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DEEP IMPACT

100 feet below the Greenway,
Charleston Water System's massive
\$135 million sewage project will
change West Ashley forever

... See story on pages 6

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NEWS

“Rather than putting in new tenants and a fresh coat of paint, you can re-envision these old plazas and really turn them into something that is a place-based generator of economy.”

— Eric Pohlman, West Ashley Project Coordinator

Turning Dirt and Getting Going

City’s West Ashley municipal hub at Ashley Landing is one step closer to reality

by Matt Poust | Contributing Writer

The 35.5-acre Ashley Landing redevelopment project, which broke ground in May 2025, is steadily advancing through its first phase with major infrastructure improvements underway and new housing plans taking shape.

Originally envisioned in 2017, the project proposed a parking deck, municipal offices and a central green space. However, little progress was made over the following years. Under Mayor William Cogswell’s administration, the city reimagined the development with a renewed focus on creating a walkable, mixed-use destination that serves as a gateway to West Ashley while prioritizing the needs of nearby residents.

The revised master plan includes a central green plaza, nine acres of stormwater retention, outdoor dining, retail space, affordable housing and expanded public gathering areas.

Current construction efforts are centered on stormwater retention and drainage improvements that city leaders say are essential for future development across the site. At the same time, work continues toward relocating the existing Publix supermarket, which officials have identified as the project’s anchor tenant.

Progress is also being made on the residential component of the redevelopment. Charleston-based Woodfield Development and a joint venture partner finalized a \$9.75 million purchase of a portion of the property on July 1 to construct Westbourne Ashley Landing, a 285-unit apartment community featuring studio and one- to three-bedroom rental units.

According to West Ashley Project Coordinator Eric Pohlman, both the Publix relocation and apartment construction remain on schedule as key components of the project’s first phase.

Once the new Publix is completed—currently slated for fall 2027—the city plans to shift its focus toward constructing the green plaza leg of the project. The public space will feature small retail shops, outdoor gathering areas and landscaped “parklets” designed to encourage pedestrian activity and community engagement.

Pohlman, who joined the project as planning efforts began in 2017, said seeing construction finally underway represents the realization of a vision the community has pursued for decades.

“It is fantastic and exciting that it is turning dirt and getting going,” Pohlman said. “It is something that the community has been asking for since 2000 with the Old Charles Towne District Master Plan. They wanted to see this plaza really reinvested in and made into a much more walkable urbanized area, and that’s what we’re getting out of this.”

Pohlman credited Mayor Cogswell and

his administration with helping secure one of the project’s most significant milestones: reaching an agreement to relocate Publix, a move he said was instrumental in unlocking redevelopment opportunities across the site.

While acknowledging the lengthy planning process, Pohlman said the project has the potential to reshape how aging commercial centers are redeveloped throughout the Charleston region.

“Rather than putting in new tenants and a fresh coat of paint, you can re-envision these old plazas and really turn them into something that is a place-based generator of economy,” Pohlman said.

As construction continues, city leaders hope the Ashley Landing redevelopment will not only transform a long-underutilized property but also serve as a model for future redevelopment efforts across West Ashley.

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DEEP IMPACT

100 feet below the Greenway, Charleston Water System's massive \$135 million sewage project will change West Ashley forever

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

When talking about the revitalization of West Ashley, most people speak in terms of improvements to buildings, streets, and sidewalks. They hope for new restaurants and retail centers, muttering rumors and hoping that a certain elusive grocery store will one day make its way to our side of the Ashley River. But the largest and arguably most important revitalization that's taking place in West Ashley is happening right now, and most people have no idea. That's because it's going on 130 feet underground.

It's down here, in the dense layer of clay known as the Cooper Marl, where Charleston Water System (CWS) crews are working around the clock on a \$135 million project that will significantly upgrade West Ashley's moribund sewer system, shoring it up for decades to come. When it began in earnest last summer, the massive job was the most expensive capital project CWS had ever taken on. Now, it is the second most expensive, with the Hanahan Water Treatment Plant improvements coming online and tipping the scales at around \$150 million.

The West Ashley project, which is slated to be completed sometime in late 2027, includes 20,000 feet of tunnel that will carry 100 percent of the raw sewage from West Ashley, Johns Island, Hollywood, Ravenel, and Meggett through complete build-out of those communities for 50 years, and maybe more than 100 years, according to Mike Saia, Director of Communications for CWS.

According to Saia, one of the goals of the plan is to significantly reduce sewer overflows during heavy weather events in many other areas of West Ashley by reducing flow restrictions at new tunnel entry points, especially at sewer overflow hotspots. The project will drastically reduce or eliminate sewer overflows in Brynes Downs, Windemere, and South Windemere neighborhoods.

The new pipes are not only much wider, but will run much deeper, between 100-130 feet. The tunneling portion of the project was recently completed when a massive boring machine named Miss Harper broke through the receiving shaft near Culver Avenue in the Air Harbor Neighborhood, completing the tunnel's most technically demanding phase. Miss Harper reached her destination roughly three weeks ahead of schedule and within budget, a rare feat for an infrastructure project of this magnitude.

The next phase of the project is the placement of more than 1,000 sections of 60-inch fiberglass-reinforced polymer (FRP)



pipe inside the completed tunnel, followed by grouting the space between the pipe and the tunnel wall.

Just days after Miss Harper broke through, CWS offered members of the press a chance to be lowered by crane 130 feet into the shaft to get a first-hand look at the magnitude of the project, which isn't the only major improvement CWS is undertaking in an effort to bolster our sewage system for the foreseeable future. In total, about \$200 million in upgrades are taking place throughout West Ashley.

"We're bringing roughly \$200 million in sewer improvements to West Ashley, and that's really about protecting West Ashley, keeping people safe and healthy, and protecting the environment," said Saia.

