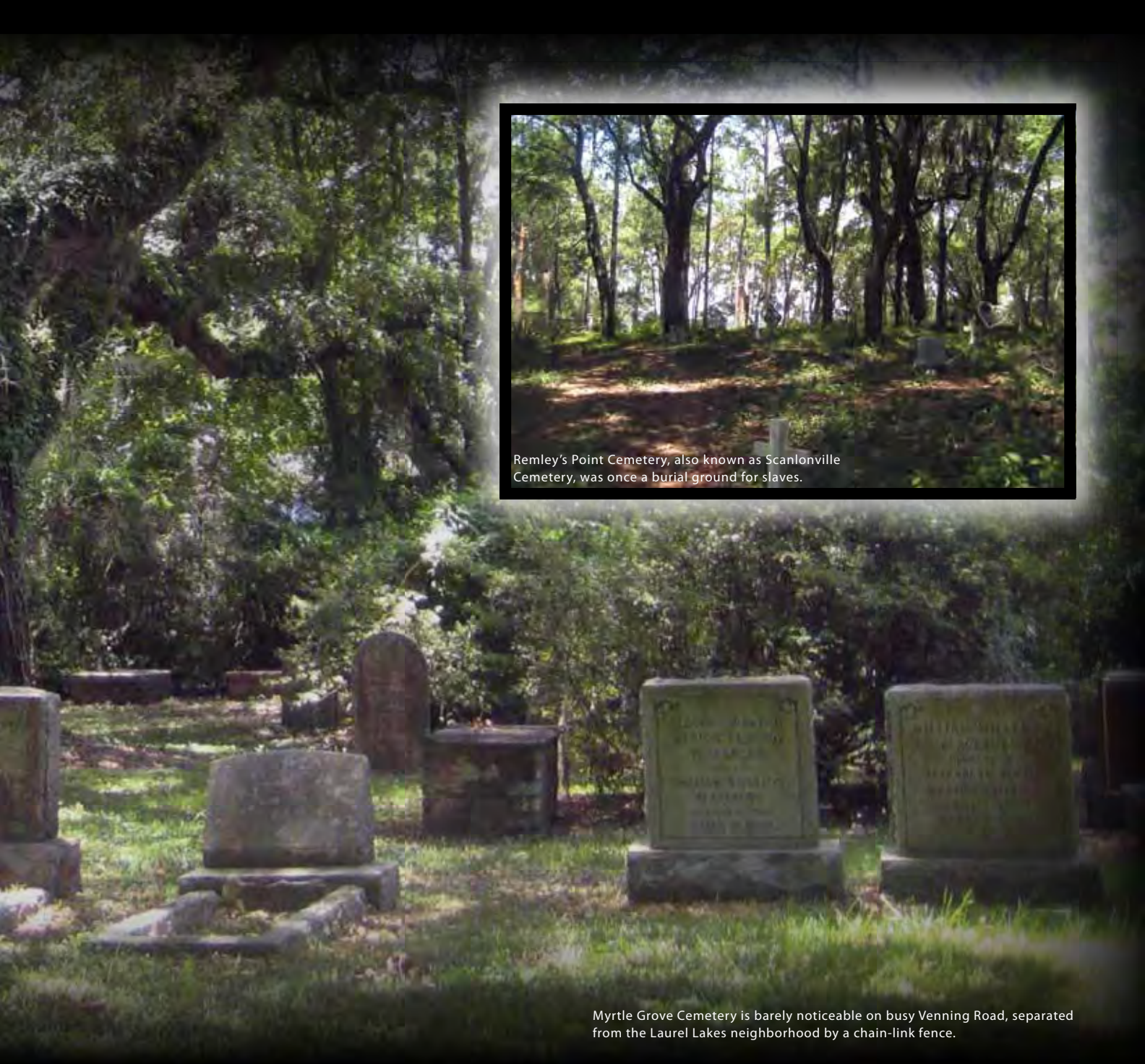
WHAT IS IT ABOUT OLD cemeteries that we find so intriguing? Maybe it's the serenity and natural beauty. Maybe it's the history. Maybe it's thoughts of the hereafter. Regard-

less, the East Cooper area has more than enough historic graveyards to evoke any of these ponderings.

Quite a few are in some rather unlikely places. Myrtle Grove is barely noticeable on busy Venning Road, separated from the Laurel Lakes neighborhood by

a chain-link fence. The Legare-Wagner Cemetery is on a roundabout at the Dunes West golf course. And the Lucas Family Cemetery is nestled between two residential lots in Shemwood. These neighborhoods were built on former plantations.

Cook's Old Field, or Hamlin Cemetery, where members of the Hamlin, Hibben and Leland families are buried, is in a more rural location on private land. James Hibben, who owned several plantations, including one aptly named Mount Pleasant, which he eventually divided into a village of 35 residential lots, lies there. This small village eventually merged with part of Greenwich



Remley's Point Cemetery, also known as Scanlonville Cemetery, was once a burial ground for slaves.

Myrtle Grove Cemetery is barely noticeable on busy Venning Road, separated from the Laurel Lakes neighborhood by a chain-link fence.

Village, land owned by the Lucas family, to form what we now call the Old Village.

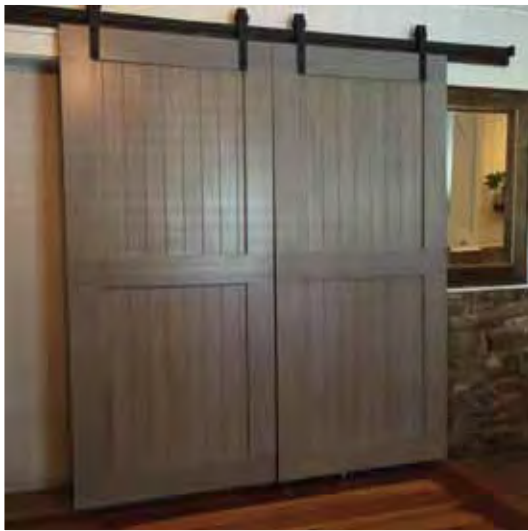
It's highly unusual to see the grave of an African-American in a plantation family cemetery, but the remains of "Mike, a faithful servant," are at Hamlin. Mike was the head "slave driver" on the plantation, and his grave is marked with a headstone. Another African-American, Amanda Switzer, was the family's housemaid, first as a slave, then as a free person after the Civil War. According to records, she is buried just outside the cemetery fence in an unmarked grave.

Slaves were usually buried on less desirable areas of

the plantation, and that was the case with the slave cemetery on the former Lucas plantation. Although the family plot is on high ground, not far from where the family's home once stood, the African-American cemetery is on the banks of Shem Creek, near where a historical marker indicates there was once a rice and saw mill. However, the exact location of the graves is unknown.

Plantation owners seldom recorded the location of their slave burial grounds. Subsequently, very few black cemeteries from previous centuries are preserved, often because no one knows where they are. Decades ago, an African-American graveyard was discovered during the

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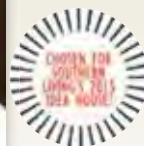
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The Lucas Cemetery is located on what once was a Lowcountry plantation.

construction of a motel on Magrath Darby Boulevard in Mount Pleasant. Archaeologists and anthropologists identified 36 skeletons, all dating from 1840 through 1870.

Even when local authorities are aware of the location of African-American cemeteries, many are declared “abandoned” or “inactive” due in part to the absence of grave markers. But granite headstones were not used by blacks in centuries past; graves were marked in a less permanent way. Shells often were used, symbolic of the sea that brought their ancestors to the Western Hemisphere and will take them into the hereafter – an analogy often verbalized in traditional Gullah spirituals. Mirrors or glass are also found at grave sites, symbolizing the afterlife as the mirror image of the earthly life. Most common is the placement of broken pottery and other household items belonging to the deceased. This tradition has been depicted in stories by prominent Southern writers including Dubose Hayward – “The Half Pint Flask” – and William Faulkner – “Go Down, Moses.” Graves are often placed randomly, which, one African-American man said, makes it possible to always allow room for one more person. Graves are often identified simply by mounds or depressions

in the earth.

Remley’s Point Cemetery, also known as Scanlonville Cemetery, originally was the burial ground for slaves on yet another plantation, and, today, it is enveloped by upscale residential development. Like the African-American cemetery in Shemwood, it is adjacent to the marsh and creek, and, in keeping with Gullah tradition, it is overgrown with brambles and trees. The number of graves is estimated to be in the hundreds, although only more recent ones are marked with headstones.

There are two historic cemeteries on Sullivan’s Island, where, a century ago, a quarter of the residents were black. The African-American cemetery was originally adjacent to the white cemetery two blocks away but today is separated by Ben Sawyer Boulevard. The black cemetery was considered abandoned until a decade ago, but the late Elmore Brown and a group he called “original islanders” were able to preserve the site and avert development.

All of these cemeteries, as well as the better-known Christ Church, St. Paul’s, Ocean Grove and Carr Street Confederate Cemetery, remind us that, even amid today’s hustle and bustle, we are surrounded by East Cooper’s past. 🌿

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- ❖ Legare-Wagner – Dune’s West Golf Course at Hartford Village Way
- ❖ Lucas – Ellen Avenue
- ❖ Myrtle Grove - Venning Road near Rifle Range
- ◆ Oakland – S. Morgan’s Point Road
- ❖ Ocean Grove – McCants Drive at Simmons Street
- ❖ Remley’s Point (Scanlonville) – Fourth Street
- ❖ Pritchard – N. Hobcaw Drive
- ❖ Rivertowne Cemetery Park – Parker’s Landing Road
- ❖ St. Paul’s – McCants Drive
- ❖ Sullivan’s Island Historic Cemetery – Myrtle Avenue
- ❖ Sullivan’s Island African-American Cemetery – Ben Sawyer Boulevard
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MOONDOG ANIMATION STUDIO

Story by Pamela Brownstein.

Artwork courtesy of Moondog Animation Studio.

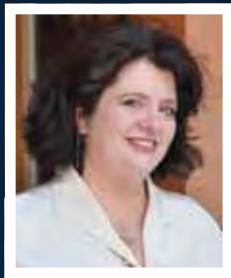
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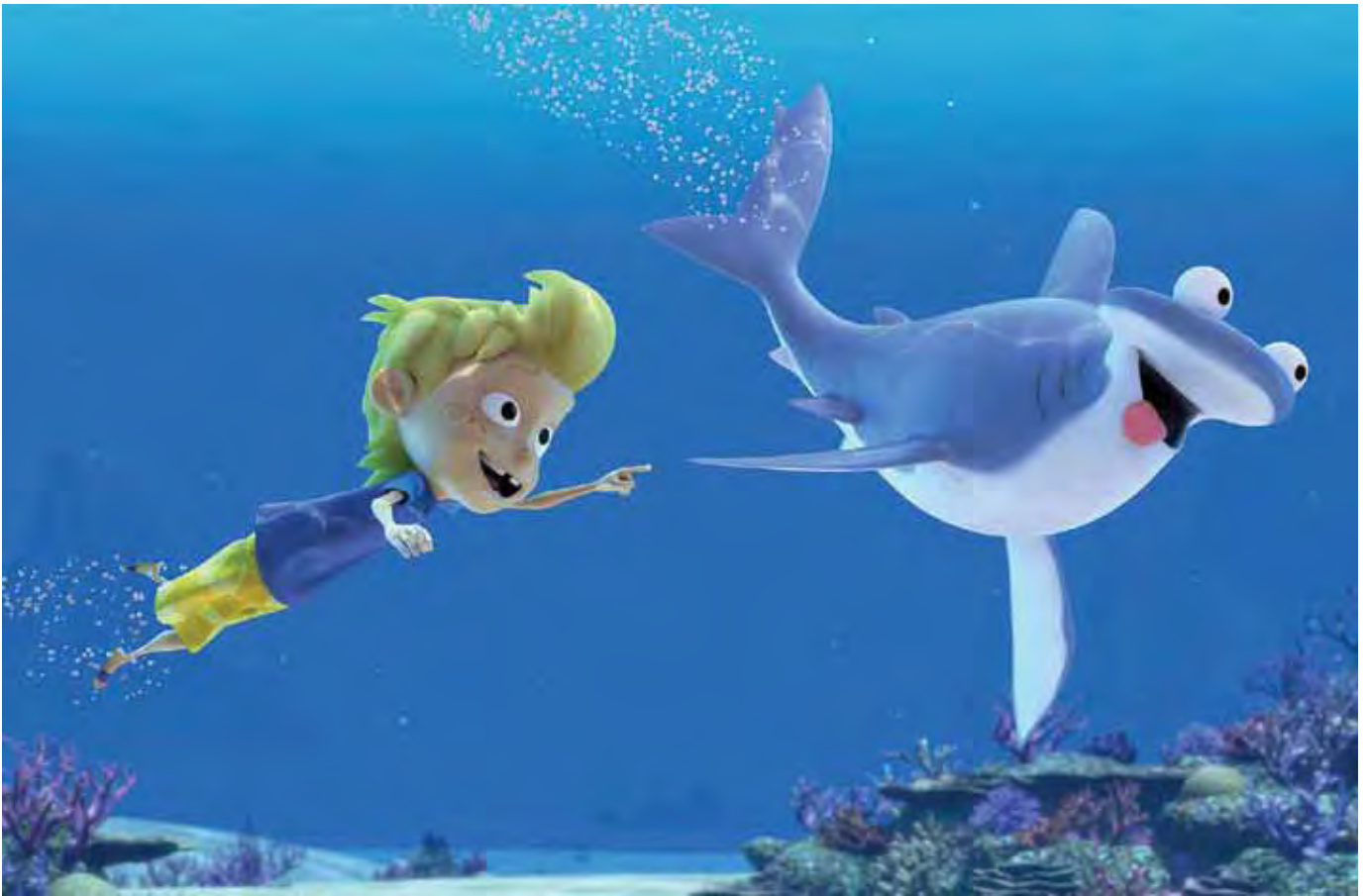
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DRAWING ON THEIR INTERNATIONAL film experience, a group of animators is sketching out a new path in Mount Pleasant. If you're local, you've probably seen their work bring an underwater world to life so a boy can play "Shark Tag" with funny sea creatures. But Moondog Animation Studio is aiming higher – or casting a larger net – with plans for feature films and educational material that will extend far beyond the Lowcountry.

The versatile company that specializes in high-quality, entertaining animation is the first of its kind in South Carolina, where the once-hot film production industry, which was left to languish, is experiencing a rebirth.

Moondog's recent work with the South Carolina Aquarium helped promote the new Shark Shallows exhibit, which opened in May. The colorful CARTA buses spotted around town have been all decked out with the characters created by the studio and with "Shark Tag" scrawled in big letters across the side of the bus.

The effort it takes to produce an animated film that combines clever storytelling with compelling visuals to appeal to a wide audience requires the expertise of professional designers. The end product goes beyond

simple "cartoons" – a word that conjures up images of nonsensical shows of interest to little kids and no one else. The work done by the tightknit staff at Moondog is complex and time-intensive, and the result is attractive, whimsical and memorable animation.

Bryan Ransom, chief executive officer and producer at Moondog Studio, described the long process that went into creating the 30-second promotional video for the South Carolina Aquarium. "Shark Shallows: Come Fingers to Fins with Sharks!" features a young boy named Miles and his friend Bob the Shark. It starts with rudimentary concept scenes but becomes much more intricate as models of the characters are built, texture and movements are added, then lighting and color are introduced.

"All details add value," Ransom remarked.

The last step involves animation of the characters and laying out the interactions of each scene.

"We spent four months working on this big package with the aquarium," he recalled.

The company moved into its new office, located off Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, in June. The large room provides ample individual work space for the small staff – all busy behind massive computer screens, the essential tool in today's high-tech, digital world of animation. The open layout also allows for easy interactions and more

collaboration among the designers, and the atmosphere feels laid back yet energetic.

Ransom – who bears a striking resemblance to Seth MacFarlane, creator of “Family Guy” – grew up in Georgetown, South Carolina, so he was familiar with the area when the fledgling company decided to relocate here from France. He had moved to Paris for his wife’s job, and, during his three years in France, he became involved with the production of live action films, TV series’ and animation. Through this work, he met his fellow Moondog founders Jean-Marc Khayat, chief operating officer and studio director, and Ben Davis, chief technology officer and technology strategist.

Since almost all film and media worldwide originates in this country, Ransom said, “We were looking for places to plant roots in the United States.” They considered many locations, including New York City; Florida; Canada; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Greenville, South Carolina, before agreeing on the Charleston area.

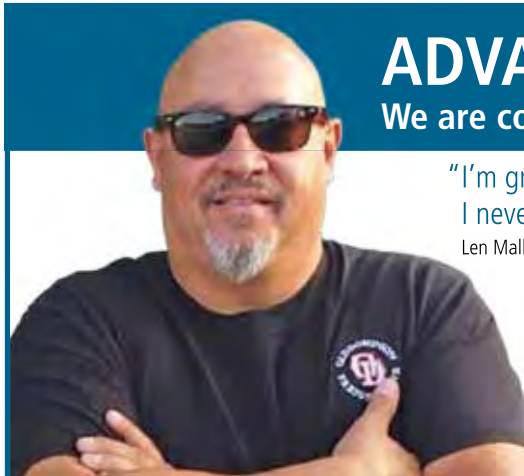
“The tech scene, everything is up and coming here, and, of course, the quality of life is great,” he said.

And, as Moondog expands, the company’s founders realized that many applicants want to move to this beautiful slice of the Lowcountry.

“We picked Charleston for all those reasons,” he explained.

“We are driving our studio to be a feature film studio,” Ransom said, revealing that, over the past five years, the team has been developing five films.

The passionate way he discusses plans for the future can best be described as, well, animated. 🐋



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Photo by Brian Sherman.



Passing The Town Council Torch

THOMASENA STOKES-MARSHALL

Story by Brian Sherman.

THOMASENA STOKES-MARSHALL LEFT MOUNT PLEASANT at the tender age of 3, moving north with her mother and father in search of a better life. Through the years, she spent summers and holidays with relatives in the Lowcountry, but, until it came time to retire from her career as a New York City police detective, she never really considered making the Carolina coast her permanent home.

Her decision to return to her roots probably was a history-changing event for Mount Pleasant. Stokes-Marshall, now 72, can look back on a long list of achievements as she prepares to give up her seat on the Town Council after 17 years, but her signature accomplishment is the Senior Center that bears her name.

Though the first African-American to serve on the Mount Pleasant Council will be

officially leaving the realm of government service, she'll remain intimately involved with the Thomasena Stokes-Marshall Senior Center – and possibly a second center serving the needs of the area's active aging population – and with several other organizations that have benefited from her calling to serve since she returned to Mount Pleasant in 1993.

So why did Stokes-Marshall change her mind and come back to the Snowden community after working in a hospital for the criminally insane and then advancing from beat cop to detective with the NYPD?

"It's home. It's where my family roots are," she explained, though she added that other factors were at work as well.

Her mother, a cosmetologist, and her father, an electrician, already had returned to Mount Pleasant, and her mom was drifting into the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

"The person I was accustomed to communicating with was disappearing. I felt a void in our relationship across all those miles. I felt the need to be here for her," Stokes-Marshall commented.

She added that she was at a point in her career where retirement was a possibility and that she and her husband wanted to own a home of their own. The financial difference between buying a house in New York and building on land they already owned in Mount Pleasant was considerable.

"It made good sense all around to move back here," she said.

Their decision to pack up and move south wasn't all that difficult, she admitted. Based on her frequent visits with her grandparents in Mount Pleasant, she remembered a life much simpler and, in many ways, much more satisfying than the time she spent in the big city.

"Life was different then. One thing that impressed me was that all my family members had a home, land and



Capt. Thomas Mullins of the 47th Precinct was Stokes-Marshall's last commanding officer when she was a member of the New York City Police Department. This photo was taken in 1986.

property. They all farmed," she said. "They grew most of what they needed. There was farmland along what is now Egypt Road and where Belle Hall School is, as well as along Mathis Ferry Road and the Greenhill Community."

"At the time, I didn't realize how much better off we were," she added.

When she returned to Mount Pleasant, Stokes-Marshall and her dad decided it would be best to take care of her mom at home rather than in a facility, which wasn't an easy task. She sought and received help, and the experience enhanced her desire to give back to the community long after her mother passed away in 1996.

"It didn't take long to feel an overwhelming need for

help and support,” she remembered. “I reached out to East Cooper Meals on Wheels. They are wonderful people. They embraced me and mom and dad. Anything we needed that they couldn’t provide, they plugged me into a source that could.”

When her mom died, Stokes-Marshall faced another major decision – what to do with her time. She chose to dedicate herself to helping those who need assistance, first as a Meals on Wheels volunteer and later with several other organizations, including the Coastal Community Foundation, the East Cooper Medical Center Women’s Advisory Board, Habitat for Humanity, Operation Charleston, the Bridge of Hope, Creative Spark Center for the Arts, the Hibben United Methodist Church Outreach Program and the Charleston County Guardian Ad Litem Program. And, of course, she’ll continue to be a driving force behind the Senior Center, which now has 2,800 members.

Meals on Wheels took her to places in East Cooper she never knew existed and taught her about people she had never before thought much about.

“I realized that on the East Cooper side of the bridge, there are people who are ultra-rich, but they have the same needs as the poor. Then there are the ultra-poor. They are separated by that fence. It’s like day and night. The economic imbalance was unsettling to me.” She also was a bit disturbed that “No one who was making the decisions looked like me.”

For Stokes-Marshall, thinking about how she could change things morphed into actually doing something to make Mount Pleasant a better place. She started attending Town Council meetings, and, in 1996, ran for a seat on the Council. She lost a close race, and, undaunted, tried again in 1998. This time she was successful, and she was re-elected four more times.

When Stokes-Marshall first threw her hat into the political ring, she didn’t plan to stay on the Council for the better part of two decades. As the town grew at an almost dizzying rate, the workload for “part-time” Council members continued to grow as well.

“Seventeen years is a long time,” she commented. “It’s time to pass the torch to younger men and women.”

Stokes-Marshall’s accomplishments as a Council member aren’t limited to the Senior Center. As proof that she concentrated on more than one issue, she cited her work to establish the residential housing allocation program in the early 2000s and require developers to help pay for the growth of the Mount Pleasant community. She’s also proud that she and her fellow Council members preserved green space and the town’s



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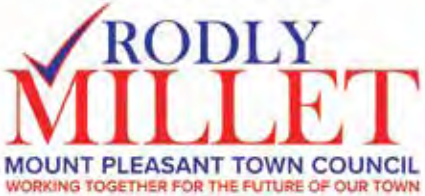


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Stokes-Marshall prepares to enjoy a fresh glass of tea at her home in the Snowden community.

financial stability.

Does she have any regrets – any issues that she was unable to address?

“We weren’t able to gain more traction on affordable housing,” she commented. “Policemen, firemen and teachers can’t afford to live in Mount Pleasant. Everyone needs to come to the table to remove the obstacles that are preventing affordable housing in East Cooper.”

