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History Close to Home

New architectural surveys of Old Windermere and Byrnes Downs reveal two remarkably intact West Ashley neighborhoods and lay the groundwork for potential National Register historic district designations

... See story on pages 12







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IN THIS ISSUE

4 NEWS

- A Foot in the Door, and a Key in the lock
- Land, Liberty, & Loyalty
- History Close to Home

15 A&E

- Rooted in the Lowcountry

16 DINING

- From Biscuits to Barstools — Angel's & Emily opens in Avondale
- Upper Crust — Mike Pitera is the 2026 Galbani Pizza Cup Grand Champion

20 COMMUNITY

- West Ashley Flashback — Let's Go Treasure Hunting
- West Ashley Wanderer — The Mah Jongg craze comes West
- Fun & Games
- Community Calendar









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NEWS

"Our job was to close the gap between what a home costs and what a working family can pay, and to make sure it stays that way for the next family, too."

— William Cogswell, Mayor of the City of Charleston

A Foot in the Door and a Key in the Lock

Ten new West Ashley townhomes put homeownership within reach for first-time buyers

from Staff Reports

For Alex Mendez, buying a home meant confronting a gap familiar to many Charleston residents: the distance between what a paycheck covers and what a house costs.

A new townhome development in West Ashley helped close that gap.

Mendez is among the first-time buyers putting down roots at Juniper Street Townhomes, a 10-home development at 1555 Juniper St. in the Ardmore/Sherwood neighborhood. Backed by a $3.7 million city investment, the project offers a path to ownership for buyers who might otherwise struggle to find a foothold in Charleston's housing market.

"For a long time, a home cost a couple of years salary. My parents were able to work hard and buy a house. Today it's almost 5 or 6 times your salary," Mendez said. "Juniper keeps these homes in the hands of the people who love them and work in this community, not investors. It gave me a real shot and I'm very blessed for this opportunity."

New homeowners joined Mayor William Cogswell, Councilmember Keith Waring, and city housing staff for an Monday, Oct. 26 ribbon-cutting. Beyond marking the completion of the development, the gathering celebrated a milestone for buyers making the transition to owning their first homes.

Each townhome was made available through the city's First-Time Homebuyer Program. The financing combines a subsidy built into each property with down payment assistance through partner lenders, addressing both the cost of the home and the upfront expense of purchasing it.



Mayor William Cogswell speaks at the ribbon cutting for the Juniper Street Townhouses

According to the city, the subsidy is designed to preserve affordability for future buyers as well as the people receiving keys now. That long-term approach is a central part of the project: public investment intended to help successive households gain access to homeownership.

"For most families, a home is the biggest purchase they'll ever make, and in Charleston it's gotten harder and harder to make it," Cogswell said. "These homeowners did the hard part. Our job was to close the gap between what a home costs and what a working family can pay, and to make sure it stays that way for the next family, too. That's what Project 3500 is for."

Project 3500 sets a goal of adding 3,500 affordable homes across Charleston by 2032 through partnerships between the city and public and private organizations. The effort includes building on new sites and redeveloping existing properties, with affordable homes intended to remain permanently affordable.

The city's strategy calls for mixed-income neighborhoods that combine market-rate and workforce housing serving a range of incomes. It also outlines a "build first" approach to redevelopment: constructing new housing before replacing older units so existing residents are not displaced during construction. An online dashboard allows residents to follow progress toward the goal and explore proposed locations and designs.

While Project 3500 sets the broader housing target, developments such as Juniper Street also build on Charleston's Homeownership Initiative, established in 2000 to help low- and moderate-income households purchase homes through partnerships with nonprofit and private organizations.

Under the initiative's published guidelines, eligible households generally earn between 50 and 120 percent of the area median income, have not owned a home in three years, and must qualify for a first mortgage. The city uses 90-year restrictive covenants to preserve the affordability of homes participating in the initiative.

JJR Development, LLC and MGN, LLC designed and developed the Juniper Street townhomes. Pinnacle Financial Partners and South Atlantic Bank provided affordable mortgages to the buyers.

The ribbon-cutting also included an invocation by the Rev. Lawrence Bratton of Bible Way Church and a blessing of the homes by the Rev. Christian King.

For Mendez, the significance of the project comes down to the opportunity to own a home in the community where he works—and the chance for others to do the same.

For more information about the city's homeownership programs, including eligibility and application details, visit charleston-sc.gov/242/Homeownership-Initiative or call the Department of Housing and Community Development at (843) 724-3766.