Inheriting a Ticking Timebomb

"We're focusing a lot on West Ashley, and there's a reason for that: we try to focus on where our risks are the highest," said Baker Mordecai, CWS's Chief Operating Officer. "And certainly, it's an older system over in West Ashley. We inherited some of that system from the old St. Andrews and that created some challenges. Along with the normal challenges that a utility has."

To understand why Charleston Water System is digging a tunnel 130 feet beneath West Ashley, you have to go back three decades. In 1995, the utility assumed control of the St. Andrews Public Service District's

troubled wastewater system under a state consent decree after years of aging infrastructure, rapid growth, and deferred maintenance had left the network plagued by sewer overflows and environmental violations. It inherited a system that, in many places, was already experiencing failures and struggling to keep up with the community it served.

Adding to the stress on the West Ashley system, the region has experienced tremendous growth over the last 30 years and is primed to see even more with major developments like Long Savannah coming down the pike.

Since taking over, CWS has invested hundreds of millions of dollars repairing, replacing, and expanding West Ashley's sewer infrastructure. Pump stations have been modernized, aging pipelines rehabilitated, and countless smaller improvements made throughout the system. But engineers knew the greatest bottleneck remained the transmission line carrying wastewater beneath the community to the Plum Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.

All of this has helped reduce the amount of infiltration into the system, explained Mordecai.

"Over 10 years, from 2015 to 2025, we've increased the number of active accounts by 18.2 percent (in West Ashley), but our flow rates have stayed essentially flat because we've removed so much infiltration and

inflow from the system," said Mordecai, referring to fixes made that help prevent additional water from getting into the system through breeches and failures in both public and private lines.

The work taking place right now in West Ashley represents the culmination of that long-term effort. Rather than continuing to patch an aging system, the new deep tunnel is designed to dramatically increase capacity, improve reliability, and help prevent sewer overflows for decades. Much of West Ashley's older sewer system was built decades ago using vitrified clay pipe and smaller-diameter mains that were never designed for today's population. The new deep tunnel and 60-inch transmission main are intended to dramatically increase capacity while reducing overflows during heavy rain events.

The tunnel isn't the only major wastewater improvement on the horizon. Charleston Water System is also preparing to replace Regional Pump Station 39 near the intersection of S.C. Highways 61 and 171. Built by the former St. Andrews Public Service District in 1986 and inherited by CWS after it assumed control of the troubled wastewater system in the 1990s, the aging station has reached the limits of its useful life. The planned \$9.7 million replacement will provide a modern regional pump station with greater reliability and capacity to complement the new tunnel.

The Pump Station 39 upgrade is a huge part of the overall plan. Because the Lowcountry does not have large topographic variation, wastewater has to be pumped from one station to the next.

Another part of fixing the problem involves improvements being made to screening facilities, which help keep things like wipes from jamming up the sewer lines.

A Total Wipe Out

In an ideal world, Mordecai says no one would flush wipes down their toilet. They are the single biggest problem for the system getting clogged up. But since CWS can't control what people do in their own homes or what they choose to flush, CWS took the fight directly to the wipe makers and retailers.

For years, the major makers of the wipes marketed them as 'flushable,' but they weren't actually flushable in the way consumers assumed. Unlike toilet paper, many of these wipes stayed intact after being flushed, snagging on roots, grease, and imperfections inside sewer pipes.

continued on page 7 ...

... continued from page 6

They accumulated into massive clogs that jammed pumps, blocked sewer lines, and caused sewer overflows. Charleston Water System estimated it was spending hundreds of thousands of dollars each year removing wipes from its wastewater system. Those costs were ultimately passed on to the customer.

Five years ago, CWS filed a federal class-action lawsuit on behalf of wastewater utilities across the country against major manufacturers and retailers, including Procter & Gamble, Kimberly-Clark, Costco, Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, and Target, arguing that companies were deceptively marketing wipes as ‘flushable’ even though many did not break apart quickly enough to move safely through sewer systems.

Instead of simply seeking money damages, CWS sought to change the products themselves. The resulting settlements ensured that manufacturers and retailers that labeled wipes as ‘flushable’ met rigorous, internationally recognized flushability standards. It also required that non-flushable wipes be clearly labeled so consumers know they belong in the trash, not the toilet.

While the lawsuit was a huge victory for utilities worldwide, it doesn’t mean that the ‘flushable’ wipes aren’t harmful. Even the flushable ones build up and eventually become a problem, which requires members of the CWS to take giant rakes and clean off the bar screens at screening stations, often during dangerous weather events when the pressure is at its peak.

Offering a Helping Hand

While the new tunnel will dramatically increase the capacity of West Ashley’s sewer system, Charleston Water System knows that solving the problem requires more than one massive infrastructure project.

Many older homes throughout West Ashley are still connected to the public sewer system by original vitrified clay service lines. Over time, those aging pipes can crack, separate at the joints, or become clogged with tree roots, allowing groundwater to seep into the system during heavy rain events. That extra water, known as infiltration, takes up valuable capacity that should be reserved for wastewater.

Replacing those aging clay laterals with modern PVC pipe would significantly reduce that unnecessary burden. But because the service lines are located on private property, the responsibility typically falls on the property owners.

To help address the problem, Charleston Water System is launching a pilot program this month that will provide qualifying homeowners with up to \$2,000 to replace their aging vitrified clay sewer laterals. According to Mordecai, that’s enough to cover the average cost of replacing about 25 feet of pipe, allowing many homeowners to modernize their sewer connection at little or no cost.

“It’s a win-win,” Mordecai said. “We get callouts 24/7. We’ll inspect the system and find laterals that are in terrible condition. We’ll tell the homeowner, ‘You’ve got to do something about this.’ Most people will make a small repair, but they don’t

replace the whole lateral, so they’re faced with the same problems again in the future. This gives us a way to really help the customer, but it also helps us.”

Every failing clay lateral that’s replaced means less groundwater entering the sewer system, less strain during storms, and better performance from that new \$135 million tunnel. It’s a nice example of how even a project happening 130 feet underground still depends on what’s happening in homeowners’ front yards.

