

OCTOBER 2026  
issue 10 : vol. 22

WEST OF  
FREE PRESS

# It's the **GREAT** PUMPKIN PATCH, WEST ASHLEY

John Wesley Methodist Church's  
pumpkin patch has been a local symbol  
of fall for more than three decades

... See story on pages 10

Also inside ...

The State of West Ashley, Fix it at the Repair Café, Bad Bambino Opens, a Miniature Art Gallery ... and more!



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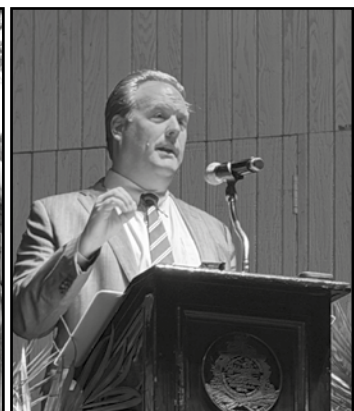
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# WEST OF FREE PRESS

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# NEWS

“We want the public to enjoy this space. They voted for it, we want our recreation facilities to be enjoyed by not just city residents, but all residents.”

— Beth Brownlee, City’s Assistant Director of Capital Projects

## W.L. Stephens Renovations Move Ahead

City gathered feedback and updated residents on plan last month

by Matt Poust | Contributing Writer

For generations of West Ashley residents, W.L. Stephens Aquatic Center has been a place to learn to swim, stay active and gather with neighbors. Now, nearly 60 years after it opened, the longtime recreation center is headed for a major transformation.

Demolition began July 13 as the City of Charleston moves forward with the \$38 million project to replace the aquatic center and overhaul the surrounding Forest Park. The project is expected to be completed in March 2028, according to officials.

The city hosted a drop-in style public meeting on Sept. 2 at the Carr Richardson Community Center to gather feedback and update residents on the site plan, building design and interior layout. The project is funded through the city’s 2023 Parks and Recreation Bond Referendum and is among the priorities identified in Charleston’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

At the center of the overhaul is a revamp of the indoor aquatic facility. Built in 1970, the existing center will be replaced with a 24,000- to 28,000-square-foot building featuring a 25-meter-by-25-yard indoor pool and a separate therapy pool. The pools will support swimming lessons, rehabilitation, water aerobics and other programs.

For longtime users, though, the project is about more than replacing an aging building.

Beth Brownlee, the city’s assistant director of capital projects, said community input

has played a significant role in shaping the plans, with many residents who grew up at W.L. Stephens expressing enthusiasm about keeping the facility at its current location.

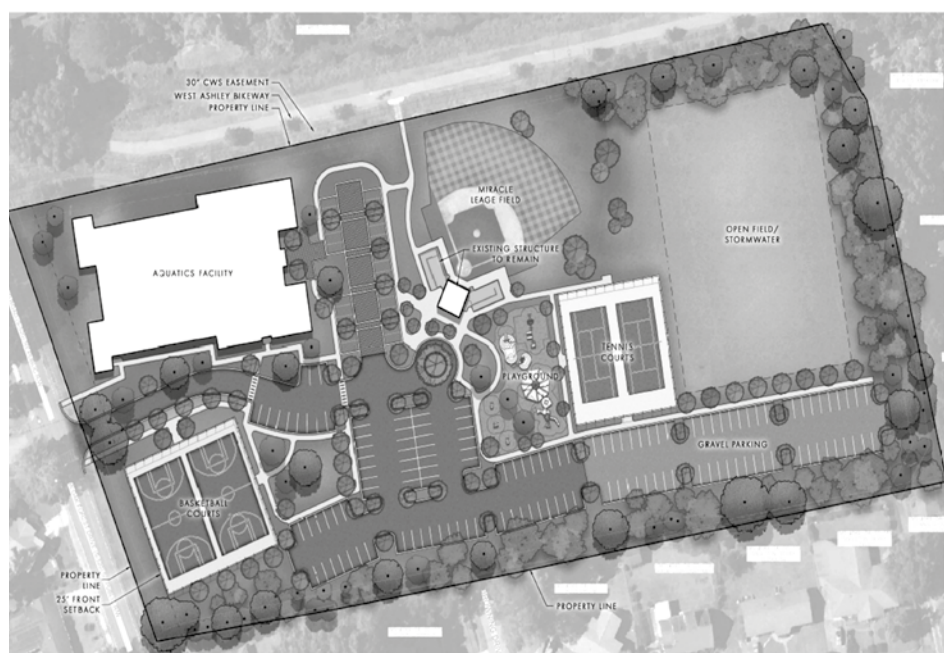
“The surrounding community, especially members who have been here since the ‘70s and ‘80s, we have a lot of people who grew up at W.L. Stephens who seem to be very excited about this project and that we’re keeping the nature of the building and not going to another site,” Brownlee said.

Changes made to the center won’t end when swimmers leave the pool either. Forest Park will also receive a new multipurpose community room, office and classroom space, an inclusive playground, renovated tennis and basketball courts and additional parking.

The park’s Miracle League Field, which serves children and adults with disabilities, is getting attention as well. City staff met with the Miracle League board to discuss ways to make the field more useful for players, families and visiting teams.

Planned improvements include new Mondo turf, fencing upgrades and work on the concessions stand. Brownlee said the changes will make the facility more inclusive while allowing the park to accommodate more Miracle League teams and events.

Back inside the aquatic center, the new facility will bring updated amenities and safety features, including pool



The City of Charleston is planning a major redesign of the W.L. Stephens Aquatic Center

fitness equipment and a paddock system designed to improve safety in indoor pool environments. Additional space will also be available for recreation programs and community activities.

For all the changes coming to the site, city officials say one thing will remain largely the same: the facility is intended to be accessible to the people who have relied on it for decades.

Brownlee said admission is expected to cost about \$2 to \$3 for city residents, with county residents paying about a dollar or two more.

“We’re not in the position of trying to limit people from coming out, we want the public to enjoy this space,” Brownlee said. “They voted for it, we want our recreation facilities to be enjoyed by not just city residents but all residents.”

Residents in Ashley Forest, Westwood, Magnolia, East Oak Forest and Maryville should expect temporary traffic impacts along the course from approximately 7:30-10 a.m. Police officers and volunteers will be stationed along the route.

Organizers are asking residents along the course to remove vehicles, trash cans and other items from the public right of way by 6 a.m. on race morning.

The event will be held rain or shine, and neighbors are encouraged to come outside and cheer on runners and walkers as they pass.

**The Avondale 5K Run & Walk will be held Saturday, Oct. 10. For more information, visit [www.avondale5k.com](http://www.avondale5k.com).**

## Avondale 5K Hits the Streets

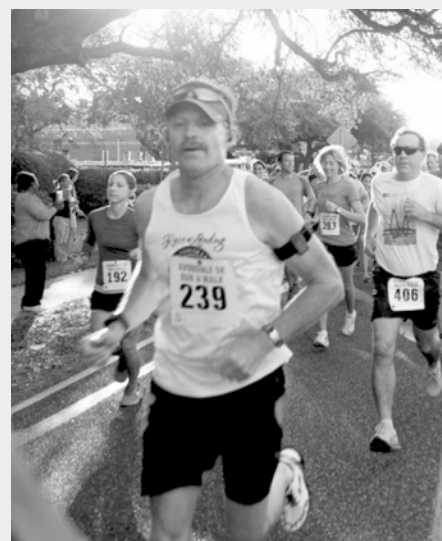
Annual run/walk raises money for Charles Webb Center  
from Staff Reports

The 17th annual Avondale 5K Run & Walk returns Saturday, Oct. 10, bringing runners and walkers through several West Ashley neighborhoods while raising money for the Charles Webb Center.

Hosted by the Avondale Business Association and Triangle Char and Bar, the annual race benefits the West Ashley childcare center, which serves children with special needs from 6 weeks to 10 years

old. The Charles Webb Center is located on Evergreen Street behind Bessinger’s BBQ on Savannah Highway.

The race begins near Triangle Char and Bar and follows a route along Magnolia Road, 5th Avenue, Playground Road, White Drive, Wantoot Boulevard and the West Ashley Bikeway before returning to the Avondale area.



