

WEST OF FREE PRESS

The Giving Tree(s)

West Ashley becomes home to the state's first food forest



see story page 6 ...

see story page 18



Gary Crossley at Keukenhof Gardens
in Lisse, Netherlands4



Darren Britt in Wailea on Maui, Hawaii

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HANK

I may be a senior, but don't let that fool you. I've still got plenty of love to give. I'm a sweet, friendly, mellow fellow who loves a good cuddle. I can be a bit shy at times, but once I get to know you, I'm as loyal as they come. I like to do things my way, so I guess you could say I'm pretty independent. I do have old man knees, so I prefer to take things slow and steady. A wonderful family let me hangout at their house for a day and they learned food definitely makes me move a little faster. I'm an older lovebug, and would love to find a family who can appreciate my calm demeanor. If you're looking for a loyal, loving companion, I could be the dog for you.



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PETS OF THE MONTH



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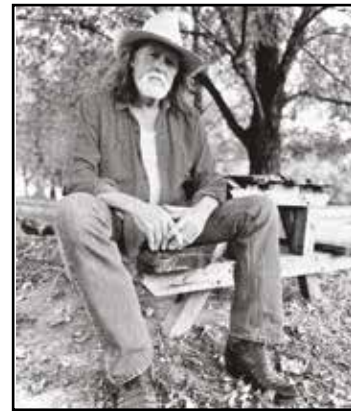
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NEWS

“How do we determine a place people love, or more or less a place that we have to ‘tolerate?’ What makes a difference is design.”

— Victor Dover, founding principal of Dover, Kohl & Partners

Rethinking, Rewriting, Reshaping

Can changing the City of Charleston’s zoning codes help make West Ashley’s corridors more appealing?

by Jenny Peterson | News Editor

Over the years, residents have often been asked and have long provided input on ways they felt West Ashley could be improved. But in the past, some felt that their suggestions had fallen on deaf ears. However, with new city leadership in place and a continued desire to revitalize West Ashley—the City of Charleston’s largest district—many hope this time will be different.

Ideas for how to improve West Ashley flowed like water when around 50 community members attended the “Shaping Our Corridors Charette” event at the Citadel Mall on Monday, July 22. Almost everyone in attendance agreed West Ashley’s main corridors had little curb appeal, traveling by bicycle was a dangerous endeavor with no safe connections to major thoroughfares, and they wanted to see smaller scale shopping areas.

City planners encouraged everyone to draw ideas over a rendering of West Ashley’s roads, no matter how “off the wall” or unlikely the ideas seemed—even something they may have seen work in another city.

This new city-wide effort hopes to reshape West Ashley from a different angle: through rewriting the city’s zoning codes. Planners are hoping to implement “form-based” zoning codes in major thoroughfares of West Ashley that would tackle not just appropriate uses, but require specific design elements.

It would include height, setbacks and scale, as well as basic building and site design standards such as façade composition, architectural design standards, the arrangement of doors and windows, the inclusion of elements like sidewalks, open spaces, landscaping and parking.



Essentially, even if an industrial use was allowed for a site, “form-based” zoning would require certain design standards that would make the community proud, resulting in, say, the most beautiful gas station or auto dealership where public open spaces and parks can be built around for a more walkable community.

“(Form-based zoning) has been making a real comeback in the last 25 years,” said Victor Dover, founding principal of Florida-based Dover, Kohl & Partners, a consultant firm working on the project.

“It’s creating memorable and enjoyable spaces,” added Steve Postma, an urban designer & town planner with Dover, Kohl & Partners. “Perhaps on Sam Rittenberg and in suburban single-use corridors, there’s opportunities to retrofit walkable neighborhood centers.”

The meeting on July 22 was the first of a three-day open house charette facilitated by the City of Charleston’s zoning department and under its newly elected Mayor William Cogswell to help inform new “form-based” zoning codes

and districts.

“(Regardless of) if a gas station can go here, a park here, offices here, residential here, where form-based zoning focuses on is what it looks like and feels like—the layout on the ground,” explained Philip Overcash, a senior planner, with the City of Charleston Planning Department. “The idea has been around awhile but hasn’t been implemented in a lot of places.”

The form-based zoning information session focused on specific areas including the Sam Rittenburg Corridor, parts of Highway 61 and Savannah Highway. City staff is also including the Maybank Highway corridor of Johns Island in this effort for form-based zoning code rewrites and updates.

“How do we determine a place people love, or more or less a place that we have to ‘tolerate?’ What makes a difference is design. In form-based codes, we move design to the front of the discussion,” said Dover. “Streets are given their shape by these privately developed buildings. It’s the difference between a place where you might want to get out of your car and

walk around and another place that feels like if you’re not driving (by), you’re doing it wrong.”

The consultant team will work with city staff and take resident feedback to create a draft for a form-based zoning code and present it as part of the city’s zoning code rewrite. Planners say the city’s zoning code rewrite is already underway.

Breakout groups met at various tables with facilitators and then presented to the room their biggest priorities which overwhelmingly were to improve traffic and public infrastructure, move away from large, industrial type businesses on main thoroughfares and add more appealing shopping and dining destinations—possibly a boutique hotel, something West Ashley does not currently have.

For nearly three hours, citizens participated wholeheartedly in what type of land use, density and growth they’d like to see, but asked planners a very important question: would a zoning code hold developers accountable for following through with these lofty dreams?

“It’s legal to build a boutique hotel. Somehow, (developers) haven’t done it, or done it yet. We have to inspire the property owners and investors to do the things they could have done already if they had wanted to,” Dover said. “People seem to be looking for change on these commercial corridors. And these conversations reinforce this effort in form-based coding to work in at least a pilot way in these corridors.”

Dover adds, “It’s about how you want to grow on the community’s terms and how to grow out of your (existing design) problems.”

To learn more about the effort and city zoning rewrite progress, visit www.newchsstandards.com.

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The Giving Tree(s)

West Ashley becomes home to the state's first food forest

by Joan Perry | Contributing Writer



There is nothing as delicious as biting into ripe fruit handpicked from a tree. Nothing.

I picked fruit one summer as a teenager and remember it like it was yesterday. Perched on a ladder at the top of a tree, I reached for the highest, most perfect peach. The sky was blue, the air was fresh. When I bit into that peach the juice ran down my arms and my world was perfect. I am happy for anyone to enrich their life with a similar experience.

I learned of the ribbon cutting festivities for the inauguration of the Mulberry Food Forest a few hours before it was scheduled. I walked up the West Ashley Bikeway to the Ardmore community in the nick of time to be welcomed by Darlene Heater, CEO & Executive Director, Charleston Parks Conservancy Director and the project team.

Little did they know I'd already made multiple visits to watch their garden grow. The Mulberry Food Forest is a hop, skip and jump off the Bikeway just below Wappoo Road, and is on my regular wandering route. I detour past the pond, greet the turtles, dodge the flock of guardian geese and cross the bridge to the grass roofed pavilion installed by Clemson University students in the garden location. I was pleased to be there for the official opening festivities, sip ice cold lemonade on the hot, humid day, and see the progress.

Located in the Ardmore community, the Food Forest is planted with a thriving

pollinator and rain garden, fruits, nuts, vegetables and herbs and the produce is free and open to the public. It is already thriving and producing and anyone can access it at any time. The neighborhood was selected as one that might greatly benefit from access to healthy affordable food.

Darlene Heater said they expect to see 30,000 pounds of produce come out of the food forest each year after it is established. "The project was initially funded through a grant of \$50,000 from the South Carolina Forestry Commission. The Conservancy along with teams of volunteers is handling the horticulture, while the City of Charleston's parks department continues to do the structural work to add pathways and soon to install a new playground at the park."

A throng of lively children, community and neighborhood leaders, sponsors, board members, project partners and press were on hand to listen to the opening remarks for this ambitious project and celebrate the ribbon cutting, before wandering through the garden paths, sharing and learning along the way.

Sponsors, including Trident United Way, the City of Charleston, Bank of America and the South Carolina Forestry Commission there, pleased to see the successful outcome of their support.

Madison James, Health Program Manager with Trident United Way spoke, saying, "At Trident United Way, we know that having access to fresh foods contributes to

household financial stability. That's why the Mulberry Food Forest is a shining example of a community partnership that just makes sense. Households that have access to fresh foods through programs like this are not only taking steps towards financial stability, they will also experience lower rates of chronic disease, better productivity, and reduced healthcare costs, just to name a few.

This increased access, partnered with the great educational resources Charleston Parks Conservancy will add throughout this space, helps to further inspire the next generation to establish healthy habits early on, to reap the benefits over a lifetime."

Planning began in the spring of 2023 with community input sessions clarifying the goals of the project and the understanding that the Food Forest would be both community-led and driven.