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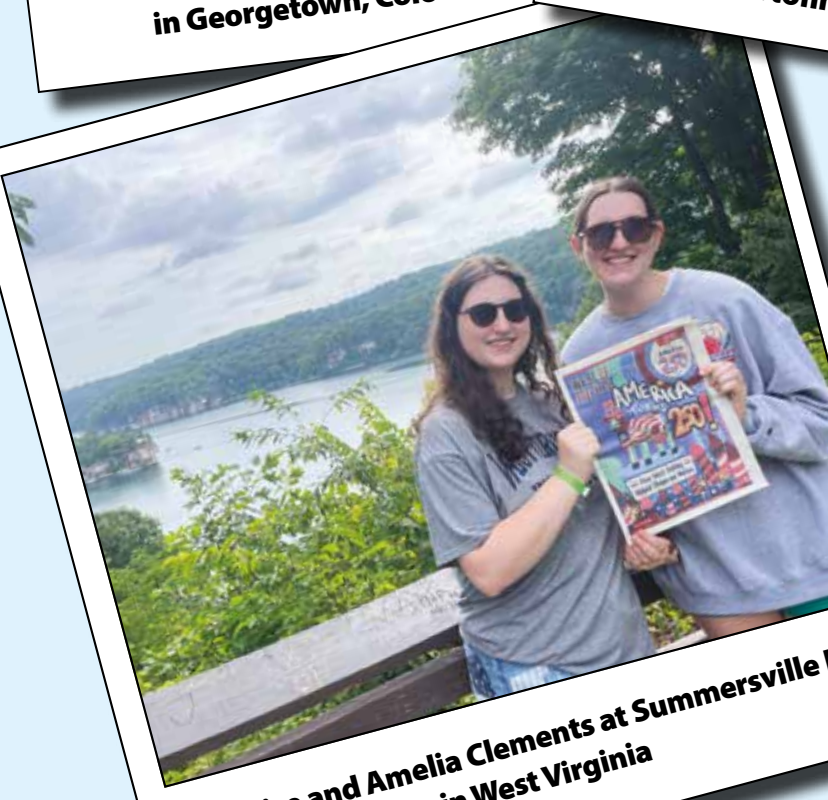
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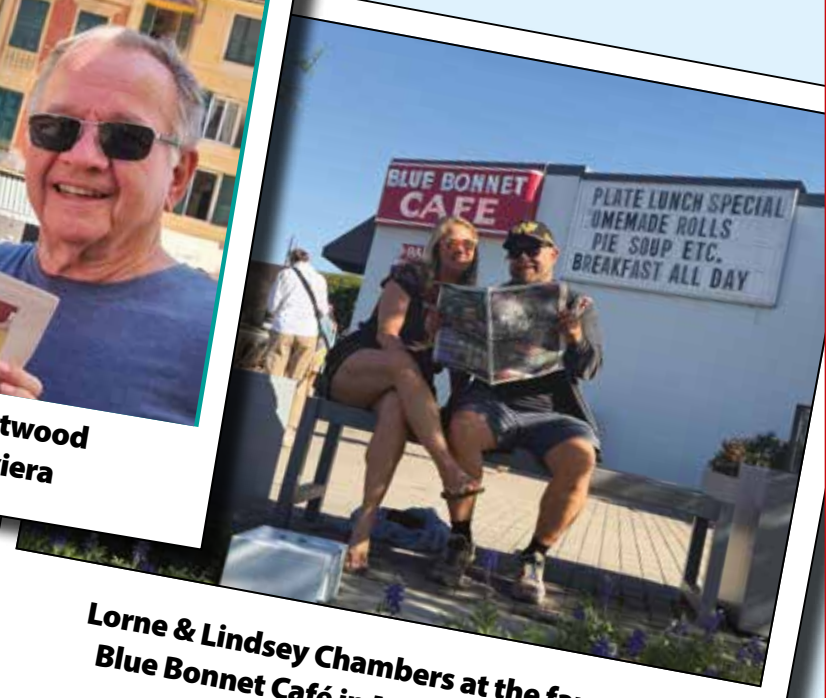
Gary Crossley at Scooter's Smokehouse & Grill in Georgetown, Colorado



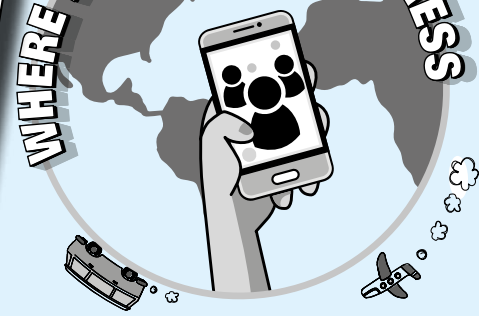
Susan Garrison and Nolan Prestwood in Portofino on the Italian Riviera



Annalise and Amelia Clements at Summersville Lake in West Virginia



Lorne & Lindsey Chambers at the famous Blue Bonnet Café in Marble Falls, Texas



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Land, Liberty, & Loyalty

Drayton Hall and Middleton Place explore their shared Revolutionary War history during a special lecture Nov. 21

from Staff Reports

Two of West Ashley's most significant historic landmarks will come together next month to explore their intertwined histories and the very different meanings of freedom during the American Revolution.

Drayton Hall and Middleton Place, both located along Ashley River Road, will present Land, Liberty, & Loyalty: The Drayton Hall and Middleton Place Legacies on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. at Drayton Hall.

The hourlong lecture will examine the lives of two prominent Revolutionary War figures, William Henry Drayton and Arthur Middleton, whose friendship, political convictions, and contributions to American independence helped shape the nation's early history.

But the discussion will extend beyond the familiar stories of the Founding Fathers to examine how the Revolution presented very different opportunities and challenges for the enslaved people living and working on their plantations.

While Drayton and Middleton pursued independence from British rule, enslaved individuals at both properties saw the upheaval of war as an opportunity to pursue their own freedom.

Among them were Samuel and Catherine Drayton and John and Lucy Banbury, who fled their enslavement and aligned themselves with the British in hopes of securing their liberty.

Their stories offer a striking contrast to those of the two revolutionary leaders, illustrating how the same conflict could represent vastly different struggles depending on a person's place in colonial society.