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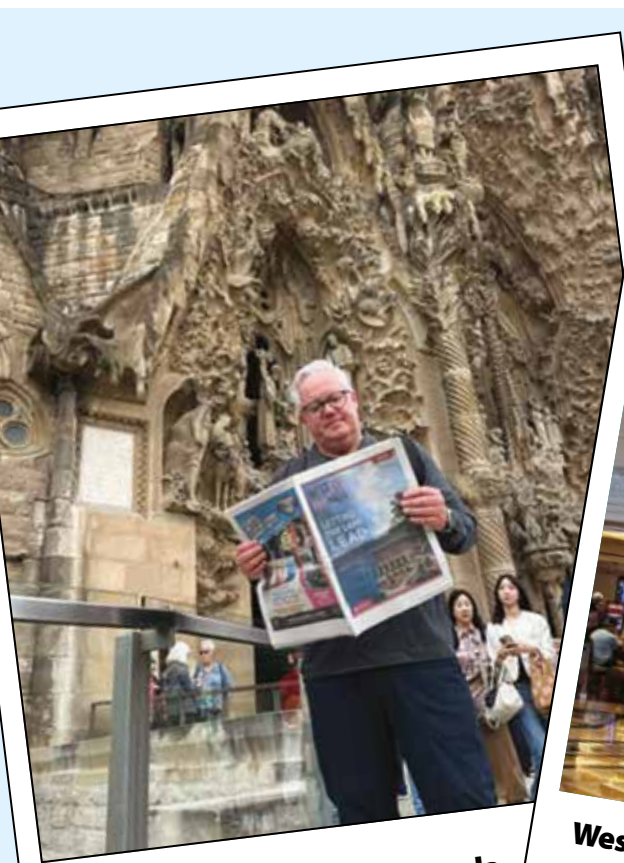
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### **WEEKLY EVENTS**

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**WEDNESDAYS:** Music Bingo 7-10pm

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# The State of West Ashley

Mayor Cogswell kicks off a series of State of the City Addresses at WAHS

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

For decades, West Ashley residents have asked, “What about us?” as much of City Hall’s attention seemed focused on the Peninsula. But last month, City of Charleston Mayor William Cogswell sent a different message.

Not only did he decide that one single “State of the City” address would not suffice, but the mayor kicked off his string of community-specific presentations in West Ashley.

On Tuesday, Sept. 15, Cogswell spoke to a large group of residents at the West Ashley High School auditorium as part of the city’s new “State of Our City” series. West Ashley was the first of five stops planned across Charleston this fall, followed by Johns Island, Daniel Island and Cainhoy, James Island, and, finally, the Peninsula.

The format allowed Cogswell and West Ashley City Council members to focus specifically on projects and issues affecting residents west of the Ashley River, while also giving residents an opportunity to submit questions and

speak with city staff.

The presentation’s 5:30 p.m. start put many in the increasingly busy West Ashley rush hour traffic. So, it was no surprise that transportation was a major topic.

Among the biggest announcements was a new agreement between the city and the S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) that will allow Charleston crews to repair potholes on state-owned roads. Roughly half of the roads within Charleston are controlled by the state, which previously meant city crews could not simply repair a pothole even when it was within city limits.

Under the new agreement, the city says its crews will be able to repair 20 to 30 potholes a day and will add a second repair crew and truck. Beginning in early 2027, residents will also have access to a dedicated hotline for reporting potholes.

The city also announced it has secured funding through the Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS)

to retime every traffic signal in West Ashley in an effort to improve traffic flow. Cogswell pointed to a similar signal-retiming project along the Calhoun Street corridor, which they say improved traffic flow by roughly 25 percent.

“It all comes down to the same goal: making our roads work better for the people who use them every day,” Cogswell said. “We’re cutting through red tape with our state and regional partners to get it done.”

Beyond roads and traffic, the broader State of Our City series is intended to give residents a closer look at neighborhood-specific work involving infrastructure, public safety, recreation, housing, growth, and quality-of-life issues.

For West Ashley residents accustomed to wondering when their part of Charleston would get its turn, there was at least some symbolism in the schedule.

This time, West Ashley went first.



Mayor William Cogswell touted many West Ashley projects at his State of the City address



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# It's the GREAT PUMPKIN PATCH, WEST ASHLEY

John Wesley Methodist Church's pumpkin patch has been a local symbol of fall for more than three decades

by Liv Dennis | Contributing Writer

A familiar fall sight is returning to Savannah Highway as the John Wesley United Methodist Church prepares to open its annual Pumpkin Patch, a tradition that has become a recognizable part of autumn in West Ashley.

The pumpkin sale, which serves as the major fundraiser for the church's Youth Ministry, will run Sept. 29 through Oct. 31.

David Boudolf, director of Youth Ministries at John Wesley United Methodist Church, said the church believes it began the tradition in 1992, making this year its 34th annual Pumpkin Patch.

"I think that makes us one of the longest running pumpkin patches next to Legare Farms and that kind of stuff, in Charleston," Boudolf said.

The church partners with Pumpkin Patch USA, an organization that began in North Carolina in 1974 when a small

farmer started offering pumpkins to churches to sell on consignment.

Since beginning with them, the church has sold well over \$1 million worth of pumpkins, Boudolf said.

The pumpkins are grown on a Native American reservation in New Mexico, where the organization's operations were moved to provide employment opportunities. The church receives the pumpkins on consignment, sells them to the public and uses the proceeds to support youth mission projects.

The fundraiser helps send young people on mission trips locally and internationally, giving them opportunities to assist communities and families in need.

Past projects have taken John Wesley youth to Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Eleuthera in the Bahamas. The youth have also traveled to rural South Carolina

*continued on page 11 ...*



*People gathering at the John Wesley Pumpkin Patch  
(Photo courtesy of John Wesley Pumpkin Patch)*



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... continued from page 10

through a project called Salkehatchie, where they work on homes for people in need.

Other projects have taken youth to Baltimore, Atlanta and Miami, while additional service efforts support Star Gospel Missions in the Charleston area.

Although the Pumpkin Patch benefits the Youth Ministry, Boudolf said the entire congregation participates in making the annual event possible.

For Boudolf, the tradition is personal. He was born and raised at John Wesley, moved away for 15 years and eventually returned to serve as youth director.

"It's really fun to kind of be known as the pumpkin church and for people to tell me that they've been coming for so many years and taking pictures with their kids every year in the patch," Boudolf said.

The Pumpkin Patch also draws visitors from beyond the Charleston area, including people traveling through the city who stop to purchase pumpkins. Boudolf said the monthlong sale gives him an opportunity to meet people from across the community and hear their stories.

**The John Wesley Pumpkin Patch will be open until Oct. 31 at 626 Savannah Hwy. For more information, call (843) 766-5596 or visit [www.jwumchurch.org](http://www.jwumchurch.org).**



*There's even a mini pumpkin selection at the John Wesley Pumpkin Patch  
(Photo courtesy of John Wesley Pumpkin Patch)*

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# Fix It, Don't Ditch It

New Repair Café Charleston hopes to give broken household items a second life

from Staff Reports

A broken toaster, a lamp that no longer lights, or a bicycle with a wobbly wheel might normally be destined for the trash. A new Charleston organization is hoping residents will give those items one more chance.

Repair Café Charleston will hold its inaugural event Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Bees Ferry West Ashley Library, 3035 Sanders Road.

The free event will bring together volunteer "fixers" with residents who have household items in need of repair. Tools and basic materials will be available, and guests are encouraged to bring small appliances, lamps, clothing, bicycles, toys, cookware, and other items.

The idea is simple: Before throwing something away and buying a replacement, see if it can be fixed.

"We throw away far too many things that still have life left in them," said Repair Café Charleston founder Bill Laughlin. "A lot of items can be repaired with a little time, the right tools, and a bit of know-how. Repair Café Charleston is about keeping useful things out of the landfill and helping people

rediscover their repair skills."

Laughlin, a retired architect who recently relocated to Charleston from the Charlotte area, previously participated in Repair Café Charlotte. After moving to the Lowcountry, he decided to bring the concept with him.

Repair Café Charleston is partnering with Charleston County Public Library for the local program. The Bees Ferry branch's Creative Studio and emphasis on hands-on learning and STEM programming made the West Ashley library a natural fit.

While reducing waste and saving money are major parts of the mission, Laughlin said Repair Cafés are also about neighbors sharing practical skills.

"When you repair something with someone you did not know before, it changes how you see your community," Laughlin said. "You are not just fixing a lamp or a bike. You are sharing knowledge, meeting neighbors, and proving that repair can be both practical and fun."

The first Repair Café was organized in Amsterdam in 2009 by Dutch environmentalist Martine Postma. The idea quickly caught on, and Postma established the Repair Café International Foundation the following year



to help communities around the world launch similar programs.

Repair Cafés generally follow the same model: People bring in broken items and work alongside volunteers with the tools, knowledge, and experience to try to repair them. Along the way, experienced fixers can pass along practical skills that might

otherwise be lost.

The October event is expected to be the first of many in West Ashley. Repair Café Charleston plans to return to the Bees Ferry West Ashley Library on the second Saturday of even-numbered months.

And if something can't be saved? At least it will have gotten one last shot.

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# Exploring the Landscape of the Stono Rebellion

County Parks program combines history, archaeology, and tours of 1739 uprising  
from Staff Reports

One of the most consequential events in South Carolina's colonial history unfolded along the Stono River nearly three centuries ago. This fall, Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission will offer a three-part series exploring the Stono Rebellion and the landscape where it took place.

The series begins Saturday, Oct. 10, at Caw Caw Interpretive Center with "Introduction to the Stono Rebellion Landscape," combining historical presentations, archaeology, and a visit to the nearby Stono Rebellion National Historic Landmark.

