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Graft Wine Shop "Good Neighbor Sunday" 3-6pm 11/10, 11/17, 11/24

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NEWS

"It would be a strong mix of uses, not just strictly about retail, but a real downtown Main Street."

— Eric Osth, chairman of Urban Design Associates

A New Living Room' for West Ashley

Bold reimagining of Citadel Mall gets approval from city's Design Review Board

by Jenny Peterson | News Editor

total reimagining of the Citadel Mall site—with open-air, tree-lined walkways with shops and restaurants—got unanimous approval from the City of Charleston's Design Review Board.

The approval on Oct. 21 was for the final draft of the Citadel Mall Design Guidelines for future development of the "Epic Center" with renderings that would determine the look of the 88+ acre Citadel Mall site with over 1.1 million square feet of retail as it transitions from a declining indoor mall concept into an open-air shopping destination.

"We started the design a year ago and met with the city a number of times. Now we're at this point (to take) a step forward with design guidelines," said Tony Giuliani, associate principal and project manager with Goff D'Antonio Associates, who presented the plan at the meeting.

The high-density, urban mixed-use project leans into the outdoor mall concept, with Charleston-inspired architecture, shaded sidewalks, a mix of shops and restaurants that would all complementary yet distinctive signage, native plantings and a centralized public plaza with many shaded areas for gathering and relaxing.

Shops would be lined along an outdoor Main Street going through the middle of today's indoor mall, with a parallel linear



Eric Osth, principal and chairman of Urban Design Associates, presents design guidelines about a future development on the Citadel Mall site to the city's Design Review Board.

park that would encourage walking and biking, with pedestrian-only streets and main and secondary streets for cars.

The mall's current anchor tenants, Dillard's, Target and Belk, are included in the renderings, framing the outdoor open spaces on three sides. The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) which recently took over space at the site, will also remain as the redevelopment plan moves forward with a special park in rendering for MUSC's patients and visitors to enjoy, developers said.

continued on page 7...

Smashing Pumpkins

City celebrates sustainability with two pumpkin composting opportunities in West Ashley

id you know that 1.3 billion pounds of pumpkins end up in U.S. landfills every year? The City of Charleston's Department of Resilience and Sustainability is offering two free ways for you to compost your pumpkins right here in West Ashley this year.

from Staff Reports

The first is you can bring it to the West Ashley Thanksgiving Farmers Market from 12-4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 55 Sycamore Ave. for the city's Pumpkin Smash event, where you can experience the thrill of smashing your rotten jack-o-lanterns or whole pumpkins before they are composted. The other is to take it to the Bees Ferry Landfill, at 1344 Bees Ferry Road. There will be a special pumpkin collection bin near the food scrap carts all month long.

In 2023, more than 2.5 tons of pumpkins were composted instead of being sent to landfills. The Bees Ferry Pumpkin Collection Bin in West Ashley contributed 1.5 tons, with approximately 600 pumpkins being composted. Last year's Pumpkin Smash Event was responsible for composting the other ton of pumpkins. Reports suggest that the actual number could have actually been much higher because some pumpkins were placed in food scrap carts they were included in the overall food scraps volume for the month and couldn't be counted separately as pumpkins, according to city records.

In addition to the West Ashley Pumpkin Smashing event at the West Ashley Thanksgiving Farmers Market, there will be two other chances to smash your pumpkin this month, one will be Saturday, Nov. 9 at New Realm Brewing Co. on Daniel Island. The other will be A Green Drinks event on Thursday, Nov. 14 at Palmetto Brewing downtown.

The City's Department of Resilience and Sustainability suggests that as your New Year's resolution, you consider starting to compost your kitchen food scraps, too. For more information visit www.charleston-sc.gov/1557/Composting.

"It would be a new living room for West Ashley," said Eric Osth, principal and chairman of Urban Design Associates, who presented the design guidelines to the board. "It would be a strong mix of uses, not just strictly about retail, but a real downtown Main Street."

The guidelines for the landscape design are "really about creating timeless places that are grounded in the traditions of Charleston," said Scott Parker, co-founder of DesignWorks.

Renderings show two-story buildings that front the sidewalk with varied facades and signage that draws inspiration from Charleston and other Southern destinations. The design document specifically includes images of West Ashley's Avondale area with sidewalk dining as well as downtown Charleston's Broad Street lined with shops as inspiration.

The goal is to recreate the look and feel of Charleston's historic areas with multiple-story buildings with architectural elements like balconies, shutters and specific materials to keep the architectural character intact. There would also be thoughtful lighting to attract visitors well into the evening hours.

"A high-quality public realm lined with active storefronts and connecting parks and open spaces encourage visitors to wander and linger, in turn supporting the commercial uses," the design document states. The plan includes parking lots, a parking garage and stormwater

Development date unknown

management with a retention pond.

The overall development, called the Epic Center Planned Unit Development (PUD), is a 53-acre planned unit development that was approved in 2019. There are still significant steps to go until the project begins to break ground.

"We're hoping to start this project in 2025 but right now there is no identified project at this time," said Giuliani

An internal review board called the Epic Center Design Review Board (ECDRB) will be established, comprising at least three design and/or development professionals with proven skills and established careers, to ensure design plans are adhered to. Plans also need to move through a property owner's association made up of the stakeholders.

According to the PUD documents, there will be multi-family units and the owner has committed to providing a portion for affordable housing.

PUD documents state that helping to fund the Epic Center PUD will be Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bonds, which borrow against future property tax increases.

'An exciting transformation'

Design Review Board members expressed their excitement about revitalizing the interior mall.

"Thisisareallygood-lookingdocument. This is an exciting transformation of the Citadel Mall; this would be wonderful," said

board member Jeff Johnston.

Board member Ben Whitener questioned the ability of the building heights on the site to be 25 storiescurrently allowed in the area under the city's zoning ordinance—although none of the buildings in rendering reach anywhere near that height.

City staff were in favor of the design guidelines.

"Staff found guidelines to be comprehensive, easy to follow and well thought-out. We support the material and the design principles are appropriate for this area of West Ashley and this document appears to be a guiding feature to attract a vibrant destination. We recommend approval," a staff member noted at the

Design Review Board members had a few notes with their vote of approval; they requested more direct inspiration from Charleston's other successful shopping corridors be included in photos accompanying the design guidelines as well as clarifying that the PUD would adhere to the city's updated zoning ordinances, which are currently under review.

Overall, "I love this design. This concept is good," said board member Johnson. "I'm excited about what they want to bring."

The team that worked on the design guidelines included Singerman, Development Management Associates, Goff D'Antonio Associates, Urban Design Associates, DesignWorks and ADC Engineering.