Sam Haab, Community Garden Manager, Charleston Parks Conservancy, has been involved since March, designing and selecting the plants for the thriving pollinator garden. She has been doing a monthly pollinator census and has already noted a huge increase in number and species. Thanks to the Trident United Way funding, Sam is planning programming for summer camps for the Pink House to start the following week, and anticipates bucket mushroom classes. Ninety six logs have been inoculated with oyster and shitake mushrooms.

Katie Bell, Director of Programs,

Charleston Parks Conservancy, was guiding visitors through the garden, when she pointed to a small tree and exclaimed, "That was full of plums the other day. They are gone! That means someone found them!" Nothing could have pleased her more. The produce in the Food Forest is free for the taking.

We saw multiple kinds of citrus, banana trees, blueberries, strawberries, olives, pomegranates and artichokes. There is a melting pot of cultures in the neighborhood and plant choices such as figs, persimmons and lemongrass, deliberately reflect multicultural experiences for cooking and familiarity. Some are already producing, while others like the pecan trees will take many years.

I overheard Reverend Kim Bryant of Grace United Methodist Church, reminiscing about hearing her father say, "You like food, don't you? Take care of your plants. Care for them, and they will take care of us."

The Charleston Parks Conservancy did the initial planting with community volunteer support. Seventy five plants from nut trees to berries were planted and so far only three have been lost. The City of Charleston provided the irrigation system that is automated and controlled by smartphone, which helped through the recent drought.

Amanda Barton, Landscape Architect, shared how exciting it has been to be part of the project

continued on page 7...

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from the beginning. "It is the first of its kind in South Carolina, and we hope it will be the model for others. It is already an educational tool. The Conservancy will offer camps, classes and training on how to prepare the crops, harvesting and preserving."

I inquired about the rules. There aren't many. Community members are asked to be reasonable. We should take only what we will use, and leave enough for others. Be respectful.

Owen Vogel is President of the Ardmore Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association and had the honor of officially cutting the ribbon. He described the afternoon's experience as almost surreal, to see the finished garden open and producing in real life after all the discussion and planning. "Neighbors have been walking through, seeing fruit and vegetables they'd never heard of."

One of the best features of the garden is the long term planning. I might snip an herb for my dinner tonight, but the nut and olive trees will take years to produce. Community members may well walk their grandchildren through the garden in years to come at

harvest time. Board member Sean Wesley Holleran said, "It is an absolute privilege to serve as a board member for the Charleston Parks Conservancy, and I am so excited about the long-term possibility of getting sustainable fresh produce into the hands of Charleston families that might need a little extra help through this innovative food forest."

My grandparents retired to a small fruit farm that had a cherry tree with branches overgrowing the country lane. Neighborhood children on bicycles would ride by, take their hands off the handlebars, reach up to grab a handful of cherries and sail on down the road, their mouths full of red sweetness and laughter. It delighted my grandfather, and the kids felt they'd gotten away with mild mischief. The Mulberry Food Forest is a wonderful addition that will pay off for West Ashley residents in joy, finance and health for years in the future.

**For more information
or to sign up to volunteer, visit:
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project/mulberry-park-food-forest/](http://www.charlestonparksconservancy.org/project/mulberry-park-food-forest/)**

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A New Chapter for Middleton Place

Visionary museum leader Dana Hand Evans takes the helm at Middleton Place Foundation

from Staff Reports



Last week, Middleton Place Foundation welcomed Dana Hand Evans as the organization's new President & CEO. Evans, recognized for her visionary leadership, previously served as the Executive Director and CEO of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. She has extensive experience in historic preservation, public history, and museum management.

Identified through a nationwide executive search, Evans officially began her new post at Middleton Place last month.

Foundation chairman Mike Laughlin made the announcement citing the Board of Trustees' enthusiastic endorsement of Evans as the Foundation's next leader.

"Dana brings a wealth of knowledge, vision, and a career-long commitment to historic preservation and public history," said Laughlin. "We're thrilled she will lead Middleton Place Foundation into its next chapter."

Charles Duell, founder of Middleton Place Foundation, echoes that enthusiasm for the organization's new CEO. "Dana brings new zest to the Foundation's mission of

preservation, research, and education," said Duell, "and we are excited to see Middleton Place, a national treasure, reach new heights under her leadership."

Evans is joining Middleton Place at a notable time in its history. This year Middleton Place kicked off a year-long celebration to commemorate the Foundation's 50th anniversary and to celebrate its long-standing commitment to inspiring positive change through an understanding of American history. Moreover, the completion of a forward-thinking master plan by the renowned landscape architect Thomas Woltz has provided a visionary roadmap to move Middleton Place into the future.

"It is an honor to serve Middleton Place Foundation as its next President and CEO," said Evans, "and I look forward to working with its talented staff and dedicated Board to build on past successes and forge new ones going forward. I am especially excited to join Middleton Place at such a pivotal time as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary and strategically looks to the future."

Evans has served for 14 years as

Executive Director and CEO of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV) in Winchester, Vir., a year-round regional history complex encompassing three historic houses, eight acres of formal gardens, 200 acres of working farm, a 50,000 square-foot history museum and administrative center designed by architect Michael Graves, and Virginia's largest art park, with 85 acres of hiking, walking, and Art Trails. Working with a Board, staff, donors, and community partners, over her tenure at the MSV Evans created a new vision, mission, and brand for the MSV and then developed and implemented five-year Strategic and ten-year Master Plans. Today, the MSV greets more than 200,000 visitors annually, has a membership of 4,200 households, and is a relevant, transformative gathering place for shared ideas that has enriched the local and regional community.

Earlier in her career Evans was director and curator of Wilton House Museum of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia and then Executive Director of both, located in Richmond, Virginia. Before that, she

served on staff at Agecroft Hall and Gardens and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, both in Richmond.

Evans earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Art History, Painting and Printmaking from La Salle University, Philadelphia; and a Master of Arts Degree in Art History, Historical Studies, and a Master of Public Administration Degree, both from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). She is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive (DFRE) in the Association of Fundraising Professionals, and, notably in the museum field, a Fellow of the Museum Leadership Institute of Getty Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate University, California. Educational training has included study abroad at Lorenzo de Medici Academy of Arts, Florence, Italy.

With a long list of professional and community service affiliations, Evans's consultations have included Adjunct Instructor at Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia, and Accreditation Peer Reviewer for the American Alliance of Museums.

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Running For a Cause

West Ashley resident Allie Holland runs marathon for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Charleston

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

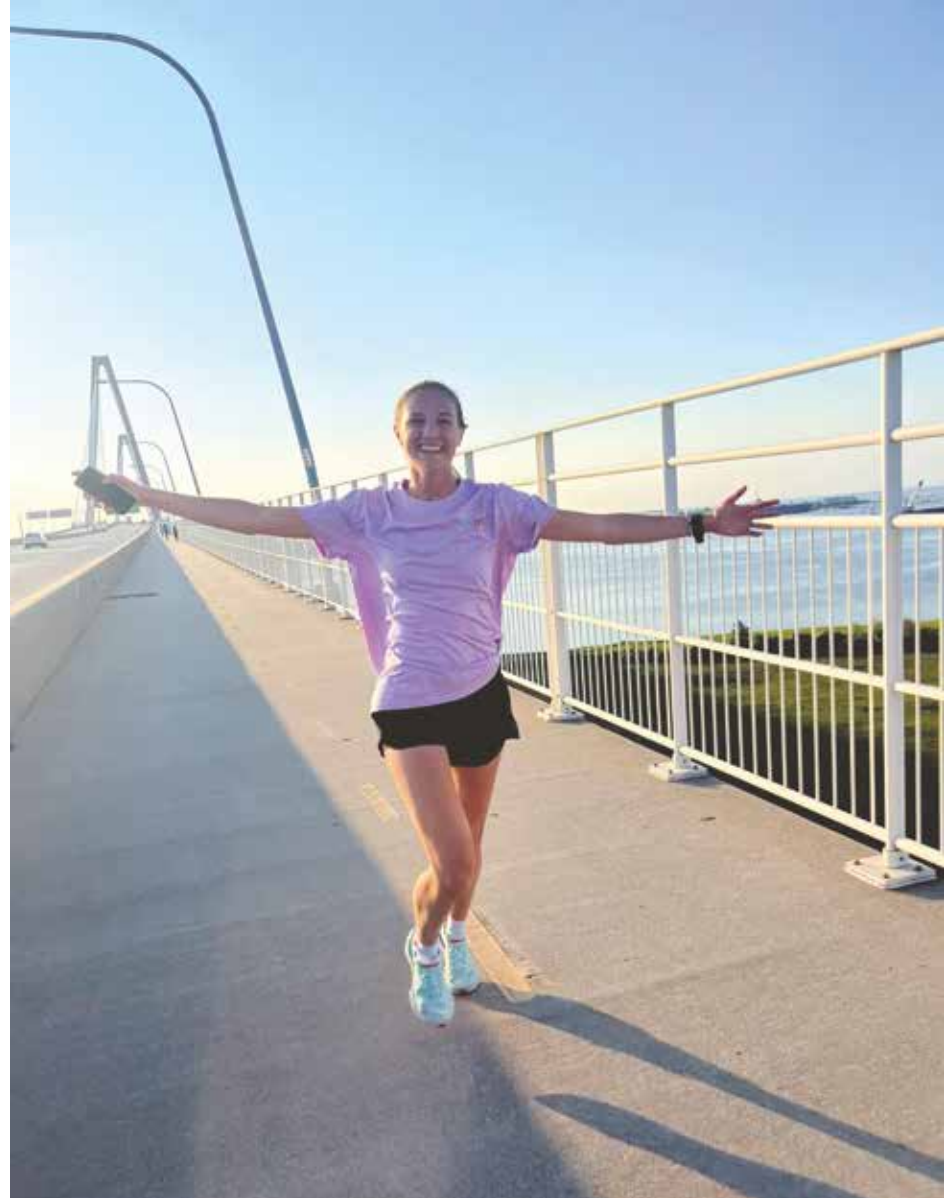
West Ashley resident Allie Holland has been running for as long as she can remember. However, at the end of this year, she will participate in her first-ever marathon when she takes on the Kiawah Island Marathon on Dec. 14. But for her, it's more than the miles (or kilometers) or just a feather in her cap (or running shoes). Holland has committed to using her training leading up to the marathon as a way to raise funds and awareness for the local Ronald McDonald House Charities of Charleston, an organization that provides vital support to families with children undergoing medical treatment.