The Stono Rebellion occurred in September 1739, when a group of enslaved Africans gathered near the Stono River and began an armed march toward Spanish Florida, where freedom had been promised to enslaved people who escaped British colonies. The group grew as it moved south before the uprising was violently suppressed.

Considered the largest uprising of enslaved people in Britain's North American colonies before the American Revolution, the rebellion had lasting consequences for slavery in South Carolina, including passage of the restrictive Negro Act of 1740. Yet the event remains unfamiliar to many people.

The Oct. 10 kickoff begins with historians Joshua Parks and Eric B. Grant presenting the events surrounding the rebellion and placing them within the larger history of Africans and African-descended people in colonial South Carolina.

Parks is a historian and cultural worker of Gullah Geechee descent whose research focuses on the Stono Rebellion and African life in the colonial Lowcountry. Grant is an applied historian whose work explores rural history and Gullah Geechee memory.

Archaeologist Jon Bernard Marcoux, director of the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will discuss what archaeology can reveal about the people and places connected to the uprising. Participants will also have an opportunity to interact with archaeological artifacts.

The program concludes with a visit to the nearby Stono Rebellion National Historic Landmark to consider the historic landscape and the impact of modern development.

Later installments in the three-part series will take participants into that landscape through a walking tour of Caw Caw and a driving tour of significant sites associated with the uprising.

Together, the programs offer a chance to experience a chapter of Lowcountry history in the places where it happened — and better understand an event whose effects extended far beyond the banks of the Stono River.



*Introduction to the Stono Rebellion Landscape will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, at Caw Caw Interpretive Center. The program is open to all ages. Accessible parking, restrooms, water fountains, and seating are available at Caw Caw; the second portion of the program visits a nearby site. For more information, visit [www.ccprc.com/event/introduction-to-the-stono-rebellion-landscape/620](http://www.ccprc.com/event/introduction-to-the-stono-rebellion-landscape/620)*

## West Ashley History Series

October 1

*St. Andrew's Parish: Then and Now*

October 8

*Secrets of Sandy Bay: The Real History of Geddes Hall*

October 15th

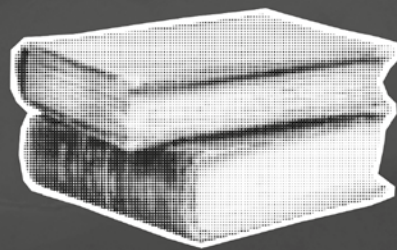
*Exploring the Businesses and Residents of 1950s Savannah Highway*

October 29

*The African American Church, the Cornerstone of the Community*

November 12

*Magnolia: A Neighborhood and Its Historic Land*



Thursdays 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
Hurd/St. Andrews Library



*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 1 INSTACART CRASHOUT

Police responded to a grocery store on Ashley Crossing Drive after an employee reported an encounter with an irate Instacart shopper. According to the report, the shopper was sitting on the customer service counter and was told an employee would retrieve her order if she got down. She allegedly refused and was told to cancel the order and leave. Instead, police say, the woman rushed toward the employee, shouted an insult in her ear, and struck her with her shoulder. The employee told officers the woman continued yelling and appeared to be trying to “rage bait” her into fighting before finally leaving the store. A manager showed officers surveillance video that reportedly corroborated the employee’s account and said the store would need to provide police with the footage. Instacart reportedly told the manager it would only provide the shopper’s identity directly to law enforcement.

#### SEPTEMBER 1 CASE OF THE MOVING CASE

Police were called to a Sam Rittenberg Boulevard gas station after an employee said a customer became aggressive inside the store. According to the report, the man apparently took it upon himself to move the store’s deli case. When an employee confronted him, he allegedly responded, “I’ll throw this fucking thing at you.” Police say the man continued cursing and shouting before leaving in a green SUV pulling a trailer loaded with equipment. The employee told officers she feared for her safety and wanted the incident documented.

#### SEPTEMBER 2 ICE COLD EVIDENCE

A faulty taillight led to a little more trouble than expected for two people traveling on Ashley River Road shortly after midnight. Police stopped a red Honda Accord after noticing white light coming from one of its taillights. While speaking with the driver, an officer spotted an Icehouse beer can sitting in the center console and noted that it was still covered in condensation. Asked if the beer was open, the driver admitted that it was. Police found no other contraband and no signs the driver was impaired, so the beer was dumped and he was cited for having an open container. The passenger’s evening went considerably worse: A records check revealed an active Folly Beach warrant, and he was taken to the AI Cannon Detention Center.

#### SEPTEMBER 3 GARDEN-VARIETY CRIME

Police were called to an Azure Lane apartment complex after someone apparently decided two pieces of lawn décor needed a change of scenery. According to the report, Ring camera footage showed a man approaching the rear of the residence shortly after 1 a.m., where two neighbors kept decorative statues: one a white tiger with black stripes and the other a fairy wearing an orange dress with yellow-and-pink wings. Before the statues disappeared, the suspect allegedly removed a pair of sunglasses from the tiger and tossed them into nearby bushes. Police say the man then looked directly at the camera and pulled out his phone, at which point the recording abruptly stopped. Another neighbor’s camera showed that both statues, valued at approximately \$50 each, were gone about 20 minutes later. No word on whether the tiger ever got his shades back.

#### SEPTEMBER 11 ROOM SERVICE

Police responded to the InTown Suites on Savannah Highway after receiving a report of a man possibly passed out near a bus stop. Officers said the man smelled strongly of alcohol, had bloodshot and glassy eyes, slurred his speech, and needed assistance just to stand. He reportedly admitted he was drunk in public and later described himself as being on an “alcoholic bender.” After he was arrested for public disorderly conduct, the man asked an officer to check his former hotel room for his missing cellphone. Hotel staff let the officer inside, where police reported finding approximately 30 to 40 empty miniature liquor bottles and roughly two dozen open beer cans. When the officer returned, the man asked if he had seen all the alcohol. Asked whether he had consumed it all that day, the man clarified: “Over the last few days.”

#### SEPTEMBER 11 SIGN LANGUAGE

An officer patrolling Savannah Highway spotted a man standing in the median between lanes of heavy traffic holding a cardboard sign. According to the report, the man saw the police cruiser, hid the sign, and “pretended to walk away.” The officer circled back and found him again, this time allegedly standing in the roadway across from Whitewater Express Car Wash, sign in hand and pacing back and forth. A records check showed the man had previously been cited for the same violation. This time, police skipped the warning and arrested him for pedestrians on highways.

#### SEPTEMBER 12 GHOSTED

Police responded to an apartment complex after a courtesy officer encountered an intoxicated man who apparently wasn’t ready to accept that a romance had run its course. According to the police report, the man explained that he had met someone through a dating app and the two had gone on several dates before the other person blocked him and stopped seeing him. The man told police he missed his former companion and decided to show up at his residence anyway. Instead, he was met by the apartment complex’s courtesy officer. Responding police said the visitor smelled strongly of alcohol, had bloodshot eyes, and was very unsteady on his feet. His attempt to rekindle the relationship ended instead with a public intoxication charge and a trip to jail.

#### SEPTEMBER 13 THIS BAG? NEVER SEEN IT

Police patrolling Bees Ferry Road said they could smell marijuana coming from a Honda Odyssey traveling ahead of them and continued following it onto Glenn McConnell Parkway, where the odor allegedly grew even stronger. After stopping the vehicle, police said the driver admitted he had smoked a “roach” inside. Officers searched the minivan and discovered a large black plastic bag containing approximately 122 grams of marijuana near the driver’s compartment. At that point, both the driver and passenger reportedly denied that the marijuana belonged to them. Because police said the bag was within the driver’s immediate control, he was arrested on a possession-with-intent-to-distribute charge.

#### SEPTEMBER 13 BIKE TO THE FUTURE

A juvenile reported his \$1,400 mountain bike stolen after leaving it unlocked outside Five Below on Savannah Highway. Police searched the area but initially came up empty. Less than an hour later, however, the boy’s father called back with considerably better news: His wife had spotted the missing bicycle outside a vape shop on Ashley River Road. According to police, the family confronted a juvenile who had the bike, reclaimed it, and watched as the alleged thief abandoned his newly acquired transportation and fled on foot toward the Ashley Arms apartments. The bicycle was returned to its owner, and the father told police he wanted to press charges.

#### SEPTEMBER 15 HUFF AND PUFF

Officers were dispatched to Sam Rittenberg Boulevard after a caller reported seeing a man huffing from an aerosol can and expressed concern that he might wander into traffic. Police located the man walking near the roadway carrying a can and said they watched as he entered and exited several businesses after reportedly being denied CARTA bus service. According to the report, officers then saw him put the aerosol can to his mouth before tossing it onto the ground and continuing on his way. When police approached, they said the man appeared disoriented, was slurring his speech, and had difficulty keeping his eyes open. He was arrested for public intoxication — and, adding insult to injury, littering. The offending aerosol can was confiscated and disposed of.