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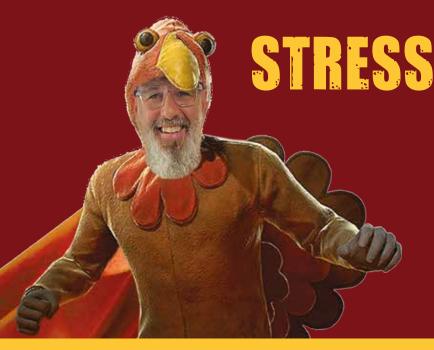


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Connecting to the Past

Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians exhibit on display at Charles Towne Landing through spring

by Jenny Peterson | News Editor

hand-sewn beaded regalia dress, woven baskets, quilts, musical instruments, pottery and artifacts from the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians are now on display at an exhibit at Charles Towne Landing, spotlighting the cultural traditions and history of the indigenous tribe of the Lowcountry.

The exhibit was unveiled this fall and welcomes anyone visiting the center and free of charge to walk through. The tile of the exhibit is, "One community, one family."

Informative plaques discuss the history of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, a recognized native America tribe in South Carolina located in Berkeley County along Highway 17-A near Carnes Crossroads and up Hwy 176 towards Wassamassaw Swamp.

Community members trace their bloodlines to multiple native American lineages including Etiwan, Edisto, Catawba,

Cherokee, and other settlement tribes. The current iteration of the settlement community formed in the mid-1700s and were first called Summerville Indians due to the nearby Pineland Village.

The items on display discuss the culture of the tribe, their history and location of their ancestors based on artifacts—including Spanish Mount, a shell mound made of oyster and clam shells purported to be 4,000 years old in Edisto Beach created by Native Americans. At one point, the mound stood 20 feet high and around a half-an-acre in diameter.

There are other artifacts that speak to the importance of spirituality through musical instruments, including drums and wooden flutes.

Quilts, per the displays, were used for practical purposes and replaced animal hides for warmth. Woven baskets are handmade mainly using the sapwood of white oak logs and oak tree splints.

"Both (the) baskets and woven fans made by our ancestors are a source of pride and an expression of identity and culture that has been passed down within our community," the plaque states.

"This collaboration with Charles Towne Landing is an important opportunity for us to share our history and culture with a broader audience," posted Lisa Collins, Chief of the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians, on the group's Facebook page. "It's a chance for people to learn about our roots, our continued existence, and the significance of the land we call home."

The tribe has posted photos from social gatherings at Charles Towne Landing in the past, including collaborating with members of tribal nations across the country at the site. Chief Collins met with Charles Towne staff as early as 2022 about creating this exhibit.



The exhibit will by open until spring at the Charles Towne Landing Visitor's Center, located at 1500 Old Towne Road and follow the Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians on Facebook at www.facebook.



St. Andrew's Parks 2024 Holiday Programs



Holiday Card Contest

Due Date: December 2 | Due by 5pm Grades: Kindergarten – 5th Grade Turn in at our Administrative Office,

1095 Playground Road

Contest Rules located at www.standrewsparks.com



Date: Friday, December 13

Time: 5pm - 8pm | Fees: \$25

Location: St. Andrew's Family Fitness Plus,

1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd





Holiday Tree Lighting

Date: Tuesday, December 10 @ 6pm

Ages: All Ages | Fee: Free

Location: St. Andrew's

Picnic Shelter, 1095 Playground Road

Letters From Santa

Register by December 6

Fee: \$5.00







Tennis Winter Break Camp

Ages: 5-14

Session 1: December 23, 26, 27

Session 2: December 30, 31, Jan 2, 3

Time: 9am - 12pm

Location: St. Andrew's Parks,

1095 Playground Road

Remix Winter Break Camp

Ages: 5-12

Session 1: December 23, 26, 27

Session 2: December 30-January 3

Time: 7:30am - 6pm

Location: St. Andrew's Gymnasium,

1095 Playground Road









For more information visit www.standrewsparks.com or contact Jake Rossignol at jrossignol@standrewsparks.com

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istoric preservation is nothing new in Charleston. It's why millions of people flock here every year: to walk the cobblestone streets, admire the old houses, and see sites steeped in antiquity. Preservation is essential to keeping the character of historic Charleston. But what about the history of places and buildings on our side of the river, particularly our older neighborhoods, like South Windermere, Byrnes Downs, and Avondale, which all have a rich history in their own right? It's not as cut and dry as what is deemed "historic" in West Ashley. In recent years, residents have shown concern about the demolition of older homes and sites that have been lost in the name of progress. So, as the inevitability of growth lurches forward, concerned residents, lawmakers, community leaders, and developers are trying to find a way to have both "preservation" and "progress" for West Ashley.

This is why local author and West Ashley Revitalization Commission (WARC) member Donna Jacobs organized a panel discussion last month featuring stakeholders from both the private and public sectors, each with various interests and ideas on how West Ashley can move forward while preserving

The forum's name, which was attended by dozens of local residents, was Preservation AND Progress. Jacobs made sure to emphasize the "And" when welcoming the crowd who had gathered on Monday, Oct. 14 at John Wesley United Methodist Church on Savannah Highway. Jacobs, who is the author of the books West Ashley and Byrnes Downs,

Preservation and Progress

Residents turn out for a panel discussion on how to balance growth in West Ashley while preserving our unique history

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

is also a regular contributor to West Of Free Press, penning the paper's West Ashley Flashback column. So, when she asked me to be the moderator of this panel, I was both flattered and honored. My job for the night was easy: to get out of the way and let the experts talk. At times, they agreed, and at times, they did not, but the conversation was lively and informative

The panel was made up of Brian R. Turner, President & CEO of the Preservation Society of Charleston; Ken Marolda, Co-President of Marolda Enterprises, Co-Founder of West Ashley Connects, and West Ashley Revitalization Commissioner; Ross Appel, City Councilmember for District 11; Eric Pohlman, West Ashley Coordinator for the City of Charleston; Ashley Jackrel, Senior Vice President, Office & Investment Services for commercial real estate company Avison Young, former West Ashley Revitalization Commissioner, member of the Design Review Board (DRB); and Ron Sassard, President Old Windermere Neighborhood Association.



Preservation AND Progress organizer Donna Jacobs welcomes the crowd on Oct. 14 who turned out to hear more about what can be done with historic preservation in West Ashley









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A Record-Breaking Run

The 2024 Avondale 5K boasted the largest number of registrants in the event's history

from Staff Reports



he 15th annual Avondale 5K was held on Saturday, Oct. 12. This year marked record-breaking numbers with 590 registered participants. The previous highest year was the pre-Covid run in 2019, which had 571 participants.