According to Mordecai says CWS has earmarked \$50,000 for the pilot program, which will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The 25 feet of PVC pipe from your home to the public sewer line may seem like a short distance compared to the 3.8 miles of 60-inch pipe currently being laid underground across West Ashley, but it’s all part of what Saia calls CWS’s ‘holistic approach’ to fixing West Ashley’s long-standing wastewater problems.

Most conversations about West Ashley’s future will likely continue to focus on new restaurants, revitalized shopping centers,



and road widenings. Meanwhile, 130 feet below the Greenway, a \$135 million investment is quietly laying the foundation that makes all of that growth possible. It’s not the kind of project that grabs headlines every day, but long after today’s ribbon cuttings and grand openings have faded from memory, it may prove to be one of the most important investments the community has ever made.

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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.

JULY 2

DOMESTIC AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Police responded to a disturbance on Coastal Grass Way after receiving reports that a firearm had been displayed during a fight. The victim told officers she had been involved in a physical altercation when the suspect allegedly pulled a handgun from his waistband and pointed it at her head. Officers documented minor injuries to the victim, canvassed the area for the suspect, and collected video evidence from a witness. Detectives continue to investigate the incident.

JULY 2

POINTING A FIREARM

A Charleston man was arrested after police said he pointed a handgun during an argument on Stonestown Drive. Officers reviewed cellphone video provided by a juvenile victim and witnesses before locating the suspect and executing a search warrant on his vehicle. Investigators recovered a .380-caliber handgun from the glove compartment, and the suspect was charged with pointing a firearm at another person.

JULY 5

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A man was arrested after causing multiple disturbances at a Savannah Highway hotel. According to police, the man had repeatedly asked officers to wait with him for an Uber before entering a manager's office, locking himself inside a closet, and disrupting business operations. During a search following his arrest, officers found Suboxone tablets stored in an unmarked container. He was charged with disorderly conduct and transported to the AI Cannon Detention Center.

JULY 5

DOMESTIC INTIMIDATION

A West Ashley man told police his ex-wife continued threatening and harassing him months after their divorce was finalized. According to the report, the woman allegedly sent repeated text messages, including "Your ass is mine" and "If I can't have you, no one can," while also making numerous phone calls and demanding money and personal property. Police served the woman with a trespass notice prohibiting her from returning to the man's residence.

JULY 6

FRAUD

A local woman reported losing \$20,000 after falling victim to an elaborate scam involving someone claiming to represent the Federal Trade Commission. The caller convinced the victim that her Social Security number and bank accounts had been compromised and instructed her to withdraw cash, wrap it in foil, newspapers, and gift wrap, then mail the package to California. The victim later realized it was a scam and reported the incident to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

JULY 6

ARMED ROBBERY

Employees at an Orleans Road market reported being assaulted during a robbery in which a firearm was displayed. Officers found both victims with visible injuries after the suspects fled the scene. Detectives, crime scene investigators, and EMS personnel responded, and the investigation remains ongoing.

JULY 7

SIMPLE ASSAULT

A woman reported being assaulted during a Fourth of July neighborhood cookout near Hazelwood Drive. According to police, she told officers she was struck in the back of the head, triggering a fight involving several people. Investigators reviewed cellphone video but were unable to identify who started the altercation because of the crowd. The victim later sought treatment at Summerville Medical Center and told police she wished to pursue charges.

JULY 8

SIMPLE ASSAULT

A Charleston man was arrested after police said he threw a purse at a woman during a domestic dispute. Witnesses told officers the purse struck the victim as she packed belongings into her vehicle. Police noted they had already responded to the residence multiple times earlier that day for domestic and mental health-related calls. The suspect was arrested on a charge of third-degree assault and battery.

JULY 8

DOMESTIC ASSAULT

An argument between family members escalated into a physical fight that ended with an arrest. According to police, an elderly woman allegedly threw trash, attempted to throw a bottle of lotion, slammed a door on her daughter's arm, then grabbed her daughter by the hair during the confrontation. EMS evaluated the woman at the scene before officers arrested her on a charge of third-degree assault and battery.

JULY 9

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Three 18-year-old men were cited after officers found them drinking beer in the parking lot of a West Ashley Mexican restaurant. The group told police they had eaten at the restaurant and decided to continue drinking outside afterward. Officers confiscated the alcohol, issued citations for underage possession of beer, and released the teens to their parents.

JULY 10

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Police responded to a Savannah Highway hotel after receiving reports of a man waving a firearm during a domestic dispute. Officers located the suspect in a hotel room with what appeared to be a handgun in his pocket, which was later determined to be a BB gun. After interviewing those involved and reviewing hotel surveillance footage, officers arrested the man on a charge of third-degree domestic violence.

JULY 11

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

An argument outside a Sam Ritt gas station escalated into a violent assault that left a man hospitalized. The victim, who uses a wheelchair, told police he was struck multiple times with a metal object after a dispute the previous evening. Witnesses, however, reported the victim had first threatened the suspect with a knife before the suspect returned and attacked him. Detectives recovered surveillance video and evidence from the scene. The investigation remains ongoing.

JULY 12

SIMPLE ASSAULT

A Mamie Street man was arrested after a disagreement over a missing firearm turned into a physical fight with his adult son. Police said both men accused the other of being the aggressor, but officers observed injuries on the son, including a bloody nose and scratches, along with damage inside the residence consistent with his account. The suspect was arrested after receiving medical clearance at the hospital.

JULY 12

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Police conducting a welfare check at an apartment on Westchase Drive found what they described as unlivable conditions inside the residence. Officers reported rotting food, insects, mold, animal waste, and a strong odor of ammonia throughout the apartment. Two cats were recovered by a family member after Charleston Animal Control was notified. The resident was not located, and the investigation remains ongoing.