Presenters Amber Satterthwaite of the Drayton Hall Preservation Trust and Brandon M. Stone of the Middleton Place Foundation will explore these intersecting experiences, examining how individuals on both sides of the struggle navigated questions of land, power, loyalty, and freedom during a period of profound political and social upheaval.

Satterthwaite, curator of education and museum programs at Drayton Hall, joined the organization in 2019. She holds degrees in anthropology and museum studies and previously worked at several historic sites, including Colonial Williamsburg and Tryon Palace in North Carolina.

Stone, a Charleston native, serves as director of research and preservation for Middleton Place. He began his career as a historical interpreter at Drayton Hall before working with the Middleton Place Foundation. He holds a master's degree in public history from the College of Charleston.

Together, the historians will draw on the histories of these two neighboring West Ashley landmarks to offer a broader understanding of the American Revolution, one that considers not only the political ideals of independence but also the personal struggles of those denied freedom.

Land, Liberty, & Loyalty takes place Saturday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. at Drayton Hall, 3380 Ashley River Road. Admission is $5 for Drayton Hall members and $10 for nonmembers. The lecture lasts approximately one hour and does not include a guided tour of the historic house. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit. www.draytonhall.org

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History Close to Home

New architectural surveys of Old Windermere and Byrnes Downs reveal two remarkably intact West Ashley neighborhoods and lay the groundwork for potential National Register historic district designations

by Lorne Chambers | Editor

From cobblestone streets to Spanish moss-draped live oaks and church steeples dotting the skyline, Charleston's rich history is both celebrated and fiercely protected. But what about the history on our side of the Ashley River?

After all, West Ashley is where Charleston's story began more than 350 years ago, when English settlers established the original Charles Towne colony in 1670. It's also home to South Carolina's oldest continuously operating shopping center, Charleston's oldest existing church, and historic neighborhoods that tell the story of the city's expansion beyond the peninsula.

Now, nearly a century after Charleston began expanding west of the Ashley River, two of its earliest suburban neighborhoods are getting a closer look at the history hiding in plain sight.

From the Tudor Revival cottages and tree-lined streets of Old Windermere to the modest brick homes and carefully planned streetscapes of Byrnes Downs, the neighborhoods tell different but equally important stories about Charleston's growth beyond the peninsula.

An extensive architectural survey conducted over the summer documents those stories in unprecedented detail, giving residents a clearer understanding of their neighborhoods' historical significance and laying the groundwork for what could become a major milestone: inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Preservation Society of Charleston unveiled the results of the project during a community presentation titled Preservation & Progress, held on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at John Wesley United Methodist Church on Savannah Highway.

Clemson University historic preservation graduate students Croix Brown and Emily Anne Harris completed the surveys over the summer, documenting more than 500 historic structures across the two neighborhoods and examining everything from architectural styles and construction dates to building materials, alterations, and distinctive architectural features.

continued on page 13 ...



Clemson University historic preservation graduate students Emily Anne Harris and Croix Brown worked on the architectural survey







... continued from page 12

The research has been compiled into two publicly accessible digital StoryMaps, allowing residents to explore the history and architectural character of their neighborhoods through interactive maps, photographs, historical imagery, and illustrations. One particularly engaging feature is a "then-and-now" slider that lets users move their cursor across photographs of historic homes to see how they've changed, or remained remarkably the same, over the decades.

But the ultimate goal extends beyond creating an impressive historical record.

Both Old Windermere and Byrnes Downs have already been determined eligible for designation as National Register historic districts by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The new surveys provide much of the groundwork necessary to pursue those nominations, which would formally recognize the neighborhoods' historical and architectural significance.

"Growth and change are an inevitable and even a welcome part of living in any community," said Ashton Finley, an Old Windermere resident and founder of Save Historic West Ashley. "But we firmly believe that this is not a binary choice between preservation or progress. You can have thoughtful, managed growth in a city that makes room for the new while respecting the old."

Finley helped establish Save Historic West Ashley following a community effort to prevent the demolition of a historic home at 8 Stocker Dr. Although the building was ultimately saved, the experience raised broader questions about how Charleston recognizes and protects its historic neighborhoods outside the peninsula.

Anna Catherine Alexander, director of advocacy initiatives for the Preservation Society, said the project was designed to provide residents with the information and tools needed to participate in those conversations.

"Historic preservation has always been a grassroots movement, and the people who know what makes a community special are the people who live there," Alexander said.

The new research also builds on earlier work by the City of Charleston. In 2009, the city completed Area Character Appraisals of both Old Windermere and Byrnes Downs, identifying the architectural, historical, and landscape characteristics that distinguish the neighborhoods. The latest project builds on that documentation, surveying individual properties and creating a comprehensive digital inventory.

Two Neighborhoods, Two Chapters Of History

Old Windermere's story begins in 1925, when Charleston real estate broker James Stocker Simmons purchased farmland west of the Ashley River in anticipation of the opening of the Ashley River Memorial Bridge.

The bridge, which opened in 1926, helped transform West Ashley from a largely agricultural landscape into a viable residential alternative to downtown Charleston.

Simmons envisioned a modern suburb where residents could enjoy larger lots and new conveniences while remaining connected to jobs and businesses on the peninsula.

To entice buyers from downtown Charleston, he installed electric lights, telephone lines, and improved roads, and planted live oak trees that would eventually help create the neighborhood's distinctive canopy.

Unlike later subdivisions built around standardized home designs, Simmons sold individual lots and let buyers build houses that reflected their own tastes.