The Avondale 5K was created in 2010 to help fund the Charles Webb Center (CWC), a developmental daycare operated by the Disabilities Board of Charleston County, serving children with special needs from age 6 weeks to 10 years old. This year's race raised nearly \$50,000 for CWC, which is located at 1611 Evergreen St. in West Ashley.

As always, the race started on Magnolia Road in front of Triangle Char & Bar, runners and walkers then made their way through the streets of the Avondale neighborhood before making it back to Triangle for the after-race party with live music, all-inclusive food, and drinks.

Awards and prizes were given out, including the prestigious "Stevie Award," which goes to whoever records the fastest time.

This year the fastest male was First Ross Jordan, age 29 (clock time: 16.57, chip time: 16.56) and the fastest female was Lora Thomas, age 35, clock time: 18.59, chip time: 18.58)

The Stevie Award is named after race founder Skip Condon's younger brother. Condon is the owner of Triangle Char & Bar and serves on the race's all-volunteer committee.

"I serve on this committee because I want to make a difference in the lives of the special needs children and their families," he said. "My brother, Steve, was a member of the disabled community all his life. Steve was born in 1950 and died in 2007. His quality of life was enhanced by the committed, loving workers of the disabled community. This race is for the kids and the dedicated employees."

Even if you didn't participate this year, you can still make a donation to the Charles Webb Center at runsignup.com/Race/Donate/SC/Charleston/AvondaleFiveK.

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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.

SEPTEMBER 22

LITTERING

Officers on patrol noticed the driver of a black SUV driving erratically, failing to maintain its lane, stopping too close to a red light and saw a person throw a "full take-out food tray" from the passenger side window onto the street. Officers conducted a traffic stop and issued two tickets: one for the driver for improper lane use and one for the passenger for littering.

SEPTEMBER 25

GENERAL INFORMATION

A man called officers to report that he suspected a food delivery driver hit his dog with a vehicle while on the way to his home to make a delivery. The man said the driver was at his location when suddenly the driver canceled the order. That's when the man noticed his dog had been hit. The dog needed stitches, which cost approximately \$2,000 to treat. The man contacted the delivery service who confirmed their driver "did file an accident report" and did cancel the order. The case is ongoing.

SEPTEMBER 26

THEFT FROM BUILDING

A West Ashley woman reported that her jewelry, worth \$25,095, had been stolen from her home. The woman said she suspected cleaners that had access to the home. The woman was in touch with the cleaning service company and said the manager led her to believe it was a staff member who later pawned items and the manager would attempt to retrieve the items. However, the manager has not been in contact with the victim anymore and she now wished to file a report.

SEPTEMBER 26

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/FIREARM

A concerned citizen observed a white SUV driving at a high rate of speed on a flooded street, causing a wake, and followed the vehicle to let the driver know about a recent city ordinance prohibiting driving at fast speeds through flooded waters. When the victim began to speak to the suspect about the incident in a nearby apartment building parking lot, the driver told his passenger, "man, go get my gun out of the apartment." And, "you're lucky I haven't done it already." The passenger exited the white SUV, retrieved the gun from inside the apartment and returned, pointing it at the victim stating, "you see this?" The victim fled the parking lot and called police.

SEPTEMBER 28

EMBEZZLEMENT

A business owner said that an employee had stolen \$638.32 by not depositing money into the business account. After an internal investigation, the owner discovered that on five occasions, there was money missing from deposits and some deposits were never made at all. The employee had already been fired after missing 19 days of work. The owner said the employee had been in financial trouble, having her car repossessed.

SEPTEMBER 28

ROBBERY/FIREARM

A man reported that he was robbed at gunpoint inside a local motel at 1 p.m. The man said he was in the room when he heard someone banging on his door and upon answering the door he was approached by an unknown woman. Shortly after their exchange, an unknown man wearing all black and a mask put a black and silver gun to the man's head and demanded money.

The masked suspect then pushed past his female accomplice into the room which was also occupied by two juveniles and their mother. The male stated, "give me that... phone," and stole the victim's iPhone. The victim told the suspects that he had money in his car in order to get them out of the room. As they followed him outside, the victim was able to hide in another room that was unlocked and being cleaned. The two suspects then fled. The 42-year-old female suspect was later detained at a nearby business and arrested. The case is ongoing.

OCTOBER 1

EMBEZZLEMENT

The manager of a local sporting goods store reported that an employee had taken \$2,235.32 in merchandise from the store over a span of two months. Items taken were mainly shoes and a few pieces of clothing. Camera surveillance shows the employee "checking out" clothing and shoes and then voiding the sale and then placing the items in bags he would take home at the end of his shift. The employee sometimes would also give shoes to customers for free without checking them out at the register at all.

OCTOBER 1

ARSON

Officers arrested a 60-year-old woman after she was seen burning a pile of clothes in a parking lot, near a clothing donation bin. Fire department officials responded to the scene and said they were familiar with the suspect and that she "has done this numerous times in the past." The woman was seen about to throw more clothes on the fire when help arrived. She was arrested on a charge of Open Burning.

OCTOBER 16

GENERAL INFORMATION

Officers on patrol observed a vehicle which had its license plate come back as stolen. The driver was handcuffed and cooperative and said he was the owner of the vehicle, that he had reported it stolen, but was recovered recently by the North Charleston Police Department. Apparently, the system did not update that the vehicle was no longer stolen. The man was taken out of handcuffs and free to go.

OCTOBER 17

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A 47-year-old woman was arrested at a local restaurant for disorderly conduct after employees said she was intoxicated and making threats to employees. Officers and fire personnel arrived at 9:30 p.m. and reported that the female was aggressive as they attempted to provide help and that she hit one of the firemen. Officers made contact with the woman, who was unable to complete sentences and was yelling and cursing at first responders. After attempting to coordinate a ride home, she continued to curse at first responders and the staff on scene and then put her hands on fellow customers at the bar, causing them to leave. The woman was also observed falling asleep at the bar. She was placed under arrest for Public Disorderly Conduct.

OCTOBER 18

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Amanwas arrested for disorderly conduct after trespassing at two businesses where employees said the man would not leave the premises. Officers noticed a white powder coating on the man's lips. He stated it was Tylenol. To evade officers, the man walked over to a vehicle that was parked at a gas station pump and entered the backseat before quickly exiting the vehicle. The woman who was pumping gas for the car did not know the man and became afraid. He was arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

OCTOBER 21

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/KNIFE

A 30-year-old man was arrested for aggravated assault after an employee of a pizza restaurant said the man was causing a disturbance, screaming outside the restaurant. When the employee came outside to check on the man and possibly de-escalate the situation, the man looked at the employee and said, "What are you looking at?" while brandishing a knife that appeared to be the size of a hunting knife. Witnesses said the man also yelled "I'm going to kill you." The employee ran back inside of the business and locked the door and the man took off on foot. Officers located and detained the suspect and he was positively identified by the employee and placed under arrest.