JULY 13

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Two women were arrested following a confrontation outside the West Ashley medical center. According to police, one woman allegedly smashed another person's vehicle with a metal stool, shattering the windshield and several windows before the second woman exited the hospital and pulled her to the ground by the hair. Surveillance video captured the incident. Both women were arrested on multiple charges.

JULY 17

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A man was arrested after allegedly threatening to "shoot up" an Ashley River Road bar after being denied re-entry because of his intoxication. Employees told officers the man became angry when staff refused to let him back inside. Police located him in the parking lot, where he continued resisting officers after being placed under arrest. He was also charged with resisting arrest and formally trespassed from the business.

JULY 17

WEAPON VIOLATION

Police responded to Saville Row after a man accidentally shot himself while cleaning a firearm inside his home. Family members told officers they heard a gunshot before the man called for help. Investigators documented damage inside the residence, determined the bullet remained inside the home, and confirmed the shooting appeared to be accidental. The firearm was ultimately returned to its owner following the investigation.

JULY 17

SIMPLE ASSAULT

A local woman told police she was assaulted by a man who had allegedly been harassing her for the past two years. According to the report, the man entered the store where she works, became angry after being refused service, pounded on the counter, and swung across it, knocking the employee's cellphone from her hand. Surveillance video and the employee's cellphone video were turned over to investigators.

JULY 18

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

Officers arrested a man after receiving multiple reports of an intoxicated person stumbling along Ashley River Road. Police found the man sitting at a bus stop with several alcoholic beverages nearby. According to the report, he appeared heavily intoxicated and struggled to walk without assistance. He was initially transported to the detention center but was later taken to the hospital after jail staff declined to accept him because of low blood pressure.

JULY 19

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Police responded to an apartment on Orange Grove Road after witnesses reported seeing a man chasing a woman who was screaming for help. Officers interviewed both parties, who accused one another of assault during the domestic dispute. Following the investigation, one woman was arrested on a charge of first-degree domestic violence. A pair of scissors believed to be connected to the incident was collected as evidence.

JULY 19

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A man was arrested outside a local department store after firefighters found him unconscious behind the wheel of a running vehicle with an open container of wine in his lap. Officers said the man refused repeated commands to exit the vehicle and cursed at police before eventually complying after his wife arrived. He was charged with disorderly conduct and cited for possessing an open container of alcohol inside a vehicle.

JULY 21

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Police responded to an Avondale bar after a dispute between two former friends turned physical. According to the victim, the suspect approached him while he was seated at the bar and grabbed him by the neck. A witness corroborated the victim's account, although the bar owner told officers he did not observe a physical altercation. Police advised the victim of the investigative process after he requested to pursue charges.

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“I can’t turn off the creativity thing, so I’ve had to learn to let it work for me in whatever format it chooses at the time.”

— Dayton Colie, musician and visual artist

West Ashley resident Dayton Colie started playing and writing original music when he was 16.

“At the time, it did not occur to me that songs just popping up in my head were a special thing,” says Colie. It wasn’t until he ended up rooming with another musician who, after hearing some of his original songs, proposed they start a band.

“We had a great time playing all over Charleston for a few years, and that eventually led to playing bass in a jazz band,” says Colie. “Playing jazz required me to learn about how music is structured so I could improvise and sound good with a group of people.

During this period, Colie realized he could apply his musical knowledge across most instruments and play them if he practiced. This encouraged him to play as many instruments as he could get his hands on. Since then, Colie has recorded several solo albums in which he plays every instrument.

This is the case with his latest album, *Signals*, which Colie recorded in his West Ashley home studio and officially released to the public on June 28.

While the album delivers a unique sonic journey through rhythm, movement, and everyday inspiration, Colie says the concept began unexpectedly at a traffic light. He was sitting in his vehicle when he found himself captivated by the steady pulse of a turn signal. A melody emerged in his mind, and Colie set out to record the signals of a variety of cars, letting each character and tempo determine the foundations of each song. Every track begins and ends with the turn signal, and it remains present throughout.

“Most of my albums wind up being guided by a concept of some sort, and this one is no exception,” says Colie. “I’ve learned to trust consistently persistent ideas when they happen, so I recorded the signals from one of my cars for five minutes, found the tempo, and began recording from there.”

What initially started as an exploration of whether it was possible to create a whole album of songs from this concept turned into both an analytical and emotional journey. Colie found that the analog signals of older cars have more mechanical characteristics than newer cars because the signal is caused by a physical electrical relay, often resulting

Signaling a New Direction

Artist, composer, and multi-instrumentalist Dayton Colie finds inspiration everywhere, even in the click of a turn signal

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

in a clankier, deeper timbre, while newer signals sound lighter and clearer. While these differences did affect the writing of each car’s song, the story of the cars had a greater influence on the music.

“My neighbors were very kind and supportive about letting me record their signals as well, so it was a community effort of sorts,” says Colie. “Each song typically takes a few days to do, and it’s not uncommon for me to delete and re-do entire parts of a song,” says Colie. “Sometimes I record something and revisit it the next day, only to discover that it’s not as great as I remembered, and sometimes it magically happens on the first take.”

Colie created a custom home studio that allows him to switch from one instrument to another very quickly. He says after decades of performing live, the creativity of the recording studio is rewarding these days.

“I am finding that the creative/studio aspect is more enjoyable because my setup enables me to bring my ideas to fruition very quickly. I can explore ideas that I have, and I am able to do it easily when the time allows,” says Colie. “There are a couple things I’ve tried lately in terms of playing with other people, and I’ve learned that I need some creative space.”

Colie says as much as he enjoys bopping along on an upright bass to bluegrass music, he’s found he needs something more right now.

“With that said, I really, really do enjoy playing with other musicians, but it would need the right project/group,” he says. “I miss playing in the Zydeco band (Sidewalk Zydeco) because it was fast, fun, and I had a lot of creative freedom, while also connecting with other musicians.”

Colie says he’s also been kicking around



an idea for a sort of gameshow/improv jam project that would involve other musicians.