That approach produced an eclectic collection of architectural styles, including Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, and Minimal Traditional homes.

The Preservation Society's survey documented 200 buildings in Old Windermere, revealing a neighborhood whose architectural diversity is matched by a remarkable degree of historical continuity.

More than 26 percent of surveyed houses retain their original building footprints, while approximately 89 percent of buildings continue to serve their historic uses, either as residential communal, or commercial properties. The researchers also found that duplexes and multifamily residences have been part of Old Windermere's architectural fabric since its early development.

Byrnes Downs, meanwhile, emerged from a different chapter in West Ashley's history.

During World War II, the rapid expansion of the Charleston Naval Base and shipyard created an urgent need for housing. The V-Housing Corporation, established to address the shortage, announced plans for Byrnes Downs in 1942.

Construction began in 1944, with the neighborhood initially intended to provide rental homes for shipyard workers. By the time construction was completed in 1945, the war had ended, and the development was marketed instead to returning veterans and young families.

Although Byrnes Downs was built as a planned tract-housing development, its designers incorporated an unusual amount of architectural variety. Brown and Harris identified 14 distinct residential house types, or typologies, distinguished by their rooflines, porches, windows, and other details.

"Though it was a tract housing development, rather than repeating the same patterns along each street, the builders mixed different typologies to create a visually varied streetscape while still maintaining a cohesive architectural character," Brown explained.

Harris hand-drew examples of each style of house, which were on display at the meeting and available on the Preservation Society's website.

The Byrnes Downs survey documented 389 points of interest, including houses, commercial buildings, neighborhood signs, and historical markers.

The findings reveal an exceptionally intact midcentury neighborhood. Approximately one-quarter of its houses retain their original footprints, and the survey found that all residential properties have maintained their historic residential function.

A Legacy Rooted In The Landscape

Some of Byrnes Downs' most recognizable characteristics have less to do with the houses themselves than with the residents who helped shape the neighborhood.

In 1948, just a few years after its completion, 15 women formed the Byrnes Downs Garden Club with the goal of improving and beautifying their community.

Their efforts included installing street markers, maintaining neighborhood entrances, and planting 107 oak trees, 63 crape myrtles, and several dogwoods.

Those plantings helped establish the mature tree canopy that remains one of Byrnes Downs' defining features.

The club also left behind a valuable historical record.

The Club's historian, May T. Rossiter, maintained a scrapbook documenting the neighborhood's early years. The collection was later preserved by Anne Thorne and her family and eventually made available through the Lowcountry Digital Library.

During the Oct. 20 presentation, Margaret Thorne Seidler, whose grandmother, Anne Thorne, served as president of the Byrnes Downs Garden Club, shared her family's longstanding ties to the neighborhood. Seidler also helped preserve an important piece of its history by donating the Garden Club's scrapbook to the College of Charleston's Special Collections, where it offers a glimpse into Byrnes Downs' earliest years.

The archival photographs proved particularly valuable to Brown and Harris, allowing them to compare original houses and streetscapes with their present-day appearances.

Those comparisons, featured in the StoryMaps, reveal how much of both neighborhoods' original character remains intact despite decades of change.

Seidler praised Brown and Harris for their extensive research, drawing enthusiastic applause from the audience.

"What y'all have done in terms of research is something I never imagined we would have," she said. "Something like this that takes a snapshot of who we are, so we can make good choices based on who we are today, not just 50 or 60 years ago, but who we are today."

Seidler also expressed her appreciation for a younger generation taking an interest in the neighborhood's history.

"I'm so excited that young people like you, who are well educated and interested in preserving the past, are making sure we deal with things really well in the future."

A Path Toward National Recognition

With the surveys completed, attention is now turning toward what comes next.

One of the Preservation Society's principal goals is to pursue National Register historic district nominations for both neighborhoods.

Maintained by the National Park Service, the National Register of Historic Places recognizes buildings, sites, and districts significant to American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture.

Although Old Windermere and Byrnes Downs have already been determined eligible, formal listing would require additional steps, including preparing and submitting nominations for review.

Designation would bring national recognition to two neighborhoods that helped define Charleston's suburban development, while potentially making qualifying preservation projects eligible for state and federal rehabilitation tax incentives.

Importantly, National Register designation is not the same as establishing a locally regulated historic district.

Listing does not prevent homeowners from renovating, expanding, or selling their properties, nor does it impose the design-review requirements associated with Charleston's Board of Architectural Review (BAR). Separate considerations may apply when state or federal involvement triggers historic preservation review.

That distinction became an important part of the Oct. 20 discussion, when one resident expressed both interest in protecting neighborhood character and concern about potential restrictions on private property.

Local author and historian Donna Jacobs, who helped organize the meeting, emphasized that the project does not propose extending downtown Charleston's architectural review system into West Ashley. Instead, the project provides a starting point for considering approaches that reflect the history, design, and needs of suburban neighborhoods.

"The first step is the National Registry because it is an honorary distinction, and it's a very important step," Jacobs said, emphasizing that it has nothing to do with the BAR.

The organization is seeking input from residents interested in pursuing National Register nominations, with forms available through the project materials.

"The result is much more than a collection of data," said Laurel Fay, the Preservation Society's manager of preservation and research. "It is a community resource that documents the history, architecture, and character of these neighborhoods and provides a foundation for future conversations about preservation and planning."

For Old Windermere and Byrnes Downs, those conversations could eventually lead to formal national recognition. For West Ashley as a whole, the project offers something equally important: a more complete understanding of how Charleston became the city it is today and our community's role in that evolution.