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

ARCADIA PUBLISHING www.arcadiapublishing.com

NOVEMBER 2024



A&E

"A supportive crowd, a venue that matches the vibe, and hosts who understand other artists and put their needs at the forefront of the evening set the tone for what hopefully people deem as a creative, vibrant, fun, and unique experience.."

- Amita Fukui, of Black Zola

ucked behind Angel Oak Restaurant and Bar on Savannah Highway and hidden beyond the bamboo surrounding the back porch is where locals find live electric tunes every Tuesday from 6-9 p.m.. Restaurant owner Jay Kees asked local musician Amita Fukui, a former employee, to host live music earlier this spring, and it has now evolved into a regular Tuesday night Open Mic Night, which is both revered by local musicians and appreciated by the patrons of Angel Oak. Fukui recruited fellow musician Josh Gecowets to help him with hosting duties. The two play together in the local indie rock band Black Zola.

"Whether it's a new song you're testing out or a song you 'need' to play because of how it makes you feel today, we try to encourage tearing the seams a bit and stretching your boundaries as an artist or player," said Fukui. "A supportive crowd, a venue that matches the vibe, and hosts who understand other artists and put their needs at the forefront of the evening set the tone for what hopefully people deem as a creative, vibrant, fun, and unique experience

Local musician Drew Prentice can often be found performing Tuesday nights at Angel Oak. Prentice plays with Fukui and Gecowets in Black Zola as well as a host of other projects, incouding Rhodium, Red Right Return, Botanical Selections, Suede Cypress, and Extra Texture.

"What I really like more than anything is seeing people play exactly what they want to play. For some people, especially musicians gigging, sometimes people feel disconnected from pouring their soul out, and this is just that," said Prentice, who often covers classics by The Beatles as well as fresh, original songs at Angel Oak on Tuesday evenings.

"After the first time, I felt very supported," said Singer Sam Soto of local rock band Suede Cypress said. "There is a big community vibe here at Angel Oak and I think that is what I really appreciate. I especially appreciate Amita for cultivating that feeling."

Soto plays her serene original tunes at Angel Oak, but will often throw in some stellar covers by Lenny Kravitz, Rihanna, and Britney Spears.

Red Right Return frontman Tyler Glavin

Music Under the Oaks

Angel Oak's Tuesday night open mic has become a sanctuary for local musicians

by Miranda Steadman | Contributing Writer





Local musicians Amita Fukui and Josh Gecowets co-host an open mic night every Tuesday at Angel Oak restaurant

restrung and dusted off his 12-string guitar for his first performance at Angel Oak. "It all sounds very crisp and bright on a 12-string," said Glavin, who enjoys playing tracks by artists like Stevie Wonder, Bruno Mars, Pink Floyd, Fleet Foxes, and Cage The Elephant. "And when the weather is nice, it's beautiful out back," he added.

"Music is good all over town, but the energy gravitates to certain locations and this place is a great conduit," said musician Greg Dunkle, who plays with Virginia-based musician Sean Castleberry in their band Fresh Canned Mountain Band. The two musicians enjoy sharing their original music and tunes by Bob Dylan and The Grateful Dead.

Aside from jamming with Dunkle, Castleberry also performs with the rock band The Approach in Richmond, Vir. and regularly travels south to Charleston to play gigs. Dunkle also plays with his brother in the group Who and the What Now, The Hot Air Machine, and The Ferris Wheel High Flyers, his new folk and country outfit.

A native of Cape Town, South Africa, country musician Gareth James pours his heart out when he performs his original music at Angel Oak. "Josh (Kees) and Amita (Fukui) made me feel so welcome that I felt like singing my music to people I've never played for before with ease," James said.

"I play original music that shares lessons learned from my life experiences, with genres ranging from folk to spoken word to metaphysical hymns," said Julia Kohn, who performs at Angel Oak with her daughter, Terra.

Indie pop musician Pilot moved to Charleston from Brooklyn back in 2019 and alternates between playing the ukulele,

guitar, Omnichord, and keyboard. She has broken out beautiful covers of artists such as John Prine, Melanie, and Nirvana at Angel Oak.

"It's nice to have a place to try out new things and make connections with people," Pilot said.

Local musician Edward Charles moved here from Athens in 2016 and enjoys playing tunes by Wilco and using a music looper while performing his original music.

"People definitely come here to hear the music and that's very inspiring to me," Charles said.

Open Mic Night is every Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. at Angel Oak Restaurant and Bar located at 3669 Savannah Hwy. For more information, call (843) 556-7525 or visit www.angeloakrestaurant.com.

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FRIDAY: Live Music 9:30-12:30pm
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DINING

"I really wanted to do something that was different over here. West Ashley doesn't have anything like this." — Doug Allison, owner of 17 Prime

neighborhood is often defined by its restaurants. Sure, charming houses, boutique retail shops, and upscale grocery store chains are nice. But the heart and soul of a community resides in it's eateries. At least it does for me, anyway. The restaurants, bars, and cafés make the difference in what is a "cool" part of town and what part has the kind of homogenized suburban blandness you can spot in any number of towns across the country.

West Ashley has always prided itself on having a unique, albeit sometimes quirky, vibe and aesthetic. We have not shortage of great places to eat, from award-winning barbecue joints, hip wine bars, breweries, and coffee shops, longtime local institutions, and a couple elevated-but-casual spots like Glass Onion, Betty Lou's Bistro, and Ms. Rose's Fine Foods.

However, until recently, there has been a void in fine dining options on our side of the river, unless you count the Middleton Place Restaurant, which we claim to be in West Ashley but is technically located in Dorchester County. The emergence of places like Bearcat in the Avondale Business District and La Bonne Franquette on St. Andrew's Boulevard has given us some higher-end options in recent years. But now, a new player has shown up on the West Ashley dining scene that could solidly place us on the Charleston foodie map as a part of town to no longer be overlooked. Last month, 17 Prime opened along Savannah Highway, finally giving us a proper steakhouse. Located in the space previously occupied by Whiskey Jack's, D. Fresh Hospitality's newest venture is a bold and welcomed addition to the culinary landscape of West Ashley.

One week after officially opening its doors, I had a chance to sit down and have dinner with owner Doug Allison and talk with him and his staff about the evolution of West Ashley's dining scene and how it fits into the larger picture of Charleston, which continues to establish itself as a food destination. Allison's D. Fresh Hospitality also owns Southside 17 and CHS Golf in West Ashley and just recently sold Ireland's Own/Jagerhaus Pub/Game Haus.