Stokes-Marshall thinks all parties affected by Mount Pleasant’s skyrocketing growth should work toward providing affordable housing – town officials, developers and citizens – but she also would like to see Mount Pleasant cooperate with other government entities on issues that affect all cities and counties in the Lowcountry.

“We can’t just look at Mount Pleasant. I feel that all the municipalities need to start collaborating. They should all be



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Stokes-Marshall reads to relax as well as to find inspiration.

sitting down at the table together,” she said.

After she retires from the Town Council, Stokes-Marshall will continue her efforts to make Mount Pleasant a more pleasant place to live, especially at the Senior Center and with the Sweetgrass Festival, an event she established in 2005. Last year, the Festival drew a crowd of around 7,500 to Memorial Waterfront Park.

On a more personal note, she also would like to travel to Europe and Africa and visit relatives in California, Mississippi and Virginia. She has a son, Coron, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who are an important part of her life.

What would Thomasena Stokes-Marshall like her legacy as a public servant to be?

“I hope the people have gotten to know me as a driving force for doing the right thing for mankind,” she remarked. “I try to treat people like I would want to be treated. I feel like I contributed something to mankind. I hope people will say Thomasena was about doing what was right for people.” 🐾

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Mayor, May I?

ASK THE COUNCIL

Story by Brian Barrie.

MOUNT PLEASANT'S elections are just around the corner, so we thought now would be a perfect time for a refresher course on how the town government operates and how important the four seats that are up for election in November are (spoiler

alert: they're very important).

If you've been paying attention, then you know that the town elected Mayor Linda Page two years ago, and, by most accounts she's been doing a good job. What you may not know is that the mayor doesn't have any more power over the laws and ordinances passed than the eight councilmen she works with.



Photo provided by the town of Mount Pleasant.

Left to right: Councilmen Elton Carrier, Mark Smith and Gary Santos; Mayor Linda Page; and Councilmen Thomasena Stokes-Marshall, Chris O'Neal, Ken Glasson and Paul Gawrych.

THE BASICS

Mount Pleasant uses a strong council type of government, which in essence means that most of the power to enact and enforce laws and ordinances lies with the Town Council, and the mayor has less direct influence on laws and ordinances than the mayors in some other cities have.

The mayor is elected every four years and, for all intents and purposes, serves as a ninth member of the Council. In addition to the duties of a Council member, the mayor also acts as the chief executive officer of the town and also has

the power to appoint Council members to committees.

Each Council member is elected to a four-year term, with half of the positions up for election every two years. All Council positions are elected at-large, meaning that every Council position represents every citizen in the town. This is different from Charleston and North Charleston, where Council members are chosen from single-member districts – they each represent a specific geographic area.

The strong council form of government is also used by Sullivan's Island and the Isle of Palms.

Re-elect ★★★★★★

Ken Glasson

Mt. Pleasant Town Council



WHY LOVE MOUNT PLEASANT?

As America's ninth fastest-growing community (the only one on the East Coast in the top 10), we received the All-America City Award, and we've been recognized locally and nationally for our educational institutions and programs. Our taxes are among the lowest in the state, and we have nationally accredited Police and Fire Departments and world-class parks and recreation areas. We have achieved AAA rating on our financial stability, we have amazing churches that serve our community and the world, and we have one of the most efficient and productive ports in the country. The list goes on and on. ...

We know how we got here, but where do we go from here? Specifically, how should we manage steady growth while preserving Mount Pleasant's quality of life and rich history?

THE ANSWER IS CLEAR – WE NEED EXPERIENCED AND PROVEN SERVANT LEADERS!

Now, more than ever, it's imperative that we elect town leaders who can work well together and understand that our only goal is to keep Mount Pleasant Mount Pleasant! We don't need people with political agendas who present problems but no solutions. NO GROWTH is not a solution. Our current infrastructure challenges are already here; to continue to ignore them or deal with them later is not responsible.

We need a realistic plan that is detailed enough to address and solve all current growth concerns and challenges while laying out a vision for the future of this town. The task is not going to be easy, but the future of our families and our community depend on the decisions we make today.

WE MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

- We must widen Highway 41 now.
- We need to finalize the town's Growth Management Plan.
- We must continue to focus on infrastructure funding.
- We need to keep our eye on the bottom line in order to maintain our strong financial footing.



As your councilman since 2006, it has truly been an honor to serve the community I love. As a retired Marine Lt. Colonel, I still feel the same passion for serving something greater than myself. I humbly ask for your vote on Tuesday, November 3, so I can continue to fight for our community and our way of life.

Kenneth Glasson, MBA
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HOW IS MOUNT PLEASANT DIFFERENT?

The person responsible for the day-to-day operations of the town is Administrator Eric DeMoura. Hired by the Council, he is a non-partisan professional who is tasked with keeping the town running. The administrator oversees all of the services provided by the town. By contrast, in a strong mayor form of local government such as Charleston's, the mayor's office is in charge of most of what the town administrator handles in Mount Pleasant.

Though many of their duties are the same, the differences

WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU

At this point, you might be asking yourself, "Why do I need to know this?" or "Why does it feel like I'm back in my high school civics class?" Actually, there's a really good reason we wanted to spell this out for you, and it's coming up on Nov. 3, 2015. This year, four of the eight Council seats will be up for grabs, and elections in odd-numbered years – especially in years where the mayor isn't on the ballot – often don't get the attention or turnout they deserve.



between an administrator and a mayor are stark.

"A professional manager is ethically bound and trained to be politically neutral," explained DeMoura. "We don't support candidates or contribute to campaigns, which frees us up to be able to carry out day-to-day direction of operations without political entanglements, so neutrality is very, very important. I run it day to day, but the power doesn't lie with me – the power lies with the elected body."

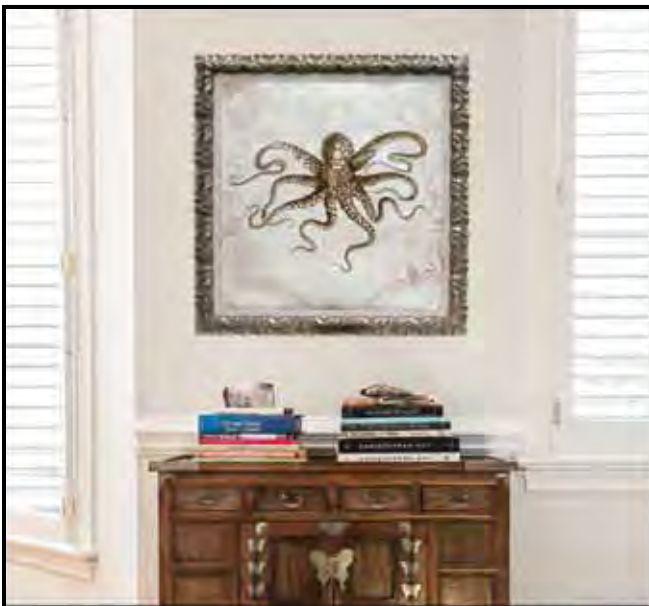
In other words, DeMoura may be in charge of town operations, but he doesn't set policy – he just carries it out.

A mayor in a strong mayor system, however, is by definition politically entangled, having to constantly reach out to constituents for votes and campaign contributions. And while there are many well-run cities that use the strong mayor system, studies have shown that cities that utilize professional managers operate much more efficiently than cities that don't.

So if you've skimmed down the page to this point because the academic stuff was boring, here's why all of that matters:

The four Council positions that are going to be on the November ballot are much more important than you might think. Each Council seat is basically one-ninth of a mayor. If there's a town issue that's near and dear to your heart – and if there isn't, you're probably not paying attention – then this election is every bit as important to you as the one two years ago when Page was elected.

Of course it's cliché to say that "every vote matters," but, in this case, it's true. In the last municipal election, the candidates with the third and fourth highest vote totals secured their spots on the Council tallying the exact same number of votes, while the fifth place finisher lost by fewer than 400 votes. 🗳️



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Councilman Mark Smith is Making a Difference

Mark Smith was elected to his first term in office – taking his initial dip into

BY BRIAN BARRIE

the political pool – in 2013 and has been hard at work ever since.



“I average 20 to 25 hours a week between Council and the Water Commission,” said Smith.

He explained that one of the first things he learned on the job is that there is a lot of work involved for what’s technically a part-time job, to make sure his decisions are well-informed.

“I’m very thankful that I’ve had the significant amount of required time to dedicate to preparation before committee and Council meetings, based on facts and not likes and dislikes of any projects,” he said.

But all that homework has paid off, and Smith feels he is serving the town precisely the way he promised in his campaign.

“One of the reasons I ran was due to my ever-growing frustrations over governmental regulations, what felt like continual, never-ending tax and fee increases on me as a small business owner and member of the community,” recalled Smith.

“Looking back on my voting record over the past 20 months, I’m very proud to say my votes have been consistent with what I campaigned on,” explained Smith, adding “but it is frustrating at times how slow government has to move as compared to the private sector.”

Government doesn’t always move quickly, but Smith is doing his part to ensure that Mount Pleasant is being properly represented.

“At the end of the day,” said Smith, “I feel the vote that I bring to committee and Council meetings belongs to the people I represent, not me personally.”

Mac Burdette – A Career of Caring

No one understands Mount Pleasant's growing pains better than former Town

BY PAM GABRIEL

Administrator Mac Burdette.

Burdette arrived in Mount Pleasant in 1986, the third person to assume this position in five years. For the next 25 years, he was involved in the day-to-day operation of the town. The population, 23,000 when he got here, had tripled by the time he retired.

Growth and change will continue to be issues, and Burdette credits the genius of former Town Planner Joel Ford with the fact that "Mount Pleasant is overall a much better place to live, play, work and educate than it ever was before." Despite its exploding population, Mount Pleasant still sees itself as a town. Burdette attributes a great deal of this sentiment to the fact that Mount Pleasant still has only one high school. That will soon change.

Burdette confessed that governing Mount Pleas-



ant has not always been easy.

"(It is one of the most difficult municipalities to govern in America, and that is good,' he said. "The residents are well-educated, politically savvy and involved, and they have high standards."


Mount Pleasant residents faced only three tax increases while Burdette was town administrator. The first tax hike, which was controversial, came in 1987 to fund the recreational facilities on Whipple Road. This year voters will decide on another tax increase to fund a wide range of recreational programs and facilities.

Robert McPherson "Mac" Burdette hails from Simpsonville, South Carolina. He graduated from Clemson with a bachelor's and master's in History and a master of science in City and Regional Management. His dedication to Mount Pleasant is evident.


"I will always be indebted to the people of the town for allowing me to spend most of my career here so that my wife (Ann) and I could raise our children in a special place like this," he commented.

Today, the Burdettes live "up north." They are the northern-most residents of the town, on land he had annexed so that he could continue to live in Mount Pleasant. Currently he serves as executive director for Patriots Point, and his passion is now for "those old gray ships."

	Mount Pleasant	Charleston
Government Type	Strong Council	Strong Mayor
Population (2013 est.)	74,885	127,999
Mayor	Linda Page, since 2013	Joseph P. Riley, since 1975
Council	8 members, all elected at-large, plus the mayor	12 members, elected from single-member districts, plus the mayor
City Administration and services	Overseen by a non-partisan professional manager who is hired by the Council	Overseen by the mayor



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Hogs for the Cause will bring fun, food and awesome music to The Grove at Patriots Point on Oct. 3.

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SECOND ANNUAL HOGS FOR THE CAUSE

Story by Denise K. James.

Photos courtesy of Hogs for the Cause.

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THERE'S NOTHING better than scarfing down some smoky, delicious barbecue under deep blue autumn skies while listening to some awesome rock tunes – or is there? What if you could do all these things in addition to helping small children and their families who are struggling with pediatric brain cancer? Come to one of Mount Pleasant's biggest parties this fall, the second annual Hogs for the Cause, set for Oct. 3 at The Grove at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant, and see how great it feels to have a good time while doing something for the community.

Founded in New Orleans approximately eight years ago and directed by activist and barbecue lover Becker Hall, Hogs for the Cause is the second largest barbecue festival in the United States, and, in its home city of New Orleans, has had as many as 30,000 patrons at the event.

"We give the cash to kids who have pediatric brain cancer and their families," said Hall. "We try to provide the money that the family needs – what the insurance plans can't cover. And we are our own organization. It's the party that gives back."

Hogs for the Cause made its cameo in the Lowcountry after Hall engaged with a few local barbecue aficionados two years ago. He explained that he met the guys behind Fiery Ron's Home Team BBQ and Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q, and they inspired him to bring the Hogs for the Cause event here. As a graduate of the University of South Carolina and a self-proclaimed Gamecock, Hall was enthusiastic to venture back east. And though Charleston's event is starting out

significantly smaller than the founding event in the Big Easy, Hall has high hopes that it'll continue to grow.

"This is our second year at the Grove in Patriots Point," he mused. "There are so many logistics that go into producing this event, and it's been the perfect location."

Plans for this year are taking shape to create a fantastic second go-round, thanks in part to a grant from the



Kids with pediatric brain cancer will benefit from the Hogs for the Cause event at Patriots Point.

Medical University of South Carolina.

"Last year we had great weather and about 2,000 people turned out," Hall said. "It was a combination of good bands and great food. This year, we're introducing the barbecue competition like we do down in New Orleans."

This year's competition is affectionately known as "pros versus Joes," meaning that about five to seven professional barbecue establishments, including Home Team and Jim 'N Nick's, will participate, as well as "anyone who applies," according to Hall – in other words, the average Joes. Hall said that similar competitions have raised as much as \$135,000 for the cause in New Orleans, and he has no doubt that Charleston's own version

DR. DOG AT HOGS FOR THE CAUSE

One Christmas, my stepsister gave me a copy of rock band Dr. Dog's album "Easy Beat," and with the very first strums of "The World May Never Know," I became a fan. Years later, I saw them live with my boyfriend at the time and was amazed by the band's energy and talent. So you can imagine my delight when I realized some of my modern heroes of music would be visiting Patriots Point for the second annual Hogs for the Cause event.

The history of Dr. Dog – a band made up of Toby Leaman (bass guitar), Scott McMicken (lead guitar), Frank McElroy (rhythm guitar), Zach Miller (keyboard), Eric Slick (drums) and Dimitri Manos (multi-instrument) – started many years ago, with Leaman and McMicken playing together as early as middle school, according to Leaman.

"We got together with the other guys in college," he explained. "We'd been in a bunch of bands before, and we decided to create one band with the right group of guys who could do pretty much any genre."

The band's influences, according to Leaman, include greats such as Neil Young, Tom Waits and the Clash – but he's quick to point out that they don't just stick to rock. They try to challenge themselves on a regular basis. Following eight successful previous albums, the group is now working on a new record, a concept album, Leaman said, made up of the band's older songs that were never released.

"The goal is to make these older songs super accessible," he said. "It's strange having the material already done – we wrote it ages ago – but we're refurbishing it."

Treat your ears to Dr. Dog at Hogs for the Cause on Saturday, Oct. 3, at The Grove at Patriots Point. Tickets are available at www.hogscharleston.org.



Dr. Dog will be performing for the Hogs for the Cause. Left to right: Frank McElroy, Dmitri Manos, Toby Leaman, Scott McMicken, Eric Slick and Zach Miller.

will continue to gain traction. He encourages families who are dealing with pediatric brain cancer to attend the event as well.

“We don’t just cut a check and say goodbye,” he pointed out. “We want to get to know the families and have them attend our event. It’s a day for everyone to cut loose and have fun.”

Tickets for this year’s Hogs for the Cause are just

\$20 for admission and entertainment – which includes performances by Dr. Dog, Nikki Lane, Lucero, Fly Golden Eagle and more. You can also purchase an all-inclusive “passport” for \$65 and get yummy samples from each of the barbecue tents.

“It’s food, music and a great cause,” said Hall. “At least one of those three things should interest everyone!” 🐷



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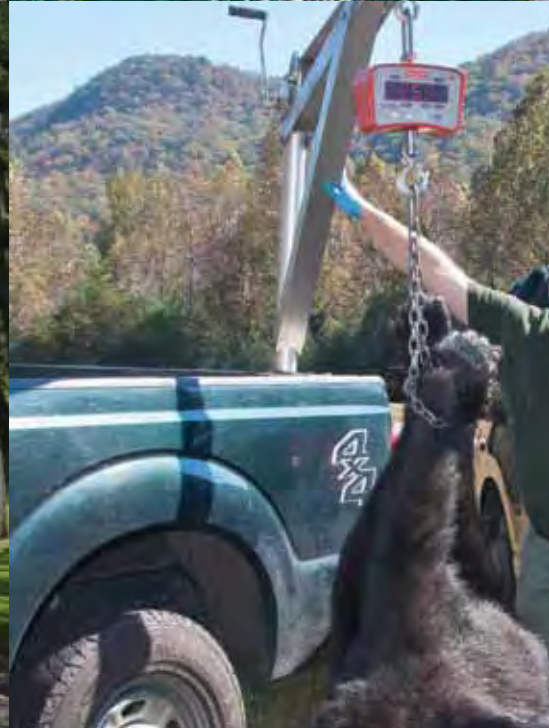
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FROM THE BACKYARD TO THE FOREST

The SCDNR Protects All

Story by Stacy E. Domingo.

Photography Courtesy of South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SOUTH CAROLINA is home to 595,000 hunters and fishermen, which is no big surprise since the Palmetto State's verdant natural habitats extend from the mountains to the Atlantic Ocean.

"People move here for our natural resources, and we serve as the principal steward," said Col. Chisolm Frampton of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. "We work in conjunction with the General Assembly to ensure our resources are sustainable."

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources,

organized as an agency in 1994 under the South Carolina Restructuring Act, is composed of the former Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Water Resources Commission, Land Resources Commission, State Geological Survey and the South Carolina Migratory Waterfowl Committee. The mission of these departments is clear: to serve as the principal advocate for and steward of South Carolina's natural resources.

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healthy, diverse, sustainable and accessible natural resources," Frampton explained. "We want to be a trusted and respected leader in natural resources protection and management, by consistently making wise and balanced decisions for the benefit of the state's natural resources and its people. We want these resources here for our children."

Boating, fishing, hunting, education, water, wildlife, land, maps and regulations are all in a day's work for the men and women who serve the department.

Two popular programs include 430 youth shooters with Scholastic Clay Target Sports and 40,000

participants in the National Archery in Schools Program, which focuses on the younger generation.

"The National Archery in Schools Program is a joint venture between the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the South Carolina Department of Education," said Capt. John Downer II of SCDNR. "The great thing about this program is that all students, regardless of age, size or physical ability, can participate in target archery and be successful. These are kids that most of the time can't participate in traditional sports for many different reasons."

The benefits of taking part in these youth programs range from getting



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children away from video games to increasing their focus, which translates into better grades in school.

“Both sports take concentration, and that provides a huge advantage. Research has shown that grades go up when the kids learn to focus,” said Downer. “The interest in these programs is growing exponentially in schools across our state, and we would love to see more of these programs in local schools.”

The Department of Natural Resources encourages learning into adulthood for boating and hunting.

“We see a lot of boating accidents that typically involve individuals between the ages of 26 and 45,” explained Sgt. Dannetta Dawson, a hunting and boating instructor for the SCDNR. “It’s because these individuals are at an age where they can finally afford their own boat, and often alcohol becomes involved. People have to realize driving a boat is not like driving a car. There are rules to the water that people must learn.”

Currently in South Carolina, there are 485,000 registered boats that utilize the state’s more than 450,000 acres of lakes, 30,000 miles of rivers and 3,000 miles of coastline. The Palmetto State is eighth in the nation in the number of registered boats, which is impressive considering the size of South Carolina.

“It’s a pastime to go boating in our waters because they are so beautiful,” said Dawson. “We want people to have fun and be safe at the same time.”

Hunters in South Carolina are not quite as plentiful as those who use the water for recreational purposes. Though their skills typically are handed down through generations, Dawson pointed out that education is important.

“All hunters must be licensed, and we encourage fire-arms safety as this is typically how individuals get hurt,” she said.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is guided by values that include teamwork, integrity, dedication, excellence and service. The department’s officers come from many different backgrounds, but all share a love for the outdoors. Dawson, who earned a biology degree, was a medical technician at MUSC. She said she would gaze out of her office windows and wish she were on the other side of the glass.

Frampton, who joined the department in 1993 as a conservation officer, felt the same passion.



“I am a South Carolinian from Charleston who liked the outdoors and am a boater at heart. Where else can you go to enjoy this and get a paycheck?”

Though they enjoy working at the department, their job is not always fun and games. They spend the majority of their time on law enforcement – working in partnership with Homeland Security; as an executive protection detail for the governor; as key players preparing for hurricanes, both with the South Carolina Highway Patrol in lane reversal and patrolling the waters to move boaters to safety; working with the Emergency Management Division; and in evidence and body recovery in the state’s forests and water.

“We do so much more than check hunter and boater licenses,” said Frampton. “Sometimes we have rough moments, but we are doing good things. Being a protector is a huge responsibility, but we are doing it for the next generation.” 🐾



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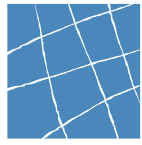
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WHEN IT COMES TO fabrics and textiles, for Jonathan Flanary, it's all in the family. Not only is his business, Aiden Fabrics, a local, family-owned business, but his family has

been in the textile industry for more than 35 years.

“Ever since I was a little kid, I was running around my dad's fabric store in Greenville,” said Flanary.

BY ERIN DANLY

“I grew up in the industry. I've always had one foot in, one foot out of the family business.”

Flanary firmly planted both feet in the industry last year when he purchased what is now Aiden Fabrics. The business sells mid-to-high-end-level fabrics, home décor items such as lighting, pillows and rugs, and a large line of custom furniture. But, said Flanary, home décor “starts with fabric and it grows from there.” Three talented designers, up on trends in textiles and interior decorating, select the fabrics for sale, and all three must vote “yes” to acquire a fabric.

Located on Hungry Neck Boulevard, the showroom boasts 5,000 square feet in the main section and an additional 2,000 square feet of outdoor fabrics. In all, there are more than 2,000 bolts of indoor fabric and 400 bolts of the outdoor variety.

In other words, Aiden Fabrics has a lot of fabric. It might sound a little overwhelming.

“Our bread and butter customer is one who may not have expansive knowledge about fabrics or what to choose,” Flanary said. “They come in and say, ‘I just have no idea where to start.’ We jump right in to help.”

Typically, customers are given 10 to 12 swatches of fabrics in

different textures and colors to live with at home for a few days. They bring back the ones they like most and go from there.

“We can do it from A to Z. We can help pick the fabric, put it together, install it in your home and everything in between,” Flanary pointed out.

Everyone at Aiden Fabrics wants their customers to love what they purchase, and, if the end product doesn't match the client's vision, they will work with them until it does. That level of service is what sets Aiden Fabrics apart, Flanary said.

“We don't aspire to be the biggest and baddest in town,

but we will blow the socks off of our competition in terms of our service,” he said.

Although Flanary is not a designer himself, he has a decorating tip to share: Consider using modern outdoor fabrics for indoor pieces.