"My goal is to show that if an everyday person like me—not a seasoned marathoner—can run to create change and make a difference, then anyone can," says Holland, who went to college on a lacrosse scholarship but only got serious about running recently. Last year, she participated in the Summerville Sweet Tea Half-Marathon.

"Taking on this marathon has been a new and exciting challenge for me, and I'm really looking forward to the experience," she says

According to Holland, training

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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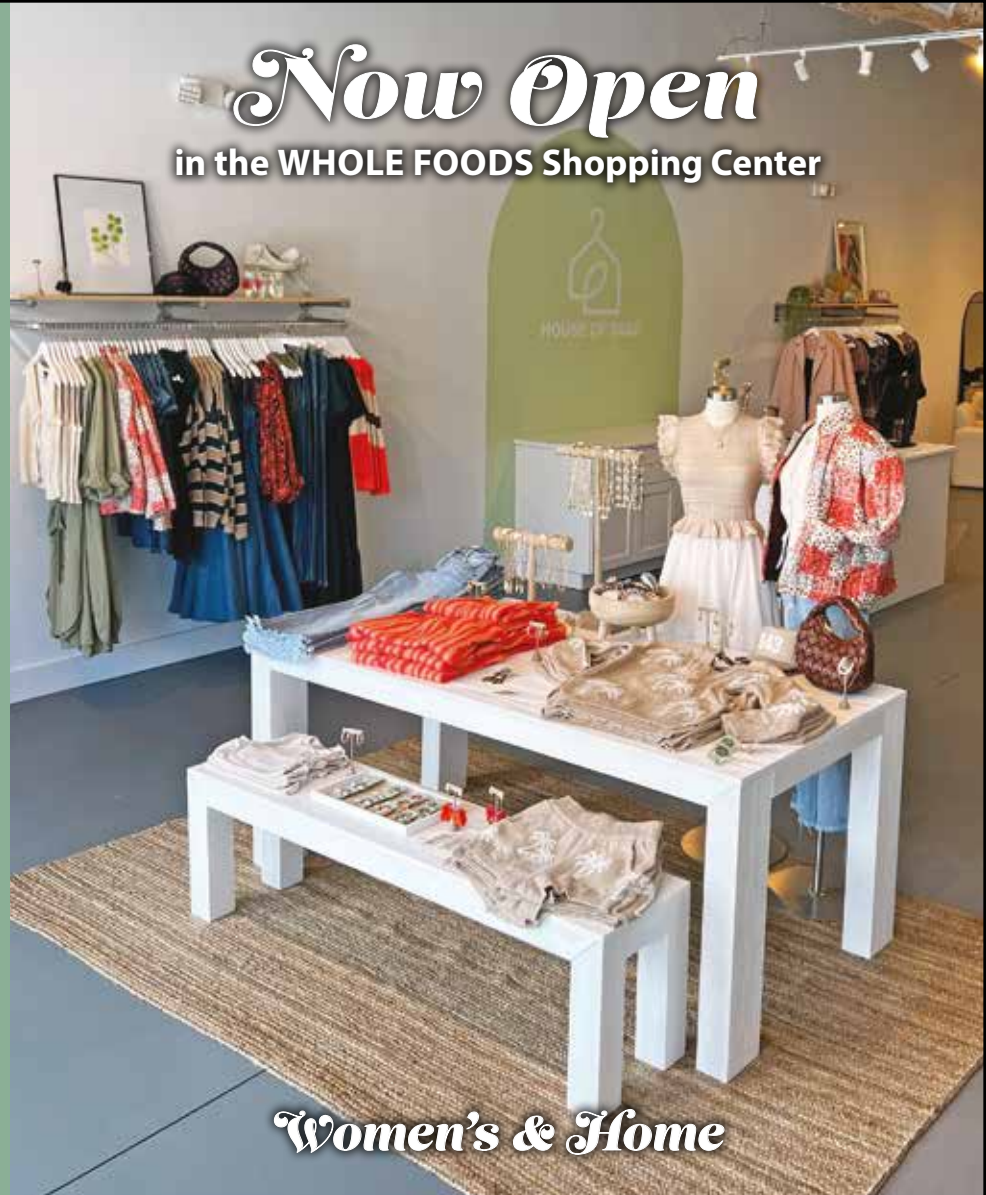
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for a marathon requires discipline and dedication, but she says living in West Ashley makes it much more enjoyable.

"I'm lucky to have so many beautiful spots to train, whether it's running the Greenway or looping around my neighborhood," she says. She also tries to always make time to connect with fellow runners at local run clubs—Tuesday nights with the Charleston Running Club and Saturday mornings with the Pump Run Club are both staples in her weekly routine.

"Running to raise awareness for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Charleston has made every mile more purposeful and meaningful, turning this journey into my most enjoyable training experience yet," says Holland. "I've always admired the work Ronald McDonald House Charities does to support families in our community during difficult times."

To Holland's surprise, her original donation goal was met quickly. In just over a week, she raised \$3,000. People she'd never met, her best friends here in Charleston, acquaintances from high school, family, anonymous donors, and local businesses all came together to support Holland and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Charleston.

"Because of this overwhelming support, we recently raised our donation goal to give the community a chance

to make an even bigger impact," she says. "The social media response has been incredible—people are engaging, sharing the message, and spreading the word, turning this into a truly community-driven movement. It's been inspiring to witness how this effort has united so many people for a cause that genuinely matters."

Here's how it works: When someone, whether an individual or a local business, donates on Holland's JustGiving page, she adds them to her running schedule. That means their donation essentially "sponsors" one of her training runs. On that day, she completes her run with their support in mind and calls them out by name on her @Allierunschs dedicated Instagram page, showing just how much their contribution means to her and the cause.

"I'm just incredibly grateful for all the support we have received throughout this journey. While we haven't quite hit our new fundraising goal yet, we still have until race day in December, and I'm confident we can make it," says Holland.

Follow Allie Holland's journey on Instagram at @Allierunschs or you can make a donation at justgiving.com/page/allierunschs.



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The following were taken from actual incident reports filed last month by the City of Charleston Police Department. These are not convictions and the names of businesses, complainants, and suspects have been left out to protect the innocent. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty ... of course.

football helmets worth over \$800. When an employee attempted to get the man's attention as he walked by all the points of sale without paying, the man stated, "If you touch me or the helmets, I will hit you with them." The manager did not engage with the man following the threat. Video footage will be reviewed and the case is ongoing.

JULY 30

STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES

Officers responded to a pawn shop after a man who was looking for his stolen camera lens said he found it for sale at the shop. The man had previously filed a report of the theft and while inside the store, he observed what was believed to be his lens and called 9-1-1. The man had the box for the lens that included the model and serial number and the lens for sale matched the information. The shop employee looked through records and provided the name of the person who sold the lens saying the shop purchased it for \$260. The victim stated that he was familiar with the suspect. The case is ongoing.

JULY 31

SHOPLIFTING

Officers responded to a department store about a shoplifting incident where a man had stolen a bag of merchandise worth \$716 and was identified by workers by his very prominent tattoo on his neck. The loss prevention officer had already recovered the goods. Officers located the 37-year-old suspect walking nearby. While being arrested, officers found a clear baggie containing 1.64 grams of powdery/crystal substance in the man's sock that the man said was cocaine.