“I actually have a few who are really interested and would be on board to try it,” he says. “Now that I’ve mentioned it, I may need to bring it to fruition soon.”

In addition to being a musician, Colie is also a visual artist.

“I claim both equally as far as my identity goes. I can’t turn off the creativity thing, so I’ve had to learn to let it work for me in whatever format it chooses at the time. I feel like I’ve done reasonably well in both fields, and it’s nice to be able to switch back and forth,” says Colie. “I also allow the music and art to work together.”

Colie, who teaches visual art at

Charleston County School of the Arts, recently made a unique color theory tool that utilizes music modes/keys to help select color combinations.

“The Visual and Musical aspects of creativity both come from the same section of my brain,” he says. “Ideas frequently manifest themselves suddenly, and I write them down or remember them so I can explore them later. Sometimes things come together quickly, and sometimes I give myself a year or more to explore a concept.”

Right now, Colie is still fascinated by vehicle turn signals. He says he’s already started a second album using signals. The first song is inspired by a new Ford Bronco.



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Bluegrass and Storytelling

Grammy-nominated musician brings
Appalachian traditions to Magnolia

from Staff Reports

Bluegrass music, mountain folklore, and generations of Appalachian tradition will take center stage at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens on Friday, Aug. 14, when Grammy-nominated musician and storyteller Josh Goforth performs a special evening of music and storytelling.

The program, titled *Bluegrass and Storytelling*, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and offers audiences a chance to experience the rich cultural heritage of the Appalachian Mountains through one of its most celebrated ambassadors.

Raised in Madison County, North Carolina, Goforth grew up immersed in the music and stories of his family and community. Today, he is recognized as one of the nation's foremost performers of traditional Appalachian music, blending bluegrass, old-time, folk, and swing with the oral storytelling traditions that have long been a cornerstone of mountain culture.

A multi-instrumentalist who plays nearly 20 instruments, Goforth has performed around the world and appeared on stages

including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Grand Ole Opry. His fiddling was featured both on screen and on the soundtrack of the award-winning film *Songcatcher*, and he received a Grammy nomination for his 2009 collaboration with David Holt, *Cutting Loose*.

During the performance, Goforth will weave together traditional tunes, humorous anecdotes, and family stories passed down through generations, giving audiences an authentic glimpse into Appalachian life. Whether playing fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, or one of the many other instruments in his repertoire, he is known for creating an engaging performance that appeals equally to longtime bluegrass fans and newcomers alike.

The event is part of Magnolia Plantation & Gardens' growing lineup of cultural programs designed to showcase Southern history, music, and artistic traditions. Organizers describe the evening as an opportunity to experience the spirit of the Appalachian Mountains without leaving the Lowcountry.



Tickets for Bluegrass and Storytelling featuring Josh Goforth are \$55. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are encouraged. The event will take place at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, located at 3550 Ashley River Road. For tickets and additional information, call (843) 571-1266 or visit www.magnoliaplantation.com.

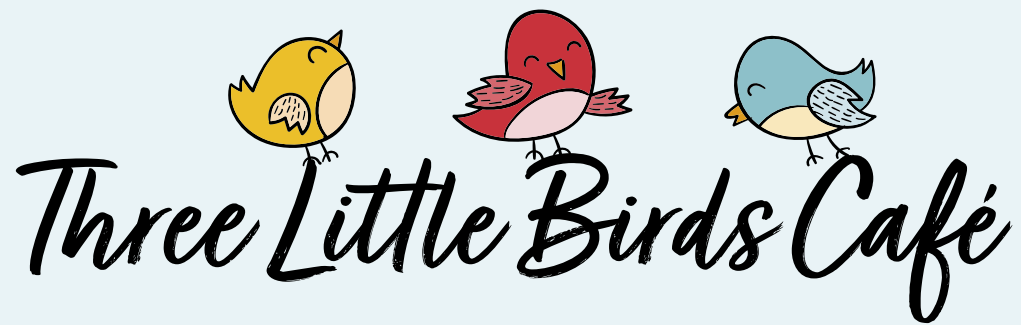
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DINING

"We're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to partner with MUSC and become part of the exciting transformation happening at The Citadel Mall."
 — Mike Pitera, Pizza a Modo Mio, owner

A Taste of Rome

Pizza A Modo Mio bringing new concept to mall food court

from Staff Reports

One of Charleston's favorite pizza restaurants is returning to its West Ashley roots with a new concept. It will also become one of the first new dining tenants announced as part of Citadel Mall's transformation.

Pizza A Modo Mio, which started as a food truck before opening on Bees Ferry Road and then expanding to Hollywood and Mount Pleasant, will open its fourth location this fall inside the mall's food court with A Taste of Rome by Pizza a Modo Mio.

Pizza A Modo Mio first opened in West Ashley in early 2023 and has built a loyal following for its authentic New York-style pizza, bagels, and Italian Ice. The new location represents owners Mike and Julia Pitera's first concept designed specifically for a food court setting.

Unlike Pizza a Modo Mio's traditional full-service restaurants, A Taste of Rome will feature a fast-casual menu built around 12-inch Roman-style pizzas, along with fresh chopped salads, pasta, appetizers, authentic

New York-style bagels, specialty coffee, and desserts.

Mike Pitera announced the project last week on social media, saying they were partnering with the Medical University of South Carolina as the local medical center continues its expansion within the mall.

Late last year, MUSC paid \$83.5 million to purchase a large portion of the Citadel Mall, acquiring 556,600 square feet as it expands its MUSC Health West Ashley Medical Pavilion to be a full healthcare, education, and mixed-use campus. The food court is expected to play an important role in serving the thousands of people who will visit or work on the campus each day.

Pitera said the concept is designed to serve not only nearby residents but also the growing number of MUSC employees, patients, and visitors expected to frequent the redeveloped property.

A Taste of Rome by Pizza A Modo Mio is expected to begin serving customers by early fall.