“It's stain resistant, sun resistant and bleachable, so, for families that have kids or pets, it's a wonderful fabric and a breeze to clean,” he explained.

Flanary didn't always know he'd end up in the family business. After college, he earned his MBA from the Citadel, then worked in a corporate environment as a manager for four

years before buying Fabric Emporium from the previous owner last June. He renamed the store Aiden Fabrics, after his son, and it's been growing since.

Flanary moved to Mount Pleasant from Greenville with his wife, son and dog, Charlie, and the family welcomed little Sadie in May.

“The running joke is that I'll have to start another store named after Sadie,” Flanary laughed.

Mount Pleasant would certainly welcome it. 🐾

Aiden Fabrics is located at 1136 Hungry Neck Blvd. To learn more, call 843-216-0008 or visit www.aidenfabrics.com.

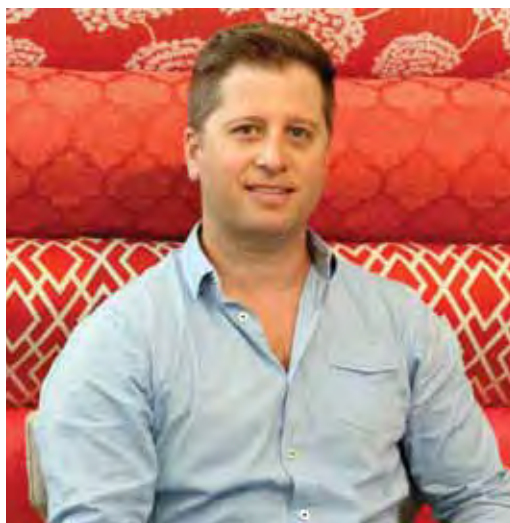


Photo by Rick Walo.

Jonathan Flanary, owner of Aiden Fabrics, has been working in the textile industry for more than 35 years.



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Adding a pool to your backyard shows that you take outside fun seriously.

Lowcountry Landscaping

BUILDING A BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD

*Story by Pamela Brownstein.
Photography provided.*

LIFE IS BEST LIVED OUTDOORS – or at least that’s the secret to Lowcountry living. Make the most of the year-round sunshine by creating an oasis accessible by simply stepping out your back door. From outdoor kitchens to pools to meandering gardens, the elements for designing the backyard of your dreams are endless.

The name of the game in today’s outdoor living is customization. Local businesses that specialize in

landscaping and outdoor design strive to create a space that reflects the unique requests and perspective of the individual homeowner. These professionals can help turn your backyard from boring to beautiful.

For starters, the addition of a swimming pool shows that you take outside fun seriously. A pool provides the perfect place for kids to play and guests to linger. The cool water lets you escape the heat, and it’s also an opportunity to put your mark on the look and feel of your backyard. Clint Fore, vice president at Aqua Blue Pools, said, “The pool design includes not only the pool itself but also the

TOUR

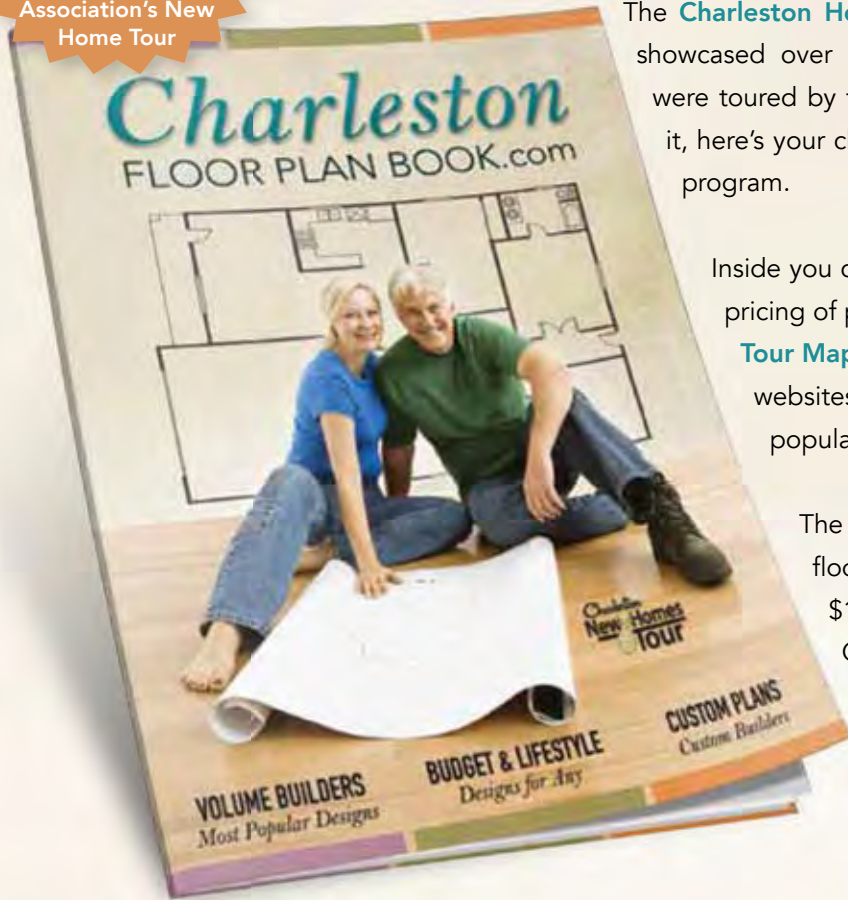
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surrounding deck area, fencing and anything else a homeowner might want to add.”

Aqua Blue Pools takes pride in meeting the homeowner’s needs.

“We have a detailed interview process which helps clients determine the best form, function and aesthetic considerations relative to their space,” Fore added.

Do you like the smooth interior surface of the pool or prefer the more natural feel of pebble? Would an infinity pool be practical? Should you include a water feature? These are just some of the many questions customers will have to think about during the design process.

If you have a top-notch griller in your family – you know, the one who makes his own marinade and slow cooks his meat – then consider the benefits of an outdoor kitchen.

“These backyard retreats are equipped to entertain family and friends in comfort and style, regardless of the season,” said Ken Good, co-owner of Palmetto Outdoor Kitchens in Mount Pleasant. “Increasingly, the outdoor kitchens are becoming larger and with more high-tech components added.”

Unique options range from built-in blenders to pizza ovens to ice makers and even kegarators.

The grill remains a cornerstone of an outdoor kitchen, but new features can include built-in lights, a rotisserie and a sear zone.

“Most of the kitchens we install have both a gas grill and a ceramic grill,” Good said.

Now in its second year, Palmetto Outdoor Kitchens aims to be a one-stop shop for outdoor upgrades – from design to community approval to installation and construction, the company assists clients through the entire job.

Good remarked, “Our goal is to take the homeowner’s outdoor living space and make it their dream private backyard.”

Comfortable, attractive furniture can entice guests to pull up a seat and relax. The quality teak pieces available at

The Teak Hut, located on Long Point Road in Mount Pleasant, offer a classic look that never goes out of style.

“Teak wood has been used for centuries, and it holds up better than anything else outdoors,” said owner Bob Kelliher.

Beyond just furniture, The Teak Hut provides customers “that last bit of customization to bring their backyard vision



Outdoor kitchens are becoming larger, and many are equipped with high-tech features as well.



If you are looking for outdoor furniture that will hold up against coastal Carolina’s weather, teak wood is an excellent choice.

to reality,” according to Kelliher. “We try to focus on your space so you get the most use out of it.”

At Hidden Ponds Nursery – where the motto is “the right plant for the right place” – they first determine the size of the yard and how the homeowner wants to use it.

“Do they want it shady for parties? Or do they want a productive garden with growing plants?” mused Master Gardener Darren Sheriff. “Once you get that idea, you can get into what else they want.”

The sprawling nursery grounds in Awendaw display a variety of plants, water fountain features, benches and a large selection of pottery.

Sheriff said, “If you don’t know plants too well, we can offer ideas and help give specifics.”

He said lately a lot of people want to grow their own fruit and vegetable gardens, and citrus plants are gaining popularity since they do well in this climate.

The latest in landscaping involves creativity, functionality and thinking out of the cookie-cutter backyard box. Add a swim-up bar to your pool, complete with built-in bar stools. Reclaim that forgotten corner of your yard by planting a butterfly garden. Heat things up with an open fire feature such as



Modern landscaping is all about creativity, functionality and thinking outside the box.



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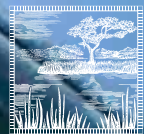


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Inner Beauty

SPECIAL TOUCHES FOR YOUR HOME

*Story by Kalene McCort
Photos provided.*



Since opening in the summer of 1999, Carolina Lanterns has grown to be a household name.

The Lowcountry is by far one of the most visually pleasing places to call home. From tree-lined marshlands to breathtaking oceanfront views, the coastal topography delights the eye. Mother Nature has provided us with a vibrant landscape in which to revel. But who do you call on when you want to imbue the interior of your abode with beauty that approaches the natural surroundings that cradle it?

Lucky for homeowners, Chucktown is teeming with businesses that take decor to new heights. We scouted out the best of the best to compile a list of retailers who are ready and willing to turn your interior design dreams into tangible realities.

From charming lanterns to rustic bar stools, these establishments provide quality products that are sure to warm your home. Looking to find the perfect end table? Want to enlist a seasoned professional to revamp your entire dwelling? Let these local businesses take the stress out of decorating, one perfectly placed throw pillow at a time.

LIGHT IT UP

Jan Clouse traveled an unexpected road to being an owner of one of the leading lantern retailers in the area. Through an unsatisfying experience with a retailer in years prior, she saw the need for a shop that would offer a fairly-priced, immense selection, along with great service. Since opening in the summer of 1999, **Carolina Lanterns** has grown to be a household name. Choose from electric and gas-lit copper lanterns that capture the vibe of both old-time Charleston and the modern elegance of today. From traditional styles that look like they could easily line the colorful dwellings of Rainbow Row to edgier designs that are sure to be conversation starters, Carolina Lanterns has something for everyone. The Jan Collection comes complete with funky star chandeliers. With enthusiasm and a genuine love for helping customers find the right piece to accent their home, Clouse truly cherishes the opportunity to spread a little ambience throughout the Lowcountry.



The Jan Collection at Carolina Lanterns comes complete with funky star chandeliers.

IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

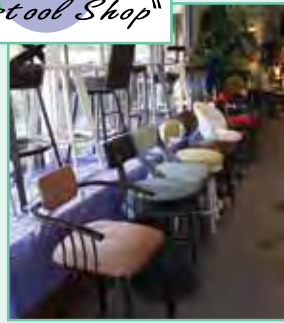
You'll find **Encore Interiors** just off Johnnie Dodds Boulevard in Mount Pleasant. With a vast selection of cool coastal-inspired pieces, this shop truly captures the Lowcountry lifestyle of surf, sand and serenity. Explore the 13,000-square-foot space filled with driftwood wall hangings, coral lamps and nautical accents. Owner and designer Amey Nicoll brings a fresh and fun perspective to the art of interior design. Fusing together complementary shades, textures and various furnishings with grace and style,



With a vast selection of cool, coastal-inspired pieces, Encore Interiors truly captures the Lowcountry lifestyle of surf, sand and serenity.

Nicoll's work can currently be seen in 50 model homes up and down the East Coast. From oyster-shell chandeliers to distressed vanities, the selection is constantly changing. Whether you're in the market for weather-resistant patio

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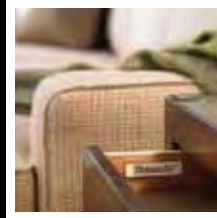
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Accessories



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Antiques

furniture or a simple seahorse pillow to adorn your sofa, Encore Interiors is sure to provide that piece that you just can't pass up.

In the prestigious and charming neighborhood that is l'On, you'll find **deGuise Interiors**. This beacon of design bliss is teeming with one-of-a-kind pieces perfect for any residence. Owner Gigi Chapman has worked in interior design since 1979, and her love



deGuise Interiors, a beacon of design bliss, is teeming with one-of-a-kind pieces perfect for any residence.

for the industry is still as strong as when she completed her very first room. From bold pillows to elegant vases, Chapman knows just what details to add to make a space magazine-worthy.

"At deGuise, we are always busy at work in our showroom's design center. However, we're never too busy to meet a new or returning face and plan your next project," said Chapman.

Mount Pleasant's **Eclectic**

Designs certainly lives up to its name. From mixed-media shell and glass mosaics to cleverly crafted coffee tables, the selection is quite varied. Eclectic Designs even offers in-store furniture paint classes to encourage creativity and allow patrons to put their own spin on items they purchase.



Since 2010, Next to New Consignment has been the premier source for second-hand home furnishings.

Since 2010, **Next to New Consignment** has

been the premier source for second-hand home furnishings. Explore 5,000 square feet of space featuring show-stopping pieces from 3,500 consigners.

Domain Interiors and Design fuses functionality with breathtaking art worthy of gallery walls. From delicate candleholders to lighting fixtures that serve as sensational



From delicate candleholders to lighting fixtures that serve as sensational statement pieces, the high-end products at Domain are sure to impress.

statement pieces, the high-end products found here are sure to impress. From the classic and timeless to the unusual and unique, this trusted establishment on Coleman Boulevard has products that will dress up any space. Owner and designer Bobbi Jo Engelby is always ready and willing to lend her expertise.

SITTING PRETTY

You have that high-top bar in your kitchen where you envision nights with friends centered around great food and libations.

Now all you need is the right bar stools to make it all come together.

For The House: The Barstool Shop, located on Houston Northcutt Boulevard, has a selection that can't be beat.

With more than 150 styles from which to choose, you are sure to find one that is the right fit. From colorful retro to sleek and traditional, this shop appeals to a variety of tastes. Fully

committed to customer satisfaction, The Barstool Shop is always willing to let folks take home a piece to see how it fits into their current aesthetic. The store also offers an array of tables and chairs. 🐾

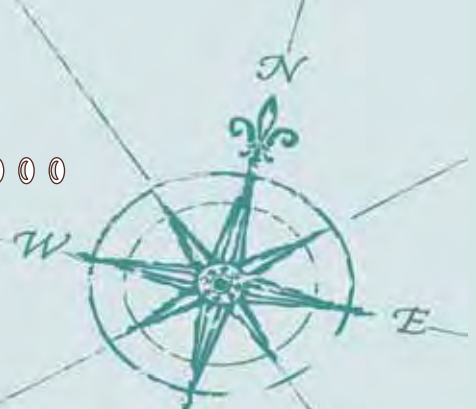


From colorful retro to sleek and traditional, For the House: The Barstool Shop, appeals to a variety of tastes.



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Builders Who'll Have Your Back

St. Pierre Construction



Photo by William Quarles.

ONCE, IN CASUAL CONVERSATION at her Sullivan's Island home, beloved best-selling author Dorothea Benton Frank described her sister to me as "someone you want to be in your bunker" – a person you'd want by your side should anything problematic ever happen.

BY JULIE SPRANKLES

Now, years later, Dottie's words keep flashing through my mind as I sit across from builders Jeff and Greg St. Pierre of St. Pierre Construction.

Born in Charleston and raised in Mount Pleasant, Jeff and Greg learned to earn their keep at a young age. Whether it was raking lawns or picking pecans in neighbors' yards to sell door-to-door, the St.

Pierre brothers worked hard growing up and – with guidance from their father, who founded Lawn Rangers landscaping with his boys and continues to run it to this day – became early entrepreneurs.

After graduating from Wando High School, Jeff and Greg decided to expand their landscaping services and encompass their other passion: building. They'd been borrowing their dad's tools and crafting everything from tree forts to skateboard ramps in their Snee Farm backyard since they were kids, so segueing into the construction industry proved a natural transition.

Before forming St. Pierre Construction officially in 2001, the St. Pierre brothers padded their experience by picking up work from a well-established contractor on Sullivan's Island. As their experience grew – along

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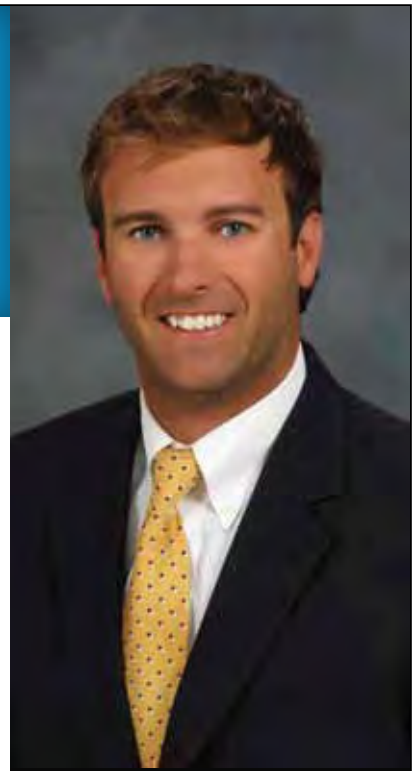


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with the jobs being made available to them – Jeff and Greg hired carpenter Robert Gannon and hit the ground running framing custom homes.

Today, Gannon still works alongside Jeff and Greg, albeit in a different capacity – he was promoted to head foreman only two years after joining the company, and he maintains the position still. In addition to Gannon, 22 other employees and six crews comprise this local construction company.

Jeff and Greg take pride in the company's commitment to coming in on time, on budget and in a manner keeping with the integrity tied to their family name. And because the Lowcountry has and always will be home to the St. Pierre brothers, they feel honored to have assisted local homeowners through some of the most trying times in recent history for the Charleston area.

When Hugo hit, they helped rebuild their father's business. They picked up the family home that had been torn apart and blown into a nearby lake. They pitched in to lend neighbors a hand rebuilding their homes, too.

When the economy fell out in 2008 and the housing market was hit especially hard, the local construction community all but became a ghost town. Many builders essentially packed it in, exploring other trades or simply

moving on to somewhere new. Jeff and Greg stuck it out, though, even when their crew dropped from more than 20 to only three.

The brothers went from shelving their tool belts and running a large crew for several years to literally trudging through the mud. They strapped their tool belts back on, persevered and built their business back from the ground up.

Where others have come and gone, capitalizing on the ebb and flow of our city's economic booms, the St. Pierre brothers have stayed put. They were born here; they grew up here; they're raising their families here. Respect for others and pride in their work was deeply ingrained during Jeff and Greg's formative years and, as such, they stand behind what they're doing. Should they build your house today and find out you need something fixed 20 years down the road, they'll still be here – and they'd be happy to help you out.

So, yes, Jeff and Greg St. Pierre are the kind of guys you want in your bunker. Because, ultimately, what it all boils down to is loyalty – who'll have your back for the long haul. 🐾

To consult with Jeff and Greg on your construction needs, call St. Pierre Construction at 843-352-7925 or visit StPierreConst.com.



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Rivertowne and Snee Farm

RIVERTOWNE AND SNEE FARM make up the only dual golf and country club option in the Charleston area. “We offer a great value for access to two great clubs,” said Emzi Wewers, membership director at RiverTowne Country Club. “We have members who enjoy each club but also have a lot of members who enjoy being able to utilize both clubs.”

Said Wewers, “We work hard to

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

keep our facilities

in great shape and strive to create an inviting and enjoyable atmosphere for our members and guests. We create tournament calendars with the traditional tournaments but also include some fun, team-based events. We offer worldwide membership reciprocity through our affiliation with ClubCorp. And we love to take care of our members and guests. Our staff’s interaction with our members is an integral part of our operations.”

Nine green-side bunkers were renovated at RiverTowne in the spring, following the “Better Billy Bunker” method, the brainchild of Billy Fuller, former superintendent at Augusta National Golf Club.

“We’ve been delighted with the results and plan to continue renovating more bunkers in the late fall and winter,” said Wewers.

The courses also were aerated and crews used the “planing” process, which levels the collars of each green to enhance water runoff. Soil had built around the edges of the greens over time, creating “collar dams” that hold water.

“Shaving the collars will not only allow water to flow off greens in the manner in which they were designed, it will also enhance the ability of golfers to hit shots into greens,” said Director of Golf Pete Dunham. “It allows for more

variety in the short game as you’ll be able to hit chip and runs or putt more often from off the green.”

Dunham said at Snee Farm, the enhanced playability around the greens will be “dramatic.”

“In some areas, we shaved up to nine inches of buildup around the greens,” he added.

Putting and chip shots to tight pins once was really tricky and luck played a fairly big role in how the ball reacted over the humps at the course. Now, in many areas, golfers can putt with far more consistency from off the greens.

Said Dunham, “As we continue to update green-side bunkers, the work will simply allow for a more consistent playing surface day in and day out because of the drainage design of the ‘Better Billy Bunker.’ While old bunkers get contaminated with mud and silt, the new bunkers will remain consistent for many years to come.”

Situated among scenic marshlands and majestic live oaks, with 13 holes playing along the Wando River and Horlbeck Creek, RiverTowne was designed by Arnold Palmer. The course has earned a number of industry awards for its layout, conditions and service levels. The Charleston

Golf Course Owners Association named RiverTowne its 2015 Charleston Course of the Year.

Snee Farm Country Club is located in the heart of Mount Pleasant on the 200-year-old Snee Farm Plantation. The private club is home to a George Cobb-designed championship course, a newly renovated clubhouse, a full-service restaurant and bar, a fitness room, 18 tennis courts and two newly renovated swimming pools. 🏊

Visit www.rivertownecountryclub.com and www.sneefarmcc.com for membership details.



RiverTowne (top) and Snee Farm make up the only dual golf and country club option in the Charleston area.



Photos courtesy of Rivertowne Country Club and Snee Farm Country Club.

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THE MORTGAGE APPLICATION PROCESS



IF THE IDEA OF PURCHASING YOUR first home equals panicked thoughts of paperwork mountains, embarrassing credit checks and terms that only a wizard of finance could understand, I have great news: I've been through the process and, despite being a writer and right-brained person, I understand it! But let me clarify: It's knowledge best gained through a face-to-face meeting with a loan officer, not simply

BY DENISE K. JAMES

surfing the Internet.

There are, of course, a few things you'll need to figure out before meeting with the loan officer of your choice. Perhaps the most important is your credit score, a number that makes a difference when it comes to your mortgage rate – but it isn't the only thing that matters, either.

“In addition to knowing your score, come to an initial meeting with recent tax returns, a few bank statements, proof of income and identification,” explained Wes

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Sellew of Mortgage Network in Mount Pleasant. “We’ll need the information for your loan application.”

Donna Williamson of Benchmark Mortgage agreed that face-to-face meetings are crucial since they not only foster a relationship of trust but also can help clients understand where they stand in the application process. For example, significant changes in lifestyle – buying a fancy new car or quitting a job – are best avoided since they could dramatically change your rate.

“Going over the numbers with people and letting them participate in the application process helps them to be more responsible,” Williamson explained. “With new home buyers, I explain everything at our first meeting.”

The three main options when purchasing a house are the VA loan – which is for veterans only – as well as the Federal Housing Administration loan and the conventional loan. Most people who are buying a house will want a conventional loan, according to Williamson, unless a client has extenuating circumstances such as lower credit, the need for a smaller down payment or a past foreclosure.