It's also a reminder that some of Charleston's most meaningful history isn't found behind wrought-iron gates or along cobblestone streets, but in the houses, gardens, and neighborhoods where generations of families have made their homes west of the Ashley River, where Charleston's story began more than 350 years ago.

"This was our third Preservation & Progress, and we are making progress," Jacobs said. "So, watch out National Register, because here we come."

To explore the architectural surveys and interactive StoryMaps for Old Windermere and Byrnes Downs, visit www.preservationsociety.org/programs-resources/surveys-and-inventories/.



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.

OCTOBER 1

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT / POINTING FIREARM

A confrontation involving several juveniles and a parent at a West Ashley apartment complex bus stop prompted a police investigation after a student reported that another juvenile pointed a firearm at him. The student alleged that a parent encouraged other children to fight him and that one juvenile produced a black handgun equipped with a red laser before chasing him through the complex. The parent disputed the account, denying that a firearm was involved. The student's mother declined to pursue charges. Police notified school officials and investigators and said officers would monitor the bus stop to help prevent further confrontations.

OCTOBER 2

SIMPLE ASSAULT

A little NFL trash talk turned into an actual punch at a West Ashley bar around 1:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2. According to police, a patron asked another man whether he was "still reeling from that loss," referring to the Steelers' defeat by the Browns. The man reportedly responded with an extended stare before punching the victim squarely in the face, leaving him with a bloody nose and swollen lip. The suspect fled but left his cellphone and identification behind. Officers soon spotted him walking nearby, where he reportedly admitted he'd been hiding from police because he'd done "something bad." Asked to elaborate, he replied, "I think I hit some dude in the face." He was arrested for third-degree assault and battery.

OCTOBER 2

BURGLARY INVESTIGATION

A West Ashley family woke up Friday, Oct. 2, to discover that two Chihuahua puppies, just three days old, had mysteriously vanished from their apartment. The puppies, one white and the other brown with a white stripe on its face, had been placed in a playpen with their mother the night before. Around 6 a.m., the family heard the dogs barking and discovered the newborns missing, although the adult dogs remained. Police searched the apartment but found no puppies or signs of forced entry. The family acknowledged that the front door had been left unlocked and that several people knew about the new arrivals. Each puppy was valued at $300. Investigators looked for possible surveillance footage, but the report offered no explanation for the disappearance.

OCTOBER 2

SIMPLE ASSAULT

An unauthorized gathering at a West Ashley home got out of hand late Friday, Oct. 2, when a resident attempted to clear a crowd of juveniles from the property. Police had already visited the home earlier that evening because of a noise complaint. When officers returned around 11 p.m., they found numerous young people gathered around the residence. According to police, one juvenile tripped while leaving the back porch, fell to the ground, then returned to the porch and punched the resident in the face. Officers located a suspect matching the description, which included blue shorts, a bowl haircut, and white Crocs. The juvenile denied involvement but was charged with third-degree assault and battery and released to a parent. The remaining partygoers departed.

OCTOBER 3

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT INVESTIGATION

A disagreement between a couple escalated Saturday evening, Oct. 3, when a friend of the woman allegedly entered the bedroom of their West Ashley apartment and pointed a firearm at the boyfriend's head. According to the complainant, he had been packing to leave following an argument with his girlfriend when the friend entered, insulted him, and threatened him with a gun. The complainant said he raised his hands and made clear he didn't want to fight. The friend and girlfriend subsequently left the apartment together. Officers located the pair later that evening, and detectives responded to investigate. No injuries were reported.

OCTOBER 3

ASSAULT INVESTIGATION

A disagreement over a forgotten bottle of perfume reportedly escalated into a confrontation involving a firearm at a West Ashley apartment Saturday evening, Oct. 3. A woman told police she returned to the apartment after an argument with a man because she'd left her perfume behind and wanted to talk things over. The man said he'd repeatedly asked her to leave and eventually retrieved a handgun when she refused. Both acknowledged that he had the firearm in his hand, although their accounts differed over whether he pointed it at her. The woman told police she did not wish to pursue charges. Detectives responded to investigate.

OCTOBER 4

PUBLIC DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A severely intoxicated man apparently had trouble finding his way home and began knocking on doors at a West Ashley apartment complex around 1:30 a.m. One resident called police after the man repeatedly tried to enter her apartment, claiming his brother lived there. The resident insisted she lived alone. Officers found the man barely able to speak coherently or stand upright and arrested him for public disorderly conduct.

OCTOBER 4

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

A road rage confrontation that reportedly began near the Charleston airport escalated into an armed dispute at a West Ashley gas station Sunday afternoon. A family traveling with children told police another vehicle followed them, with its occupants throwing objects at their minivan. When both vehicles stopped, the confrontation continued, and the occupants of the pursuing vehicle allegedly approached the other driver with a metal pipe and knife. Surveillance footage reportedly showed the driver backing away before being shoved into his vehicle. Police arrested two adults on first-degree assault and battery charges and two counts each of unlawful conduct toward a child. Their children were placed in emergency protective custody. The male driver also faced a charge of driving under suspension.