AUGUST 3

ALL OTHER LARCENY

Officers were called to a fast-food restaurant after a couple responded that as they were leaving, the woman accidentally dropped an envelope with \$1,500 dollars in cash in the parking lot and someone had stolen it. Officers reviewed camera footage which shows the woman unknowingly dropping the white envelope. Ten minutes later, a vehicle approaches and a man gets out of the car and picks up the envelope and gets back in his car making "no attempt to locate the owner of the envelope or return it to the business." Officers attempted to locate the suspect vehicle using license plate searches and the SCDMV online, but were unable to identify a suspect.

August 5

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/OBJECT

According to a police report, officers were called to a West Ashley bar after a patron assaulted a fellow patron with a microphone stand. The incident happened on Aug. 3 around 9 p.m. when a band that was performing got on stage and announced a description of an individual in the crowd and stated, "You know who you are, and you're not welcome here."

Moments later, the individual, who was wearing pants with leather straps and chains, sporting a buzz cut and several facial piercings, including a bar in his eyebrow and bull ring in his nose, attacked another patron with a microphone stand, striking him in the face before running away, back into the crowd of people. The following day, the patron returned to get footage of the assault, which was posted to the bar's social media page in order to identify the suspect. The victim said he did not personally know the suspect.

AUGUST 5

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A man called officers to report a noise complaint about his neighbor's dog that would not stop barking. The man said his neighbor refused to keep his animal from barking. According to the man, the leasing office needed an official police report to allow him to break his lease without penalty.

AUGUST 7

PEEPING TOM

A West Ashley woman reported that around 10:45 p.m. after she had exited the shower and was braiding her hair in her bathroom, she saw an unknown man's face peeping at her from the window. She said the man appeared to be in his late 40s to early 50s. Officers observed the mulch around the window had been disturbed, including possible footprints in the grass leading from the sidewalk to the window. Officers also observed that the side gate of residence was open. Officers said they noticed a neighbor who was on a porch nearby while on their way to answering the call who matched the description of the offender and attempted to make contact, but the neighbor did not answer the door. The case is ongoing.

AUGUST 9

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/FIREARM

Officers responded to a large fight at a shopping mall that ended with a gunshot and located a juvenile victim who was bleeding from the back of her right ankle. A suspect was detained on scene.

AUGUST 15

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A 22-year-old man was kicked out of a local gym for causing a disturbance, yelling and cursing at fellow gym patrons and ended up leading officers on a brief foot pursuit through the parking lot that ended with him being tased to the ground. Officers arrived as the man was being escorted out of the gym and the suspect walked away from officers before taking a "defensive stance," attempting to physically fight officers, removing his bookbag and shoes to get into a better fighting position, stating "I have bond money." The man wrestled an officer and ran away from the scene and was tased in order to comply with officer's commands. He was charged with assault on police while resisting arrest and public disorderly conduct.

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A&E

“I grew up with the idea of a melting pot. So I’ve always seen British culture and Asian culture, and worldly cultures, and been inspired by them all.”

— Gina Marie, local fashion designer

A Flair for Fashion

West Ashley designer Gina Marie reps her brand in New York for Fashion Week

by Elise Lusk | Contributing Writer

Thirteen years ago, Gina Marie was working in battery manufacturing, a job she despised. Her son was on the brink of graduating from high school, and she felt it was time she discovered what she wanted to be when she grew up. Thankfully, she worked in the same industrial park as Kohl’s corporate and one day wandered into their job fair where she encountered designer jobs. Always a creative person, the career immediately piqued her interest. She recalled thinking, “Ooo, designer. What’s that?”

From there Marie started taking online art courses through her local community college in Wisconsin and then later with the Academy of the Arts in San Francisco. She quickly realized she didn’t want to work for anyone. She wanted to be her own designer, but she knew Wisconsin wasn’t a suitable place to grow her business. After looking at a few different places, she decided to fly to Charleston for Charleston Fashion Week.

“I fell in love as soon as I got off the plane,” she said. “It was like, ‘Oh, this is where I need to be,’” said Marie, who then briefly attended the Art Institute of Charleston before deciding to call it quits and put her money into her own brand, Brooke Wilder Atelier.

“Brooke is my inner wild child. She

is my idea of a free woman. A woman who is unrestricted and just living in all of her natural, dramatic, romantic flair. Think Carrie Bradshaw from *Sex in the City*,” Marie said.

Wilder derives from an old English name that means one who is unafraid to adventure, and Atelier in French means studio. When brainstorming the name Marie was deeply inspired by Tommy Bahama and how the creators made a character and then built the brand around that character, as well as artists such as Sasha Fierce, Beyonce, and Chappell Roan who opt to use stage names rather than their own.

“I don’t want anything tied to my name,” Marie said. “I don’t want to be a brand. I want to be me, and I want to be free to be me. Brooke allows me to do that.”

Marie described the Brooke Wilder Atelier aesthetic as bohemian, but not in the way we typically think of the word today.

“Bohemian is more European, it is more referential to art and creativity and design. It’s not necessarily hippy, it’s more like the Bohemians in the ‘20s and ‘30s who sat around at cafes and talked art and music, and they had on all of their different garbs and things like that, said

Marie. “That is very much my style. I like to mix and match worldly kinds of things. I grew up with the idea of a melting pot. So I’ve always seen British culture and Asian culture, and worldly cultures and been inspired by them all.”

One of the brand’s defining elements is that it’s environmentally friendly and sustainable. This is something that comes naturally to Marie as she grew up very poor with frugal parents who found inventive ways to use what they had. Her couture pieces are one of a kind, and one and done. She doesn’t remake anything. All of her ready-to-wear collections are small-batch, limited production. This year Marie also started doing bridal fashion, but even that will be done ethically.

“We use pieces that are reusable, functional, and if we make the piece in one of our natural fibers, we can dye it,” Marie explained. So the bride could wear an all-white look, and then after the wedding, we could dye it for her to use another way.”

Marie only acquires eco-dyes and eco-friendly fabrics. She doesn’t use polyesters or even recycled polyesters because they don’t decompose. She even often makes her own non-toxic botanical dyes in house in her West Ashley studio. It’s this kind of meticulous environmental care that contributes to Brooke Wilder

Atelier’s reputation as a standout, successful brand.

On Thursday, Sept. 5, Marie is headed to the Big Apple for the legendary New York Fashion Week. It’s her second year attending the event, and this time Brooke Wilder Atelier will represent the South Carolina Red Cross in Elysian’s Furbaby Catwalk competition. This show is a benefit event that raises money for animal rescues across the country. Marie’s design is inspired by the history of the women in the Red Cross and Wonder Woman because, to her, they are the true Wonder Women.

“It’s an amazing event. It’s the first event of fashion week,” Marie said. “Last year my look was the first look on the runway. It was amazing.”

Marie’s design was also used as the movie poster for Elysian’s documentary about the show which won Best Fashion Documentary at the New York Film Festival.

This year Belle Scott, a Charleston School of Law graduate and Marie’s model, will don the runway look and walk Fiona, a rescue dog from New York, down the runway. Voting will take place after the event.

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Shuck Cancer

Veteran Nashville songwriter Dave Gibson and newcomer Charlie Argo play Shuckin' Shack as part of Fresh & Raw Tour

from Staff Reports

Shuckin' Shack Oyster Bar aims to Shuck Cancer with a live music fundraising event featuring a mix of nostalgic country and new country. The 2024 Fresh & Raw Tour is a concert series and charity event launched with Truist to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The tour makes a stop in West Ashley this month with a free show from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22.

"For us, community extends beyond city limits and restaurant walls. When we're talking about a community of people affected by cancer, we're extending our reach beyond any geographics," said Jonathan Weathington, CEO of Shuckin' Shack. "We don't use Fresh & Raw as a publicity stunt, we truly don't make any money off of it. Fresh & Raw is for our customers and their families, giving them a place to come and celebrate life and togetherness, all for the benefit of seeking cures for terrible diseases."