As a restauranteur and bar owner, Allison knows West Ashley as well as anyone. He's well aware of the old reputation that West Ashley was a place that could not support a high-end restaurant. He's betting

Are We Ready for Prime Time?

The arrival of 17 Prime, a new upscale steakhouse, ushers in an exciting new era for West Ashley's dining scene

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

that's no longer true. Allison has always bet on West Ashley and usually hits it big. So no coincidence that there's a bit of a Vegas vibe infused into the fabric of 17 Prime, from the poker table from the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on the wall to subtle winks on the cocktail menu, like the High Roller, Sin City, and the Circus Circus, to Ty's Vegas Shake from the dessert menu. It's no coincidence that Allison and his fiancé Trayce Eller were engaged at The Venetian on the Las Vegas Strip.

Eller, who is well-known in the local F&B world, has been instrumental in helping Allison build a restaurant that is upscale but not stuffy. What was once a country-themed beer and whiskey bar now bears little resemblance to the space's predecessor. The tables, the lighting, the walls, the grand piano in the bar, it's hard to believe this is the same place.

Allison shows me the bathrooms and tells me that he and Eller created a kind of an HGTV challenge, with each designing their respective gender's bathroom.

"This is the fun part," Allison says about opening a new restaurant, likening it to getting a new car or a kid who has a new toy to play with.

"I've opened several restaurants and I think I they get better each time. Well, for one, I have more funds." He smiles. "But this one is opposite of everything I've done before. But I really wanted to do something that was different over here. West Ashley doesn't have anything like this. Charleston doesn't have anything like this, when you look at the outdoor area and everything that we offer."

The area Allison is referring to is a casual outdoor patio and bar area that hosts live music and is equipped with a double-



decker container bar, and a special VIP room that is still being completed.

Beyond not having anything else like it, Allison insists that West Ashley needs something like 17 Prime. And as I take my first bite of a perfectly-grilled 20-ounce bone-in wet age ribeye, I tend to agree. We do need this. I needed this.

While this particular steak is Allison's personal go-to, there are plenty of other impressive cuts to choose from on the 17 Prime menu, including a 16-ounce Ribeye, 16-ounce grass-fed Ribeye, six or 12-ounce Filet Mignon, 14-ounce New York Strip, 20-ounce Kansas City Strip, 28-ounce Porterhouse, and a 16-ounce Prime Rib. Additionally, one shouldn't sleep on the 16-ounce bone-in pork chop or the New

Zealand Bone-in Lamb Chops (2 to an order). Aside from the impressive steaks and chops, there's more than a half-dozen other dishes, including pastas, seafood, a fancy cheeseburger, and a Prime Rib sandwich. Side dishes include a jalapeno cream corn skillet, potato au gratin, mac & cheese, sauteed spinach, asparagus with hollandaise, southern collard greens, loaded baked potato, and sweet potato fries. Almost all the sides are available in either a small or large offering.

Allison is clearly proud of the menu he's assembled, pointing out to me from what ranch and specific stockyard each cut is sourced and why he will always use local shrimp.

continued on page 19...

... continued on page 18

"My former partner was a shrimper, so that's important to me. It's part of our local economy," he says.

As several more dishes come out of the kitchen, I need to loosen my belt a notch. I also need another cocktail. I order the Four Seasons Old Fashioned (Makers Mark bourbon, black walnut bitters, harvest simple syrup), Allison orders a Sin City (Mi Campo reposado teguila, Creme de Violette, Orgeat, lime juice, fresh cracked black pepper). The drinks are balanced and the food is on point. The filet has just the right amount of char on the outside and a perfect medium-rare on the inside. The stuffed mushrooms bubble with cheese and toasted breadcrumbs in a cast iron skillet. The lamb chops are sublime.

Chef Tristian Ball comes out from the kitchen to check on us and shares with me the inspiration behind the balsamic reduction sauce served with the lamb, as well as other creations on the menu. Ball has worked with Allison at some of his other restaurants and is excited to flex his culinary skills with 17 Prime. He's just one member of a team of talented staff Allison has assembled to help make his vision of an upscale steakhouse in West Ashley a reality.

Just weeks ago, Allison received a message from Rick Rushing, who saw a flyer at the Links at Stono Ferry about the opening of 17 Prime. Rushing, a level three sommelier who ran a wine school in Las Vegas before relocating to Charleston, reached out to Allison about offering his services. A welcomed addition to the 17 Prime team, Rushing has put together an impressive but approachable wine program while bar manager Frank Rodia,

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who's thoughtful cocktail creations and rifts on old classics pair well with the food menu. Rodia is also assembling an impressive bourbon and scotch collection for 17 Prime, as well as other high-end and specialty spirits

General Manager John Joubin plays quarterback for this team. Or maybe I should say point guard if I'm going to use sports analogies here because Joubin was a former basketball player who played under Allison when the successful restauranteur was still known as "Coach Allison" back in Virginia. Allison also helped coach West Ashley High's basketball team before opening his first restaurant in Charleston.

The serendipitous reunion between Joubin and Allison happened when the former came into Ireland's Own one day and saw his old coach. The two reminisced about hoops and hardwood glory, but as talk turned to business, Allison learned that Joubin had worked as a manager for Clyde's Restaurant Group, a company that owns and operates 12 restaurants in the Washington metropolitan area, before moving to Charleston.

Less than a month since opening its doors, the local community has turned out in force to support 17 Prime, proving that the gambler may have made another smart bet. Or maybe the crafty former basketball coach just designed another winning play for West Ashley.

17 Prime is located at 2049 Savannah Hwy. For more information or to make a reservation, call (843) 966-3354 or visit www.17primechs.com.

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A Fall Beer Sampler Box

Sam Adam's Autumn Mixed Pack offers a Mixed Bag

am Adams has always been a solid, if at times underwhelming craft beer choice. As one of the original players in the not-macro-before-they-got-macro brew game, The Boston Beer Company (BBC) originally began life offering an American take on many classic European styles of beer. While not always traditional in their flavor profiles or adherence to style compared with the original examples, BBC was usually at least interesting, and occasionally excellent.

And while there is now a Sam Adams for every season, every occasion, every event, and every location, some of their options are better than others. Take for example, Summer Ale. It's a bit of a strange beer, style-wise, but it's still refreshing and enjoyable during the hot months.

Similarly, months later arrives Winter Lager, and while this amber beer is brewed with cinnamon, orange peel, ginger, and can be a bit too 'spiced.' Not to mention, I'm unsure if it's genuinely a Bock, but it serves as a decent fireside option. I'll usually have one or two of every cold season before moving on to Belgian holiday ales.