“The FHA loan was developed to help first-time buyers, but it includes a lot of regulations,” Williamson commented. “Most people who have owned before or have good credit standing go with a conventional loan.”

Both Sellew and Williamson emphasized the importance of knowing the ratio between the client’s income and payments so the new owner won’t become “house poor,” a term referring to having a home that is more than the owner can comfortably afford. Williamson also mentioned that the lowest possible mortgage rate isn’t always the best option.

“With a slightly higher rate, I can help a client avoid paying some closing costs such as attorney payments, first year insurance and escrow account setup,” she pointed out.

Once the application is filled out, the moment you’ve been waiting for arrives, and you find out how much house you’re eligible to buy.

“I give the client worksheets with the numbers broken



down so they can present them to a real estate agent,” Sellew said.

While clients might feel a great weight lifted once they find out the rate they are pre-approved for, there’s still a lot to be done besides finding a dream home and moving in.

“There’s a matter of getting the loan underwritten – which includes behind-the-scenes stuff such as background checks, putting earnest money down and having the home professionally inspected. The entire process takes around 30 days,” Sellew said. “And if the client waits too long to find a home, the quoted rate could expire.”

Wondering if you should skip the private mortgage company and go directly to your bank? You could – but you’d miss out on some distinct benefits, according to Williamson.

“Private loan officers can offer more options compared with just going to a financial institution,” she noted. “I also help people with matters such as boosting credit and understanding their taxes before the actual application process. I often meet with people in advance in order to help plan a home purchase.”

“I walk clients through everything so it’s entirely straightforward,” added Sellew. “Buying a home is not as complicated as people think. And whether you’re Joe the Plumber or Bill Gates, everyone goes through the same process.” 🏠

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BUDGET BLINDS OFFERS THE security and quality products guaranteed by being a part of a national franchise. Conveniently located on Highway 17 in North Mount Pleasant, the owners and staff take enormous pride in bringing a local, family approach to doing business. Now that family feeling is moving beyond the Mount Pleasant store.

"The growth of Budget Blinds of Charleston over the past 10 years has been phenomenal," said owner Merv Epstein, whose territory was honored in 2014 as the best of more than 1,200 Budget Blinds franchises across North America for the fourth straight year.

The success of the company in James Island, West Ashley, Johns Island, Kiawah and Seabrook Island led to a decision to expand further.

"We were so inspired and knew that our Budget Blinds family was ready to grow. We are now in the home stretch

for the opening of two new brick and mortar storefronts in West Ashley and Summerville," Epstein said.

Epstein's son, Adam, is the owner of the Summerville territory, and two sons-in-law, Lang Dinkins and Andrew Garland, have purchased their own Budget Blinds territories in the upstate area of South Carolina.

Said Merv Epstein: "It's truly a family affair."

Epstein has owned and operated Budget Blinds of Charleston for over 10 years. His store grew from a one-man operation out of his home in Daniel Island to a team of more than 25 employees. He opened the Mount Pleasant storefront five years ago and never looked back.

"We believe our dedication to honesty, integrity and customer service has made us so successful. We are a local, family business with the bonus of being a part of one of the most successful franchises in North America," he pointed out.

It is this combination of attributes, according to Epstein, that affords the company the opportunity to remain a "personal, hands-on operation with the buying power of a franchise to ensure excellent quality, choice and pricing."

Budget Blinds of Greater Charleston offers high-quality and stylish window coverings. The store's extensive selection of window treatments includes plantation shutters, faux wood blinds, fine draperies and Roman, cellular and roller shades. Regardless of a window's size or shape,

Budget Blinds can provide a customized window covering solution. The company offers a complimentary, in-home consultation with a dedicated staff of style experts, making decision-making much easier because customers can see what samples of products actually look like in their home in their effort to find a perfect match.

Budget Blinds also has an extensive line of commercial products and treatments.

Epstein said, "Mount

Pleasant customers are so loyal

and always willing to spread the word and recommend us to friends and family. We have been blessed to have put simple, economical blinds in a young family's starter home and 10 years later furnish their dream home with plantation shutters and fine draperies. That is loyalty, and it's a great feeling for a business owner knowing our customers think of us first after so many years. It also feels wonderful to be a part of a growing and prospering city. We love our customers." 🐾

Call 843-856-9498 for a free home consultation, or visit www.budgetblinds.com for more information.



Merv Epstein, left, and son Adam Epstein agree that the success of Budget Blinds in the Lowcountry is "truly a family affair."

Photo courtesy of Budget Blinds of Charleston.



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Get Comfortable

My Rooms Furniture Gallery

FOR A STORE THAT HAS ONLY been open a little over a year-and-a-half, My Rooms Furniture Gallery has made a significant impact in its marketplace.

Headquartered in Mount Pleasant, My Rooms Furniture Gallery was launched in January of 2014. Besides its Mount Pleasant location, the company also has showrooms in Columbia; Savannah, Georgia; and Augusta, Georgia. In addition, it features an online furniture store, shipping to customers nationwide and offering a wide variety of styles, from traditional and classic to chic and contemporary, with a focus on Southern coastal. Using the store's website, customers can shop by brand, room or furniture type.

While My Rooms Furniture Gallery focuses on living room furniture such as sofas, club chairs, recliners, tables and sectionals, it also offers bedroom furniture and dining room, kitchen and pub tables. The Mount Pleasant showroom has a huge selection of framed prints and wall art, mostly with coastal and Lowcountry themes, and offers artificial tropical trees, area rugs and accent furniture. In all, the store carries 26 major brands.

This past June the store began carrying the Thomasville furniture line.

"Thomasville furniture is a premium brand and one of the most recognizable names in furniture," said Scott Blalock, director of business development. "The company has produced two of the most successful licensed furniture collections in the industry: Ernest Hemingway, The Collection of a Lifetime; and Humphrey Bogart. Thomasville Furniture allows our customers to create a home that is welcoming, comfortable and stylish. We believe our store will continue to grow in the premium market segment, specifically with our Thomasville line."

Blalock continued: "We have been in operation less than two years, and we have experienced continual

growth since our inception. One of our growth areas is in our rocking chair selection, particularly our collegiate editions. We offer Clemson, Georgia, South Carolina and all other major NCAA schools. We also offer the standard plantation and cottage style rockers in natural, black and white finishes."

Blalock said another area of growth for the store has been its custom orders.

"We can walk through the design process with customers, helping them choose the right sofa frame and matching with their preferred fabrics, pillows and other accessories," he pointed out.

The reason shoppers come to My Rooms Furniture Gallery stores is clear, according to Blalock.

"We offer a great in-store financing option, 24 months and zero interest once approved. Our professional delivery specialists take extra care when delivering and setting up the furnishings for our customers. We also offer a complimentary haul-away service for any unwanted furniture that our customers are replacing. We offer same-day delivery for in-stock items, great pricing and great selection on updated and current styles," he stated.

Another of the store's strengths is that it offers temporary furnishings to its customers who buy custom furniture.

"Often, especially for those relocating to Mount Pleasant, customers come into our showroom and place an order for a custom living room set. Custom orders can take anywhere from two to six weeks to arrive. In the meantime, customers need furniture for their homes, a place to sleep, a place to sit and entertain. We'll deliver a no-cost rental set to their home for use during the interim. This way, they can be comfortable and don't have to get in a rush to buy furniture they don't necessarily like, want, or need." 🐾

My Rooms Furniture Gallery is located at 1169 Chuck Dawley Blvd., Suite B. To learn more, call 800-338-8534 or visit www.myroomsfurnituregallery.com.



This past June, My Rooms Furniture began carrying the Thomasville line, one of the most recognizable names in furniture.

Photo courtesy of My Rooms Furniture Gallery.

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Muhler, in business since 1991, offers windows, doors, sunrooms, shutters, hurricane protection, skylights and awnings. All the company’s work is code-compliant and warranted for both single-family and multi-family residences, as well as commercial projects. Muhler also works on both private and commercial historic homes and buildings.

As the leading window and door supplier in the coastal Carolinas, Muhler’s professional execution and timely completion of projects exceeds customer expectations for service and value. Muhler strives to go beyond those expectations by offering the highest level of value, service and quality products at competitive prices.

According to Hay, “Our goal is to find the product that best suits the customer’s needs and budget while adding our professional service and installation programs to exceed the customer’s expectations. This philosophy has made it possible to develop long-term relationships with both residential and commercial customers while always conducting business with honesty and integrity. It is with great pride that we continuously offer new and improved products in the window, door, storm protection and sunroom industry.”

Muhler has an extensive website that clearly outlines what the company can accomplish both for private and commercial projects, including free in-home consultation. Customers and potential customers can also visit the showroom at 630 Skylark Drive, Suite U, in Charleston. 🏠

Muhler’s showroom hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 843-572-9727 or visit www.muhler.com.



Photos courtesy of Muhler Windows.

Muhler offers high-quality residential and commercial windows to homeowners, architects, designers and builders, all without creating too much “pane.”

**TOP MOST EXPENSIVE
TEN HOMES SOLD** Jan. 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

**Dunes West,
Mount Pleasant, S.C.**

MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$1,795,000	Trent E. Buzille The Beach Company	Charlotte S. Gerber Carolina One Real Estate	41	\$1,465,745
2) \$1,425,000	Matt O'Neill Matt O'Neill Real Estate	Christine A. Donavan Carolina One Real Estate	13	\$1,325,000
3) \$1,195,000	Herbert J. Butler Disher Hamrick & Myers Res Inc	Robertson Allen The Cassina Group	35	\$1,120,000
4) \$1,150,000	Clay C. Cunningham Carolina One Real Estate	Roxann G. Spandorfer Carolina One Real Estate	78	\$1,112,000
5) \$938,000	Gayle C. Hardee Carolina One Real Estate	Etta Connolly William Means Real Estate	32	\$900,000
6) \$865,000	Kathy Coulthard Keller Williams Realty	Posey H. Haynie Carolina One Real Estate	45	\$830,000
7) \$875,000	NONMEMBER	Kristin B. Walker Dunes Properties	0	\$815,000
8) \$800,000	Bobette Fisher Carolina One Real Estate	Rick Willis The Group, LLC	72	\$780,000
9) \$800,000	Sue A. Hensch Carolina One Real Estate	Ellen K. O'Neill Southern Living Real Estate	48	\$775,000
10) \$775,000	Ursula I. Erichsen Carolina One Real Estate	Michael J. Simmons Carolina One Real Estate	47	\$735,000

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TOP TEN MOST EXPENSIVE HOMES SOLD Jan. 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

**Seaside Farms,
Mount Pleasant, S.C.**

MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$855,000	Gentry T. Radwanski The Boulevard Company, LLC	Paige Hutto Avera Keller Williams Realty	21	\$815,000
2) \$620,000	Suzie Smith Carolina One Real Estate	Dede Warren Carolina One Real Estate	31	\$577,000
3) \$569,900	Jennifer Maher Coldwell Banker United	Robert K. Baldwin Carolina One Real Estate	45	\$550,000
4) \$549,000	Will Dammeyer William Means Real Estate	Meg R. Watson Keller Williams Realty	43	\$540,000
5) \$550,000	Celeste Wiesner Carolina One Real Estate	Erin Healey Ledford The Boulevard Company, LLC	-	\$535,000
6) \$540,000	Leonard Fiume Brand Name Real Estate	Lee Lindler Golden Bear Realty, LLC	-	\$527,800
7) \$529,900	Leigh F. Brandenburg Agent Owned Preferred Group	Tim T. Rogers Agent Owned Preferred Group	15	\$525,000
8) \$509,900	Angie P. Foster Agent Owned Preferred Group	Jay N. Law The Beach Company	27	\$500,000
9) \$524,500	Temperance B. Parker Charleston Homes For Sale	Garrett Rust The Cassina Group	-	\$495,000
10) \$490,000	Lauren M. Pierce iSave Realty	Cindy Hunt Agent Owned Preferred Group	53	\$485,000

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TOP TEN MOST EXPENSIVE HOMES SOLD Jan. 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

South Mount Pleasant, S.C.

MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$5,500,000	Mary H. Molony Carolina One Real Estate	Nancy W. Hoy Carolina One Real Estate	81	\$4,900,000
2) \$3,249,500	Brown Hamrick Disher Hamrick & Myers	Laurie M. Thornhill Places LLC	61	\$3,025,000
3) \$2,100,000	Michael E. Dew Agent Owned Charleston Group	Ginn Maiers Dunes Properties of Charleston	69	\$1,950,000
4) \$1,950,000	Edward M. Boudolf Carolina One Real Estate	Michelle McQuillan William Means Real Estate	60	\$1,900,000
5) \$1,900,000	Lindsay Malanos Carriage Properties LLC	Lindsay Malanos Carriage Properties LLC	0	\$1,900,000
6) \$1,800,000	Jill F. Miller Carolina One Real Estate	Edward Andrew Carolina One Real Estate	33	\$1,760,000
7) \$1,950,000	Cuyler Applegate Applegate Real Estate	Jimmy Dye The Cassina Group	31	\$1,742,500
8) \$1,675,000	Michelle McQuillan William Means Real Estate	Michelle McQuillan William Means Real Estate	0	\$1,675,000
9) \$1,795,000	Ann Martin AHM Real Estate & Development	Charles W. Riley Sand Dollar Real Estate Group	12	\$1,650,000
10) \$1,650,000	Katherine E. Cox Carolina One Real Estate	Denise S. Holtz Luxury Simplified Real Estate Inc	61	\$1,620,000


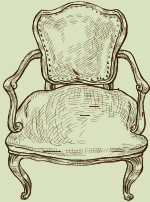

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TOP TEN MOST EXPENSIVE HOMES SOLD Jan. 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

North Mount Pleasant, S.C.

MLS LISTED PRICE	LISTING AGENT LISTING COMPANY	SELLING AGENT SELLING COMPANY	DAYS ON MARKET	SELLING PRICE
1) \$2,295,000	Everett Presson Carolina One Real Estate	Adam Rich Keller Williams Realty	-	\$2,100,000
2) \$1,795,000	Trent E. Buzille The Beach Company	Charlotte S. Gerber Carolina One Real Estate	41	\$1,465,745
3) \$1,549,000	Will Dammeyer William Means Real Estate	Nate P. Gainey Matt O'Neill Real Estate	38	\$1,455,000
4) \$1,399,000	Brian P. Beatty Keller Williams Realty Charleston	Mary Lou Wertz Atlantic Properties	44	\$1,340,000
5) \$1,425,000	Matt O'Neill Matt O'Neill Real Estate	Christine A. Donavan Carolina One Real Estate	13	\$1,325,000
6) \$1,295,000	Don E. Dawson Carolina One Real Estate	Darlene Smith Carolina One Real Estate	31	\$1,235,000
7) \$1,195,000	Herbert J Butler Disher Hamrick & Myers	Robertson Allen The Cassina Group	35	\$1,120,000
8) \$1,200,000	Don E. Dawson Carolina One Real Estate	Andrea Bell Coldwell Banker United	51	\$1,117,500
9) \$1,150,000	Clay C. Cunningham Carolina One Real Estate	Roxann G. Spandorfer Carolina One Real Estate	78	\$1,112,000
10) \$1,295,000	Janice R Harper Keller Williams Real Estate	Gary Langhoff The Boulevard Company, LLC	40	\$1,080,000

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This drawing is administered by Media Services, Inc., publishers of Mount Pleasant Magazine. All decisions of the publisher are final and binding in all matters as they relate to this drawing. The Draw Sponsors reserve the right to change any of the terms of the draw or to terminate the drawing at their sole discretion. Winners will be notified and arrangements will be made in regards to dining and hotel arrangements at that time. Arrangements are subject to availability. Eligibility: Subscription draw is open to all US residents who are 18 years or older. This subscription draw is void where prohibited or restricted by law. No purchase is necessary.

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Pictured left to right:
Landen Ganstrom, Crave Kitchen &
Cocktails; Kelly Franz, Magnolia's; and
Adam Jakins, Halls Chophouse.

Photographed and styled by Jenn
Cady Photography at the Charleston
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Creating A Stir
2015 Golden Spoon Winners Inside



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For the Love of Food

Our 2015 Golden Spoon Award Winners

IT'S HARDLY NEWS THAT LIFE IN THE Lowcountry is mostly about food. We love to eat and visit new restaurants regularly – and we figured that if we have favorites, our neighbors probably do, too. That's when we thought up The Golden Spoon Awards. It's a way for locals to show devotion to their favorite restaurants in the tri-county area. National accolades are great, but no one loves you more than your local family, right?

The Golden Spoon Awards are divided into five categories: quality of cuisine, ambience, cocktail options, service and value. The winning 15 restaurants in the following pages scored all five spoons in each of the five categories. We've also chosen eight additional winners for the Editor's Picks category, ranging from sushi to Southern cooking. These eight places are our personal go-tos when hunger strikes, and we know you're bound to love them, too.

The three chefs pictured on our cover represent a few of the winning establishments, and you can tell from their

beaming faces that they love good food. From left to right are: Landen Ganstrom, Crave Kitchen & Cocktails; Kelly Franz, Magnolia's; and Adam Jakins, Halls Chophouse. They were styled and photographed by Jenn Cady of Jenn Cady Photography inside the Charleston Distilling Company on Upper King Street. Thanks to everyone for your effort!

We hope you enjoy reading about the winning restaurants. We're including responses from our readers as well as our own remarks, plus contact information so you can visit these heavenly dining options for yourself. We had more than 8,000 spoons cast by residents in 22 states and 107 cities, and we're excited to have such great results for our first year.

Thanks for voting and for reading The Golden Spoon Awards. Enjoy!

Denise K. James
Managing Editor 🍷




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WINNING RESTAURANTS

THE GOLDEN 15

The Winning Restaurants Voted by You

The following 15 restaurants, as well as the comments, were submitted by our voters. Categories for Golden Spoons included quality of cuisine, quality of service, ambience, cocktail options and overall value. Congratulations to all winners! We hope you enjoy reading what they had to say about these 15 dining spots as much as we did.

~The Editors



Bistro Toulouse

We find ourselves at **Bistro Toulouse** all the time to enjoy their hanger steak with béarnaise, mussels, escargot and steak frites – to name a few. Brunch is lovely, too, and the desserts are to die for. We are recognized and the staff makes us feel special. What a breath of fresh air for Charleston to have a nice French restaurant!

Bistro Toulouse – 843-216-3434
1220 Ben Sawyer Blvd., Unit 1 • Mount Pleasant
Tuesday-Saturday: 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

I don't even like sitting at community tables in bar areas, but at **The Granary** I do. To me, that says a lot about the service and ambience. The food is delicious, and they have a great happy hour. We have convinced many people from West Ashley to visit the restaurant, located in Belle Hall on Long Point Road. We all know what a feat it is to get West Ashley folks to cross the bridge!

The Granary – 843-216-3832
624 Long Point Road • Mount Pleasant
Sunday: 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Dinner Monday-Thursday: 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 5 p.m.-10 p.m.



The Granary

WINNING RESTAURANTS



Page's Okra Grill

Our experience at **Page's** is consistently outstanding every single time. We dine there three to four times a month; not only is it a tremendous value, but the teamwork by staff in focusing on the customer experience is unmatched. Courtney, Ashleigh and Chase have done it well in all categories. The food is fresh, delicious and somewhere we take guests without hesitation.

Page's Okra Grill - 843-881-3333
 302 Coleman Blvd. • Mount Pleasant
 Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
 Saturday: 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
 Sunday: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

The food is always excellent, the service is great and you get enough food to fill you up and have some left most of the time. **Hyman's** is a great place to eat, and it's worth waiting for.

Hyman's Seafood - 843-723-6000
 215 Meeting St. • Charleston
 Weekdays: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. or 9:30 p.m.
 Weekends: 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.



Hyman's Seafood



WINNING RESTAURANTS



Poogan's Porch

Poogan's Porch was beautiful and had a quaint feeling to it. The staff was so friendly. My waiter, Jack, really was amazing! I asked for advice on what to order, and he went above and beyond on his suggestions! I ordered his suggestions and it was the best food I've ever had! Simply amazing food and wonderful people! Thanks Jack!!!

Poogan's Porch - 843-577-2337
72 Queen St. • Charleston
Monday-Friday: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.;
5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

I am not an experienced food critic, but I am Italian and I know good Italian food. **Wild Olive** has some of the best in Charleston, and with consistency. It has become my favorite place to go. It is friendly, casual and charming. The staff is knowledgeable, pleasant and unobtrusive. A sweet gem among the live oaks of Johns Island!

Wild Olive - 843-737-4177
2867 Maybank Highway • Johns Island
Sunday-Thursday: 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m.



Wild Olive

WINNING RESTAURANTS



Hank's Seafood Restaurant

Service was superb and the food was divine at **Hank's**. Everyone around us was saying whatever they were eating was the best they've ever had! They had a wine from Aix-en-Provence that you cannot find anywhere on the East Coast except in New York City.

Hank's Seafood Restaurant - 843-723-3474
 10 Hayne St. • Charleston
 Sunday-Thursday: 5 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
 Friday-Saturday: 5 p.m.-11 p.m.

My daughter took me to **Halls** for my birthday. I was greeted upon arrival by the owner, and we were treated with champagne to celebrate my birthday. Mr. Hall came to our table several times to see how my birthday dinner was going. The food was absolutely amazing. After completing our wonderful meal, I was treated with dessert. Absolutely wonderful experience. It made turning 65 worthwhile!

Halls Chophouse - 843-727-0090
 434 King St. • Charleston
 Monday- Saturday: 4 p.m.-2 a.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.; 5 p.m.-11 p.m.



Halls Chophouse



WINNING RESTAURANTS



SOL Southwest Kitchen & Tequila Bar

SOL is such a great restaurant, I don't even know where to start. Whether you are going for lunch or dinner, the selection and food are always awesome. Their drink selection is also second to none. Whether you are looking for the best margaritas or a classic wine, there is no other restaurant to choose.

SOL Southwest Kitchen & Tequila Bar - 843-388-4302

1101 Stockade Lane • Mount Pleasant

Sunday: 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Monday-Wednesday: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-1:30 a.m.

I love most items on the menu at **Acme**, but I gravitate to the specials with the standbys of collards and grits. I especially like the way the fish is prepared – never overwhelming the variety of character, always complementing its texture and enhancing the flavor with a perfect sauce, and always prepared to perfection. The people who work here always make their customers feel special and welcome.

Acme Lowcountry Kitchen - 843-886-0024

31 J.C. Long Blvd. • Isle of Palms

Breakfast: 8 a.m.-2 p.m. daily

Lunch: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. daily

Dinner: 5 p.m.-10 p.m. daily



Acme Lowcountry Kitchen



Crave Kitchen & Cocktails

Crave delivers great dishes, well presented, every time; anything on the chef's special menu for the day will delight. My goal is to try every menu item!