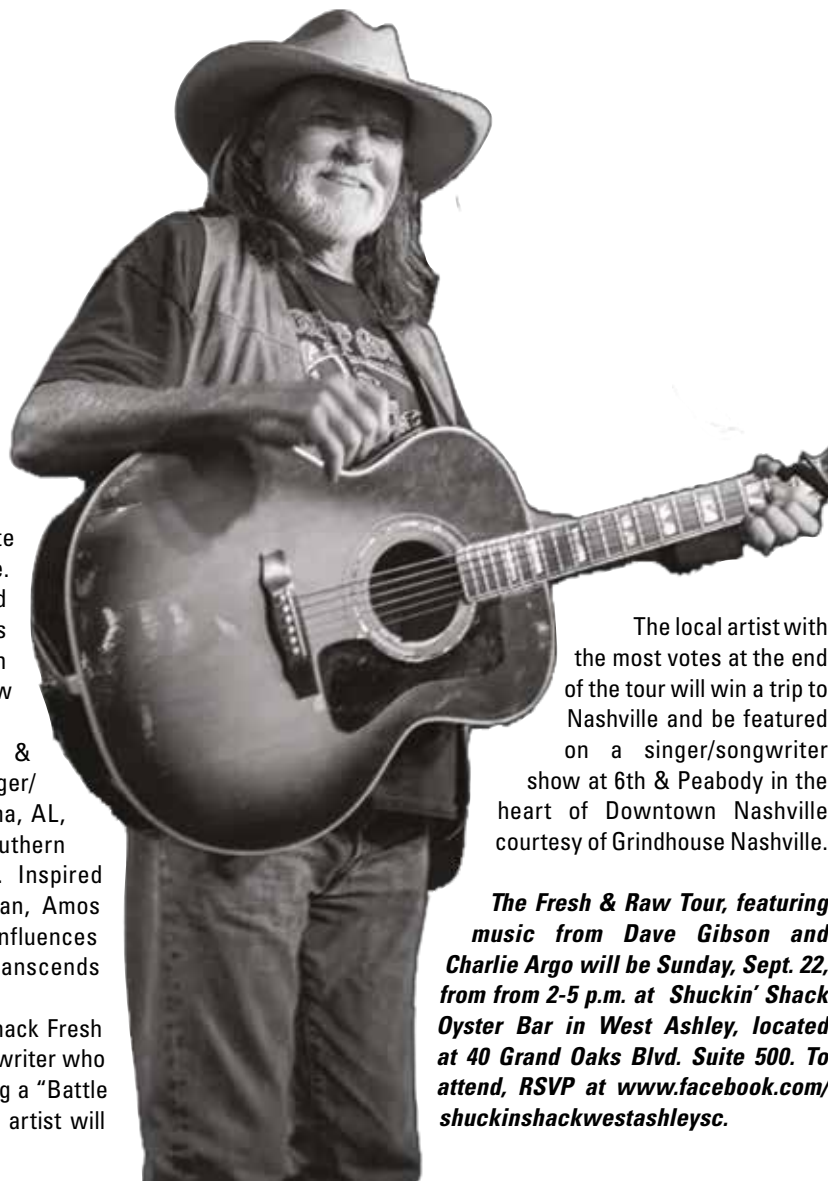
While the show is free to attend, attendees are encouraged to donate to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Over the past two years of The Fresh & Raw Tour, Shuckin' Shack and its guests have raised more than \$130,000 to help find a cure for and support those fighting blood cancers.

The tour will feature legendary Nashville singer/

songwriter Dave Gibson, who has written #1 hits for Alabama, Tanya Tucker, Confederate Railroad, Montgomery Gentry, and more. Plus, his own band The Gibson/Miller Band was a country fan favorite in the early '90s with multiple charting songs and it even won the Academy of Country Music's New Group of the Year award in 1993.

Joining Gibson on this year's Fresh & Raw Tour is up-and-coming Nashville singer/songwriter Charlie Argo. A native of Selma, AL, his music an unmistakable blend of Southern blues and country influences. Argo is inspired by artists like Otis Redding, Gregg Allman, Amos Lee, and Travis Tritt, Charlie's musical influences converge into a unique sound that transcends traditional country boundaries.

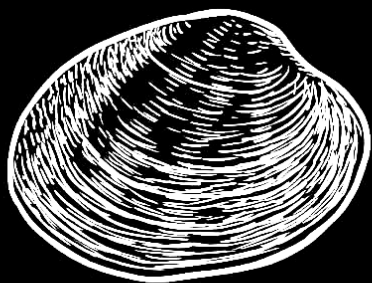
Additionally, each date on Shuckin' Shack Fresh & Raw Tour will feature a local singer/songwriter who will open the show. Shuckin' Shack is holding a "Battle of the Openers" contest where each local artist will be featured on www.theshuckinshack.com.



The local artist with the most votes at the end of the tour will win a trip to Nashville and be featured on a singer/songwriter show at 6th & Peabody in the heart of Downtown Nashville, courtesy of Grindhouse Nashville.

The Fresh & Raw Tour, featuring music from Dave Gibson and Charlie Argo will be Sunday, Sept. 22, from from 2-5 p.m. at Shuckin' Shack Oyster Bar in West Ashley, located at 40 Grand Oaks Blvd. Suite 500. To attend, RSVP at www.facebook.com/shuckinshackwestashleysc.

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Flavors Of Fall

What to expect in your autumn array

Although some beer styles scream summer and are best enjoyed during those hottest months, most, if not all, of them are available year-round. While you may choose not to drink wheat beers, pilsners, golden lagers, and saisons after Labor Day, these varieties are generally still accessible at your nearest brewery, grocer, or bottle shop throughout the year.

Yet, the fall releases signal a deluge of seasonal beers that will continue through the winter months and shall not stop until spring! However, each season, beginning with autumn, followed by winter, and ending with spring, will offer certain styles and releases of beer that will only be available for a limited time.

And since the first day of fall arrives on Sunday, Sept. 22, let's discuss the main autumn-only released beers. There may be a few other random styles that only hit shelves in September, October, or (gasp) August, but the big three fall beers are Märzen, pumpkin, and fresh-hop ale. This, of course, leaves out the under-appreciated malty brown ales, which will become more prevalent in the coming weeks.

Historically, the first fall seasonal release is Oktoberfest (or Märzen). In general, I tend to recommend the German versions of this amber lager over our homegrown options, mainly due to tradition. Hopped-out high-ABV Oktoberfests just seem wrong to me, in the same way that oompah music and lederhosen seem right when paired with brats and sauerkraut.

Paulaner and Hacker-Pschorr a favorite German-brewed selection, but you won't be faulted and can't go wrong with local choices from Coast, Edmunds Oast, Westbrook, and West Ashley's own Charles Towne Fermentory.

In more recent times, and now more than ever, pumpkin ales are a definite signifier that fall is upon us. Maybe more than any other style, the popularity of pumpkin beers this time of year outshines even the reach of craft beer itself. Beyond the notion of numerous different faux-craft versions of pumpkin beer that clog shelves, this seems to be a style that everyone from macro-lager drinkers to wine snobs will take up and enjoy for a few weeks a year.

Being an American-only style, you won't have to compare with examples from overseas. My favorite is Punk'n Ale from Dogfish Head Brewing Co. With a brown ale base, Punk'n is more robust and not as sweet or pumpkin-spice forward as some other similar offerings.

A less-celebrated fall tradition is the release of fresh-hop beers, including IPAs, pale ales, and rare ambers, which use recently harvested hops. Comparing non-harvest ales

to fresh or wet-hop beers is much like making a meal with dried herbs from a shaker versus living herbs from the garden. The flavors are similar but worlds apart.

My first introduction to these juicy and obviously fresh-tasting beers was with the Sierra Nevada Harvest IPA series, which is still fantastic if you can find it. Another favorite is actually a pale ale, Fresh Hop from Great Divide Brewing. Citrus like you wouldn't believe, oozing juicy sips of bright deliciousness, this beer offers enough malt to keep it from becoming puckering and keeping those pungent hop cones in check.

There are certainly other styles of beer that may be released in September and October. And of course, we will soon see winter and Christmas ales hitting shelves (Sam Adams leading the charge, of course). But we're now fully in the swing in what I think of as the true beer fan's best time of year – fall release season. Enjoy the brews

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DINING

Getting More Bang For Your Bite

Mex 1 Coastal Cantina steps up its game with new Culinary Director and Director of Operations

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

For 11 years, Mex 1 Coastal Cantina has been bringing the flavors of Southern California to West Ashley. But a lot has changed in the last decade, especially in the ever-changing world of restaurants. And that's why marketing and beverage director Morgan Hurley says the company has decided to step its game up by bringing in some new blood.

"We're an established brand, but we needed to inject some energy back into it," said Hurley, who grew up in the restaurant industry in Charleston and knows very well that you can't sit on your laurels in this business. "We wanted to bring more creativity, energy, and innovation to what we've already been doing here."

Last month, Hurley announced the appointment of Chef Ruddy Bollat as the new Culinary Director and Michelle Longo as the new Director of Operations for all three Mex 1 Coastal Cantinas located throughout the Lowcountry. These dynamic additions to the Mex 1 team mark an exciting new chapter for the local restaurant group, renowned for its craveable Baja-style tacos, fresh-squeezed margaritas, and laid-back atmosphere.

Bollat, a native of Guatemala, has worked in some of the hottest restaurants in New York and Nashville before being lured by Longo to the South Carolina coast to take over the kitchen at Mex 1. The two previously worked together at Bartaco and remained in touch over the years. When Longo was hired as operations manager, she knew she wanted Bollat to come in to

help Mex 1 continue to grow and evolve as it heads into its second decade in business.