#### SEPTEMBER 20 SEVENTY-DOLLAR HOLLER

Officers responded to a Little John apartment complex around 4:45 a.m. after reports of a woman screaming in the breezeway. The woman told police she had been assaulted earlier in Summerville and that a man inside one of the apartments owed her \$70. Officers knocked but received no answer and told her she would need to report the alleged assault to the appropriate jurisdiction. According to police, that prompted the woman to scream louder and stomp her feet. Officers warned her to leave and not return. About an hour later, they were called back to the same complex for — you guessed it — more screaming. Police said they could hear her from roughly 100 yards away and detected a strong odor of alcohol in the stairwell. This time, the early-morning encore ended with an arrest for disorderly conduct.

#### SEPTEMBER 16 BAD NIGHT TO SKIP THE SEAT BELT

An improperly secured temporary tag prompted police to stop a Honda Accord on Savannah Highway around 2:30 a.m. Two passengers weren’t wearing seat belts, so police asked for their identification and discovered both had active warrants. Things deteriorated further during the ensuing searches. According to the report, officers found two crack pipes and two baggies containing suspected crack cocaine in one passenger’s bra. Police say she also produced a bag containing assorted pills and burnt foil from between her legs. Another crack pipe was reportedly found on the seat where she had been sitting. Asked whether everyone in the car had been smoking crack, the woman reportedly told police she had been smoking it by herself. She was charged with possession of cocaine base.

#### SEPTEMBER 16 PURPLE REIGN

Police were called to Timmerman Drive after a resident discovered that her rather distinctive bicycle had disappeared from her front porch overnight. The missing ride was described as a lavender beach cruiser with white accents, purple-and-white rims, a purple bell, a rear basket, and a white quilted seat. Unfortunately, the owner told police the bike had not been locked to anything, there were no surveillance cameras on the property, and she did not have the serial number handy. She did tell officers she had registered the bike with the city approximately 10 years earlier and would look for the paperwork. The purple cruiser was valued at approximately \$150.

#### SEPTEMBER 19 KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR?

A man walking home from an Avondale bar with his girlfriend told police they were arguing when two women they did not know decided to intervene. According to the report, the two strangers approached the couple and, at some point during the encounter, one of the women allegedly kicked the man in the groin before both fled toward a nearby residence. The girlfriend could confirm that the women had approached the couple, but she missed the alleged kick because, according to police, she had fallen into a nearby ditch and briefly lost consciousness. Officers tried unsuccessfully to contact anyone at the residence where the two women were believed to have gone.

#### SEPTEMBER 20 PUMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Police responded to the Circle K on Ashley River Road shortly before noon after a customer reported seeing a man standing near the store entrance pull down his pants and begin masturbating. According to the report, the man allegedly made eye contact with the customer while exposing himself and then began approaching the customer’s vehicle before being told to leave. Officers found a man matching the description walking toward a bus stop across Ashley River Road. The customer positively identified him, and police said store surveillance footage showed the man approaching the customer’s vehicle with his hand down his pants. The Circle K manager also told police the man had previously been instructed to leave the property. He was subsequently taken to the AI Cannon Detention Center.

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# A&E

"I try to find something interesting in anything I'm listening to and see how I can adapt it to fit into our sort of archetypal poppunk/emo framework."

— Kris Lohn, *stop.drop.rewind*

## Rock, Rewind, and Repeat

Prog-punk band *stop.drop.rewind* returns to Tin Roof Oct. 8

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

Hailing from Valparaiso, Indiana, the three-piece band *stop.drop.rewind* is bringing their high-energy live show back to West Ashley, returning to the Tin Roof stage on Thursday, Oct. 8.

It's not easy to pin down exactly what *stop.drop.rewind*'s sound is to those who've never heard them. They've perhaps most accurately been described as "what happens when emo kids grow up and get jazz degrees."

"That description has worked well for a lot years," says frontman Kris Lohn, "because its true."

Lohn, along with bandmate DJ Crenson, grew up in the East Coast pop-punk/emo scene, particularly around Baltimore/Washington, D.C. They have been playing music together since 2000, in almost any setting you can think of: punk bands, orchestras, ska clubs, singer-songwriter groups, school band, and of course, *stop.drop.rewind*. They added Andy Sutton in 2015 to fully solidify their unique, energetic, ever-evolving sound, which is perhaps best described as "prog-punk."

"For people who are new, we say we sound like 'Rush meets Fall Out Boy' or 'Rush meets Green Day/Blink 182,'" says Lohn, who pulls influences from every genre.

"I try to find something interesting in anything I'm listening to and see how I can adapt it to fit into our sort of archetypal poppunk/emo framework, whether that's a

new texture or different instrumentation or an approach to chord progressions, themes, etc.," says Lohn.

This has given them a unique perspective on writing both as a team and on music in general, plus insight into persevering and forging your own path in this unforgiving new industry.

"To make the band work in the 'new industry,' we just need to find *our* people wherever they are: people who are interested in our music, who our story resonates with, who have similar interests as us," says Lohn.

With more than 250,000 followers on social media, more than 3 million video views/month, and millions of listens on Spotify, *stop.drop.rewind* has certainly found their audience and continues to pick up new fans along the way as people see them live for the first time while they tour all over the country.

When they played Tin Roof last year, Charleston music fans turned out and were gifted with a memorable night.

"Tin Roof was a *wild* night last year, so we're definitely hoping to capture that energy," says Lohn. "Our set right now is probably my favorite set we've ever run and I'm proud of the guys that we're able to deliver it consistently at a very high level. Expect all your favorites like 'Casino Song,' '8m20s,' 'Luminescent' and a bunch of surprises. Don't miss it!"



*stop.drop.rewind* plays along with *Code Echo* and *Thoroughfare* n Thursday, Oct. 8 at Tin Roof, located at 1117 Magnolia Road. For more information, visit [www.charlestontinroof.com](http://www.charlestontinroof.com) or [www.stopdroprewind.com](http://www.stopdroprewind.com).

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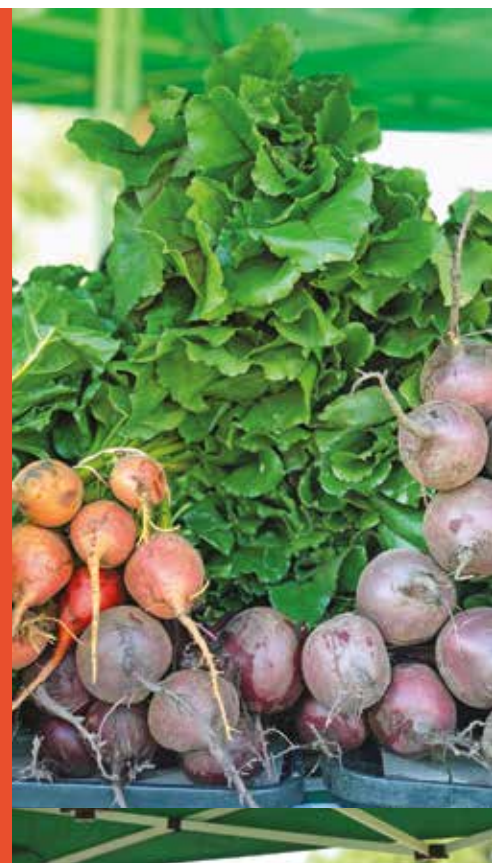
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“I’m very proud that we’ve pulled it off. The final product is gonna be pretty epic when all is said and done.”

— Joe Walker, Bad Bambino co-owner

# DINING

## That’s One Bad Bambino

And a serendipitous journey to opening four neighborhood businesses

by Stephanie Barna | Contributing Writer



Joe Walker didn’t mean to take over an entire West Ashley strip mall and open a bunch of businesses. He didn’t even mean to get back into the F&B business. It just kind of happened.

Walker is genuinely surprised he ended up here. A decade ago, the restaurant industry humbled him after he opened Stereo 8, a funky joint on James Island that, he says, may or may not have been ahead of its time. When it shuttered, he swore off restaurants and pivoted to a different industry, convinced it was impossible to make money as a restaurateur.

“But this strip led me back to it,” he says. “It’s an unbelievable feeling to get back into an industry that basically kicked my ass.”

This month, a three-year odyssey that started with Shift Pilates studio culminates with the opening of Bad Bambino, a date-night Italian joint that speaks to Walker’s New York roots. It also marks the fourth business he, his wife Diana, and their business partner Shannon Wakeland have opened in the nondescript little strip mall on Ashley River Road.

“I’m very proud that we’ve pulled it off — the final product is gonna be pretty epic when all is said and done,” he says.

It all started in 2023, when they opened their first Shift Pilates downtown on Meeting Street and asked their realtor to keep an eye out for a second location.

“I told her to let us know if she saw something cool — and two weeks later this came up,” he says. They weren’t interested in moving that fast, but opportunity was knocking. “I super lowballed them, because I wanted it, but I didn’t want it, you know.”