Crave Kitchen & Cocktails - 843-884-1177

1968 Riviera Drive • Mount Pleasant
 Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Friday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-11 p.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

"Thank you for selecting us
 in the
 Golden Spoon
 Awards"



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 Sept 9-20th



Burtons Grill

Always great food and service. Never a bad meal at **Burtons**.

Burtons Grill - 843-606-2590

1875 N. Highway 17 • Mount Pleasant
 Monday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Sunday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Happy Hour

Tuesday - Friday
 5:00 - 6:30pm

\$2 off Signature Cocktails
 and Wines by the glass,
 \$1 off Draft Beer and select Bottled Beer
 \$6 Mussels, \$3 Frites, \$3 Marinated Olives

Wine Wednesday

\$10 off ALL bottles of Wine ALL day!

Lunch Tuesday - Friday 11:30am - 2:30pm
 Dinner Tuesday - Sunday 5:00pm - 9:30pm
 Brunch Saturday - Sunday 11:00am - 3:00pm

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843-216-3434



www.BistroToulouse.com



WINNING RESTAURANTS



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www.pagesokragrill.com**



Graze

Graze is a hidden gem and one of my favorites! We always have a great eating experience from beginning to end. Wait staff is always super personable and helpful. It's such a delight to have Graze close by!

Graze - 843-606-2493

863 Houston Northcutt Blvd. • Mount Pleasant

115 E. 5th North St. • Summerville

Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.; 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; 5 p.m.-10 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; 5 p.m.-9 p.m.



Magnolia's

The food at **Magnolia's** is absolutely wonderful! Fresh and beautifully plated, and the waiters are very knowledgeable.

Magnolia's - 843-577-7771

185 E. Bay St. • Charleston

Monday-Saturday lunch: 11:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Dinner: Nightly from 3:45 p.m.

Brunch: Sunday 10 a.m.- 3:45 p.m.

WINNING RESTAURANTS



Hominy Grill

We had just lost our dog and went to **Hominy Grill** for some comfort food since we hadn't really been eating. It was our first time in. We ordered their Charleston Nasty biscuit and some grits. The food was hot and the fried chicken was so amazing and the grits so creamy, it was like a warm hug from my grandma and the very definition of comfort food. Our server noticed we were down and asked if we were OK. We told her what had happened. She had been warm the entire time, but she went back to the kitchen and brought us two of their homemade chocolate puddings. We have always had great food and great service, and I always think of the kindness and hospitality we were shown at Hominy that day. When I order the pudding now, I always feel a little warm spot in my heart, and it makes me feel like it's a little visit from our fur baby, who has always enjoyed all the wonderful spots we love to eat with him. (He personally loved Okra Grill and Andolini's on Coleman!)

Hominy Grill - 843-937-0930
 207 Rutledge Ave. • Charleston
 Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
 Saturday: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
 Sunday: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.



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Eight of Our Faves

Editor's Picks for The Golden Spoon Awards

The following eight restaurants were handpicked by our editorial staff from the Golden List. We hope you enjoy reading about them and eventually trying them for yourselves.
~The Editors



FIG

Did you know that **FIG** actually stands for the phrase "Food is good?" The first time I dined at this mainstay of Charleston's culinary scene, I found this out and totally admired the restaurant's confidence. I mean, to name a place Food is Good means it has to always be good – and it is.

Fig - 843-805-5900
232 Meeting St. • Charleston
Monday-Thursday: 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

When **Husk** opened, I made the executive decision to visit the burning hot spot months after the hype died off. Well, the months turned into years. And the hype is still going, y'all. I finally had to elbow my way through the adoring crowd and see what the fuss is about. The burger is worth it. There's other stuff on the menu, too, but I'm on an artist's budget.

Husk - 843-577-2500
76 Queen St. • Charleston
Monday-Thursday:
11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday:
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m. -11 p.m.
Sunday:
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.



Husk



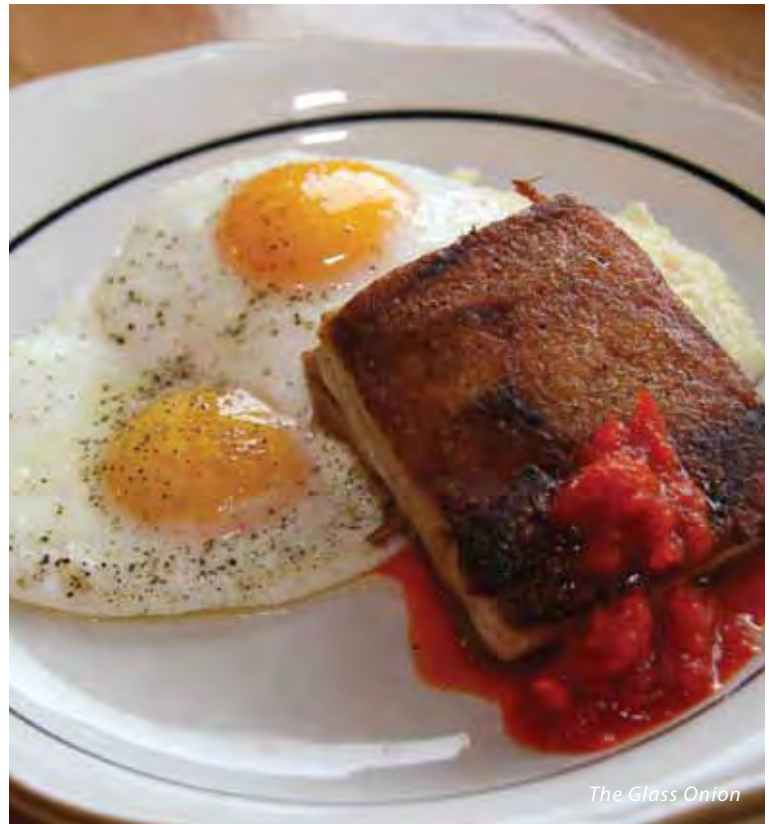
Butcher & Bee

Don't you just love the name **Butcher & Bee**? Much like the juxtaposition of the words "butcher" and "bee," this sandwich shop in downtown Charleston is known for eclectic, tasty recipes made with fresh and unexpected ingredients – and they change daily. Take your clients there for lunch and impress them with your sophisticated palate.

Butcher & Bee – 843-619-0202
 654 King St. • Charleston
 Sunday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Friday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

The first time I had a deviled egg at the **Glass Onion**, I became a convert. Then I had the quail. ... and then the grilled pimento cheese ... and then the homemade desserts. My love grew with every bite. In fact, just writing this almost makes me want to drive to West Ashley from my house in Mount Pleasant – during rush hour traffic.

The Glass Onion - 843-225-1717
 1219 Savannah Highway • Charleston
 Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.
 Friday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; 4:30 p.m.-10 p.m.



The Glass Onion



EDITOR'S PICKS



When I want good sushi East of the Cooper, I visit **Fuji Sushi Bar & Grill**. I do the same thing when I want yummy hibachi vegetables, a good selection of appetizers, flavored sake or a random run-in with my friends who also love the place. Try the Bento Box at lunch – it's an awesome deal.

Fuji Sushi Bar & Grill - 843-856-5798
Belle Hall Shopping Center • 644-Q Long Point Road • Mount Pleasant
Monday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Friday: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Saturday: noon-11 p.m.

If you're looking for a swanky dinner or drink spot in Mount Pleasant, **Red Drum** is an excellent pick. The outdoor patio can't be beat on a temperate Lowcountry evening. But this restaurant has a following for the weekend brunch hours as well. After all, a place that serves brunch on Saturdays – with specials on champagne cocktails and sourdough French toast – belongs on everyone's speed dial.

Red Drum - 843-849-0313
803 Coleman Blvd. • Mount Pleasant
Monday-Friday: 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.;
5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.





Fat Hen

A drive out to Johns Island – unless you're fortunate enough to live there – always revolves around a meal at **Fat Hen**, at least for me. Offering a wide variety of cuisine known as "Lowcountry French," the restaurant keeps regulars happy with a chic, reasonably priced bar menu in the afternoons, great dinner options at night and one of the coolest weekend brunches around.

Fat Hen - 843-559-9090
 3140 Maybank Highway • Johns Island
 Monday-Saturday: 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sometimes, when I think I miss living on James Island, I realize that I really just miss **Zia Taqueria**. Their margaritas, in my opinion, are the absolute best in the Lowcountry. And their salsa has this unique kick to it that I just can't find elsewhere. And their nachos are individually prepared, so you can savor each one. They also have great fish tacos. I think you get the idea.

Zia Taqueria - 843-406-8877
 1956A Maybank Highway • Charleston
 Sunday-Wednesday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Thursday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-midnight; bar until 2 a.m.



Zia Taqueria

A Perfect Dinner Pairing

CHARLESTON'S RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE AND THE GCRA

Story by Brian Barrie.

Photos courtesy of Charleston's Ronald McDonald House.

FOR OVER 30 YEARS, CHARLESTON'S Ronald McDonald House has been an invaluable resource to families of hospitalized children, providing food and shelter so they can focus on the child's return to health without worrying about paying for hotels and restaurants.

Tens of thousands of family members have been helped

by the Ronald McDonald House in Charleston, but when the organization embarked on an expansion and upgrade project to add five bedrooms, five bathrooms, a computer room, two sitting areas and a renovated kitchen, it was in need of some outside help.

"We strive to provide our families with three meals a day, and knew with the kitchen under renovation, that was going to be difficult," explained Rachel Hubbard, market-



Tens of thousands of families have been helped by Charleston's Ronald McDonald House. When the House needed assistance, local restaurants pitched in.

ing and special events coordinator for the Ronald McDonald House.

Fortunately, they knew just who to ask.

“The Greater Charleston Restaurant Association has been involved from the very beginning, raising funds for the opening of our house in

1983. To date they have raised over \$300,000 in both cash and in-kind donations,” Hubbard pointed out.

Kimberly Lemasters, volunteer coordinator for the Ronald McDonald House, reached out to the GCRA.

“At an association board meeting, I presented the need for donated dinners

during kitchen construction and asked for their help,” recalled Lemasters. “(GCRA President) Anthony DiBernardo promised all dinners would be filled right there on the spot without hesitation. Everyone involved has been extremely motivated and supportive.”

True to their word, Charleston's restaurants stepped up and came through for the charity, providing 50 meals per night for over a month, including drinks and utensils.

“We strongly believe in being supportive and helping out our local community any way we can, and when the Charleston Restaurant Association reached out to provide food for the Ronald McDonald House, we happily agreed to assist,” stated Scott Shor, owner of Edmund's Oast. “The Ronald McDonald House offers an important place for families dealing with sick children, and they need to be nourished and cared for. When we heard the kitchen was out of service, we gladly offered to help in any way and were glad we could cook a dinner during that time.”

For many of the restaurateurs, helping out on this project was much more meaningful than just donating food to charity. After all, helping families of sick children is something everyone can empathize with, regardless of whether they've been in that position themselves. Joe Fischbein, co-owner of Five Loaves Cafe and Sesame, has seen that situation play

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out from the other side and has a special interest in the work done by the Ronald McDonald House.

"I had to spend three weeks in the hospital when I was 10 years old," recalled Fischbein, "so I have a little understanding of what these children and families are going through. Organizations that cater to children are near and dear to me. We love to help and give back to the community."

Of course preparing, packaging and delivering 50 meals a night involves the entire restaurant staff pitching in, and doing it without sacrificing service for their paying customers.

"Whoever's on shift pitches in. We box up the food and deliver it over there," explained Chip Roberts, co-owner of The Kickin' Chicken. "There were two different occasions that we donated meals for 50 people. That's part of our culture – we do a lot of charitable work and give back to the community whenever we can, especially when it involves kids and special needs children. Anything with kids involved is a no-brainer for us."

Hubbard emphasized that nothing is more important to the Ronald McDonald House than its mission to help the families of hospitalized children and that the GCRA's overwhelming support allowed the organization to continue to take care of those families' basic needs so they could focus on what matters to them most – their kids.

"We relied very heavily on these restaurants to bring in dinners for the families and could not be more thankful for the Charleston Restaurant Association's support," said Hubbard. "After a long day at the hospital, the last thing we want our families to have to worry about is what they are going to eat that evening."

Thanks to the GCRA, those families ate well. 🍌



PITCHING IN

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS INCLUDED:

82 Queen
 Art Institute of Charleston
 Crave Kitchen & Cocktails
 DeSano Pizza Bakery
 Edmund's Oast
 Fish
 Five Loaves/Sesame
 Fleet Landing
 Graze
 Halo Charleston
 Katsu
 Kickin' Chicken
 La Tabella
 Lowcountry Bistro
 My Father's Moustache
 P.F. Chang's China Bistro
 Red's/Tavern & Table
 Rio Bertolini's Pasta
 Sol Southwest Kitchen
 & Tequila Bar
 Southerly
 St. James Gate Irish Pub
 Swig & Swine
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 The Islander
 The Shelter Kitchen and Bar
 Triangle Mount Pleasant
 Tristan Catering
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#DINEHCH - FOLLOW US

Get On Board

Turning the Tide for Sustainable Seafood

CHARLESTON: THE CITY'S name is almost synonymous with fresh, local seafood. But when you go to an area restaurant, do you really know where your fish or shellfish came from and how it was caught?

The South Carolina Aquarium's Good Catch program is a sustainable seafood initiative angling to generate consumer awareness and serve as a resource for chefs striving to support it. Good Catch partners with restaurants that are committed to serving sustainable seafood whenever possible, and the program markets these restaurant partners to highlight the good, sustainable choices they are making.

BY ANNE TOOLE

“One thing we do is answer questions chefs might have; we advise them on what are good options to have on the menu and can discuss seafood they are thinking about serving to make sure it is sustainable and responsibly harvested,” said Shelley Dearhart, manager of Good Catch for the South Carolina Aquarium. “While we emphasize the importance of local and domestic seafood, Good Catch also advises on sustainable seafood harvested elsewhere.”

A small portion of these restaurants are considered Platinum partners and have earned high scores after having their menus assessed by Dearhart.

“Anyone who walks into a Platinum status restaurant can feel good about the sustainable choice they made. Often, the quality goes hand-in-hand when chefs care that much about where their seafood comes from,” she said.

Good Catch's partner restaurants have taken big steps to support the sustainable seafood initiative, but strong community involvement is vital to truly turn the tide to



Photo courtesy of The South Carolina Aquarium.

Chef Rich Demarse of Charleston Harbor Fish House is a supporter of the South Carolina Aquarium's Good Catch program.



keep local fisheries ecologically balanced.

“It is so important for consumers to know where their seafood comes from,” Dearhart explained. “We have started an Ask Before You Order campaign (#PledgeToAsk), giving the community a collective voice to ask before ordering – not only where it came from, but how it was caught. As more people take a stand in favor of sustainable seafood, more restaurants will accommodate, and together our local fisheries will thrive.”

While the popular bumper sticker, “Friends don’t let friends eat imported shrimp,” has become a battle cry in support of the local crustaceans, there are plenty of other fish in the sea. Good Catch offers advice on sustainable fisheries for more than 70 species.

“There’s actually a big push for restaurants to offer underutilized seafood,” Dearhart said. “Using underutilized species can help prevent overfishing of more commonly known menu items, such as grouper, and helps

promote an ecological balance in the ocean.”

As more people #PledgeToAsk, the demand for servers and chefs to know more about the seafood they serve is growing. Good Catch plans to develop a tool this fall that will help educate them on sustainable seafood and to give them quick access to vital information.

Good Catch’s dinner series offers customers a chance to try some of the Lowcountry’s best sustainable seafood. Each month, a partner restaurant hosts a multicourse meal, complete with beer or wine pairings and served up with a side of education. September’s event will be a cooking demonstration at Southern Season in Mount Pleasant. 🍷

Hungry for more? Visit www.scaquarium.org/goodcatch; in addition to seeing the mouthwatering list of partner restaurants, you can also learn what fish are in season locally and sign up for the #PledgeToAsk campaign.





EC EATS

East Cooper Dining Guide



DANIEL ISLAND

Agaves Cantina, locally owned, opened in 2013 and features beautiful interior décor, delicious eats and friendly service. Cuisine: Mexican • 885 Island Park Drive • 843-971-6790 • www.agavescantina.com • \$ • \$-\$\$ • ☂ • 🐾

Ali Baba Deli has traditional Greek and Mediterranean cuisine, such as chicken or beef shawarma, lamb kebobs, gyros and stuffed grape leaves. Healthy and delicious crafted dishes are from recipes passed through generations. Cuisine: Mediterranean • 186 Seven Farms Drive, Suite 500 • 843-377-8666 • www.alibabacharleston.com • \$ • ☂ • 🐾

At **Daniel Island Grille**, also known as DIG, hospitality

is the driving concept. Opened in 2008, DIG boasts the biggest outdoor patios in Charleston, with plenty of space to enjoy the beautiful Lowcountry weather. Cuisine: American • 259 Seven Farms Drive • 843-377-8750 • www.dighospitality.com • \$ • ☂ • 🐾

Dragon Palace is the first Charleston imperial garden Chinese bistro. Chef Cheng Sin Yung offers authentic Chinese cuisine in a charismatic Oriental atmosphere. All dishes on the menu are carefully crafted and prepared with originality in mind. Cuisine: Chinese/Asian • 162 Seven Farms Drive, Suite 320 • 843-388-8823 • www.dragonplacesc.com • \$-\$\$



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www.simmonsseafood.com



Billy, Bubba and Will Simmons are carrying on the Simmons Seafood Tradition.



Hokey Pokey Handcrafted Ice Cream offers fresh churned ice cream and milkshakes. Visit their Facebook page to see which flavors are available. Cuisine: dessert/ice cream/gelato • 162 Seven Farms Drive, #335 • 843-881-8686 • \$ • ☂ • 🐾

Honeycomb Café is the perfect place to start your day with a scrumptious breakfast such as sweet blueberry pancakes or savory omelets with thick-cut bacon. Lunch is also served daily. Cuisine: American/vegetarian • 162 Seven Farms Drive, #340 • 843-881-8686 • www.honeycombcafe.org • \$ • ☂ • 🐾

ISLE OF PALMS

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

Banana Cabana is committed to satisfying customers with great food, excellent service and a wide variety of

delicious dishes for lunch and dinner. Cuisine: American/seafood • 1130 Ocean Blvd. • 843-886-4360 • www.thebananacabanasc.com • \$-\$\$ • ☂

Coconut Joe's Beach Grill & Bar offers spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean from a covered outside deck, air conditioned dining room or open-air rooftop bar. Enjoy live music every night during the high season and revel in a bit of the Caribbean on the Isle of Palms. Cuisine: American • 1120 Ocean Blvd. • 843-886-0046 • www.coconutjoes.biz • \$-\$\$ • ☂

Coda del Pesce offers sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy handmade pastas, fresh, local Italian seafood-inspired cuisine and a stellar all Italian wine selection. Cuisine: Italian/seafood • 1130 Ocean Blvd. • 843-242-8570 • www.codadelpesce.com • \$-\$\$



The Boathouse at Breach Inlet serves dinner nightly and Sunday brunch. Its roots run deep when it comes to Southern cooking, drawing from family recipes scrawled on cards in plantation kitchens to the modern locavore movement and relying on South Carolina's natural fresh


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abundance. Cuisine: Seafood • 101 Palm Blvd. • 843-886-8000 • www.boathouserestaurants.com •  



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




SULLIVAN'S ISLAND




Café Medley has anything and everything to do with coffee, goodies and wine. Café Medley is Sullivan's Island go-to place for gourmet ice cream, wine, baked goods and espresso. Cuisine: desserts/sandwiches/wine • 2213 Middle St., Suite 205 • 843-793-4055 • www.cafemedley.com • 


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

Poe's Tavern is located two blocks from the beach on beautiful Sullivan's Island. Named for Edgar Allen Poe, who, at the age of 18, enlisted in the Army and called

Sullivan's Island home. We're best known for great burgers and drinks. Cuisine: American • 2210 Middle St. • 843-883-0083 • www.poestavern.com •  • 

SALT at Station 22 is smack dab in the middle of Sullivan's Island, just blocks from the beach and in the center of where it is all happening. Dinner is served daily, and Sunday brunch is one of the most delicious you will find in Charleston. Cuisine: American • 2205 Middle St. • 843-883-3355 • www.saltstation22.com •   • 

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

The Obstinate Daughter is a name in homage to the Revolutionary War history of Sullivan's Island. Open for lunch and dinner as well as Saturday/Sunday brunch. Cuisine: Italian/pizza/seafood • 2063 Middle St. • 843-416-5020 • www.theobstinatedaughter.com • 

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Crave Kitchen & Cocktails

IT MAY SEEM CLICHE TO SAY THAT a restaurant strives to “put the customer first,” but, at Crave, those are words the owner and staff live by.

“It is our role and honor to provide exceptional service and exceed our guest’s expectations each and every time they grant us the privilege to serve them,” explained Peter Woodman, owner of Crave Kitchen & Cocktails. “It may sound like a simple concept, but it is true.”

Woodman, originally from Ireland, was surprised by the level of service he found when he first visited the area.

“In this industry, and we’ve got to get back to basics,” Woodman said. “At Crave, we focus our training on taking care of the guests.”

All that training has paid off.

Out of the 8,000-plus votes cast for more than 145 restaurants in Mount Pleasant Magazine’s inaugural Golden Spoon Awards, Crave came out on top with more 5-spoon votes than any other restaurant.

“I only wish I could accurately articulate to you the sense of joy our staff exhibited when we announced (the award) to them,” Woodman said. “They literally stood up from the table, high-fiving each other, hooting and laughing. That in itself speaks volumes about how serious our crew takes our restaurant. And to see that spontaneous reaction of genuine joy meant the world to me.”

Great customer service is vital, but you’re not going to win the kind of accolades that Crave has been collecting lately without pairing that service with top-notch food, and that’s where Chef Landen Ganstrom comes in.

“Chef Landen has been at the helm for seven years and is easily one of the top chefs I’ve come in contact with in 20 years working in this industry,” said Woodman.

At the top of Crave’s expansive menu, which covers everything from Lowcountry favorites to exotic creations – much of which is sourced from local farmers and fishermen – you’ll find the restaurant’s famous mac ’n cheese. But this isn’t your mother’s mac ’n cheese – it’s the perennial winner of the Charleston Mac Off. Ganstrom developed the recipe with his daughters and personally oversees each portion that leaves his kitchen.

If it seems unusual that a “comfort food” such as mac ’n cheese holds such an esteemed position on Crave’s menu,

then you probably haven’t been to the restaurant yet. One of Woodman’s favorite refrains is that “when a guest comes into your establishment, they’re coming into your home,” and dining at Crave is truly like dining with good friends who happen to be amazing cooks.

But that warm and fuzzy feeling you have leaving Crave isn’t just from the atmosphere; chances are it also comes from the bar that features some of the most innovative cocktails in the area. With house-made mixers and creative garnishes, Mixologist Shaun Gordon’s creations are an excellent complement to Ganstrom’s menu.

Woodman insists all the credit for Crave’s continued success should go to his entire crew.