Longo has a strong track record in restaurant operations and hospitality. According to Hurley, her role with Mex 1 will primarily focus on optimizing guest experiences and supporting the existing team to ensure guests have a great time while dining there.

Bollat brings a wealth of culinary expertise and creativity to Mex 1 Coastal Cantina. With a distinguished background in culinary development, Hurley says he's set to elevate the menu with innovative dishes that celebrate fresh, coastal ingredients while staying true to the cantina's signature style.

Some immediate changes regulars will notice are in the technique and preparation. While many of the Mex 1 favorites will remain on the menu, Bollat is changing how they are made to enhance flavor. For example, the adobe chicken is packed with zest, the esquites or street corn is now roasted, giving a much richer flavor, and the guacamole is made using fresh avocados.

"You're getting much more bang for your bite now," says Longo about the modifications Bollat has made already. More changes are coming and will be slowly implemented over the next several months. Bollat says he plans to roll out some new menu items via daily and weekly specials that play of the coastal theme, such as Seared Tuna Taco and Crab Enchiladas. He also will be adding new veggie items, like Fried



Chef Ruddy Bollat is the new Culinary Director at Mex 1 Coastal Cantina. He and new Director of Operations, Michelle Longo, have been brought in to inject some new energy into the popular Baja Mexican restaurant.

Buffalo Brussels Sprouts.

In the meantime, Hurley says they plan to pause brunch and lean into football on the weekends, with a special gameday menu featuring wings, Mexican sliders, fajitas, and carnitas taquitos, fajitas, and nachos.

You will also see some immediate new additions to the menu, such as Mahi-Mahi Skewers, Mexi-Cali Burrito, and a Rancho chicken Sandwich.

"We are excited to welcome Ruddy and Michelle to our team. Their expertise

and vision align with our commitment to delivering great food and service," says Hurley. "We look forward to seeing the positive impact of their leadership while helping to refocus Mex 1 Coastal Cantina on the spirit of road trips down the Baja coast, coastal tacos, and margaritas, while invoking the feeling of community."

Mex 1 is located at 817 St Andrews Blvd. For more information, call 877-363-4093 or visit www.mex1can.com.

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Suburban Oasis

West Ashley hydroponics shop
transforms home gardening

by Joan Perry | Contributing Writer

A benefit of writing the West Ashley Wanderer column is that I feel justified in poking my nose into anything that piques my curiosity in our neighborhood, and I happen to be curious about a lot of things.

That happened recently when I was walking along Savannah Highway after enjoying an iced coffee and mini frittata at WildFlour Bakery. It isn't the prettiest walking route, but you notice things on foot that you miss when battling our highway traffic. I passed a shop with a healthy green Cuban Oregano plant trying to grab all the sunshine it could get through the front window.

We have an indoor plant specialty store in West Ashley. Did y'all know that? I didn't, yet here it was, bursting at the seams with everything needed to grow plants indoors.

Owner Melissa Norwood shared that the shop moved from James Island to its current location at 1734 Savannah Hwy., six years ago. Skyes The Limit is named for son Skyer, now a sixteen year old junior at James Island High School. Skye did a 4th grade science project at Nativity, comparing plants grown in soil vs hydroponics and made his mother proud with results proving the plants grown in water grew faster and had a bigger yield.

Melissa is a native of Greenville, SC and has a background in elementary education and hospitality. You can find her on Sunday mornings as the Face Painter at the Pour House's Sunday Brunch Farmers Market. Melissa has a vivid childhood memory of picking tomatoes inside her home. Her mother Jacquelyn, practiced Seed to Harvest, growing, canning, and preserving. She was the inspiration and encouraging force behind the Charleston shop.

"People are concerned about food sources, and interested in growing and controlling the quality of their food. Even more so during the pandemic."

The pandemic brought concerns about food chain supplies and spiked fresh interest. Melissa cautiously reopened the shop, meeting customers by appointment and helping them with their needs. It ended up revitalizing the business and 2020 was their strongest year.

"Start with something you know you will be successful at. Keep it simple." The



Skyes The Limit owner Melissa Norwood tends to a plant at her Savannah Highway shop

shop stocks and sells everything to support the hobby - from books, climate control equipment, food storage, growing media, seed starting, plant care, nutrients, to garden accessories, and they offer troubleshooting advice. Herbs are an easy beginning project and can be started on a countertop. Lettuce, spinach, kale, oregano, basil and even tomatoes, strawberries and peppers are popular and successful.

Melissa met Glenn Hollis in the shop ten years ago, when he was growing ginseng. Now the couple is engaged and she proudly describes her fiancé as the real plant expert. "He can look at a picture of a plant and tell you what's wrong with it."

Glenn is a Master Gardener and worked on the Clemson University hydroponics system. He builds greenhouses for hydroponics or regular crops, and has an impressive vertical garden system, primarily growing Sea Beans in the back of the shop. I looked at pictures of the lush growing

system, but didn't disturb them because it was the middle of a hot day and the plants were "napping." The sea beans, also known as sea asparagus, grow in salt water and are particularly suited to indoor saltwater agriculture, and are surprisingly tasty. The sea beans are already being sold to area restaurants.

Gretchen Hertel popped in for supplies and a hug during my visit. She described Melissa as, "Friendly, knowledgeable, on-point, and filled with passion for the field."

Melissa invites you to stop by to talk about plants, learn about hydroponics and indoor gardening and leave, as I did, with a sprig of Cuban Oregano. For more information visit: <http://www.skyesthelimitsc.com/>

Stay healthy, my friends. Wave at me as I wander through West Ashley. Send suggestions for upcoming columns to: westashleywanderer@gmail.com.

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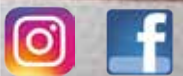
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2024 Winter Youth Sports Registration

Early Registration:
September 23 – October 6
 \$50 PSD and City Residents
 \$75 Non-PSD and Non-City Residents

Regular Registration:
October 7 – 20
 \$65 PSD and City Residents
 \$90 Non-PSD and Non-City Residents

Late Registration (*based on availability*):
October 21 – 25
 \$85 PSD and City Residents
 \$110 Non-PSD and Non-City Residents

Basketball
 COED (AGES 4, 5-6, 7-8)
 BOYS (AGES 9-12)
 GIRLS (AGES 9-12)

Call 843-763-4360 for more information.



Past participants with birth certificate on file can register online at www.standrewsparks.com



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Flipping Through the West Ashley Scrapbook

This month, enjoy some pictures from the archives

Collecting pictures and stories for more than 17 years has created quite the treasure archive to draw from in order to publish *Byrnes Downs*, *West Ashley*, and produce the *West Ashley Flashback* column.

It has been an adventure, learning experience and pleasure since I began penning this column 13 years ago.



Molli Hartzog grew up on Wappoo Drive (known today as Wesley Drive). Her home was right behind the Bootle Guest Home and across the street from the building that not only served to advertise Simmon's new development of Windermere but also served as the office for Magistrate Struhs. (Photograph courtesy of Molli Hartzog)



Molli Hartzog rescued this cow from the well near the Wessel home. The Wessels lived along the Atlantic Coast Line railroad track (Croghan's Spur) in the area that would become the neighborhood of South Windermere. (Photograph courtesy of Molli Hartzog)



John N Butehorn on his granddaughter's (Doris) horse Emmanuel. Butehorn owned a store, pasture and home on Savannah Highway near Stinson Drive. We might be looking at Savannah Highway in front of the horse! (Photograph courtesy of Doris Hagan)



In 1947, Piggly Wiggly #8 was born on Savannah Highway just north of Wappoo Road. In a few years, the Davises' sold the store to an uncle who later sold to Billy Barrineau. It was Barrineau who expanded this grocery operation in 1957 to an 11,400 square foot modern supermarket at a new location on Savannah Highway just south of Wappoo Road in order to service the greater West Ashley area. In this photograph, Barrineau is holding Billy, Jr. while standing in the front yard of their home that was just north of Wappoo Road on Savannah Highway. Yes, another view of Savannah Highway when it was just two lanes. (Photograph courtesy of Billy Barrineau, Jr.)