The trio decided to go for it. “It was much more space than we needed for the studio, so we thought it’d be cool to add a coffee bar element to it.” Eight months in, as they were finishing the build-out, the former fish and chips shop next door came available.

“I knew we could put a proper coffee shop in that space,” he says. “So we grabbed that spot, and it took another eight months to build that out.”

Since its launch in early 2025, Café Roca has become much more than a coffee shop. It’s a popular gathering spot for friends and neighbors, a makeshift office space, and an easy place to grab a tasty breakfast and lunch. And now it will be open in the evening ... but more on that later.

As Café Roca cemented its place in West Ashley, Taco Bartina announced it was closing and the landlord once again approached Walker to see if he had a vision for the space.

“I wasn’t interested in a 3,500-square-foot restaurant,” he says. But he was interested in splitting it into multiple storefronts. They started with The Corner Store, a tiny grab-and-go neighborhood

bodega stocked with beer, wine, and local products, which opened last summer. From there, Walker rolled right into working on the next space and his next concept — Bad Bambino.

“I dreamed of opening an Italian place back in January of 2025,” he says. “I didn’t know then there would be a rash of Italian places opening in Charleston since then.”

With Chef Will Cammer at the helm, Walker is confident they’ll be able to serve their neighborhood with a straightforward, relatable version of Italian, but Cammer’s influence has shifted the focus just a bit.

“It’s a little more elegant than the original family idea. I mean chicken parms are great, but that’s not the world where he comes from,” Walker says, noting that Cammer started his career at the critically acclaimed Optimist in Atlanta and most recently worked downtown at Costa, a seafood-focused Italian restaurant. “This guy comes in and it’s like an episode of *The Bear*,” says Walker. “He oversees both Bad Bambino and Café Roca.”

Rectangle pizzas and handmade pastas anchor a big part of Bad Bambino’s menu, which also features the aforementioned chicken parm, as well as the Bistecca Limone, a pan-seared flat iron steak served with lemon risotto and grilled broccolini; the Rotolo al Forno, a creative take on lasagna, that includes ricotta, spinach, béchamel, a pork, beef, and veal ragù; and

a catch of the day.

The restaurant offers dine-in with 36 seats, including a large L-shaped bar that overlooks the busy kitchen. There is a small but creative wine program. And there will be a big focus on takeout. Walker is using the neighboring spots to support Bad Bambino.

Café Roca will now be open in the evenings, with a menu of five to six small plates and a full coffee program, serving as an overflow waiting room for Bad Bambino. The Corner Store will be a pickup spot where customers can grab wine and dessert to go with their pizza and pasta.

“We plan to have a robust takeout program,” says Walker. But for those who want to dine in, the small, intimate restaurant is a cozy place to dig into some of Cammer’s more elevated dishes.

Despite swearing off hospitality, Walker knows that he’s learned from his mistakes and says he might even be a little bit wiser. “There’s a different lens for me today that’s been really interesting,” he says. “This whole venture has been a remarkable exercise in serendipity.”

**Bad Bambino is scheduled to officially open for dinner service on Friday, Oct. 2. It is located at 1301 Ashley River Road.**

**For more information, follow them at [www.instagram.com/badbambino\\_chs](https://www.instagram.com/badbambino_chs).**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10**



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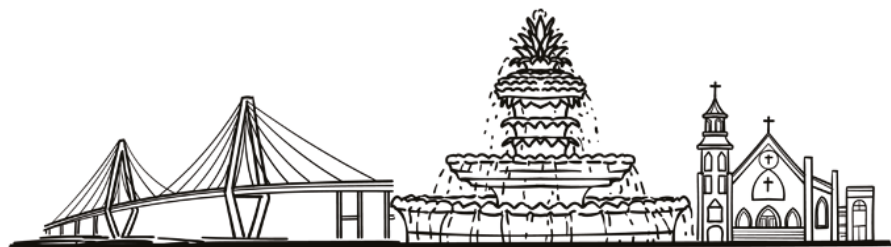
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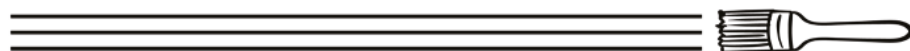
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“You take care. And don’t let anyone bother you. You tell them Mary Quinn said don’t bother you... Now what was I telling you? You know, Dawn, when you talk to me you never know what I’m going to come up with.”

— Mary Quinn



## Leaving a “Delicate Footprint”

The story of Mary Quinn, who lived to be 104 is one of resilience, kindness, and sharp wit

In the hit Broadway show *Hamilton*, Lin Manuel Miranda lyrically asked the question: “Who lives? Who dies? Who tells your story?” This lyric is a constant presence when listening to the stories of St. Andrew’s Parish modern history. A recent encounter with a neighbor, while walking on the West Ashley Greenway, brought this to mind again.

There are so many stories that have unfolded while researching the modern history of West Ashley. Listening to the stories of Byrnes Downs residents began my journey. Families like the Caldwells, original to the neighborhood; the Blantons, always up for a party; the Corvettes, Rutledge introduced me to the story of Roy Hart; the Roys, delivered the newspapers when that was a thing, are just a few of the names featured in *Byrnes Downs*, part of Arcadia’s Images of America series. And yet there is still listening to do.

When Dawn Balsam stopped me on the West Ashley Greenway and asked if I remembered Mary Quinn, the adventure of Mary’s and her mom’s life soon unfolded on a rainy Sunday afternoon.

Mary Cecile Quinn lived at 631 Savannah Hwy. However, her story begins on the peninsula at 113 Smith St., the “last” white house on the street as it was racially divided when she lived there. Her parents, Eula Kelley and John Monaghan Quinn, had met when John was a patient and Eula was a nurse at Roper Hospital.

They grew a large family of six siblings prior to John’s death when Mary was six years of age. By the time Mary was thirteen, her mother had organized the funds to purchase their new home in Byrnes Downs from Frank Turner for \$1,500 and the assumption of the mortgage. In 1945, the neighborhood was just being established and young families were moving to “the



Dawn and her beagle visiting Mary when she moved to assisted living after residing at 631 Savannah Hwy. for 73 years. (Photo courtesy of Dawn Balsam)

country” for the new suburban life.

Two of Mary’s older siblings had passed away at a young age and two were off to their new lives so managing in the two-bedroom one bathroom bungalow was easy for Eula and her two youngest. Eula continued working as a nurse, but was also resourceful, renting one of the rooms in the small bungalow. In addition, being devout Catholics, it helped that Blessed Sacrament Church was right across the street.

Mary would decide to enter the Dominican Order known as Sisters of St. Dominic of

Blauvelt after graduation. Many years later, a ruptured appendix ended her time in the convent as she returned to Charleston for medical treatment and convalescence. After deciding not to return to the convent, she would take local employment with Southern Bell. Mary and her mother would live together at 631 Savannah Hwy.

After Eula’s retirement in the 1960s, working in their yard was one of her hobbies. Her efforts didn’t go unnoticed as they were awarded “Yard of the Month” by the Byrnes Down Neighborhood Association in August of 1991. When Eula passed away in 2002 at

the age of 104, Mary remained in the family home with the church community providing comfort. One of Mary’s activities would be to pray at the perpetual chapel at Blessed Sacrament on Fridays.

Mary left a “delicate footprint.” But her story is one of resilience, kindness, and wit. Dawn shared many of Mary’s “witticisms” like the ones that open this narrative. So, let’s all take care as Mary advised!

**Have a people story? Contact local author and historian Donna Jacobs at [westashleybook@gmail.com](mailto:westashleybook@gmail.com).**