OCTOBER 4

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Two West Ashley roommates discovered that breaking up a household can be nearly as complicated as ending a marriage, especially when there's a couch involved. Police responded to their apartment Sunday evening, Oct. 4, after an argument about who would get the couch when their lease expired. One roommate said he'd offered to pay the other for half the furniture, but the disagreement turned heated when the two confronted each other in a hallway. According to the report, one roommate admitted slapping the other across the face, later laughing and saying, "You fell for my trap." The recipient of the slap declined to press charges, saying he still wanted to remain friends. Officers advised both men that ownership of the furniture was a civil matter best handled in small claims court. Hopefully, the couch was comfortable enough to justify all the trouble.

OCTOBER 5

INDECENT EXPOSURE

A woman completing her work route at a West Ashley apartment complex around 4:25 p.m. reported encountering a naked man standing in an open doorway facing a public common area. According to police, the man was exposing himself and doing a lewd activity when the woman noticed him. She photographed the individual and later provided the image to investigators. Police documented the complaint as an indecent exposure investigation.

OCTOBER 7

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

Police arrived at a West Ashley fast-food restaurant around 8 p.m. and observed a man stumbling into a wall as he attempted to leave. Officers said he had difficulty speaking coherently, repeatedly lost his balance, and became argumentative when they offered to help arrange a ride home. The man reportedly called an officer a "c--ksucker" several times, insisted he wasn't afraid of police, and continued stumbling backward into the wall. His vocabulary eventually expanded to include repeated profanity shouted across the parking lot. Officers arrested him for public intoxication.

OCTOBER 7

INTIMIDATION

A West Ashley driver told police that a routine encounter with a slower-moving pickup truck turned into a frightening road rage incident on Oct. 7. The driver said he honked before passing the truck on Savannah Highway, only to have it follow him into a nearby neighborhood. According to the report, a passenger leaned halfway out the truck's window, shouted profanities, and threw a can at the complainant's vehicle. The truck allegedly crossed into the opposing lane to drive alongside him, and the passenger later got out and approached his car. The driver left rather than confront the man. He waited approximately two weeks before reporting the incident, telling police he had video footage and wanted to pursue charges.

OCTOBER 8

OUTSTANDING WARRANT

A traffic stop for failing to signal a lane change turned into an unexpected reminder about unpaid child support Thursday afternoon, Oct. 8. Police stopped a vehicle in West Ashley and reportedly smelled marijuana coming from inside. While officers were removing the passenger, he volunteered that he might have an outstanding child support warrant. A records check confirmed his suspicion. Officers also discovered approximately three grams of suspected marijuana in the vehicle. The driver received a warning for the traffic violation, while the passenger was taken into custody on the outstanding warrant. Sometimes it's better to remember your obligations before the police do.

OCTOBER 8

SIMPLE ASSAULT

A dispute between two sisters over money and living arrangements prompted a police response to a West Ashley home Thursday afternoon. One sister told officers she'd moved into the other's home several weeks earlier and that an argument over approximately $1,500 she still owed had turned physical. She had a bloody nose, scratches, and cuts. The other sister acknowledged confronting her about the money but disputed the account of the injuries, alleging that her sibling had inflicted them on herself. Officers noted inconsistencies in the statements and advised both women to separate. Neither pursued charges, and the incident was documented.

OCTOBER 8

SIMPLE ASSAULT

A disagreement between a bicyclist and a motorist on Savannah Highway ended with the cyclist being punched in the face Thursday afternoon, Oct. 8. According to police, the two exchanged words about the bicyclist's riding before the motorist followed him to a nearby hotel. Surveillance footage reportedly showed the driver getting out of his vehicle, waiting for the cyclist, and delivering a single punch that knocked him off his bicycle and onto the pavement. The victim suffered a cut above his eyebrow and a large bump on his head and was transported to a hospital. The motorist allegedly entered the hotel office afterward and claimed someone had fallen off a bicycle. Surveillance footage told a different story.

OCTOBER 23

FORGERY

A West Ashley woman received an alarming telephone call from her bank Thursday, Oct. 22, informing her that someone had attempted to cash a forged check for $84,930 using her account information. The woman told police the fraudulent check appeared to come from an identical checkbook, although its check number was far beyond those she'd actually used. She insisted nobody had access to her checkbook and that she hadn't shared her account information through suspicious calls or messages. Although the full amount didn't clear, approximately $40,000 was reportedly withdrawn before the bank intervened. The woman's online banking access was temporarily restricted while the matter was investigated. That's one bank statement nobody wants to open.



A&E

"The Old South is a place where food tells me who I am. The Old South is where food tells me where we have been. The Old South is where the story of our food might just tell America where it's going."

— Michael W. Twitty, author of The Cooking Gene

Rooted in the Lowcountry

Bourbon & Bluegrass returns to Middleton Place Nov. 7 with celebrated chefs, an oyster roast, and the Marshgrass Mamas

from Staff Reports



Bill Green of Gullah Grub



Author Michael W. Twitty



Marvin Ross of Peculiar Pig Farm



The Marshgrass Mamas

An open-fire oyster roast, bluegrass beneath the oaks, and a gathering of chefs whose work connects food with history will set the scene when Bourbon & Bluegrass returns to Middleton Place this fall.

Now in its third year, Middleton Place Foundation's signature fall fundraiser takes place Saturday, Nov. 7, from 5–8 p.m. at the National Historic Landmark on Ashley River Road in West Ashley. The evening brings together Lowcountry cooking, bourbon tastings, and live music to support the foundation's preservation and education efforts.

Organizers say the event sold out in each of its first two years. General admission tickets are $250 per person and include all food, beverages, and entertainment. A $500 VIP option adds an earlier reception and several additional experiences.