Recently, the Boston Beer Company released their "Beer Fest" Variety 12 Pack, a fall-inspired mixed pack that includes four different styles of beer: the classic Boston Lager, the autumn staple Octoberfest, a new edition Flannel Fest brown lager beer, and their take on the ever-popular pumpkin ale, Sam Adams Jack-O.

I'm not sure how much space needs to be given to Sam Adams Boston Lager. An almost archetypal American beer, this gold to amber German-style lager is excellent, has all the bases covered, drinks easy at 5 percent alcohol by volume (ABV), and is widely available. With 30 international bitterness units, this beer is probably the most balanced, forgiving of

the group.

Fall-only but nearly as well known, Octoberfest is the traditional Märzen release from BBC. While much more malty-sweet than nearly any established German fest beer, it's still a timely reminder of fall fun, and a rich and bigger lager, although only 5.3 percrent ABV.

The new beer in the group, Flannel Fest is my pick of the Beer Fest Fall variety pack. More flavorful and complex than Boston Lager, but less heavy than Octoberfest, this brown Munich-style lager is a bit toasty, a touch roasty, and thoroughly drinkable.

Flannel Fest also has just a touch of German grassy hop flavor, not as much as the Boston Lager, but enough to keep this one from being sweet. These three cans were gone first from the 12-pack. Sadly it's only available in this seasonal batch.

Last and definitely least comes Jack-O, and if you're like me, these beers will be lingering in the back of your fridge well after fall. BBC's Pumpkin Ale, which they describe as the "pick of the patch" and the "ultimate pumpkin brew, bursting with cinnamon, nutmeg, and autumn spices" is just rank. Really, I do love a well-made pumpkin beer, but this offering is trash. It's R.O.A. (rotten on arrival).

Reminiscent more of a pumpkin spice latte (and I like PSL, but just for coffee) or some alco-pop, Jack-O is offensively sweet, over-spiced, and obnoxiously blended. "Put on your Halloween costume, crack one open, and treat yourself before the trick-or-treaters arrive!" Maybe crack all three open and smash these punks in the street. Enjoy the brews ... Cheers.

Dr. Jeffrey Gredlein, a.k.a. The Beer Snob, is a college professor of psychology but is a longtime beer enthusiast. For comments or suggestions, drop him a line at publisher@westof.net

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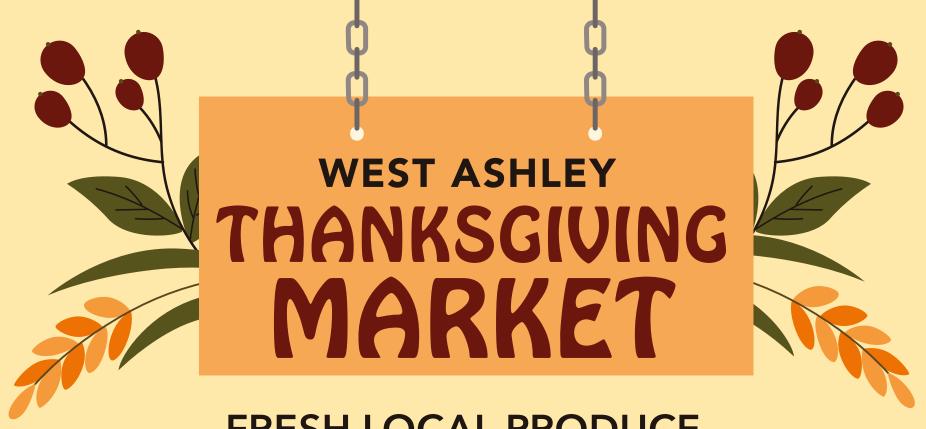


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"I have always been proud and honored that our Meditation Garden is dedicated to both the founding Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy and also the current sponsor connection with the Sisters of Bon Secours."

- Mark Dickson, Vice President of Mission for Roper St. Francis Healthcare



by Joan Perry | Contributing Writer

he West Ashley Wanderer can't wander all the time. What better place to pause than West Ashley's best-kept secret, the Meditation Garden in front of Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital?

I was meeting my dealer, my sweetgrass basket dealer and former hospital employee - Sandra LeSueur, in the west parking lot by the Blessing Box to pick up a basket as a gift for my sister in Alberta, and detoured as I did for many years while working there. I walked right through the mysterious split oak tree into the winding and welcoming garden paths. The canopy of trees shelter the hospital buildings from highway traffic on Paul Cantrell Boulevard.

A solitary lady was walking through the circular Labyrinth looking at her feet as if trying to figure out the purpose of the path.

"I've never seen such a beautiful hospital, and this garden is incredible."

Mary McElmurray had driven from Edisto to keep a friend company during medical testing and wandered over, finding the garden by happy accident.

That was exactly what Allen Carroll, former hospital CEO had hoped for. He imagined that patients, caregivers and staff might find the garden a place of peace and renewal. He worked to preserve as many of the live oaks as possible, and along with Sanford Byers of Byers Design Group, LLC, they designed what was to become a Cathedral under the Oaks. The layout was inspired by the idea of a natural cathedral composed of sanctuaries, including the Prayer Garden, a Camellia Garden, the Labyrinth, and the Christ Statue garden all connected by nature pathways and entry portals.

Hospitals can be places of stress, worry and grief, and it was thought that a place of refuge and healing might be welcome. The Christ statue is the work of artist Tim Doyle whose work includes many carvings in significant public and private settings, including the Washington National Cathedral and the West Point Military

West Ashley's Healing Garden

Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital's serene meditation garden offers healing in nature

Academy main gate.

Our West Ashley Labyrinth is listed on the World Wide Labyrinth Locator site and sought by people using it for walking meditation. It is modeled after the one found in the floor of Chartres Cathedral of Notre Dame near Paris. Labyrinths are designed for meditative walking to explore personal and spiritual matters. We are encouraged to enter humbly, with an open heart, and be mindful of the beauty around us.

Mark Dickson, Vice President of Mission for Roper St. Francis Healthcare, has affectionate memories and a sentimental spot in his heart for the Sisters who founded and played a leading role in healthcare in Charleston. His voice is warm as he rhymes off the names of the Sisters.

"I have always been proud and honored that our Meditation Garden is dedicated to both the founding Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy and also the current sponsor connection with the Sisters of Bon Secours," he said. "Women Religious built healthcare in America and throughout the world. We honor their love and legacy with this idyllic setting for the community's reflection and enjoyment."

The hospital has a long local history. The doors to St. Francis Xavier Infirmary opened in 1882 on the Charleston peninsula and relocated to the West Ashley location in 1996. I loved the spot before the formal garden opened in 2010 and still can't resist pausing to take yet another picture of the majestic oaks and portal doors in different lights, in early morning fog and even rare snow.