“I have not created this; Chef Landen has not created this; our management team has not created this. Everyone from the dish guy to the top has. It truly has and will continue to be a team effort and team goal to stand by our core values,” he insisted. 🍷

Crave is located at 1868 Riviera Drive in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, call 843-884-1177 or visit www.cravekitchenandcocktails.com.



Crave’s mac ’n cheese, top, is always a winner, while the menu covers everything from Lowcountry favorites to exotic creations.

Photos courtesy of Crave.

Beyond Your Basic Coffee Joint

Vintage Coffee & Cafe

JAVA. JOE. MUD. WHATEVER NAME you assign to the boldly roasted caffeinated beverage that gives you a reason to wake up in the morning, one thing we can all agree on is its importance to getting our motors revved. Whether folks start their day with a light amber blend or a frothy cappuccino, a steaming hot beverage usually takes precedence as the sun rises. And now coffee lovers and foodies in Mount Pleasant

BY KALENE MCCORT

have reason to rejoice, with the arrival of Vintage Coffee & Café.

This latest endeavor, from Coastal Crust's Brian Piesner, is perfecting the art of perk, one macchiato at a time.

"I wanted to create a place that truly welcomed all within our community," said Piesner. "From families looking to enjoy a great meal to a freelance graphic designer looking to fuel up before a day of work, Vintage accommodates everyone."

The space on Simmons Street is the epitome of inviting and the direct opposite of corporate chain. Vintage is located in a storybook-esque white house, complete with picture windows and surrounded by towering trees. It's as if you are visiting the

home of a friend with a beverage selection that would rival that of Starbucks. With clean-lined artsy décor and an antique aesthetic, Vintage offers up the ideal environment to power up your computer and get some work in. While the free Wi-Fi and aromatic brews are incentive to visit, the food provides a reason to stay.

Chef Brandy Svec, a graduate of The Cooking and Hospitality Institute of Chicago with over a decade of experience, keeps the menu zestfully innovative. With mouthwatering breakfast dishes such as cinnamon bun French toast, to the more gourmet "Peasant Board," which incorporates various forms of charcuterie, there is sure to be something to satisfy everyone.

"This is not your typical lunch place," said Piesner. "We want to bring our customers back with our uniqueness and flavor."

Using fresh and local ingredients, the thoughtful dishes served up truly catapult Vintage to a level far beyond your basic coffee joint. Instead of typical store-bought bagels, you get a selection of farm-to-table options sure to excite your palate.

The woman behind the creative coffee selection is Powers Gray – a renegade of the roast, who has been steeped in the industry for years. Focusing on shining the spotlight on roasters who offer blends made from sustainably harvested beans, she is dedicated to bringing the finest selection to your cup. Currently, Vintage proudly serves up Counter Culture Coffee – a Durham, North Carolina-based company that recently opened a training center in downtown Charleston.

With plenty of outdoor seating, Vintage is the perfect place to sit, sip and savor. Capturing the hipness of a Portland coffee house, sans pretentiousness, this is one establishment you are going to want to frequent. Private parties can even be arranged for those looking to plan a memorable event filled with stimulating beverages in an

equally as engaging environment. Behind this charming establishment there is a sizable outdoor space that Piesner envisions will be the locale for many a festivity.

Soon, Vintage's exterior space will be graced with a funky playground made from a repurposed 1953 Chevy and reclaimed Kentucky paddock wood.

"We are family friendly, right down to the menu and environment," said Piesner. "By creating this unique exterior area, we plan to be more than just a place to grab a coffee." ☕

Vintage Coffee & Café is located at 219 Simmons St. in Mount Pleasant. To learn more, visit www.vintagecoffeecafe.com or call 843-654-9606.



Vintage proudly serves up Counter Culture Coffee, a Durham, North Carolina-based company that recently opened a training center in downtown Charleston

Photo by Powers Gray.



The Golden List

The following restaurants received votes in the Golden Spoon competition. For more about the Golden Spoon Awards, please visit www.CharlestonGoldenSpoon.com.

- 39 Rue de Jean
- 82 Queen
- Acme Lowcountry Kitchen
- Al Di La
- Amalfi's
- Angel Oak
- Annie's Bistro
- Bacco
- Banana Cabana
- Barony Tavern
- Basil
- Beirgarten
- Big Game Bar and Grill
- Bistro Toulouse
- Blossom
- Bohemiam Bull
- Bone Island Nuts & Fudge
- Bougnat
- Boxcar Betty's
- Bricco Bracco
- Bocci's
- Bubba Gump Shrimp Company
- Burtons Grill
- Bushido
- Butcher & Bee
- California Dreaming
- Carmen Y Juan
- Caro-Mia Restaurant
- Charleston Cafe
- Chez Nous
- Charleston Crab House
- Charleston Donuts
- Charleston Harbor Fish House
- Coast
- Coda Del Pesce
- Coleman Public House
- Crave
- Cru Cafe
- Cypress
- Dog and Duck
- Drawing Room
- Eli's Kitchen
- EVO
- My Father's Moustache
- Fig
- Fish
- Five Loaves Cafe
- Fleet Landing
- Fuel
- Fuji Sushi Bar and Grill
- Fulton Five
- Gennaro's
- Gilligan's
- Momma Goldberg's
- Graze
- Grill 225
- Grimaldi's
- Halls Chophouse
- Hank's
- High Cotton
- High Thyme
- Hominy Grill
- Husk
- Hyman's
- JB's Smokeshack
- Jestine's Kitchen
- Jim 'N Nicks
- La Hacienda
- Langdon's
- Leon's
- Long Island Cafe
- Lost Dog Cafe
- Magnolias
- Marco's
- McCrary's
- Melvin's Barbecue
- Middleton Plantation
- Minero
- Molly Darcy's
- Momma Goldberg's
- Ms. Rose's
- Mustard Seed
- Nigels Good Food
- Old Village Post House
- Olive Garden
- On Forty-one
- Opal
- Page's Okra Grill
- Pattaya Thai
- Pearlz
- Peninsula Grill
- Philly's
- Poe's
- Poogan's Porch
- Prohibition
- Queology
- RB's
- Red Drum
- Reds Icehouse
- Rusty Rudder
- Santi's
- Seasame
- SeeWee Restaurant
- Senor Tequila
- Sermet's
- Shem Creek Bar & Grill
- Slightly North of Broad
- SOL
- Steel City
- Swig & Swine
- Tabbuli
- Taste of India
- Tavern & Table
- Tbonz Bar Gill & Grill
- Texas Roadhouse
- Thai Elephants
- The Americano
- The Boathouse at Breach Inlet
- The Fat Hen
- The Granary
- The Islander
- The Obstinate Daughter
- The Ordinary
- The Palmetto Room
- The Pickled Palate
- The Wild Olive
- The Wreck
- Toast
- Tokyo Bistro
- Trattoria Lucca
- Triangle Char and Bar
- Vickery's
- Water's Edge
- Wild Wing Cafe
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Unbridled Beauty



Jeff Jackson, the designer of Sullivan's Island's nature trail, wanted it to blend with its surroundings and be as unobtrusive as possible.

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND'S NATURE BOARDWALK

Story by Kalene McCort.

Photos courtesy of Jeff Jackson.

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Jeff Jackson has been advocating for a nature trail on Sullivan's Island for the better part of two decades.

THE SUN IS SETTING EVER SO gracefully over the waves, painting the sky in shades of lavender and burnt orange. The air is thick with humidity and salt. I'm at the beach at Sullivan's Island, but gentle grains of sand are not caressing my feet. Instead, I'm standing on a section of slightly elevated boardwalk constructed out of treated Southern yellow pine. Close to the ground, the trail hugs the earth, leaving room for a multitude of frolicking creatures making their way through the waving sea oats. This wooded coastal habitat recently got a very welcomed addition in the form of a 2,000-foot-long nature trail that zigs, zags and offers up an array of secluded spots for solitude and meditation.

"I wanted it to blend in with its surroundings and be as unobtrusive as possible," said Jeff Jackson, the designer behind the winding path located off of Atlantic Street near Station 16. "When on a nature trail, one should see nature. The nature is the star here."

Although Jackson is ecstatic about sharing the area's beauty with creatures of the human variety, he holds the habitat's role in securing a space where animals thrive to be of the utmost importance. A lover of the great outdoors, he revels in seeing the wildlife that inhabits a maritime forest that just 50 years ago was underwater. From migrating songbirds to swallowtail butterflies, the residents of this

enclave are always colorful.

While nature's beauty was definitely one of the muses for this trail, Jackson's design also pays homage to other area landmarks that may surprise you.

"The construction is inspired by both our three-sided lighthouse and our abundance of military architecture with its interesting angles," said Jackson. "I wanted few right angles. I feel it gives the boardwalk a sense of place."

And found its place it has, with the unique trail attracting both visiting tourists and locals who have pondered exploring the lush woods but never had the opportunity to do so in this way until now.

Twenty years ago, Jackson suggested that this nature trail and boardwalk be constructed so that future generations could share in the scenic serenity that seeps from every corner of Sullivan's Island. Through grant funds from The Urban Greenbelt Grant Project and support from The Town of Sullivan's Island, Charleston County Parks and Recreation, Charleston County and the Lowcountry Open Land Trust, this venture has finally taken shape.

Eleven backless benches, some up to 14 feet long, are cradled by vibrant greenery. Just a few steps onto the \$45,000 trail and you will truly feel like you are in a secluded Eden of sorts, far from civilization. Sure, The Obstinate Daughter and Poe's Tavern are just a stone's throw from this sanctuary, but you certainly wouldn't know it given the unencumbered views. As additional signage is



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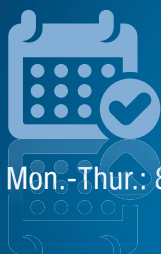
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To Jeff Jackson, who designed the trail, securing a space where animals thrive is the nature trail's most important job – "When on a nature trail, one should see nature. The nature is the star here."



added, it too will be unobtrusive to keep a low profile and let the natural surroundings take center stage.

Jackson purposely made sure to keep the boardwalk low to the ground so no unsightly rails would be required.

"I also used existing contours and open areas as much as possible to reduce the impact," said Jackson. "No major trees were removed, and very little grading. Less disturbance means any construction scars will disappear faster."

From dawn to dusk, nature seekers have access to the trail that elegantly flows throughout more than 90 acres of protected land.

"The most rewarding aspect is to be able to showcase a place that has been one of my favorite haunts for over 35 years and use it to educate the public about its importance in the grand scheme of things," said Jackson. "If rising sea level predictions are even partially correct, this could be one of our last opportunities to observe natural succession in a maritime setting." 🐢



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Steamer **SAPPHO** leaves Sullivan's Island at 1:15 P. M., 4:15 P. M., 6:30 P. M., 9:15 P. M.
Steamer **POCOSIN** leaves Sullivan's Island at 3:20 P. M., to connect with 6:45 P. M. train for Augusta.
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Luxury in Our History

THE NEW BRIGHTON HOTEL

Story by Mary Coy.

Artwork courtesy of South Carolinian Library, University of South Carolina.

ALUXURY RESORT HOTEL RIGHT in the middle of Sullivan's Island? And with a casino, performance hall and its own sources of water and natural gas? Yes, this actually happened.

Built in 1884, the New Brighton Hotel rivaled any resort on the East Coast at the time. Its existence was intended to spur the dawn of a new era, a post-Civil War identity that capitalized on tourism. The site between Station 22 and 22½ was donated by the town of Moultrieville for that purpose, and the 11-acre tract was given the alluring name "Ocean Park." Boston businessman J.F. Burnham, "a Northern gentleman of means," paid construction costs and owned the buildings for more than a decade. The ownership changed hands in 1896 when the McCullough family of

Columbia bought the property and renamed it the Atlantic Beach Hotel.

The New Brighton was not the first hotel on Sullivan's Island. Even before the Civil War, the village of Moultrieville was one of the most popular summer resorts in the United States, with several boarding houses and a well-known hotel called the Moultrie House. But the concept of luring wealthy northerners took on new importance after the war, and the region's struggling economy yearned for the attention. At the time, *The News and Courier* reported that "the public may rest assured that Charleston will become the great summer resort of the South." Hundreds of local jobs were created with the New Brighton's construction alone, and, as an incentive for investment, the hotel's owner was exempt from paying property taxes for the first five years.

Atlanticville, as the middle of the island was then known, was on the outskirts of the island's established residential area, so there was plenty of room for the multiple buildings that comprised the resort. Besides the grand, 112-room hotel, with its Victorian turrets and towers, there were several two-story guest cottages, each with eight to 10 rooms equipped with "speaking tubes" so guests could contact the hotel's office. The resort's property ran from the ocean front to the "back beach," with horse stables and fowl houses at the far rear of the compound. A private rail line for use by guests only ran to the hotel from the ferry at the southern point of the island.

The main building sat on 7-foot-high brick pillars. A 65,000-gallon cistern and a wine cellar made of solid brick were at ground level. Dormer windows and a mansard-style roof topped off the three-story structure. The hotel's interior design took full advantage of the prevailing sea breeze, using wide hallways to keep the air circulating and second-story rooms with French doors that opened onto private balconies.

The dining room, on the first floor, was kept cool with its 18 windows and 15-foot ceiling. A wide veranda facing the ocean ran the entire 120-foot length of the building.

The hotel's furnishings were extravagant, and guests had the modern conveniences of gas lighting and electric bells in their rooms to summon the front desk. The lavish garden behind the hotel was trimmed with Bermuda grass, ornamental trees and shrubbery, emulating prominent resorts in the North. Roy Williams, author and long-time islander, believes even the Brighton Hotel's name was meant to evoke the image of "the most fashionable resort in England."

The casino, in a separate building facing what is now I'On Avenue, featured private billiard rooms, pool rooms and saloons. Additional guest rooms were on the floor

above. A performance hall with a seating capacity for 500 featured nationally-acclaimed entertainers, including the renowned Reaves American Band and the Vienna Female Orchestra. Because of the first-class entertainment, Charleston residents were among the patrons of the performances. In fact, one advertisement in the local newspaper informed Charlestonians that they could take the ferry over to the island, enjoy a performance and return home that evening for much the same cost as attending one at the popular Academy of Music downtown.

Two bathhouses – one for men and one for women – were on the premises. Since most people did not own



bathing suits in those days, they were provided for guests. A wooden walkway led out to the beach so guests wouldn't have to climb over the sand dunes to get to the ocean.

The hotel survived several hurricanes but met its demise in a fire in January 1925. By then, it was operating as the less illustrious Atlantic Beach Hotel. Legend has it that a bootlegger who was searching the bushes near the casino for his hidden supply accidentally ignited the brush, causing a fire that spread to the main building and cottages.

By that time, the allure of Sullivan's Island's main attraction had faded, due in large part to the popularity of newer resorts in Florida. But standing on the wide beach today, with the dunes and lush maritime forests at your back, it's not too hard to imagine the excitement experienced by guests of the New Brighton Hotel. 🍷



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STREETS THAT TELL STORIES

A SULLIVAN'S ISLAND
HISTORY LESSON

CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THE key role Sullivan's Island has played in U.S. history can be found on a map of the city or by taking a short drive from one end of the island to the other.

The names of the streets that crisscross the island reflect the people and events that combined to help settle a continent, forge a nation, survive a major internal conflict and emerge from two world wars as the most powerful country on Earth.

Sullivan's Island took its name from Florence O'Sullivan, who traveled to the American Colonies from Ireland in 1669 and was elected to South Carolina's First Provin-

cial Parliament three years later. In May of 1674, he was placed in charge of a signal cannon that he was to fire as a warning to settlers at Charles Towne when ships entered the harbor. For more than two-and-a-half centuries, until the end of World War II, Sullivan's Island played a key role in the harbor's defense.

Many of the island's streets honor its place in American history. For example, early in the Revolutionary War, the British tried to take Charleston by land and sea, bombarding Fort Sullivan, commanded by Gen. William Moultrie, from the harbor and attempting to advance across Breach Inlet from Long Island, now the Isle of Palms. The Brit-

ish effort fell short on both fronts, thanks in part to the heroics of soldiers whose names now grace street signs on Sullivan's Island.

Sgt. William Jasper risked life and limb under heavy fire to replace the flag flying over the fort and help maintain the morale of its defenders. Today, the main street that runs from the center of the island to the Thompson Memorial Bridge over Breach Inlet is Jasper Boulevard.

The bridge is named for Lt. Col. William Thompson, who commanded the regiment of sharpshooters that kept British troops from crossing the inlet and attacking the fort by land. Thompson Avenue, which runs from Station 18 Street to Station 13 Street, also bears his name.

Star of the West Street, on the western tip of the island,

harks back to the Civil War. From across Charleston Harbor on Morris Island, Citadel cadets fired on The Star of the West, a ship trying to supply the Union troops at Fort Sumter. Citadel Street runs from Middle Street to Poe Avenue.

Sullivan's Island remembers 20th-century conflicts with Conquest Street, at the west end, and Quarters Street, which connects Jasper Boulevard and Middle Street and commemorates the Army personnel quarters in use during two world wars. Marshall Boulevard, which runs along the ocean near Breach Inlet, is a nod to Col. George Marshall, who commanded the Army receiving station for troops preparing to



The defenders at Fort Moultrie, the former Fort Sullivan, rebuffed a British attack early in the Revolutionary War.

STORY & PHOTOS BY
BRIAN SHERMAN

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be shipped overseas during World War II.

Several Sullivan's Island streets bear the family names of local residents killed in action during the two world wars, including Harvey, Brownell, Brooks, Keenan, Iziar and Williams.

Seminole Chief Osceola, though technically an enemy of U.S. military forces, has a Sullivan's Island street named in his honor, a corridor running from Middle Street almost to the west end of the island. He was held prisoner at Fort Moultrie, the former Fort Sullivan, until his death in 1838.

American poet, author and literary critic Edgar Allan Poe, who served in the U.S. Army and was stationed on Sullivan's Island in the 1820s, left his mark on the island.



Seminole Chief Osceola, technically an enemy of the U.S. military, has a street named in his honor.



I'On Avenue is named for a Mexican War veteran who owned a house that was a popular meeting place for officers.

Gold Bug Avenue and Raven Drive are references to a short story and a poem he wrote. Poe Avenue runs from Station 16 Street to Station 18 Street.

The name of another Sullivan's Island street is only indirectly related to military ventures. Col. Jacob Bond 'Ion, a Mexican War veteran, owned a house on the island that was a popular meeting place for officers stationed at Fort Moultrie. I'On Avenue, spelled differently but nevertheless honoring this former island resident, runs parallel to Middle Street. Florence Street, between Middle and Poe, honors Florence O'Sullivan.

Some street names are a reminder of the island's non-military past. For instance, early in the 20th century, Charleston residents wishing to travel to the Isle of Palms had to take a ferry across the Cooper River to Mount Pleasant and a trolley to Sullivan's Island and over Breach Inlet. The trolley stopped at numbered stations on Sullivan's

Island, located at streets that still bear the names of those stations, from Station 32 Street near the inlet to Station 10 Street at the west end of the island.

Other street names on the island are simply descriptive: Back Street is home to a row of back beach cottages; Cove Avenue is near a part of the harbor known as The Cove; myrtle trees adorn Myrtle Avenue; Atlantic Avenue is near the ocean of the same name; and Sea Breeze Lane, on the narrow part of the island, no doubt sees and feels its share of sea breezes.

And then, of course, there's Middle Street, which runs down the middle of the island, from beyond Fort Moultrie at the west end, all the way to where Jasper Boulevard becomes the Thompson Memorial Bridge, traversing Breach Inlet to the Isle of Palms. Along its journey, it comes within hailing distance of almost every other street on an island destined never to forget its storied history. 🏰



Middle Street, of course, runs down the middle of Sullivan's Island, from beyond Fort Moultrie to Breach Inlet.

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Diane Russell's hair began falling out the day before her second treatment. It was just 25 days after she learned she had breast cancer, and she was still grappling with the diagnosis.

She had noticed swelling, then lesions on her breast and thought she was suffering from an infection such as MRSA. As a medical professional at Roper Berkeley, she helped cancer patients. She never expected she would be one.

"I didn't think it was cancer," Russell said, her eyes brimming with tears. "I never knew I'd be on the other side."

Unlike many diseases, breast cancer can vary greatly in women. There are non-invasive cancers – those that do not need aggressive treatment – and invasive forms. According to Dr. Lynn Crymes of Lowcountry OB/GYN, "infiltrating ductal carcinoma is most common," accounting for 70 percent to 80 percent of all invasive cancers.

“I didn't think it was cancer.”

Once a diagnosis is made – taking into account the type and grade of cancer cells as well as the presence of hormone and protein receptors – a team of doctors, including a radiologist plus medical and surgical oncologists, will determine a course of treatment.

Some women don't want to wait until a tumor appears and are opting for pre-emptive treatment. Dr. Crymes said there has been lots of press about Angelina Jolie, who carries the BRCA gene mutation and opted for a double mastectomy. The BRCA mutation has been shown to "significantly increase" the risks of both breast and ovarian cancer. Women with a family history should have a candid conversation with their doctor about genetic testing.

"I have seen quite a few women who have lost mothers, sisters, aunts and grandmothers to early breast cancer," Dr. Crymes said, adding that by determining the presence of the BRCA mutation "we are able to prevent these cancers and give women normal life expectancies."

Dr. Amy Bethea searches mammogram images looking for the smallest abnormalities.



Mammograms are advised for women over 50, although many doctors feel strongly that 40 would be a better starting point. Mammograms can detect many tumors, but, because they are two-dimensional images, they may miss them in very dense breasts or appear to indicate a tumor where none exists, resulting in additional testing.

Fortunately, there's a new game in town, and it will change the way breast cancer is diagnosed. Dr. Amy Bethea, a radiologist with Roper St. Francis, is excited about tomosynthesis.

"It will be in each of our of breast centers in September," Dr. Bethea said.

"Instead of the two-dimensional mammogram images, we'll have three-dimensional "sweeps" of each breast."

She added that not all patients will be candidates at first – until tomosynthesis becomes the standard – but she predicted that it will decrease the call-back rate and increase the early diagnosis rate.

Sitting in a recliner receiving infusion therapy at the Roper Cancer Center, Diane Russell spoke candidly about her feelings, how different it is to suddenly be the recipient of care instead of being the caregiver and the emotional moment when she realized she was beginning to lose her hair. It used to be long, but she had it cut so the loss wouldn't feel quite so traumatic.

Russell realizes she is in good hands at the Roper Cancer Center. She has an excellent oncologist that she likes, and the staff is dedicated to meeting her needs and making sure she is comfortable. With the opening of the Donna Fielding Cancer Wellness Institute at Roper, patients can receive help that goes far beyond surgery, radiation and infusion therapy.

Jody McCrain is a wellness navigator – one of several – who provides information and resources as well as a comfortable environment for patients and their families. Wellness navigators, some of them breast cancer survivors themselves, know the ropes and can offer guidance as well as a hug or a few minutes to vent.



Wellness Navigator Jody McCrain stands in front of the massage room in the newly opened Donna Fielding Cancer Wellness Institute at Roper St. Francis.