Food is a central part of the evening, with a lineup that brings together culinary scholarship, Gullah traditions, and generations of Lowcountry farming.

Chef Bill Green of Gullah Grub on St. Helena Island will oversee a traditional open-fire oyster roast. Culinary stations will feature James Beard Award-winning author and food historian Michael W. Twitty, Marvin Ross of Peculiar Pig Farm, and Bennett Hospitality.

For Twitty, Southern food provides a way to explore ancestry, identity, and the lives of people whose contributions have often gone unrecognized. His work focuses on African American food traditions and their connections to Africa and its diaspora, including the knowledge and skills enslaved cooks brought to Southern kitchens.

A culinary historian, independent scholar, and living history interpreter, Twitty reconstructs early Southern cooking through ingredients, agricultural practices, and historic preparation methods. His work encompasses heirloom seeds, heritage livestock, foraged foods, and the techniques used to turn those ingredients into meals.

His book, *The Cooking Gene*, received James Beard Awards for Book of the Year and Food Writing in 2018. Through his writing, demonstrations, and educational programs, Twitty examines how the food on a Southern table can reveal a much larger story about family, labor, migration, and cultural survival.

Green brings another expression of that connection between food and history. His approach to Gullah cooking emphasizes eating locally and seasonally, practices rooted in the relationship between coastal communities and the land and water around them.

Along with preparing traditional meals, Green and his wife, Sara, have worked with young people in the Beaufort area to teach gardening and cooking through Gullah foodways. Their educational work has included growing rice and exploring the West African agricultural knowledge that helped shape South Carolina's history.

Ross' participation adds the perspective of a fifth-generation farmer. His family-owned Peculiar Pig Farm in Dorchester raises heritage livestock using practices that include wooded areas where animals can roam and forage. The farm also purchases grain from local growers and uses cover crops as part of its approach to managing the land.

Together, the participants bring distinct experiences to a menu built around the region's culinary heritage.

Providing the evening's soundtrack will be the Marshgrass Mamas, featuring Cary Ann Hearst of Shovels & Rope. The Johns Island group formed in 2001 and draws from traditional bluegrass and Appalachian old-time music.

Over more than two decades together, the Mamas have developed a sound that pairs harmonies and spirited playing with a loose, humorous stage presence. Their performance will provide opportunities for dancing beneath Middleton Place's centuries-old oaks.

Beverage offerings include tastings from Elijah Craig and Cannon Distillery, handcrafted cocktails, and a full open bar.

Guests purchasing the VIP experience can arrive at 4 p.m. for an hourlong reception overlooking the Reflection Pool. That gathering includes a meet-and-greet with Twitty, a private Cannon Distillery bourbon tasting, chef-crafted bites, specialty cocktails, and acoustic bluegrass. VIP admission also includes reserved parking, private check-in, and the full evening's general admission offerings.

For those interested in extending the outing, organizers are offering 20 percent off accommodations at The Inn at Middleton Place along the Ashley River.

Proceeds from Bourbon & Bluegrass support the foundation's work preserving Middleton Place and sharing its history through educational programming. The evening's gathering of cooks, farmers, and musicians offers a fitting way to support that mission, bringing regional traditions into a setting where the Lowcountry's past remains part of the landscape.

Middleton Place is located at 4300 Ashley River Road. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit middletonplace.org's Bourbon & Bluegrass event page.



"I wanted a space where everyone could go to hangout. Moms can come in after drop-off. Kids can come in after school. Neighbors can come at night to drink cocktails."

— Angel Powell, co-owner Angel's Biscuit Co. & Emily Pizza & Bar

DINING

From Biscuits to Barstools

Avondale gets a new hangout with Angel's Biscuit Co. and Emily Pizza & Bar

by Stephanie Barna | Contributing Writer





What do you get when you combine Southern biscuits, Detroit-style pizza, crafty cocktails, and one fancy burger that's only available to 10 lucky people each day? A spot that has a little something for everyone, no matter what time you stop in. Angel's Biscuit Co. and Emily Pizza & Bar recently opened in Avondale with a clear mission: become a welcoming destination for the entire neighborhood, even the kids.

West Ashley resident Angel Powell is the Angel of the biscuit company. This is her first foray into restaurant ownership, but she's helped promote restaurants, including Emily, for years as owner of South City PR. She and Howard Greenstone, a partner in the Brooklyn-based Pizza Loves Emily organization, have worked on multiple PR projects together. When he came to town to scout a new location, she somehow found herself agreeing to be a part of it.

"At some point in our conversation about doing PR for the restaurant, he jokingly said we should call it Angel's. Two weeks later he sends me a business plan and says, I want to have a local element, a dual concept, and I'd like to do something with you," says Powell.

Her first instinct was to decline. She'd never wanted to own a restaurant. "But, you know, when things align. First of all, I would follow him off a cliff. Anything Howard says to do, I will always do. And being in business with him is a joy."

She had plenty of ideas to contribute too. She wanted to put out food that was excellent and something that she cared about. Biscuits was a natural for her, as a Southern gal from a family of bakers. The restaurant also needed to be kid-friendly and affordable.

"I wanted a space where everyone could go to hangout," she says. "Moms can come in after drop-off. Kids can come in after school. Neighbors can come at night to drink cocktails. I wanted something that felt approachable."