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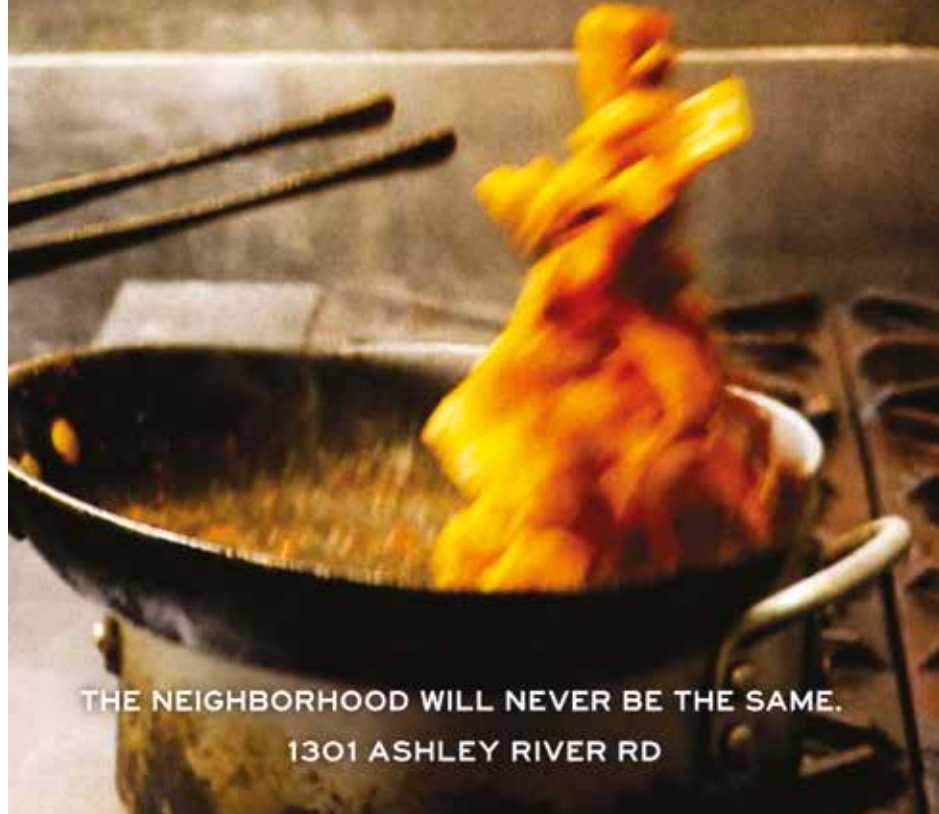
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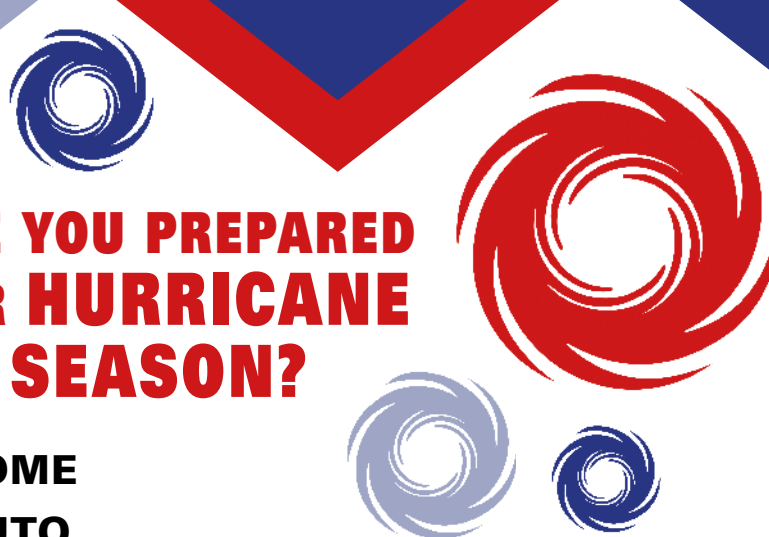
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# Good Things Come in Small Packages

Valentina Messina's miniture gallery is no small addition to West Ashley's art scene



It's tiny, and we didn't have an official ribbon-cutting, but it features original work by artist Valentina Messina and is open for viewing during your personal Art Walk at 1369 Pooshee Dr. It's already receiving rave reviews from the neighborhood.

Born and raised in Italy, Messina had visited Charleston as a tourist and been struck by its vibrant and active artistic community, but never dreamed she could be part of it.

To her surprise, her family won the Green Card Lottery 12 years ago and they accepted the adventure. Moving to Charleston sparked a new chapter in her creative life and she left behind a conventional career to paint full time. Settling in Charleston, she initially took art classes with Joyce Hall and now paints with Laurie Meyer.

Messina has always loved tiny things and whimsical wee critters make appearances in her full size paintings, peeking out of painted openings on vintage manuscripts. And Christmas! She loves all things Christmas.

Last spring, friend and fellow artist, Mary Morris, asked for help with the creation of one of the Fairy Tale villages that were part of the Fairies & Flowers exhibition at Magnolia Plantation. Messina enjoyed creating the tiny scenes so much that she asked her patient and collaborative husband Marco to help build a miniature art gallery.



Artist Valentina Messina's miniture art gallery is located at 1369 Pooshee Dr.

He built the structure and she painted the small works. The featured artworks are mostly replicas of larger paintings she has created in the past.

Messina exhibits larger versions of her paintings at The Charleston Artist Guild Gallery on East Bay Street and participates in the annual Piccolo Spoleto outdoor art exhibition.

I had such a fun visit to her studio and came home with my own piece of art. Mine

features a Gold Bug painted on pages from Edgar Allan Poe's *The Gold Bug*.

A significant part of Valentia's work is finding the perfect sheet of paper to become part of the finished piece, rather than something painted over. She spends endless hours in bookshops, antique stores, and European Flea Markets pouring through old manuscripts and sheet music. The staff at Terrace Oaks Antique Store keep her in mind when suitable goods arrive.

**We can all help - keep Messina in mind if you have vintage books, manuscripts, ledger forms, or vintage postcards that might be suitable backgrounds for a painting. To see more examples of how she matches art to manuscripts, visit [www.charlestonartistguildgallery.com/collections/175754](http://www.charlestonartistguildgallery.com/collections/175754)**

**Stay healthy my friends and wave at me as I wander. Send ideas to: [westashleywanderer@gmail.com](mailto:westashleywanderer@gmail.com).**

"Everything But Gasoline"

## Steve Ellis

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES LLC

1913 Belgrade Avenue • Charleston, SC 29407

Phone: (843) 556-7777 • Fax: (843) 556-7959

[SteveEllisAuto@gmail.com](mailto:SteveEllisAuto@gmail.com) • [www.SteveEllisAuto.com](http://www.SteveEllisAuto.com)

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2023**

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- Get your jolt
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### CHARLESTON-FAMOUS CHICKEN CAESAR WRAPS

- Crispy chicken and fries
- Local fave!

We're bringing high energy and delicious food to your morning and lunch routine. Look for the purple truck - you can't miss us!

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BOOK US FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT  
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# SEE THE PURPLE? PULL OVER!

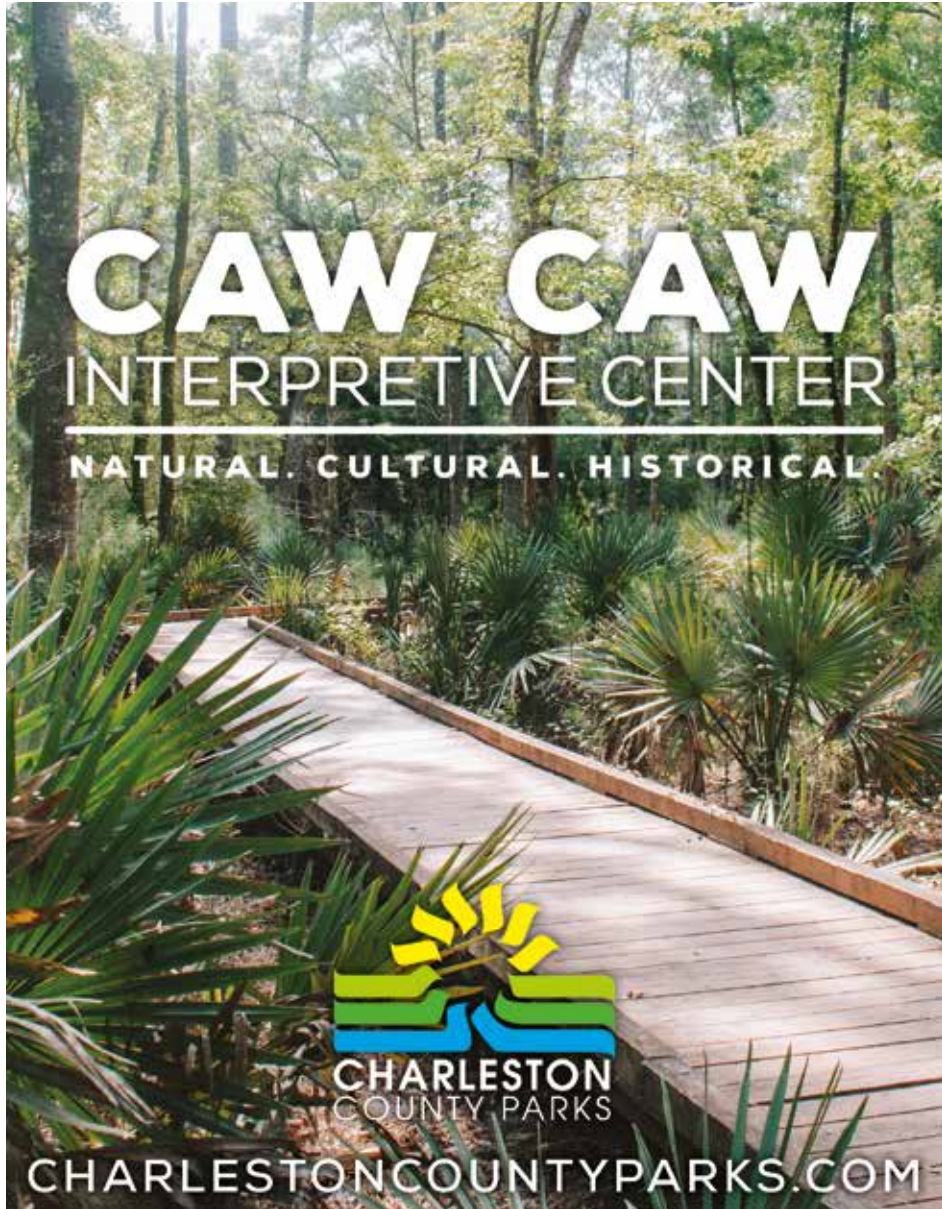
Track our service locations, grab some life-changing bites, and keep the vibes high. Follow along for our location at [streetfoodfinder.com/daddysbreakfast](http://streetfoodfinder.com/daddysbreakfast)