“Breast cancer is the second most common diagnosis in women.”



October turns pink to raise awareness about breast cancer.

The Cancer Center also features a small café, as well as The Healing Boutique, which features beautiful adornments (hello retail therapy!). The boutique also offers specialty items and fittings for mastectomy patients and private consultations for wigs. In addition to support groups, massage therapy by licensed practitioners and nutrition classes are among the services available to patients and even employees – because wellness and prevention go hand-in-hand.

“Breast cancer is the second most common diagnosis in women,” according to Dr. Crymes, adding that the death rate from breast cancer has declined by about 20 percent over the last 10 years, the result of improvements in therapy and earlier detection through increased screening.

A **breast cancer diagnosis** is a journey into the unknown. But thanks to advancements in detection and treatment, more women are not only **surviving** but **thriving**. Just as important, there are wonderful people helping women every step of the way to a cure.

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Breast Cancer By the Numbers



About **1 in 8** women will be diagnosed with breast cancer

#2 cause of cancer deaths (lung cancer is #1)

85% of breast cancers are diagnosed in women with no risk factors

Currently **2.8 million** women have a history of breast cancer, including those who have completed treatment and those in treatment

Women with dense breasts are **6 times** more likely to develop breast cancer

60,290 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer in 2015

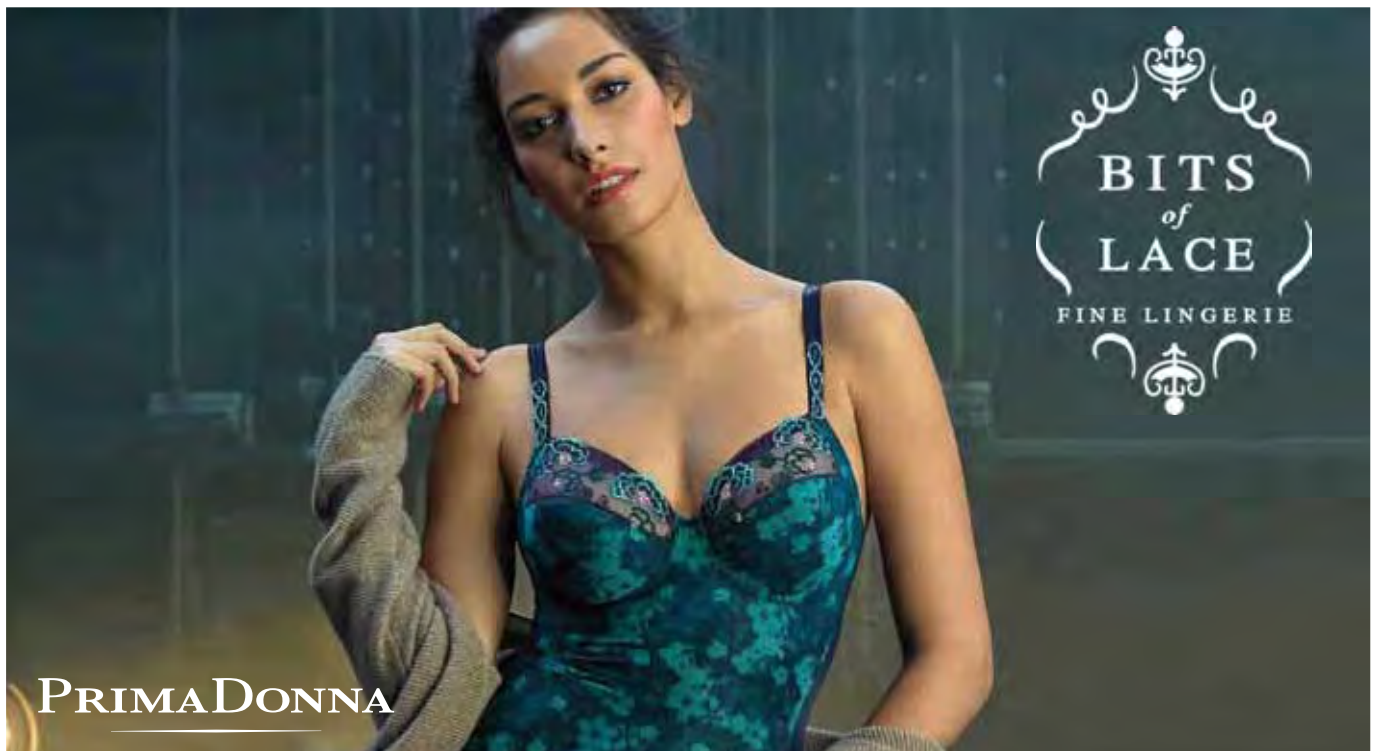
Lifetime risk of breast cancer in men is **1 in 1,000**

Among those under **45**, African-American women are more likely to develop breast cancer



Estimated **231,840** new invasive breast cancer diagnoses in 2015

5 to 10% of breast cancers can be linked to gene mutations, such as BRCA1 and BRCA2



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Close to
their
Hearts

By Natalie Caula Hauff

LOCAL WOMEN SHARE THEIR MASTECTOMY STORIES

*H*aving both breasts removed can leave physical and emotional scars, but, for some women a **mastectomy** is the only option that makes sense.

We spoke to four women who have had the procedure or were planning on having it done. While they share that in common, each woman told a unique story about how she handled the changes to her body and the struggle to maintain her femininity.



Loving the Now

Deborah Bailey spent five years living without breasts. After having a double mastectomy in 2010, doctors told her she couldn't have reconstructive surgery yet – not that she wanted to.

"I thought it was OK and wanted to show my daughter you don't have to be perfect," she said.

Despite the discomfort, Bailey wore prosthetic breasts. However, after years of gawking by strangers, the trying task of finding clothing that would fit and awkward pool outings, Bailey had had enough, particularly during one recent moment.

"I had one (prosthetic breast) fall out at yoga class. I said I was done. I'm done with these things. I can't relax when I have them on,"

she said. "I decided after five years to have the surgery and I'm glad I did."

It was a long journey for Bailey to get to this point. She was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer at the age of 36 after a mammogram, which most women don't have until the age of 40.

"If I'd waited until I was 40, I would not be here," she said.

So began a series of treatments – months of chemotherapy and her double mastectomy followed by radiation therapy. Bailey tested positive for a genetic variance and doctors

discovered cysts in her uterus, so she decided to also have a hysterectomy, which she calls the most trying of all the procedures she's had.

"From the hysterectomy, I would caution women. I wish I had known more. To have it is a huge life change – bigger than chemo, bigger than a mastectomy," she said. "I felt gutted for four years."

"If I'd waited until I was 40, I would not be here."

However, about a year ago, Bailey began to feel like herself again. That's when she said she felt ready to have the surgery and get new breasts.

"I think that's what a lot of people don't realize – you don't just get implants, have great boobs, cancer's gone and everything's fine. For five years, I lived with a concave chest," she

said. "It looked like Zorro took his sword to my chest."

In June, Bailey had reconstructive surgery. She was not a candidate for implants because so much tissue had to be removed from her breasts. Instead, her reconstructive surgery involved removing tissue from her abdomen to construct her breasts. It's a complicated series of procedures. She recently completed the first of four surgeries.

Despite the emotional and physical roller coaster Bailey has been riding the last five years, she said life is good. She and her husband recently bought a puppy and Bailey's trips to the pool with her children are now focused on fun instead of dodging awkward looks. She has no idea what tomorrow will bring, but she is loving "the now."

"I don't feel like everything is hanging on a string anymore," she said. "I'm not looking in the rear view anymore."



Standing By Her Decisions

Nicole Ferraro is ready to feel "normal" again. Six years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer in her right breast. She had surgery, went through chemotherapy and radiation and became cancer-free. Then, earlier this year, as she puts it, "lightning struck twice" – a brand new cancer had formed in her left breast.

"I think I was in shock this was even happening again. My first reaction was that I was really pissed. I was really mad. You are always waiting for the other shoe to drop and hoping it doesn't," she said. "To have all this happen, I felt beaten down a little bit."

Doctors acted quickly and she went into surgery within a week and had a lumpectomy once again, this time on her left breast. Doctors removed the tissue with the cancer cells. For Ferraro, it was the tipping point that led her to the decision to have both of her breasts removed – a bilateral mastectomy.

"I'm terrified to have it but at the same time knowing the relief it will give me after not having to do this roller coaster anymore is huge," she said during an interview a few weeks before having the procedure.

She's been through surgeries before, but, this time, most of her



Photo by Kate McKinley Photography.



Photo courtesy of Deborah Bailey.

breast tissue would be removed. It's not a decision she made lightly.

"I don't think men can understand what you go through as a woman," she said. "Taking away that body part is huge."

Ferraro, who is a patient at Medical University of South Carolina Hospital, has no regrets about the way she's handled her treatment, like deciding against the mastectomies the first time she had cancer in 2009, even though that option was recommended by her doctors.

"I don't think men can understand what you go through as a woman."

"I stand by my first decision. I didn't feel comfortable then," she said. "I've never questioned it. But I am happy with my decision now going forward."

Ferraro is also a board member of Share Our Suzy (SOS), a local non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to local breast cancer patients.



Taking Each Day at a Time

Earlier this year during a mammogram, doctors saw something they didn't like in Sally Ramsdell's breasts.

"They said something doesn't look quite right," said Ramsdell. "So I got an MRI. That's how it all started."

Biopsies revealed that in one of her breasts, Ramsdell had an abnormal cell growth, which increases a person's risk of developing invasive breast cancer later in life. In her other breast, doctors also found a type of noninvasive breast cancer.

Ramsdell had two options: two lumpectomies, in which surgeons would remove the breast tumor and some of the normal tissue that surrounds it, or a bilateral mastectomy, the removal of her breasts. Ramsdell chose the second option.

"I just felt I couldn't take this risk," she said. "I just feel like this is the right thing to do before it starts spreading."

In May, Ramsdell had the bilateral mastectomy and reconstruction. Immediately, she said she felt a great sense of relief.

"It was the best feeling after the surgery was over when they said nothing else was there. They got everything," she said.

Emotionally, Ramsdell said her experience was made easier by the support of her husband, Craig, her family and friends, as well as the team at Roper St. Francis.

"I think Sally's calm demeanor is because she felt well-informed and had a good support system," said Shelley Usher, Ramsdell's assigned clinical nurse navigator. "We have some patients completely freaking out and some who take the bull

by the horns. I feel like knowledge is power."

For Ramsdell, the physical effects are a little harder to get used to. She was able to go home the next day, following her five-hour surgery. A few weeks later, the swelling got worse and the drains were uncomfortable.

"One of the hardest things for me was sleeping on my back. That has been by far the hardest thing I've had to go through," she said.

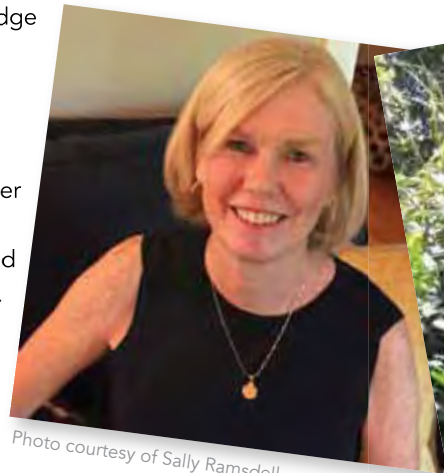


Photo courtesy of Sally Ramsdell.

"It was the best feeling after the surgery was over when they said nothing else was there. They got everything."

The next step for Ramsdell is to get used to her new body. She's pleased her plastic surgeon did exactly as she asked – giving her the same size breasts she'd had before.

"It's so weird to think I have these breasts that are just different than I ever had but knowing I'll get used to them," she said. "Overall, this was the best decision I could have made, and I'm taking each day at a time."



Peace of Mind

When breast cancer returned a second time within five years, Cheri Coleman said she'd had enough.

She'd already had a lumpectomy and radiation in her other breast, so she signed up for a double mastectomy in 2013 and had both her breasts removed.

For Coleman, who is 65, the decision meant losing both breasts permanently. High risk factors in her case didn't make her a viable candidate for breast reconstruction or implants, she said.

"I feel like I am missing something, I have to admit that," said Coleman. "I think if I were younger, I would have taken the risk of reconstruction. But at this age, I'm a little more realistic about things."

Coleman said it helped that her husband supported the decision. She also uses prosthetics, which are made of silicon and placed into a special bra. She said they help give her some sense of femininity.



Photo courtesy of Cheri Coleman.

"It doesn't take the place of breasts, by any means. But they do make me feel more comforted," she said. "Still, at the end of the day, you are taking the bra off."

The decision to have the surgery, which was done at Medical University of South Carolina Hospital, came down to this: "When the second one (cancer) showed up, it was rather devastating. That is probably my main reason. I'd already faced it once. So I said, 'Let's just remove both breasts.' My peace of mind is better for doing that."

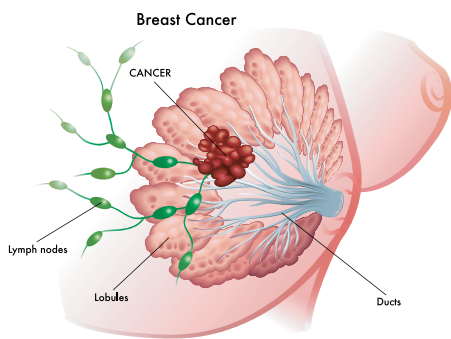
Coleman dealt with other complications stemming from the mastectomies, such as a hematoma in one of her breasts. However, despite the pain she went through, the discomfort of the draining tubes and the realization she would not have breasts, Coleman contends she felt relief following the surgery.

**"Let's just remove both breasts.
My peace of mind is better for doing that."**

"You cannot replace peace of mind," she said. "I think it's an individual decision based on how you feel about your body and how you feel about the cancer, also."

MASTECTOMY BY THE NUMBERS

A recent study in California showed that over 10 years, the survival rate was **83 percent** for those who had lumpectomy, **81 percent** for those who underwent double mastectomy and nearly **80 percent** for a single mastectomy.



Bilateral mastectomy (removal of both breasts) rate for women diagnosed with cancer in just one breast increased from **4.2 to 11.0 percent** between 1998 and 2003.

South Carolina's mastectomy rate among women: **56 per 100,000**. National rate is **58 per 100,000**.

Between 1998 and 2008, the rate of immediate breast reconstruction surgery increased from about **21 percent to 38 percent**.

Women who have a pre-operative MRI may be nearly **twice** as likely to elect to have a bilateral mastectomy.

Women who underwent double mastectomy were **twice** as likely to undergo reconstruction with implants compared to their single mastectomy counterparts.

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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Facts About Prostate Cancer

by Barbara Millen Patrick

You don't hear about prostate cancer much. It isn't like breast cancer, which seems to turn the entire month of October pink. No one seems to be racing for a cure. Did you know September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month? It is.

Prostate cancer is confusing. It is estimated that 80 percent of all men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer – if they live long enough, it is almost a guarantee – yet there is great debate among doctors as to whether men should be routinely screened. It tends to be a slow growing type of cancer, and, even if you have prostate cancer, chances are you'll die first from another cause. But, like any other cancer, it can grow and become invasive, metastasizing to other parts of the body where it is likely to become a real challenge.

The prostate, which is underneath the bladder, looks sort of like a walnut. It has a tendency to become larger as men age and, because of its location, can start to cause a little trouble, such as having to urinate more often, especially at night.



Ken Burger is the local face for prostate cancer awareness and fundraising. Roper St. Francis Cancer Care holds the annual Burger Prostate Challenge Golf Tournament.



Most men with early prostate cancer have no symptoms. In later stages, men may experience blood in the urine or erectile dysfunction. More urgent symptoms indicating likely metastasis can include pain in areas such as the spine, the hips or the chest or loss of control of the bowels or bladder.

Is There a Test for Prostate Cancer?

Most cases of prostate cancer are identified by the PSA test. PSA is a protein produced in the prostate gland that can be measured by a blood test. Although men with prostate cancer have higher PSA levels, a high PSA does not necessarily indicate that cancer is present. But if that number is high, most urologists will suggest further testing, including a DRE (digital rectal exam) and possibly an ultrasound or an MRI. A biopsy may be suggested so that a pathologist can determine the presence of a tumor.

The Urologist Diagnosed Cancer. Now what?

Depending on the type of prostate cancer and its stage, your doctor may recommend "watchful waiting." If it stays within the prostate, doesn't cause difficulty and grows at a very slow rate, you may need no treatment at all, avoiding possible side effects of surgery or medications.

Like any cancer, it is classified as stage I, II, III or IV. Signs that the cancer may have spread beyond the prostate include a high PSA number, a high Gleason score (scores range from 2 to 10 and are determined by microscopic study; the lower the number, the better) or bone pain. A variety of tests, such as a bone scan, may be done in addition to CT scans or MRIs to provide detailed images.

"The key indications for treatment are the Gleason score, the PSA test and the stage," said Dr. Louise Clay, a radiation oncologist with Roper St. Francis.

In addition to "watchful waiting" for stage I cancers, more aggressive treatments include prostatectomy, external beam radiation, hormone therapy, brachytherapy or hormone therapy, with or without radiation. Side effects of treatment can affect the bladder, rectum and urethra, particularly in more advanced cancers

But what really excites Dr. Clay is CyberKnife.

"Our newest treatment is CyberKnife for low and low to intermediate grade patients, a very intense course of radiation over a short time, about five treatments over the course of two weeks," Dr. Clay explained.



Dr. Louise Clay is passionate about her work as a radiation oncologist for Roper St. Francis.

What is CyberKnife Therapy?

This is a non-invasive treatment which is extremely accurate in pinpointing only the prostate with high doses of radiation, sparing nearby healthy tissue. Two technologies have been blended together to treat tumors that were unreachable in the past: an image-guidance system to locate and track the tumor and a maneuverable robotic arm.

Unlike surgery, CyberKnife is painless, non-invasive and lasts only about 30 to 90 minutes. And patients are able to resume daily activities afterward. Roper St. Francis is currently the only hospital in the area to offer CyberKnife therapy.

How Can I Prevent Prostate Cancer?

There are no known preventive methods, but the best advice is to live a healthy lifestyle with a diet low in fat, include plenty of fruits and vegetables, add fish and reduce your dairy intake. Maintaining a healthy weight and regular exercise are always good ideas. And if you have a family history of prostate cancer, discuss that with your doctor. Knowledge is power.

And, by the way, there is a cancer awareness and fundraising event which takes place in September. Roper St. Francis Cancer Care holds the annual Burger Prostate Challenge Golf Tournament, named for writer Ken Burger, who underwent treatment in 2008. †

PROSTATE CANCER BY THE NUMBERS



1 in 7 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer.


Approximately
220,800
new cases
will be diagnosed in
2015.

Ninety percent of men diagnosed with localized prostate cancer have a nearly **100** percent chance of living at least five more years.

Ninety-nine percent of men with the most common types will survive more than five years.



There are **2.9 million survivors** in United States.



The average age at diagnosis
66.

Six cases in 10 are diagnosed in men
65 and older.

Prostate cancer is the **no. 2 cause of cancer deaths** - lung cancer is no.1.



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Take it from “K.T.,” a local woman whose self image improved with the help of the KYBELLA™ procedure.

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in my family, but when I recognized it in my own profile, I was super bummed,” she admitted. “KYBELLA has changed my life and my self image.”



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What is it?

KYBELLA™ is a version of deoxycholic acid, “a naturally occurring molecule in the body that aids in the breakdown of dietary fat,”..

How does it work?

“Submental fat is stored in fat cells that accumulate in the chin area,” explained Dr. Jack Hensel. “KYBELLA™ has been described as a “fat-melting” compound, which is not completely accurate. It works by disrupting fat cell membranes, which causes cell destruction. This process is also known as cell “lysis.” When the membrane of the cell is destroyed, the fatty contents are released into the bloodstream and naturally metabolized by the body.”

How much is needed?

A grid of tiny dots is drawn beneath the patient’s chin and injections are made into each dot.

How long does it take?

It takes about five minutes to do the injections.

What’s recovery like?

It takes two or three days to heal And no bandages are required.

Who isn’t a good candidate for it?

According to Dr. Jack Hensel, KYBELLA™ isn’t a solution for every patient – for example, those with excess skin under the chin, as the procedure does not tighten loose skin. However, individual patients are encouraged to meet

with Dr. Hensel and discuss whether the procedure could benefit him or her.

Are there side effects?

Side effects could include bruising, swelling and temporary numbness.

Will insurance cover it?

Insurance will not cover this procedure, and cost differs on individual basis. In trials, patients received the injections once a month for up to six months before reaching the desired effect.

Why can’t we use this in other areas of the body?

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- Leslie

EVENT DETAILS:

Thursday, October 1st

5:30-7:30pm

858 Von Kolnitz Road

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THEY DON'T JUST FEEL YOUR PAIN



By Anne Toole

While many people may associate chiropractic strictly with back pain, ChiropracticUSA helps patients with a much wider range of health issues and offers healing solutions such as nutritional counseling, stress management, prenatal chiropractic, weight loss programs and sports and rehab chiropractic.

Matt Murrin, DC, BSc Kin, PFLC, CEP, opened ChiropracticUSA's doors in 2008 to help resolve patients' medical problems in a uniquely fun and exciting environment.

"Research shows that smiling, chuckling and laughing change the healing process," Dr. Murrin explained. "Having a good time is unique in a doctor's office, so we reach for excellence both in healing and customer service. We want you to have fun and feel like you are part of our family."

Dr. Murrin credited his team for providing a great patient experience.

"Having the right team is key. We have fantastic people, and training together makes our team even more amazing. It's important for all of us to know our patients' wellness always comes first. We strive to make them feel at ease and at home here in the office during their journey to greater health."

After graduating highest in his class at Palmer College of Chiropractic, the birthplace of chiropractic, Dr. Murrin worked for the Indianapolis Colts football team, where he specialized in managing pain and improving performance. But during a mission trip to Bolivia, where he worked with three orphanages, he realized he wanted to do much more.

"The children had a host of health complications, like chronic ear infections," Dr. Murrin said. "One child was paralyzed from the waist down and couldn't move his arm or control his bowels and bladder, all due to nerve pain. I was able to fix that nerve pain and allow him to regain use of his arm and control his bowels and bladder. I changed his life, and that was a game-changer."

ChiropracticUSA helps patients ranging from babies just hours old to those in their 90s, and from athletes to those who simply suffer from health problems. Dr. Murrin and his team have helped find solutions for patients suffering from rotator cuff issues, infertility, ear infections, colic, asthma, allergies and more.

"We're not a typical cookie-cutter back pain, neck pain and headache practice," he said. "We look for the root of the cause, as opposed to looking at the pain itself. For example, with carpal tunnel, the pain may be in the wrist, but that nerve wraps up around the elbow, up the shoulder and stems from the neck. There's the root of the problem."

With a background in medical school before becoming a chiropractor, Dr. Murrin believes that honesty about health problems is key and that the least invasive approach to a health problem should be explored before resorting to prescription drugs or surgery.