Vines now cover the once white portals and some plants are overgrown. The maturing camellias should be a treat this year. A few picnic tables have been added and all are welcome to respectfully enjoy the garden.

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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A Moo-ving Violation

Wayne Fitz recalls the time when he was knocked off his bike by a cow at the inversection of Sanford Road and what is now the West Ashley Greenway



hat do dirt paths, shopping at Edward's 5 and 10, bicycles, and cows have in common?

Sounds like the basis for quite the story and Wayne Fritz tells it well.

Navigating St. Andrew's Parish via bicycle is a recurring theme in many a story told about growing up in the Parish during the 1940s, '50s, and '60s, especially from older men recounting fondly their time as boys with their pals. The parents may have had concerns about the explorative nature of their young'uns, but the stories rarely include this element. The story is mainly about the adventure.

Wayne Fritz grew up on Cross Street in Rotherwood Estates. A small neighborhood that's now a part of the neighborhood group known as Dupont Station. Two of his very close friends were Chad Chadwick and Terry Adams. They played football together, rode their bicycles in the neighborhoods, went on adventures, and just generally hung out.

Often, they found themselves riding along the known system of paved neighborhood roads, railroad tracks, farm tractor roads, and dirt paths that connected Rotherwood Estates with St. Andrew's Center. The draw at St.

Andrew's Center was the Edward's 5 and 10, where candy and toys awaited these youthful explorers. In addition, there were often large events at the Center like a circus that set up in the parking lot.

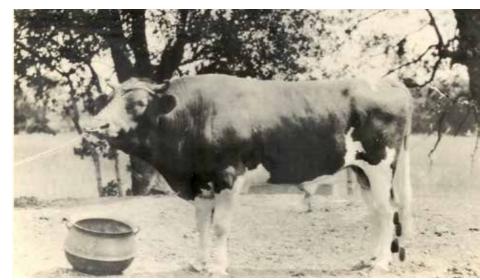
One summer, the boys were twelve, they were headed to Edward's 5 and 10 for another day of exploring the new toys and candy displays. When it was time to return home, they retraced that well known path system—from St. Andrew's Center down Savannah Highway to the dirt road that's now Markfield, then left there at the dirt road that's now Sanford.

This dirt road would connect into the neighborhood and they would be home. However, on this day, at the intersection of the dirt roads, the boys were captivated by a group of cowboys chasing cattle down the Croghan Spur tracks of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad. (Today this old railroad right of way is the West Ashley Greenway.)

As Wayne recounts, one heifer saw them, put her head down and went for Wayne like he was a matador with a red cape. Realizing the inevitable, Wayne positioned himself as best he could on his bike as, and I quote: "She laid into me." Bike and Wayne went one way. The stunned cow went the other.

The cowboy rode up. Checked on Wayne. Then quickly tied up the four legs of the stunned cow. Wayne recovered enough to adjust his bike so he could ride home. The boys mounted their two-wheeled steeds and rode into the future to tell quite the tale about just another summer day in St. Andrew's Parish.

Stories of adventures in St. Andrew's Parish? Contact Donna at westashleybook@gmail.com



Disclaimer: Not the cow that intersected with Wayne. Cows were a prominent feature of the Parish's landscape. Cows grazed on the land of Coburg Diary located behind the St. Andrew's Center. Cows were also part of the Ravenel farm adjacent to this area.

(Photograph courtesy of Hanckel family)



Wayne recently rode his bike along the West Ashley Greenway while visiting his beloved St. Andrew's Parish stomping grounds. He stopped to photograph the intersection where bike, cow, and Wayne collided those many years ago. (Photograph courtesy of Wayne Fritz)

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by Captain Geoff Bennett Charleston Charter Fishing

ishing was great in October, and we can expect November to be just as good! Chilly nights remind redfish and trout that they had better eat soon or it will be a long few months ahead without any food. Artificial lures have become very productive as natural bait leaves our waters. Take advantage of sunny days and go chase some fish!

As water temperatures decline, redfish have begun their seasonal phenomenon of forming huge schools. Schools of fifty redfish will become common and they can grow as large as 100-150 during the winter. These fish are more wary this time of year and artificial lures can spook them. Instead

of casting at the schools, we will throw out as many as three lines with chunks of blue crab or mullet on #3/0 circle hooks and just put the rods in holders. Eventually, the redfish will find your bait and bend your rods over with some astonishing hits!

For trout, artificial lures continue to work very well. Trout hang together and when you catch one there will likely be others in the immediate area. Lures in hues of gray and blue are performing the best when paired with a 1/4oz. jighead. Remember to move your lure slower than usual as the fish slow down with the cooler water temperature. Try to touch the bottom with the jighead and wait until you feel the pull of a striking fish.

Popping corks are still great options for both trout and redfish. Live shrimp can be used again with the bait stealers gone. I'll attach a three-foot leader to the cork and a size 1 circle hook on the other end with a split shot a foot above the hook. Cast along grass banks, over oyster beds, and at creek mouths and watch for that cork to disappear! It can be challenging, but when that cork drops, reel as fast as you can and let the circle hook naturally set itself. A big hook set can sometimes rip your bait right out of the fish's mouth.

See you on the water!



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SUDOKU

CROSS

Grave Brews

Range

I. False god

5. A rhythmic sound

. Ear-related

'. An advance token or

warning

). Candid). Not stale

. Shore embankments

3. Not primary

S. Skilled practitioner

3. 3 in Roman numerals

). Mayday

2. January's birthstone

B. Bog

1. Search (through)

5. Excited

6. Awry

3. Data

Animal doctors

). Each

. Any malignant growth

3. S

I. Flop 5. Counterfeit 46. Underwear or lingerie (laundry)

48. Predict

50. Scandinavian

54. Liliaceous plant

55. "Fire mountains"

57. Bay window

58. Dwarf buffalo

59. Secluded valley

60. Splendor

61. Bawdy

62. Arid

DOWN

1. Minor quarrel

2. Smell

3. Extra

4. Boons

5. Goat hair fabric

6. Textbook division

7. Consumed

8. Stabilizes

9. Serengeti trek

10. Not straight

11. By mouth

12. Shallow containers

13. Antlered animal

18. Not those

22. Type of wall panel

24. Siege weapon

25. Tequila source

26. Goes ballistic

27. Moves briskly

29. Subsequently

30. Proposal

31. Tale

33. Conifer

34. Singalongs

37. Like feudal times

42. Sporting venue

44. Extremely

45. Inactive

46. Less damp

47. Duplicate

48. Roll up

49. Mishmash

51. Part portrayed 52. Fortune teller

53. Slave

54. Dress

56. Bounder

TRIVIA

1. THANKSGIVING

In 2023, which state raised the most turkeys?