# CAW CAW

## INTERPRETIVE CENTER

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 3littlebirdschs

65 Windermere Blvd.  
**843.225.3065**  
[threelittlebirdscafe.com](http://threelittlebirdscafe.com)

Hours:  
Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-2pm  
Sat.-Sun. 8am-2pm

# RELAX THIS YEAR & LET US DO THE COOKING



## TURKEY DAY BUNDLE

- 4 lb sliced Turkey Breast
- Gravy
- 2 quarts of Sides
- Choice of Pie

**\$125**

Cold pickup only

## SMOKED MEATS

|                                         |           |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Whole Turkey (feeds 18-20) .....        | \$150     |
| Turkey Breast .....                     | \$18/lbs. |
| Whole Pork Butt .....                   | \$17/lbs. |
| Certified Angus Whole Beef Brisket .... | \$26/lbs. |

## HOLIDAY SIDES

|                                                |      |
|------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1/4 pan (feeds 6-8) .....                      | \$32 |
| 1/2 pan (feeds 10-12) .....                    | \$50 |
| • Mac & cheese                                 |      |
| • Collards                                     |      |
| • Corn pudding                                 |      |
| • Potato salad                                 |      |
| • Green bean casserole                         |      |
| • Sweet potatoes with<br>marshmallows & pecans |      |

## 9" PIES

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| • Pumpkin .....         | \$25 |
| • Chocolate Pecan ..... | \$25 |
| • Coconut Custard ..... | \$25 |
| • Buttermilk .....      | \$25 |



**CALL NOW TO GET YOUR  
THANKSGIVING ORDERS IN  
BEFORE NOV 16<sup>th</sup>**

• COLD PICKUP Only NOV 23-25  
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(843) 974-6888

**MT. PLEASANT**  
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Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466  
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**MYRTLE BEACH**  
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# It's **PORKtoberFEST** at Burbage Meats!

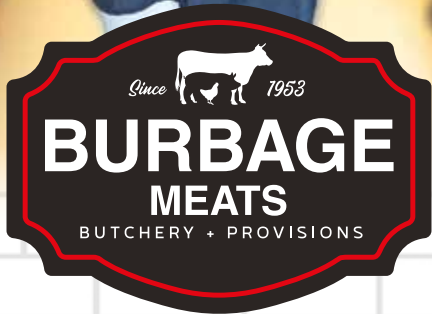
- \* Fresh Sausages and Brats Made In-House
- \* Spanish Iberico Pork
- \* Cheese Stuffed & Bacon Wrapped Pork Tenderloin
- \* Bacon Wrapped Pork Tender
- \* Italian Sausage
- \* Porchetta
- \* Pork Chops
- \* Boudin
- \* Smoked Pork Belly "Crack Bacon"
- \* Pork Steaks, Collar Steaks, Coppa Roasts

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FOR YOUR NEXT  
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# Fall Offers Some of the Best Fishing of the Year

Artificial lures become more productive as water temps cool

Fall is here, bringing shorter days, cooler temperatures, and some of the best fishing of the year. So don't put those rods and reels away just yet!

While live bait will continue to produce plenty of fish, artificial lures are becoming increasingly effective as water temperatures cool. It's a great time to get out on the water and enjoy everything the season has to offer.

Redfish—including plenty of bull reds—have been feeding aggressively on cut and live bait fished along the bottom. Mullet are abundant throughout our waters and are easy to catch with a cast net. For redfish, try rigging a mullet on a 3/0 circle hook with a Carolina rig. Use enough weight to keep the bait in place and prevent it from drifting into snags. This setup works well both on the flats and around docks. Once

everything is in place, put the rod in the holder and wait for that reel to start screaming as the fish takes the bait and hooks itself.

Artificial lures have also started producing some excellent trout action, with traditional paddle-tail soft plastics leading the way. I like to pair a paddle tail with a 1/4-ounce Trout Eye jighead and tie it on with a loop knot to give the lure plenty of freedom and action. Experiment with your retrieve speed as you work different areas and look for pockets of feeding fish. If you want to add a little extra attraction, try tipping the jig with a small piece of shrimp. Frozen or live shrimp will both work and can create a scent trail that fish have a hard time ignoring.

Even with artificial lures becoming more productive, don't give up on those popping corks. Live shrimp, artificial shrimp, and mud minnows have all been working well when suspended

18–24 inches beneath a cork on a fluorocarbon leader with a size 1 circle hook. Redfish, trout, and flounder will readily take these baits as they drift through the water column. Popping corks have been especially effective along grassy banks during the middle and higher stages of the tide. See you on the water!

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



## ST. ANDREW'S PARKS & PLAYGROUND

# 2026 Winter Youth Sports Registration

### Basketball

COED (AGES 4, 5-6)

BOYS (AGES 7-8, 9-10, 11-12)

GIRLS (AGES 7-8, 9-10, 11-12)

### Regular Registration

Through October 11

\$70 St. Andrew's PSD Residents

\$100 Non-St. Andrew's PSD Residents

### Late Registration

(Based on availability)

October 12 -- October 16

\$90 St. Andrew's PSD Residents

\$120 Non-St. Andrew's PSD Residents



Call 843-763-4360 for more information.

Past participants with birth certificate on file can register online at [www.standrewsparks.com](http://www.standrewsparks.com)



# Halloween Carnival

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 5:30<sup>PM</sup>-8:00<sup>PM</sup>**

**Cost: \$5.00 per child**

**\$2.00 per person for the Haunted Hayride**

**ST. ANDREW'S PARKS GYMNASIUM, 1095 PLAYGROUND ROAD**

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LIGHT SCARES!**

**Register at: [www.standrewsparks.com](http://www.standrewsparks.com)**

**Questions? Email Jake Rossignol our Program Director [jrossignol@standrewsparks.com](mailto:jrossignol@standrewsparks.com)**

*Still paying rates that have you running?*

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# FUN & GAMES

## WEST OF CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

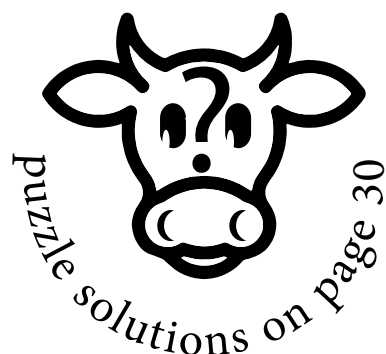
1. Personnel
6. Platter
10. Location
14. Female demon
15. Jewish month
16. Biblical garden
17. Fruit of the oak tree
18. Opera house box
19. Geek
20. Companion
22. Back talk
23. Whichever
24. Sound of any kind
26. Poles tossed by Scots
30. Swindle
32. Companionless
33. Useful
37. Sounded a bell
38. Idiosyncrasy
39. Only
40. Cherished
42. A fruit of the gourd family
43. Sentry
44. Married
45. Con game
47. Type of snake
48. Deserve

49. It sees small things
56. Online journal
57. Bright thought
58. Hermit
59. Turn over
60. Raise a stink
61. Consumed
62. Sole
63. Anagram of "Sees"
64. Cache

### DOWN

1. Kill
2. Mexican sandwich
3. Crazy
4. Flame
5. Flourish
6. Dawdle
7. False god
8. Kind of palm
9. A plain straight neckline
10. Allergic (Br. sp.)
11. Notions
12. To the point
13. Stops
21. N N N
25. Type of cereal grass
26. A heavy open wagon

27. Winglike
28. Osseous tissue
29. Winsomely
30. Wept
31. Difficult
33. Contented cat sound
34. Not warm
35. Balm ingredient
36. Extend credit
38. Morass
41. Our star
42. Childhood disease
44. Court
45. Beauty parlor
46. Fairy tale character
47. Slow down
48. River in Spain
50. Mid-month days
51. C C C
52. Jacket
53. Be aware of
54. Jury member
55. Sea eagle



## SUDOKU

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

## TRIVIA

### 1. REST IN PEACE

Actor Dennis Haskins passed away last month at the age of 75. He is best remembered for playing the hapless principal on what beloved teen sitcom?

### 2. MOVIES

What actor portrays To Catch a Predator host Chris Hansen in the new movie Primetime?

### 3. TELEVISION

Netflix announced last month that it is planning to do a remake of what beloved western?

### 4. CARTOONS

What is the name of the blue and green van used by the Scooby Doo gang?