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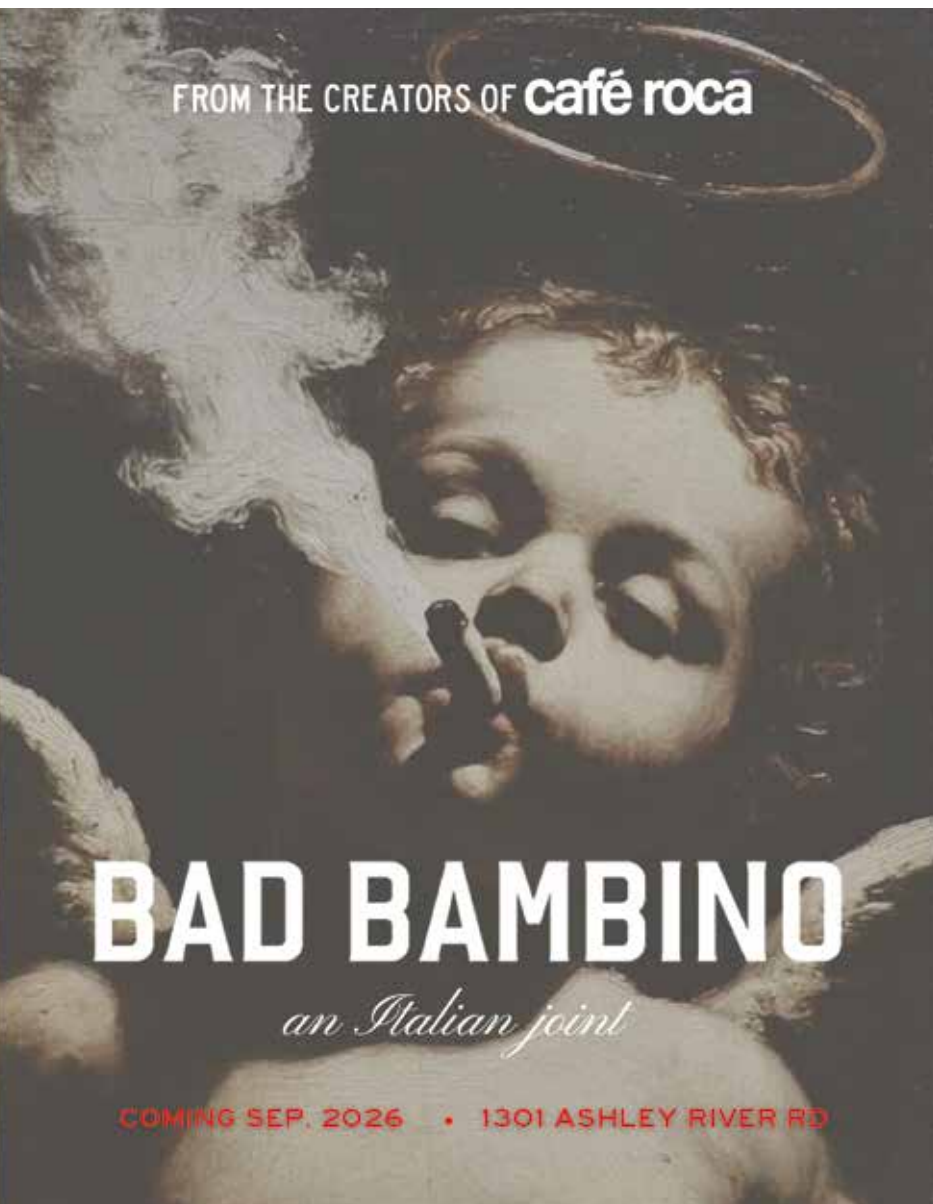
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COMMUNITY



Painting the Town

Local artists help make West Ashley a little more colorful

When artist MASÁRE let me know he had completed the current eye catching mural project on the side of the Drake Fitness building in Avondale I walked down to catch the scene without cars parked in front of it. It is especially meaningful because we are soon going to lose the wall that has showcased so many incredible works of art through the years.

Some of the murals tucked away behind the shops in Avondale that were part of the chART Outdoor Art Initiative project remain intact, including my favorite painting of Charleston's famous ironworker Philip Simmons.

Our neighborhood is richer and more colorful because of the talented mural artists who have transformed ordinary walls into works of art. Some of the best known artists have

shared their work for us to enjoy.

This month is my thank you to the artists who decorate our West Ashley neighborhood. I'm inviting you along on a mural hunt. I've gathered a collection of colorful snippets collected on my wanderings, and challenge you to see how many locations you are able to identify. Don't look at the answer key unless you are stumped.

Happy hunting! And thank you to the artists who continue to brighten our corner of Charleston, one mural at a time.

(To watch a video of the current Avondale mural visit: www.masare.art/gallery.)

Stay healthy, my friends, and wave at me as I wander. Send ideas for upcoming columns to Joan Perry at westashleywanderer@gmail.com.

ANSWER KEY:

Top Row: Home Team BBQ, Drake Fitness, Avondale (chART)
Second Row: Euro Foods Cafe, Triangle Char & Bar, Mex 1 Coastal Cantina, Charleston Empire Properties, Avondale (chART), Magnolia Community Gardens
Third Row: Tin Roof, Seventeen South, Bees Ferry Library
Fourth Row: Palmira BBQ, Lost River Naturals, The Roost, Avondale (chART)
Fifth Row: Avondale (chART)



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Road to the Wappoo Causeway

The origin of one of West Ashley's most travelled roads

Wappoo Road.

Almost everyone who lives in West Ashley crosses or drives this road on a daily basis. But does anyone really ponder the origin of the road or its name?

Step back to when the first people arrived by boat from England and the story begins to unfold. It begins with Wappoo Creek.

Wappoo Creek was originally named Stono Creek when John Culpepper mapped out the area in 1671. Records show that by 1679 it was being referred to as Wappoo Creek. There is the suggestion that some bodies of water were being named to honor the local indigenous population that were here when the English arrived.