"Sixty-four percent of people who go to a surgeon first wind up having surgery, but less than 2 percent of patients who go to a chiropractor first need surgery," Dr. Murrin explained. "I believe in treating the cause from the least invasive treatment, progressing toward the most invasive. Therefore, hands (chiropractic care), is paramount. If we start focusing on 'wellness,' we can begin to avoid 'illness.' Medicine and surgery should be a last resort."

Visit www.chiropracticusasc.com to learn more about how Dr. Murrin and his team at ChiropracticUSA can help find a solution to your health problems.



Photo courtesy of ChiropracticUSA.

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The Wyndham Garden

IN LESS THAN A YEAR, THE WYNDHAM Garden has made its mark on the Mount Pleasant landscape and on the hotel industry in the Lowcountry's fastest-growing town.

Rising above its surroundings near where Interstate 526 ends and becomes Chuck Dawley Boulevard, the Wyndham Garden is the first hotel motorists see when they reach Mount Pleasant from Daniel Island or Charleston International Airport.

As of July 2015, the Wyndham, which opened on Oct. 8, 2014, is also the first hotel Internet users discover when they check out places to stay at tripadvisor.com. In addition to earning a Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor, the Wyndham has claimed an Outstanding Service Award from Hotels.com.

The key to success for any hotel is customer service, but, at the Wyndham, General Manager Joe Waring and Director of Sales Judy Parsons take the relationship among management, staff and the people who stay at the hotel a step further.

"Our job is to build relationships," said Parsons, who has been in the hotel business for 29 years. "For instance, a mom and dad might stay here because their daughter is getting married, or someone might be driving to Charleston and stop here. We start the connection with them the minute they walk in the door."

Waring, a 2008 graduate of the College of Charleston, pointed out that "a team-oriented environment" is a major reason the Wyndham Garden has taken such a short time to become one of Mount Pleasant's most highly-rated hotels. He said his 40 employees are trained to do various jobs and handle different responsibilities, which provides positive motivation for them and, consequently, a more enjoyable experience for guests.

Waring does his part to make sure his guests are treated

as such by striving to respond to all issues within 10 minutes. And, when people take the time to post reviews online after staying at the Wyndham, Waring responds to them as well, whether their comments are favorable or unfavorable.

The Wyndham Garden, developed by Columbia-based IMIC Hotels, offers 120 rooms – 17 of them suites – along with 2,500 square feet of meeting space. Eighteen rooms meet the standards of the Americans With Disabilities Act, and the hotel even served as the host for the Wheelchair Division of the Cooper River Bridge Run in March.

The hotel is a short drive from attractions including Boone Hall Plantation, Shem Creek and Patriots Point, and the beaches at Sullivan's Island and the Isle of Palms and downtown Charleston are nearby.

"Mount Pleasant is a great area for development due to its proximity to the beaches and downtown Charleston," said Bert Pooser III, president of IMIC Hotels. "We believe the Wyndham Garden is the nicest hotel in Mount Pleasant."

It took less than a year for the Wyndham to be ranked among the best of Mount Pleasant's 20 hotels, but Waring and Parsons realize that just as much effort is required to stay on top as to get to the top.

"We promote like crazy," Waring said. "We have to work hard. The competition is only going to get harder."

"If we can't help you, we'll find someone who can," Parsons added. "But we like to keep the business in Mount Pleasant. The town has been welcoming and supportive." 🍷

The Wyndham Garden is located at 1330 Stuart Engals Blvd. To learn more, visit www.wyndhamgardenmtpleasant.com or call 843-352-5100.



It took the Wyndham Garden less than a year to be named among the best hotels in Mount Pleasant.

Photos courtesy of the Wyndham Garden.



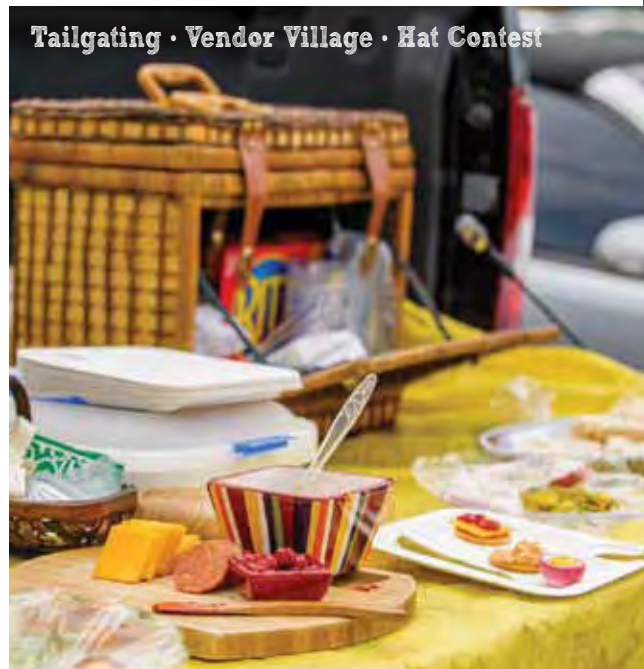
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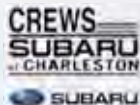


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Good on the Pleasant Side of the River

Good Law Group

JOE GOOD, III AND PARTNER SUMMER D. Eudy moved their law practice, Good Law Group LLC, from downtown Charleston to Mount Pleasant last October, and so far they are loving it.

“We’re really excited to get to know more businesses around Mount Pleasant and to become part of the community,” said Good.

“It is rewarding when other successful local entrepreneurs are choosing your law firm, and we get to support their business in return,” added Eudy. “Both of us see forming relationships as important. I think it’s also a big reason why Joe and I work so well together.”

And they do truly work together, on every case that comes through the door.

“When someone retains our law firm, they get the benefit of two sets of eyes, two perspectives, on every issue,” Good pointed out. “And we are accessible to clients.”

Both Eudy and Good emphasized accessibility, pointing out that the team will do everything they can to ease the stress clients face when they need an attorney, including meeting after hours or taking calls at night.

Good Law Group is a boutique litigation firm. Its namesake, Charleston native Joseph “Joe” C. Good, III, opened his solo practice in 2008 after serving with an established firm in the area. Good collaborated with his now partner, Summer D. Eudy, on several successful cases while they were at separate firms. It became clear that the two attorneys could accomplish great things for their clients by working together.

In 2013, Eudy left a large firm where she had been practicing for several years and joined forces with Good

to form Good Law Group. Her broad range of litigation experience in state and federal courts, coupled with Good’s natural ability to connect with judges and juries, makes them a powerful legal team. Additionally, Joseph “Joe” C. Good Jr. has joined the firm as special counsel, having served as general counsel for MUSC for over 25 years.

The attorneys handle various litigation, including personal injury cases, business matters, criminal and DUI defense and family law.

“No matter the issue, we can usually help, but, if we cannot, we do not just turn clients away – we do our best to find them the assistance they need,” said Eudy.

The home of Good Law Group LLC has been a staple of Coleman Boulevard for many years, and now it is getting a facelift. The rustic cottage that houses the firm is on Shem Creek, on the corner of Coleman and Mill Street. Eudy’s interest in interior design has guided the renovation project.

“You can see our personality in our office,” she said. “It’s not your typical boring law office. It’s rustic but chic at the same time, and our clients love it.”

The interior renovation is almost complete, and they are now moving to the next phase of the project, an exterior building makeover. Eudy and Good love it when locals stop by to see their progress – and you may find Rhett Butler Eudy, a mischievous dachshund, and Sol Good, an affectionate black lab, “working” when you visit Good Law Group LLC. 🐕

To learn more, call 843-277-8373, visit GoodLawGroupCarolina.com or drop by the new office, located at 122 Coleman Blvd. in Mount Pleasant.



Photo by Rick Walo.

Joe Good, left, and Summer D. Eudy collaborated on several very successful cases prior to forming Good Law Group.



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A Seasoned Favorite

SOUTHERN LIVING'S TASTE OF CHARLESTON

Story by Kalene McCort.

Photos courtesy of the Greater Charleston Restaurant Association.

TO SAY CHARLESTON IS A TOWN full of foodies would be an understatement. We praise the farm-to-table, small batch, innovative dishes assembled with grace by those who know their way around the kitchen. Whether it's the opening of a new restaurant or the arrival of a new farmers market vendor, each is met with enthusiasm. Cuisine isn't just an extra in our story; it's the main star.

There's one event in which emerging talent and seasoned favorites get to share the spotlight every fall. Now in its 35th year, *Southern Living's* Taste of Charleston will feature 50 of the Lowcountry's best restaurants on Sept. 25, 26 and 27.

"The quality of the cuisine we have here in the South is top-notch," said Kathy Britzius, executive director of The Greater Charleston Restaurant Association. "Everybody puts their own unique twist on it. We are very fortunate to have such fine chefs in this area."



Rick Walo Photography

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The legendary waiters' race has become one of the most popular events of the Taste of Charleston.

True rock stars of flavor will be working away under the white tents come September. Craig Deihl, the man behind Cypress and Artisan Meat Share, will be one such innovator bringing delicate pâtés and wine pairings to ticket holders.

“The most rewarding part of putting on Taste of Charleston is seeing how we are evolving,” said Britzius. “In my 27 years as executive director, I’ve seen a lot of things change, but for the better. We are surviving. We are doing so well.”

Whether you want to savor a sugar-dusted pastry from Dixie or a sassafras-glazed pork rib from Husk, mouthwatering morsels will be there for the taking. Feast on favorites you know and love and also discover new concoctions you just can’t live without.

Taste of Charleston is held at Mount Pleasant’s Boone Hall Plantation. Peppered with towering oaks and deeply shaded pink blooming azaleas, the historic 738-acre plantation is the ideal location for an event of this magnitude.

“Boone Hall Plantation is just beautiful,” said Britzius. “It makes sense to hold this event at one of the most photographed plantations in the country. Just one visit and it’s easy to see why it gets voted number one so often.”

Boone Hall is also one of the oldest working plantations in the nation, which adds another dimension to this event based on culinary excellence. Producing crops for over three cen-

turies, you’ll still find the fields rich with tomatoes, pumpkins, pecans and strawberries.

Attendees can expect three days of gastro-phenomenons. Leisurely stroll, sip wine and take in the sights, sounds and smells of Taste of Charleston. With live music and a “biergarten” offering up refreshing specialty and imported brews, there truly is something for everyone. In addition to sampling fare from world-renowned chefs, be sure to take in the legendary waiters’ race – where the ability of service-industry pros to pour and serve is put to the test.

Children under the age of 10 are admitted free to Taste of Charleston. Youngsters can hone their chef skills at the “Kids’ Kitchen Sideshow,” where they can get a little messy and actually taste some of the food they create.

Not only does Taste of Charleston showcase the undeniable talent of the culinary world, it also gives back to several organizations working to feed the spirits of many. A portion of the event’s proceeds will be donated to charities such as the Ronald McDonald House, the Hollings Cancer Center and Shriners Hospital for Children.

Food is what links us together. Recipe cards passed down from generations hold more than just oil-smudged ink. They hold tradition. Just one whiff of steam rising from golden cornbread or that sound of a snow crab’s claw cracking can take us back to a moment in time. Make your own memories at the Taste of Charleston this September. 🍷

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It's Not Easy Being Cheesy

... Unless You're at the Mac Off

WHO DOESN'T LIKE mac 'n cheese? Judging by the 6,000-plus people who showed up at last year's 5th Annual Mac Off, the answer to that question is almost nobody.

As with most of our country's iconic foods – I'm looking at you, pizza and hot dogs – macaroni and cheese was imported to our shores, but we've long since claimed it as our own, and it's become a staple of our diet. For years, however, those little cheese-drenched pasta tubes have been relegated to the kids' menu at restaurants, or at best, a side dish to accent a big hunk of meat.

You can't put mac 'n cheese in a corner, though, and expect it to stay there. Not only has it busted out into the menu's entree section at some of your favorite restaurants, it's also the star attraction at its very own festival, now preheating for its sixth edition in October.

"The Mac Off is a fun outdoor festival that takes Southern love of comfort food and makes a celebration and a day out of it," explained Alyssa Smith of A Snappy Event, organizer of the festival.

This year's 6th Annual Mac Off, returning to The Grove at Patriots Point on Oct. 24, is expected to draw thousands of hungry locals and tourists turning out to sample an array of variations of everyone's favorite cheesy dish. If your usual mac 'n cheese comes out of a box or the freezer, you'll need to adjust your expectations and maybe loosen your belt – this is the good stuff. Attendees will be sampling the

offerings prepared by 25 restaurants and chefs, all bringing their best creations in hopes of taking home the top prize.

Attendees will select the People's Choice Award by voting for their favorites on Twitter. In addition, chefs will be vying to impress a panel of celebrity judges who will name winners of the Critics' Choice and Local Ingredient awards. Last year, Crave won the Critics' Choice, with Cherrywood BBQ & Ale House and Burtons Grill taking home the People's Choice and Local Ingredient awards, respectively.

Returning this year is the popular Home Grown Cooks Competition, which gives amateur chefs the opportunity to match up their best mac 'n cheese against their peers' creations. Entries will be sampled by the judges but not by the public.

And if you're really, really hungry, there will be a mac 'n cheese eating contest sponsored by Charleston Artisan Cheesehouse.

There will be plenty of entertainment for the whole family, including Jack Johnson cover band Banana Pancakes, as well as other musical acts. When they're not eating, the kids will have plenty to keep them busy, with jump castles, obstacle courses and more. For the over-21 kids, there will be

a bourbon tasting trail and plenty of other adult beverages.

"It's a great event for families," explained Smith. "Bring a blanket and a chair and come and eat some good food and drink some good beer." 🍷

The 6th Annual Mac Off will again be held at The Grove at Patriots Point on Oct. 24, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. In addition to Bud Light, sponsors of the event include Charleston Mix Bloody Mary, Tito's Vodka, Firefly Distillery and the town of Mount Pleasant.



Mac 'n cheese is no longer just a side dish or a staple of kids' menus. At least once a year in Mount Pleasant, it's the star of the show.

Photo courtesy of A Snappy Event.

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See and Be Seen

The 22nd Running of the Charleston Cup

EVERY AUTUMN, HOLLYWOOD, South Carolina, fizzes with the spirited energy only one time-honored tradition can provide. Women in wide-brimmed hats and men rocking brackish bowties descend upon the polo field at Stono Ferry for a day of horse racing and upscale tailgating.

While Charleston's best are dressed in their absolute finest, the real showstoppers are a tad grander in stature. Robust thoroughbreds, with gleaming coats and flowing

BY KALENE MCCORT

manes, will gallop their way to greatness at the 22nd running of The Charleston Cup, which is expected to draw more than 15,000 people on Nov. 8. Will you be one of them?

"If attendees are coming to see the races, they will feel the adrenaline as their favorite horse thunders around the track in pursuit of the win," said Karl McMillan, who has been race director since the Cup began in 1986. "If they are coming to party, they have many options to enjoy the day, from a lawn chair and a blanket to a reserved space on the rail – whatever suits their budget and fancy. Blue jeans and beer to minks and caviar, The Cup is where you see it all."

This year, the horses aren't the only ones getting in on the racing. Jack Russell Terriers will be gleefully prancing toward the finish line soon after the gates open at 9 a.m. There also will be a kids' village, complete with face painting, to keep the youngsters occupied.

In addition to putting on this exquisite event, The Charleston Cup plays a role in giving back to those in our community who need it most. This year, the charity benefactor will be THRIVE SC – a local organization that

provides housing and help to victims of domestic violence. Funny man Stephen Colbert, a huge advocate of this nonprofit, will be in attendance on race day, and he'll also be teeing off at The Charleston Cup's Golf Tournament, which benefits THRIVE SC as well.

Businesses and organizations throughout the Lowcountry persistently show support for The Cup by providing sponsorship or purchasing a tent. McMillan offers up appreciation to businesses for their dedication to the sport.

"While the horse racing is a large part of the atmosphere, many people attend The Cup to see and be seen," said McMillan. "I'm continually impressed with the longevity of this event and the effort people put into attending."

The Charleston Cup usually features a particular artist in the mediums of oil or watercolor, but this year they've decided to go a more digital route. At the upcoming race, photographer Paul Mulkey, the man behind the trendy Tag Your Pix company, will be exhibiting some of the most memorable shots from past Cups.

"I felt it was time to think outside the box this year and do something different," said McMillan. "Tag Your Pix has covered the ball and races since 2011 and has done a superb job for us."

Indulge in a day of champagne-popping and endless possibilities. From marriage proposals in the middle of the field to a Bill Murray sighting, you never know what this day of fun will bring.

"It's the best feeling in the world to watch the last car leave after the races are over," said McMillan, reflecting on the utter joy another successful Charleston Cup brings him. 🍷

To learn more, visit <http://charlestoncup.net>.



Robust thoroughbreds, with gleaming coats and flowing manes, will gallop their way to greatness at the The Charleston Cup.

Photo courtesy of The Charleston Cup.



Rules for Participating in the Best of Mount Pleasant 2016

- No purchase is necessary.
- Each voter must vote only once.
- Each voter must provide a name, telephone number, email address and physical address. Your information will be automatically entered into our drawings for exciting prizes such as tickets to events and dinners.
- Each voter must provide a total of 15 answers in order for his or her vote to be qualified.
- Voting will end at midnight, Nov. 8, 2015.
- All voters must keep answers within Mount Pleasant, Awendaw, Daniel Island, Sullivan's Island, The Isle of Palms and McClellanville in order to be qualified.
- If your vote in a category does not pertain to that category, the vote will be disqualified. Example: Voting for a steak restaurant in the Best Chinese Food category.
- Results will be printed in the January/February 2016 edition of Mount Pleasant Magazine and also will be publicized on the Web. Visit BestOfMountPleasant.com to vote online.

Thanks for your vote!

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Best of Mount Pleasant Ballot

FOOD & DRINK

- Best Asian _____
- Best Bakery _____
- Best Bar _____
- Best Barbecue _____
- Best Breakfast _____
- Best Brunch _____
- Best Budget-Friendly Meal _____
- Best Burger _____
- Best Caterer _____
- Best Cocktail _____
- Best Coffee _____
- Best Craft Beer _____
- Best Dog Friendly Restaurant _____
- Best Deli _____
- Best Dessert _____
- Best Food Truck _____
- Best French Restaurant _____
- 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 New Restaurant _____
- Best Pizza _____
- Best Place to Dine Outdoors _____
- 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 Boutique _____
- Best Bridal Store _____
- Best Children's Clothing _____
- Best Cocktail/Dress Attire _____
- Best Consignment Clothing _____

- Best Consignment Furniture _____
- Best Department Store _____
- Best Fish and Tackle Shop _____
- Best Florist _____
- Best Furniture Store _____
- Best Garden Center _____
- Best Hardware Store _____
- Best Home Goods _____
- Best Jewelry Store _____
- Best Liquor Store _____
- Best Menswear _____
- Best Place to Buy a Boat _____
- Best Place to Buy a Car _____
- Best Place to Buy a Gift _____
- Best Retail Customer Service _____
- Best Shoe Store _____
- Best Sporting Goods _____
- Best Swimwear _____
- Best Thrift Shop _____
- Best Toys _____
- Best Women's Accessories _____

ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

- Best Annual Event _____
- 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 Place to Fish _____
- Best Place to Fly a Kite _____
- Best Place to Go for a Run _____
- Best Place to Have a Children's Birthday Party _____
- 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 Watch Sports on TV _____
- Best Place to Walk Your Dog _____
- Best Place to View the Ravenel Bridge _____
- Best Playground _____
- Best Public Beach Access _____
- Best Volume Builder _____

LOCAL PERSONALITIES & SERVICES

- Best Assisted Living Facility _____
- Best Attorney _____
- Best Auto Glass Company _____

Best of Mount Pleasant Ballot, *cont'd*

Best Auto Repair Business _____
 Best Body Shop _____
 Best Car Wash _____
 Best Child Care _____
 Best Dance Studio _____
 Best Electrician _____
 Best Financial Planner _____
 Best Gymnastics Facility _____
 Best Hair Salon _____
 Best Heating and Air Company _____
 Best Home Cleaning Service _____
 Best Hotel _____
 Best Insurance Agent _____
 Best Insurance Company _____

Best Radio Personality _____
 Best Radio Station _____
 Best Real Estate Company _____
 Best Real Estate Team _____
 Best Realtor _____
 Best Tanning Salon _____
 Best Television Personality _____
 Best Veterinarian _____

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Best Allergist _____
 Best Audiologist _____
 Best Chiropractor _____
 Best Dentist _____
 Best Dermatologist _____

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 Best Loan Officer _____
 Best Local Celebrity _____
 Best Nail Salon _____
 Best Non-Profit _____
 Best Pest Control Company _____
 Best Pet Groomer _____
 Best Pool and Spa Company _____
 Best Place of Worship _____
 Best Place to Get a Mortgage _____
 Best Place to Have a Wedding _____
 Best Place to Hold an Event _____
 Best Plumber _____
 Best Private School _____
 Best Public School _____

Best Eye Doctor _____
 Best Fitness Center _____
 Best Gerontologist _____
 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 _____

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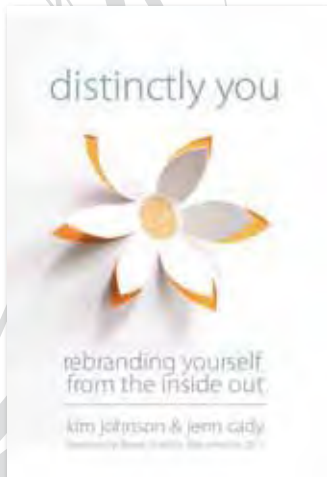
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Alex Pasiecznik

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Virginia.

Education: Going to CSU.

Employment: GAP Retail Management.

Favorite reading: Lord of the Rings.

Favorite music: Ed Sheeran.

Activities: Skyrim, lots of food.

Interests: God, gym.

Likes: Food again.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "Not all those who wander are lost." - J.R.R. Tolkien



Christen Daniels

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Florida.

Education: Two years of college.

Employment: Starbucks and independent insurance agent.

Favorite reading: Internet news.

Favorite music: Hip hop and rap.

Activities: Running.

Interests: Music.

Likes: The Beach.

Favorite quote or philosophy: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."



Linda Marsh

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: North Carolina.

Education: Masters from the Citadel in Counseling and a BA in Nursing.

Employment: Retired, but I still do counseling and adolescent medicine at MUSC.

Favorite reading: Fiction and nonfiction.

Favorite music: Country, beach music and gospel.

Activities: Going to the mountains.

Interests: Guitar, reading.

Likes: Spending time with five grandchildren.

Favorite quote or philosophy: I work at seeing the glass as half full.



Steve Brown

Lives in: Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

From: Hanahan, South Carolina.

Education: Clemson University.

Employment: Retired.

Favorite reading: Wine Spectator.

Favorite music: Americana.

Activities: Golf.

Interests: Learning guitar, attending concerts.

Likes: Music in general.

Favorite quote or philosophy: Take the path of least resistance.

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