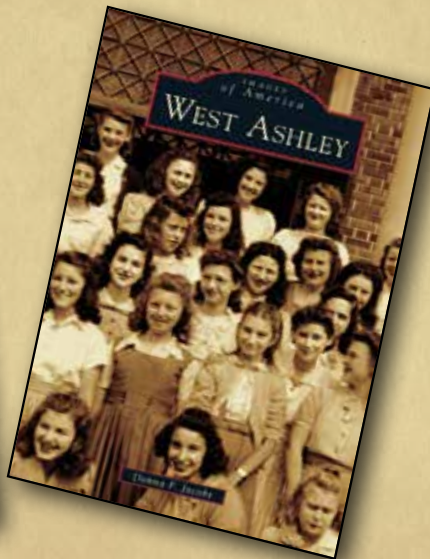
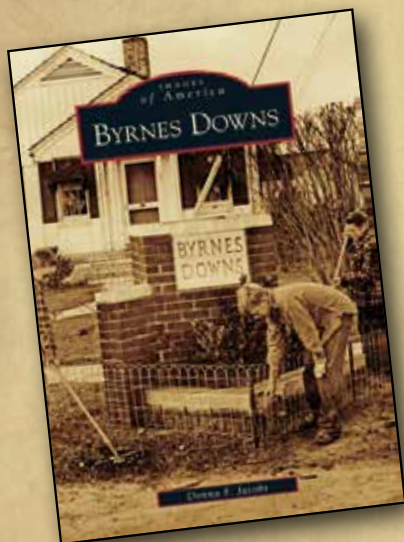


Cotesworth Pinckney Means "donated" a piece of his property along the Ashley River to be used as the second location for the POW camp during WWII. According to his grandson, Charles Means, there was a guard house located along the marsh of the Ashley River that remained after the war ended. His grandfather used as his "summer home". (Photograph courtesy of Charles Means)



Peter Ziman developed Ashley Plaza, a "first" for commercial development, on the site at the intersection of Highway 7 and 171. In 1964 Ashley Plaza opened as a two-tenant strip mall developed by Gate City Realty, Ziman's stepfather's company where Ziman served as the leasing agent. J.M. Fields and Pantry Pride were the original two stores.

Do you have some fun photographs of the early days of St. Andrew's Parish? Contact Donna Jacobs at westashleybook@gmail.com.



Take a step back in time to the early days of St. Andrew's Parish, modern day West Ashley.

By West Ashley Flashback author Donna F. Jacobs

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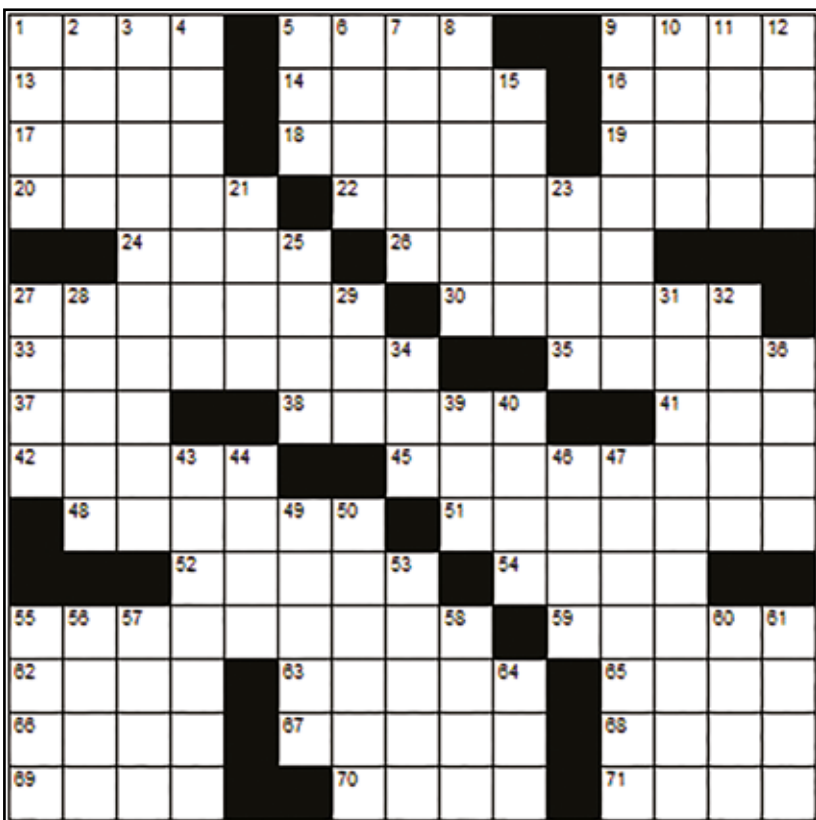
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FUN & GAMES

WEST OF CROSSWORD



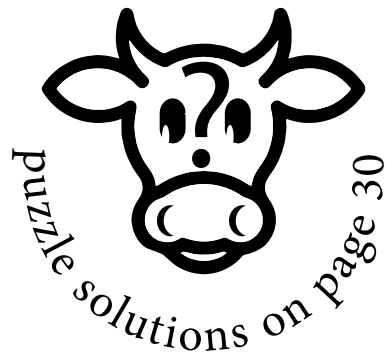
ACROSS

- 1. Walk in water
- 5. Against
- 9. Greenish blue
- 13. Dogfish
- 14. Lower part of the abdomen
- 16. Relative of a rabbit
- 17. Badgers
- 18. American symbol
- 19. Celtic language
- 20. 8th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 22. Listened
- 24. Arid
- 26. Metal fastener
- 27. Withdrawal
- 30. Leave
- 33. Peed
- 35. Thither
- 37. "Buddy"
- 38. Light informal meal
- 41. Martini ingredient
- 42. Spread out
- 45. Roamed
- 48. Bank employee
- 51. Underwater projectile
- 52. Flu symptom

DOWN

- 14. Lower part of the abdomen
- 16. Relative of a rabbit
- 18. American symbol
- 19. Celtic language
- 21. District
- 22. Listened
- 24. Arid
- 26. Metal fastener
- 27. Withdrawal
- 30. Leave
- 33. Peed
- 35. Thither
- 37. "Buddy"
- 38. Light informal meal
- 41. Martini ingredient
- 42. Spread out
- 45. Roamed
- 48. Bank employee
- 51. Underwater projectile
- 52. Flu symptom

- 23. Retained
- 25. Consumes food
- 27. Smears
- 28. Blow up
- 29. Right after nine
- 31. Not progressive
- 32. Attempted
- 34. Black bird
- 36. Prefix meaning "Within"
- 39. Feline
- 40. Comprehend
- 43. Pasta sauce
- 44. Anagram of "Lyme"
- 46. Percussion instrument
- 47. Greek letter
- 49. Kick out
- 50. Aspect
- 53. Audio communication device
- 55. Purple shade
- 56. Stepped
- 57. Ancient
- 58. Trawling equipment
- 60. Anagram of "Seek"
- 61. Let out
- 64. Golf ball support



SUDOKU

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				2	8	4		9
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TRIVIA

1. MUSIC

What pop star just had the largest crowd ever at Chicago's famed Lollapalooza festival?

2. TELEVISION

Now in its second season, what's the Apple+ original series based on the Best Selling 2017 novel by Min Jin Lee?

3. RADIO

What's the name of the host of the popular podcast "Call Her Daddy" who just signed a \$125 million deal with SiriusXM?

4. FOOD

What sweet and salty ballpark treat was first introduced in Chicago, Ill in 1872?

5. CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Martin Shkreli, the disgraced 'Pharma Bro,' was ordered to surrender the only copy of 'Once Upon A Time In Shaolin,' a rare album by what early 2000s rap group that he had once purchased \$2 million back in 2015?

6. KIDS SHOWS

What HBO kids' show centered on puppets named Gobo, Mokey, Red, Wembley, and Boober?

7. SPORTS

What is the world's fastest snake and also the nickname of the late L.A. Laker superstar Kobe Bryant?

8. LITERATURE

What poet published the epic poem The Song of Hiawatha in 1855?



Mahjong Game
Weekly Mahjong game with a \$5 PIE. Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Meets at the Pavilion in Shadowmoss (meets in the Clubhouse if it's raining). Meet new people and have some fun! All skill levels welcome.

The Sampler Guild of Charleston
All skill levels welcome. Meets on the 4th Monday of every month at 10am. Old St. Andrews Parish Church in Fellowship Hall, 2604 Ashley River Rd. For more information, contact nancythechief@gmail.com

Square Dancing Fun Night
The Belles & Beaus Square Dance Club invites you to another FREE open-house "Fun Night" on Friday, Sept. 13th from 6:30-8:30pm. If you enjoy Christian fellowship, good clean fun, exercise, and music, this event is for you! The event takes place at Holy Spirit Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3075 Bees Ferry Rd. If interested, please call (843) 556-3578 or (843) 801-0998.

Soap and Candle Making Workshops
Call for details. Pluff Mud Mercantile, 2408 Ashley River Rd. (843) 872-6022.

West Ashley Quilting and Sewing
Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 460 Arlington Dr. from 10am-noon and the 4th Tuesday of the month at Five Eighth Seams, 1888 Raoul Wallenberg Blvd. from 10am-2pm for open sew. Find on Facebook or contact cgb7507@gmail.com.

West Ashley Writer's Group
Established in 1999, this is the longest running writer's group in the Charleston area. Writers of all types and genres are welcome. Free. The group meets on Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm. Message the group here to receive the Zoom link: <https://www.facebook.com/westashleywritersgroup>

POLITICS:

Charleston County Democratic Party
www.charlestondemocrats.com

Charleston County Republican Party
www.charlestonrepublicans.org

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Bees Landing Recreation Center
1580 Ashley Gardens Blvd. (843) 402-4571. www.charleston-sc.gov. Call ahead for more info. Bricks 4 Kids, StoryTree Theater, Little Nature Lovers, Busy Bees Ballet, Monthly Art Workshops.