The name Wappoo may come from a subgroup of Cusabo Native Americans that populated the creek's shore. To continue with this the nomenclature, Eliza Lucas Pinckney's land along the creek was named Wappoo Plantation. In the early 1700s roads were being designed to allow land owners to navigate among their large holdings.

The "Road to the Wappoo Causeway" was one such road that connected the plantations along the west bank of the Ashley to land on James Island. Very early maps show the path from the west bank of the Ashley that turns south at the Graham AME church towards James Island to connect where Wappoo Creek enters the Stono River, thus the "Road to the Wappoo Causeway."

Fast forward to the early 1900s and the land was changing from agrarian to suburban. Enough young families had moved to "the country" that it was necessary to create a centrally located school for the Parish. In the 1930s, when the decision was made to build St Andrew's Parish High School, Wappoo Road was the chosen site as it was considered to be the center of the Parish. Not only was it the geographic center but it was also a hub of activity.

The Atlantic Coast Line RR and the Seaboard Airline RR crossed just a bit south of Wappoo Road and was known as Dupont Crossing. This moniker was used for the area and everyone understood that this name defined the greater location around Wappoo Road. The Charleston County Vegetable Market had been built alongside the Seaboard Airline RR tracks that crossed Wappoo Road. Transportation of farm goods to market happened regularly at this site. (Today the Seaboard Airline RR tracks have been converted to the West Ashley Bikeway).

Gas stations run by Bootle, Dupont and Whaley occupied three of the corners - two of the gas stations had grocery stores and one had a diner. All were hangouts for locals, students, hunters and business people. Many pictures, stories, and local history revolve around Dupont Crossing and Wappoo Road. It was the center of the community and its importance was felt by all.

This importance was underscored on numerous occasions, but one that is very familiar to locals who lived in West Ashley in 1955 was the destruction of the bascule portion of the Ashley Memorial Bridge when the Fort Fetterman lost control trying to maneuver and crashed into the bridge.

Everyone on the west bank of the Ashley River was now disconnected from the peninsula and a convenient route to the Naval Yard. This was important because many of the residents were employed there. The Seaboard Airline RR was more of a cargo rail than a passenger rail but during this period of time the railroad stepped up and transported people from Dupont Crossing at Wappoo Road across the river, mostly for large gatherings like ball games.

Once the North Bridge was complete,

it was necessary to connect that part of the Parish from the bridge to the various neighbors. Sam Rittenberg Boulevard was planned and the original design was to connect to Wappoo Road and then onto Highway 17. As we now know someone thought better of that plan. Today Sam Rittenberg Boulevard connects directly to Highway 17.

Stories about Wappoo Road? Contact Donna Jacobs at westashleybook@gmail.com.



1797 plat showing "Road to Wappoo causeway"



Close up view of the damaged Ashley River Bridge. (Photograph shared by Ruth Gerth via Peggy Bohne)



Students walking down Wappoo Road toward Savannah Highway in the early 1940s. (Photograph taken by Luther Bootle, shared by Ina Bootle)

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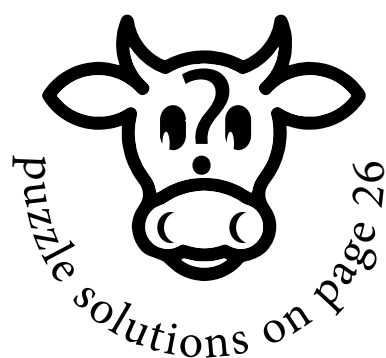
1. Castle defense
5. Documents
9. Arouse
13. So extreme a degree
14. Conscious
16. Assistant
17. Behold, in old Rome
18. Transparent green gemstone
19. Blend
20. Bird sound
22. States of seclusion
24. D D D
26. Not earlier
27. Film material
30. Arrive past due
33. Big picture
35. Feudal lord
37. Estimated (abbrev.)
38. Physique
41. Chapter in history
42. Chairs
45. Seller
48. Pieces of bread
51. Witticisms
52. Like many a superhero
54. Show sullenness

55. Floating swimming board
59. Empty
62. False god
63. Sing like Bing
65. Balm ingredient
66. Arid
67. Therefore
68. Office fill-in
69. Found on most beaches
70. Apollo astronaut Slayton
71. Once, long ago

DOWN

1. Millisecond
2. Ow!
3. Inadvertent
4. Thereunto
5. Apply gently
6. Is indebted to
7. Christmas song
8. 1st American space station
9. Japanese warrior
10. Bound
11. Inactive
12. Scarlets
15. Gentry
21. Juicy fruit
23. Confess

25. Pierce
27. Gorillas
28. Instances
29. Large flightless bird
31. Nondrinker
32. Wading bird
34. Aspiration
36. Hearing organs
39. Chemist's workplace
40. Plummet
43. Titillated
44. Sign of healing
46. Circular rounded projection
47. Be like
49. Geologic period
50. Charred
53. Pilotless plane
55. Smooch
56. Thought
57. Maize
58. Wharf
60. French for "Names"
61. Retained
64. Born, in bios



SUDOKU

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TRIVIA

1. SUPERHEROES

Marvel Studios announced at Comic-Con last month that Ryan Gosling will reprise the role of what cult comic hero formerly played by Nicholas Cage?

2. REBOOTS

Due out in October, a new 5-part series based on Stephen King's first novel reimagines what classic Sissy Spacick 1976 horror film?

3. ARCADE GAMES

What fruit appears on the first screen in the original "Pac-Man" arcade game?

4. VIVA LAS VEGAS

What Egyptian-themed Las Vegas casino features a bright light at its peak that is claimed to be able to be seen from space?

5. AWARDS

What Canadian entertainment awards share their name with a famous pregnant teenage movie character?

6. TELEVISION

What critically acclaimed show led all Emmy nominations this year with 25?

7. COMIC STRIPS

Which Archie character wore a crown beanie and loved hamburgers?