### 5. AIR TRAVEL

The process has begun to rename Nashville International Airport (BNA) to honor what late country music legend?

### 6. MUSIC VIDEOS

Who won Video of the Year at 2026 VMAs last month?

### 7. CLASSIC MOVIES

What 1925 horror film based on Gaston Leroux's novel by the same name was made into a successful Broadway musical?

### 8. HAPPY HALLOWEEN

What's another name for a lycanthrope?



ARTS, CRAFTS, MUSIC, GAMES, CLASSES

**Art Classes**  
Instruction in oils for all skill levels. Morning and evening classes and workshops. The Studio, 2408 Ashley River Rd., Unit N, (843) 766-5664

**Jewelry Making Classes**  
Learn to create rings, earrings, and pendants while mastering basic jewelry-making techniques. Flexible scheduling and small groups. PDL Studio 52, pdlstudio52.artspan.com, Call Pat (843) 974-5422.

**Mahjong**  
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Shadowmoss Pavilion (Clubhouse during rain) \$5 PIE. All skill levels welcome.

**West Ashley Writers Group**  
4th Wednesday, 7–9 p.m. (Zoom) <https://www.facebook.com/westashleywritersgroup> Free. Writers of all genres welcome.

**Needlework & Sewing Groups**  
• American Needlepoint Guild — 4th Tuesday, 10 a.m./ contact nancythechief@gmail.com.  
• 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.

FITNESS & RECREATION

**Avondale 5k Run & Walk**  
The Avondale 5K Run & Walk Saturday, Oct. 10, 8 am. Starts and ends at Triangle Char + Bar, 828 Savannah Hwy. www.avondale5k.com.

**Bees Landing Recreation Center 1580 Ashley Gardens Blvd. (843) 402-4571**  
• **Zumba Gold** — Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9:30–10:30 a.m. (\$5/class)  
• **Indoor Pickleball** — Mon., Wed. & Fri., 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (\$2/ resident, \$4 non-resident)

**St. Andrew’s Parks & Playground 1095 Playground Rd., (843) 763-4360, www.standrewsparks.com**  
• **Pickleball** — Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m.–Noon (seasonal)  
• **Charleston United Soccer Club** – Experienced & dedicated coaches, local practices and games, player development focus, diverse and fun culture, and quality program with affordable fees. Scholarships available. For more information or questions, email: athletics@standrewsparks.com, call: (843) 763-4360, or visit: charlestonunitedsoccerclub.com

• **Winter Sports Registration** – Basketball: Coed (Ages 4, 5-6), Boys (Ages 7-8, 9-10,11-12), Girls (Ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12) • Early Registration - September 21 –

September 27 (\$55 St. Andrew’s PSD Residents/\$85 Non-St. Andrew’s PSD Residents) • Regular Registration - September 28 – October 11 (\$70 St. Andrew’s PSD Residents/\$100 Non-St. Andrew’s PSD Residents) • Late Registration (Based on availability) - October 12 -- October 16 (\$90 St. Andrew’s PSD Residents/\$120 Non-St. Andrew’s PSD Residents). Register online at www.standrewsparks.com or call 843-763-4360.

• **St. Andrew’s Parks Legacy Foundation Golf Tournament** – Monday, Oct. 19. Presented by West Ashley Optimist Club. tournament at Shadowmoss Plantation. For more information, visit www.standrewsparks.info/scholarship-golf-tournament  
• **Halloween Carnival** – Enjoy games, candy, and our haunted hayride! Bring your whole family to experience a fun night of games, candy, and light scares! Friday, Oct. 24, 5:30-8pm, \$5 per child, \$2 per person for the Haunted Hayride. Register at: www.standrewsparks.com. Questions? jrossignol@standrewsparks.com

LIBRARIES & LEARNING

All three West Ashley libraries offer story times, crafts, clubs, computer classes, and special programming for children and adults.

**Bees Ferry Library**  
3035 Sanders Rd. (843) 805-6892

**Hurd/St. Andrews Library**  
1735 N. Woodmere Dr. (843) 766-2546

**West Ashley Library**  
45 Windermere Blvd. (843) 766-6635

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

**Charleston Parks Conservancy**  
Visit [www.charlestonparksconservancy.org](http://www.charlestonparksconservancy.org) for more information.  
• **Early Morning Bird Walk** – Oct. 17, 7:30-9:30am. Carr-Richardson Park, 1071 Bender St. RSVP in advanced

**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  
• **Gator Tales** – Oct. 13, 10am-12pm, \$12, ages 12 & up  
• **Indigenous History Through Archaeology** – Oct. 3, 11am-1pm, \$12  
• **Junior Naturalist: Animal Sleuths and Graduation** – Oct. 3, 10am-12:30pm, \$10  
• **Introduction to the Stono Rebellion Landscape** – Oct. 10, 10am-12pm, free, but space is limited. Register in advanced  
• **Rice, Rebellion, and the Transforming Colonial Landscape** – Oct. 17, 9-11am, free but space is limited. Register in advanced  
• **Better Birding: How to Sharpen Your Skills** – Oct. 23, 9:30am-3:30pm, \$50, ages 18 and up.  
• **Driving Tour of the Stono Rebellion** – Oct. 24, 10am-3pm, free, but space is limited. Register in advanced

**Old Towne Creek County Park 1400 Old Towne Rd., (843) 795-4386**

**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](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/charles-towne-landing.com)

**Magnolia Plantation & Gardens 3550 Ashley River Rd., (843) 571-1266, www.magnoliaplantation.com**  
• **Sensory Friendly Hour** – Oct. 17, 8-9am, free, but capacity is limited. Register in advanced.  
• **Wine Stroll Series** – Oct. 17, 5-7pm. \$55.  
• **Autumn on the Ashley 5K** – Oct. 24 at 9am.  
• **Gullah Doll Making Class** – Oct. 31, 3-5pm. \$64.  
• **Journey to Indigo** – Aug. 1-Nov. 15, free with admission to the garden

**Drayton Hall 3380 Ashley River Rd., (843) 769-2600, www.draytonhall.org**  
• Sip & Stroll – Oct. 4, 24, 2:30-4:30. \$35.  
• **Junior Archaeologists: Hands on Archaeology for Kids** – Oct. 9, 1-3pm, ages 6-10. \$15/non-member, \$10 member  
• **Free Days** – Oct. 10, Nov. 3, & Dec. 12. Pre-registration required and space is limited.

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

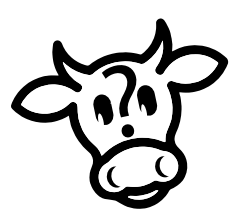
SENIOR PROGRAMS

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.

*\* Please check with the individual clubs, groups, and events for updates, as some of these events may have changed.*

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | A | F | F |   | D | I | S | C |   | S | I | T | E |
| L | A | M | I | A |   | A | D | A | R |   | E | D | E | N |
| A | C | O | R | N |   | L | O | G | E |   | N | E | R | D |
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| O | N | L | Y |   |   | E | S | S | E |   | S | T | O | R |



SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Saved by the Bell
2. Robert Pattinson
3. Lonesome Dove
4. The Mystery Machine
5. Dolly Parton
6. Taylor Swift
7. The Phantom of the Opera
8. Werewolf

# Preservation & Progress

Tuesday October 20, 2026 • 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
John Wesley Church • Savannah Highway



Join your neighbors for a presentation on the brand-new architectural inventories and survey findings for Byrnes Downs and Old Windermere. Discover the fascinating history, architecture, and evolution of these early 20th-century neighborhoods, and hear how recent documentation efforts can help guide future neighborhood stewardship.

**Ashton Finley**  
Organizer of  
Save Historic West Ashley

**Donna Jacobs**  
West Ashley Historian

**Preservation Society  
of Charleston**  
Laurel Fay  
Croix Brown  
Emily-Anne Harris

Come discover what's next for West Ashley

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HUTSON ALLEY

# HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER 22, 2026

5:30-8:30pm

All-You-Can-Eat Oyster Roast, Pumpkin Carving Contest,  
Costumes Encouraged  
tickets available at [citypapertickets.com](http://citypapertickets.com)  
\*KIDS FREE WITH ADULT TICKET

COAST  
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CHARLESTON, SC

CHARLESTON'S  
SMALLEST  
BAR

# CHARLESTON PRIDE

## DAY FESTIVAL

## AFTER PARTY

ALL AGES

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GA 10  
VIP 50

18+

OCT 17TH 12AM-6PM

OCT 17TH 5PM-12AM

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CHARLESTON  
PRIDE



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- › **SUNDAY BRUNCH**
- › **VOTED CHARLESTON'S BEST CHILI**
- › **HOME OF THE BELLAGIO BURGER**
- › **WEEK-DAY BLUE PLATE LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS**
- › **LIVE MUSIC**
- › **HAPPY HOUR M-F 4-7PM**

**HAPPY HOUR  
MONDAY-THURSDAY  
4-6PM**

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