2. REST IN PEACE

Phil Lesh, the founding member of what legendary rock band died last month at the age of 84?

3. COSTUMES

What pop star, who recently lost a lot of weight, dressed up as a box of Ozempic for Halloween this year?

4. MUSIC IN THE MOVIES

What Emmy-winning actor takes on the Boss in the upcoming Bruce Springsteen Biopic 'Deliver Me From Nowhere'?

5. REUNIONS

Released this month, Forrest Gump director Robert Zemeckis reunites former costars Tom Hanks and Robin Wright in what new movie?

6. MUSIC

What pop star was just named Touring Artist of the Year by Billboard (hint: it's not Taylor Swift)?

7. CELEBRITY COUPLES

Spiderman actor Tom Holland is romantically linked to what famous actress?

29

Nicknamed "El Toro," what former Dodgers' Rookie of the Year and Cy Young Award winner died last month at the age of 63?

NOVEMBER 2024



ARTS, CRAFTS, MUSIC, **GAMES, CLASSES**

Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED/First **Aid Certification**

Learn life-saving skills through a flexible blended learning program with expert-led hands-on training from the Red Cross. Upcoming Sessions: Nov. 16, 2024 or Dec. 14, 2024. Cost: \$95.00 Time: 1-4 p.m. For more info contact: work@standrewsparks. com or (843) 763-4360. St. Andrew's Family Fitness Plus, 1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. www. standrewsparks.com.

Art Classes

Instruction in Oils for all levels; morning and evening classes and workshops. The Studio, 2408 Ashley River Rd. Unit N (843) 766-5664

The American Needlepoint Guild

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

The Embroidery Guild of America

All skill levels welcome. Meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2:30pm, but come early and stitch with them. Old St. Andrews Parish Church in Fellowship Hall, 2604 Ashley River Rd. For more information, contact nancythechief@gmail.

Jewelry Instruction

Looking for a new experience this fall? Treat yourself or a friend to a hands-on jewelry class with Pat at PDL Studio 52, offering individual and small group classes and workshops.

ARNET

GOG

ULIP

ORIEL GLORY

VETS

Learn to design, saw, solder, shape and polish metal to create rings, earrings, necklaces and bracelets that you will love to wear again and again. My West Ashley studio is well equipped with all the tools and materials you will need to create your personal jewelry masterpiece. Open to all students. Flexible scheduling with a discount on a 10 session package. Contact Pat @ 646-263-1043 for details. https://pdlstudio52.artspan.com

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.

Medicare 2025 Lunch & Learn: Fall Into Medicare Updates

Get the latest on Medicare 2025 updates and ensure you're prepared for the upcoming changes. Enjoy lunch while gaining valuable insights to make the most of your Medicare options. Afterwards, join us for Harvest Bingo. October 31st from 12-2pm, CenterWell West Ashley, 1401 Sam Rittenberg Blvd. Hosted by Corner Insurance Agency.

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

Soap & Candle Making Workshops

Call for details. Pluff Mud Mercantile, 2408 Ashley River Rd. (843) 872-6022.

West Ashley Quilting & 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

www.charlestondemocrats.com

Charleston County Republican

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-
- 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: 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

Special Thanksgiving Market on Sunday, Nov. 24th 12-4pm.

SPORTS & RECREATION

St. Andrew's Family Fitness

1642 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., (843) 763-3850, www.standrewsparks.info.

Offers a variety of activities for adults and children.

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

- 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

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

SENIOR

com.

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.

• Tea Farm Creek Canoe Trip Paddle into Tea Farm Creek alongside a trained naturalist to witness firsthand how human history has impacted the landscapes around us. Saturday, Nov. 16 from 7:30-10:30am. Fee: \$35, ages 12 & up. Register

Homeschool in the Parks: Think Like a Naturalist

online at www.ccprc.com.

Naturalists study plants and animals to understand and protect the world around them. Learn how to identify species through the use of a scientific key. understand the stories behind the tracks, and gain insight as to why we use nomenclature. Fee: \$7, ages 7-12 years old. Friday, Nov. 22 from 10-11:30am.

Charleston Parks Conservancy www.charlestonparksconservancy.org

Charleston Trees Native Tree Giveaway

The Charleston Parks Conservancy, in partnership with Charleston Trees, is excited to offer free native trees to City of Charleston residents. November 15 from 8am-12pm. Magnolia Park and Community Garden. RSVP at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org. Magnolia Park and Community Garden is located at 720 Magnolia Rd.

• Early Morning Bird Walk

Join the Charleston Parks Conservancy and Holy City Birding for a guided bird walk. Saturday, Nov. 16 from 7:30-9:30am. Meets at West Ashlev Park, 3601 Mary Adler Ave. RSVP at www.charlestonparksconservancy.org.

Fall Community Potluck Join Charleston Parks Conservancy for a delightful gathering celebrating the fall season and the joy of community! You're invited to share food, stories and excitement. Thursday, Nov. 21 from 5-7pm. Potluck is held at Magnolia Park and Community Garden, 720 Magnolia Rd.

An evening of live music, food trucks, and good vibes! Thursday, November 14, from 5:30-7:30pm. Free to attend, bring your blankets and a valid

• Fall Music in the Park Series

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 November starting nov. 4th. 9-10am. 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.

Colors of a Kingdom

November 1 & 2 from 2-3pm. Meet at the Adventure wharf

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

West Aquatic Center

West Aquatic Center/ Hollywood Town Hall is located at 5156 SC-165, in Hollywood. www.ccprc.com for more info.

The West Of Free Press Community Billboard is free listing for events taking place in West Ashley. Please submit all happenings to: publisher@westof.net.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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INFO

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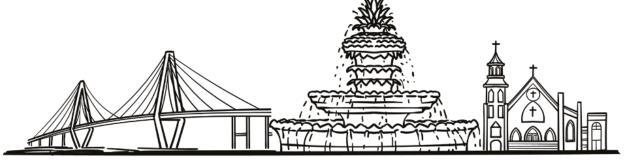


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9	8	3	5	7	6	1	4	2
6	4	7	2	1	8	3	5	9
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7	9	4	3	6	2	8	1	5
5	2	1	7	8	9	4	3	6

SUDOKU SOLUTION

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1. Minnesota
- 2. Grateful Dead
- 3. Lizzo
- 4. Jeremy Allen White
- 5. Here
- 6. Olivia Rodrigo
- 7. Zendaya
- 8. Fernando Valenzuela



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