• Cards & Coffee. Fridays, 1pm-4pm. Free.

• MahJongg. Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm. Free.

• Bridge. Wednesday, 10am-12pm. Free.

• Acoustic Music Group. Thursdays, 2pm-4pm. Free.

Bees Ferry Library
3035 Sanders Rd., (843) 805-6892, www.ccpl.org.

This library offers a variety of events and activities for children, teens, adults, and seniors including children's story-time, computer classes, crafting events and more.

Charleston County Parks
The Charleston County Parks system offers a variety of activities, classes, and even summer camps. Check their website for more information: www.ccprc.com.

Hurd/ St. Andrews Library:
1735 N. Woodmere Dr., (843) 766-2546, www.ccpl.org
This library offers a variety of events and activities for children and teens, including crafts and month-long challenges.

West Ashley Farmers Market
Wednesdays from 3-7pm in Ackerman Park. The market will continue every Wednesday through the Fall.

SPORTS & RECREATION

St. Andrew's Family Fitness Plus:
1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., (843) 763-3850, www.standrewsparks.info.

Offers a variety of activities for adults and children.

St. Andrew's Parks & Play-ground:
1095 Playground Rd., (843) 763-4360, www.standrewsparks.com.

• Afterschool Program – Only \$85 per week. St. Andrews Playground, 1095 Playground Rd.

• Pickleball is back! – Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am-12pm, \$2 per person. Bring your own equipment or borrow. All skill levels welcome. St. Andrews Parks Gymnasium, 1095 Playground Rd.

• **2024 Scholarship Golf Tournament**
Monday, October. 14 at 1:30pm at Shadowmoss Golf Club. 4-player teams Captain's Choice Format, Shotgun start. Still looking for sponsors and players! 100% of the money raised allows low income and at risk youth in Charleston to attend programs at St. Andrew's Parks & Playground for free! Join them "FORE" a good cause. For more information, to register, and to sponsor, visit www.standrewsparks.com.

West Aquatic Center
www.ccprc.com
5156 Highway 165 Hollywood, SC 29449. (843) 762-6160.

SENIOR

Waring Senior Center:
2001 Henry Tecklenberg Dr. (843) 606-7877, www.lowcountryseniorcenter.com for more info. The West Ashley Senior Center offers a variety of fitness classes including yoga, Tai Chi, synergy, dancing, and strength training, for all levels, and art classes. Available for both members and non-members.

OUTDOOR

Caw Caw Interpretive Center:
5200 Savannah Hwy. (843) 795-4386. Register online at www.ccprc.com.

Caw Caw offers a variety of children's walks through the forrest and along the waterways, where they learn about animals and their habitats.

• **Birds of a Feather**
Spread your wings and enjoy live music from a local performer and beer or wine, included in the ticket price. Plus, experience the natural beauty of Caw Caw, which is a favored habitat for many different species of birds and other animals. Saturday, Sept. 28 from 5-7pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door (credit card only). Valid ID must be presented for alcohol. Dogs and bikes are not permitted. To purchase, visit www.ccprc.com

• **Junior Naturalist: Animal Trackers and Graduation**
Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10am-12pm. Bring your curiosity and engage all of your senses while exploring natural habitats at your County parks! Fee: \$7, ages 8-12 years. Program speed is moderately slow to medium.

• **Mystic Moth**
Friday, Sept. 20 from 7-8:30pm. Extraordinarily diverse in color, shape, and size moths not. Only pollinate plants, but feed birds and even people. Fee: \$10, ages 12 and up. Program speed is moderately slow.

• **Understanding the Rice Culture:** Saturday, Sept. 14, from 11am-12:30pm. To talk about land in the Lowcountry is an automatic talk about rice, who grew it, where it came from, and how the cultivation changed the landscape in ways that are still evident today. Fee: \$10, ages 16 and up.

Charleston Parks Conservancy
www.charlestonparksconservancy.org

• **Early Morning Bird Walk at West Ashley Park**

Join seasoned bird enthusiasts of Holy City Birding for a leisurely stroll through the park on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 7:30-9:30am. Enjoy complimentary coffee from Highfalutin Coffee Roasters as you connect with fellow bird enthusiasts, whether you're a seasoned birder or beginner. Event is free, but limited to 25 people, so please register at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org.

• **Fall Music in the Park Series**
An evening of live music, food trucks, and good vibes! Thursday, Sept. 12, from 5:30-7:30pm. Free to attend, bring your blankets and a valid ID to purchase beer and wine if you like. Magnolia Park and Community Garden. RSVP at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org. Magnolia Park and Community Garden is located at 720 Magnolia Rd.

• **Walk in the Park: Weekly Walking Group**
This is a 6-week Monday morning brisk walk series. Walk along the West Ashley Greenway (John's Island end) while you connect with nature, meet new people, and enjoy the outdoors. Mondays in September, starting at 9am. Meets at the McLeod Mill Rd. parking lot. Sign up at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org.

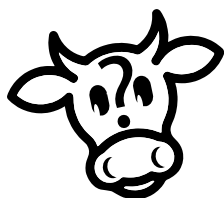
Charles Towne Landing
www.southcarolinaparks.com
1500 Old Towne Plantation Rd., Charleston, SC 29407. (843) 852-4200.

• **Great Guns on the Ashley** (Artillery Demonstration)
Feel the ground shake beneath your feet and smell the brimstone as the Charles Towne Militia fires replica 17th century cannons. The 20-minute program explores the Spanish threat. Saturday, Sept. 7 1-3:20pm and Saturday, Oct. 5 1-3:20pm. Free with admission

Stono River County Park
3580 McLeod Mill Rd., www.ccprc.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

W	A	D	E		A	N	T	I		C	Y	A	N				
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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7	4	5	9	8	3	2	6	1
5	2	4	7	1	6	3	9	8
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9	8	6	5	3	2	7	1	4
3	7	2	1	9	4	8	5	6
6	5	1	3	2	8	4	7	9
4	9	8	6	7	5	1	3	2

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Chappell Roan
2. Pachinko
3. Alex Cooper
4. Cracker Jack
5. Wu-Tang Clan
6. Fraggie Rock
7. Black Mamba
8. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Conditions are Ideal for Great Fishing in September



by Captain Geoff Bennett
Charleston Charter Fishing

With an ideal set of conditions in place, anglers can be sure that inshore fishing will really pick up in September. The combination of lots of bait, cooler water temperatures and less traffic on the water should make for awesome fishing. While a lot of people will turn their focus to hunting and football, fishermen who save some time for casting a line will be well rewarded.

During this time of year, redfish will begin to increasingly take artificial baits. Plastic lures that mimic the bait fish in our waters are very effective. Zman's 3 3/4-inch Streakz in smokey shad is a great choice. I pair this lure with a 1/8-ounce jighead but

conditions may call for a heavier weight. Make sure to change your rate of retrieve as you fish a spot. Sometimes just slowing down or speeding up the pace of the lure can make the bite come to life.

Even with artificials becoming more effective, keep throwing those popping corks. Mud minnows, live shrimp and artificial shrimp have been working well when suspended about 18"-24" below the cork. Trout and redfish alike will eat these baits as they pass by suspended in the water column. Corks have been working best fished over shell rake and along grassy banks at mid and high tide.

It's not uncommon to catch bull redfish (36" inches plus) during the summer time at the jetties or at nearshore reefs. During the fall, these big fish come into the harbor and inlets as they track down large mullet and menhaden. Rods rigged for these fish will have heavy test braided line connected to a 50-60lb. leader and 7/0 circle hooks. Fresh chunks of mullet, menhaden or smaller fish are effective baits. Target spots where there are marked changes in depth and wait for your rod to rip over!

See you on the water!



Since 2009, Capt. Geoff Bennett has operated Charleston Charter Fishing providing light tackle charters. Clients choose from a full menu of artificial and live bait fishing options with charters tailored to their desires. USCG licensed and insured, Capt. Bennett is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable charter to anglers of all skill levels and ages. For more information, call Capt. Bennett at (843) 324-3332, visit his website at www.charlestoncharterfishing.com.

ST. ANDREW'S PARKS & PLAYGROUND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM



St. Andrews Parks & Playground
1095 Playground Road
standrewsparks.com | (843) 763-4360

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Ashley River Creative Arts
Buist Academy
St. Andrew's Math and Science

We Pick Up From:

Carolina Voyager
Drayton Hall Elementary
Oakland Elementary
Orange Grove Elementary
Orange Grove Middle
Springfield Elementary
Stono Elementary
Trinity Montessori School

If your school is not listed and you are interested in registering your child, please contact Jake Rossignol at jrossignol@standrewsparks.com

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