8. POKER

In poker, what is the best possible hand in a game with no wild cards?



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• Embroidery Guild of America — 2nd Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
• Sampler Guild of Charleston — 4th Monday, 10 a.m.
All meet at Old St. Andrews Parish Church Fellowship Hall, 2604 Ashley River Rd. Contact nancythechief@gmail.com

West Ashley Quilting & Sewing
• 2nd Tuesday, 10 a.m.–Noon — 460 Arlington Dr.
• 4th Tuesday Open Sew, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. — Five Eighth Seams, 1888 Raoul Wallenberg Blvd. Find on Facebook or contact cgb7507@gmail.com.

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Visit www.charlestonparksconservancy.org for more information.
• Early Morning Bird Walk – West

Ashely Greenway MP7-8, McLeod Mill Rd., must RSVP on website, registration opens one month prior to the walk.

Caw Caw Interpretive Center
5200 Savannah Hwy., (843) 762-8015, www.ccprc.com

• Early Morning Bird Walks — Wednesdays & Saturdays 8:30-10:30am, \$12, all ages
• Renewal by Flame – Saturday, Aug. 1, 10-12pm, \$12, ages 15 & up
• Hawk Watch Advanced Training – Thursday, Aug. 27, 9:30am-12:30pm, \$30, ages 18 & up
• Gator Tales – Friday, Aug. 14, 10am-12pm, \$12, ages 12 & up

Old Towne Creek Park
3580 1400 Old Towne Rd., (843) 795-4386, www.ccprc.com
• Early Birding – Saturday, Aug. 8, 6-8pm, \$12, ages 12 & up
• The Water’s Edge – Friday, Aug. 21, 9:30-11:30am, \$12, ages 16 & up

Stono River County Park
3580 McLeod Mill Rd.

HISTORY & CULTURE

Charles Towne Landing
1500 Old Towne Rd., (843) 852-4200, www.southcarolinaparks.com/charles-towne-landing.com
• A Renaissance Woman: ‘Ferdī’ and the Gardens of Old Town –

Sunday, Aug. 9 and 23, 11:30am-12:15pm, \$5

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens
3550 Ashley River Rd., (843) 571-1266, www.magnoliaplantation.com
• Journey to Indigo – Aug. 1-Nov. 15, free with admission to the garden
• Mahjong 101 (\$65) & Open Play (\$25) – every Wednesday in August 6-8pm
• Bluegrass and Storytelling w/ Grammy nominated Josh Goforth (\$55) – Friday, Aug. 14, 7-8:30pm

Drayton Hall
3380 Ashley River Rd., (843) 769-2600, www.draytonhall.org
• Sip & Stroll – \$35 general admission, \$15 Friends of Drayton, Saturday, Aug. 29 2:30-4:30pm

Middleton Place
4300 Ashley River Rd., (843) 556-6020, www.middletonplace.org

SENIOR PROGRAMS

Waring Senior Center
2001 Henry Tecklenburg Dr. (843) 606-7877
Offers yoga, Tai Chi, strength training, dance classes, art classes, and social activities for members and non-members.



Charleston

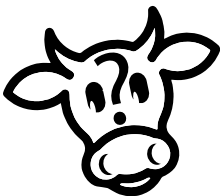
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5	1	7	9	6	4	3	8	2
9	4	6	8	3	2	7	1	5
3	2	8	7	1	5	6	9	4
4	5	1	6	2	7	8	3	9
7	3	9	1	4	8	2	5	6
6	8	2	3	5	9	4	7	1

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- 1. Ghost Rider
- 2. Carrie
- 3. Cherry
- 4. Luxor
- 5. Juno Awards
- 6. The Pitt
- 7. Jughead Jones
- 8. Royal Flush

Hot Action

Warm temps have the fishes in a frenzy



August brings warm temperatures, but it also delivers fantastic action on the water. To maximize your success, plan your outings around early morning or late evening windows when fish are most active. By tailoring your tactics to low-light hours and choosing the right setups, you can beat the heat and stay on a steady bite all month long.

When starting at first light, topwater lures are your absolute best option. Plan to arrive at your spot just as the horizon begins to brighten. In the dawn shadows, fish aggressively target surface disturbances, mistaking the rhythmic walk of a topwater plug for a struggling baitfish. This approach

is particularly deadly for both redfish and trout. For maximum action, tie on a Heddon Super Spook Jr. in either chartreuse and black or red and white.

Popping corks are a reliable producer all day long, regardless of the tide phase. They offer unmatched versatility and will draw strikes from nearly every inshore species, including trout, redfish, flounder, ladyfish, and sharks. Using a weighted popping cork helps maximize casting distance. Tie an 18-to-24-inch fluorocarbon leader from the cork down to a size 1 circle hook, and bait up with live shrimp, mud minnows, or realistic artificial shrimp. When the cork pulls under, simply reel until you feel the weight of the fish before lifting your rod tip—no hard hookset required.

When the sun reaches its peak, the shark bite stays red-hot. Sharks remain aggressive even in the heat of the afternoon. To combat persistent bait stealers, rig a whole live menhaden on a 7/0 circle hook. Inshore waters are currently holding plenty of sharpnose, bonnethead, and blacktip sharks. As an added bonus, soak these big baits long enough, and you just might hook into a trophy bull redfish! See you on the water!



Since 2009, Capt. Geoff Bennett has operated Charleston Charter Fishing, offering light-tackle charters. Clients choose from a full menu of artificial lures, live bait, and fly-fishing options, with charters tailored to their preferences. 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 www.charlestoncharterfishing.com, or email captain@charlestoncharterfishing.com.

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DINNER

MONDAY-THURSDAY 4-10PM
FRIDAY-SATURDAY 4-11PM
SUNDAY 4-9PM

HAPPY HOUR

MONDAY-THURSDAY 4-6PM
WINE • BEER • COCKTAILS

ROOFTOP DINING