The menu shifts over the course of the day. Starting at 7 a.m., Angel's serves up a full menu of housemade biscuits and breakfast sandwiches until noon, Wednesday through Friday, and then on the weekend, if you hit that sweet spot between noon and 2 p.m., you can choose between Angel's breakfast and Emily's menu.

The Emily side of the equation opens at 4 p.m. during the week. The evening menu includes snacks like Asian buffalo wings, waffle-fry nachos, crispy mozzarella sticks, and harissa cauliflower with Greek yogurt. The pizza is Detroit-style, deep-dish and square, with three bases to choose from: red, pink (i.e., vodka sauce), and white. In addition to house specialties like the Big Ang (vodka sauce, cheese, sausage, and banana peppers) and the Big Hawaiian (cheese blend, pepperoni, bacon, pineapple, and pineapple-chili glaze), you can build you own with toppings from Calabrian chilis to Nashville hot chicken.

They also have some "handhelds," including that aforementioned burger. The Emmy Burger is special, made with high-quality, dry-aged Pat LaFrieda ground beef, cheese, and caramelized onions. They only offer 10 per day for practical purposes.

"The meat is very expensive and it's a very particular temp time — we want every one of them to come out of the kitchen perfect," says Powell.

For the bar program, Powell tapped bartender extraordinaire and West Ashley resident Megan Deschaine to create an elevated but casual cocktail menu. Her philosophy is simple: "Cold. Fast. Familiar. Affordable. Better than it needs to be."

Drinks range from the Momosa with citrus vodka and passionfruit to the more exotic Chokehold which mixes Cynar (an artichoke-based amaro) with tonic and lemon. They also have a slate of dirty housemade cream sodas and boilermakers, including the Burn Notice, which is a local LoFi Mexican Lager and a shot of Calabrian chili tequila.

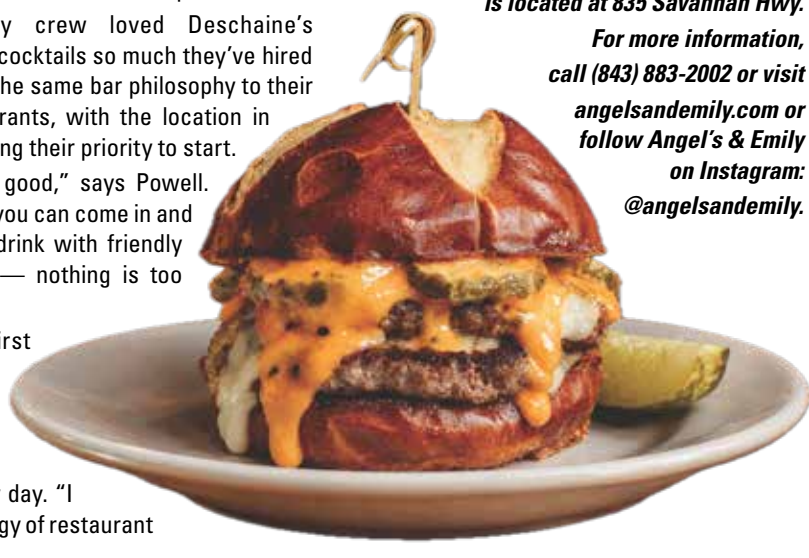
The Emily crew loved Deschaine's approach to cocktails so much they've hired her to bring the same bar philosophy to their other restaurants, with the location in Avondale being their priority to start.

"She's so good," says Powell. "The idea is you can come in and get a great drink with friendly bar service — nothing is too precious."

In the first month, says she's at the restaurant almost every day. "I love the energy of restaurant openings. I've had a blast being there and greeting people. I want the neighborhood to know I'm local."

She's already hosted a Halloween party and has plans in the works for a fall festival on Nov. 21 that will encourage everyone to visit all the restaurants and bars in the Avondale area. "We want to be really communal and encourage people to go to all the spots."

Angel's Biscuit Co. & Emily Pizza & Bar is located at 835 Savannah Hwy. For more information, call (843) 883-2002 or visit angelsandemily.com or follow Angel's & Emily on Instagram: @angelsandemily.



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Upper Crust

West Ashley's Mike Pitera is the 2026 Galbani Pizza Cup Grand Champion, earns trip to compete in Italy

from Staff Reports

From making pizzas as a teenager in New York to bringing home a national grand championship, Mike Pitera has built a career around dough, determination, and a desire to keep getting better.

Now, the West Ashley resident and owner of Pizza a Modo Mio is taking that pursuit to Italy.

Pitera, a member of the U.S. Pizza Team, was named grand champion at the Galbani Professionale Pizza Cup, earning a trip to compete at the 2027 Campionato Mondiale della Pizza. The world pizza championship is scheduled for April 6–8 in Parma, Italy.

"I am beyond excited and proud to announce that I just took home 1ST PLACE at the GALBANI PIZZA CUP, earning the title of GRAND CHAMPION!!!" Pitera wrote in a celebratory social media post announcing the win.

Sponsored by Galbani Professionale and hosted by the U.S. Pizza Team, the competition took place during the Oct. 25–27 Pizza Tomorrow Summit and Florida Restaurant Show in Orlando. The event brings together pizza makers from across the country for culinary competitions and displays of dough-handling skill.

This year's culinary categories included Pizza in the Pan, highlighting pan pizzas made with Galbani or Lactalis brand cheese; On the Menu, requiring competitors to prepare a pizza offered at their restaurants; Pizza for 2, a collaborative challenge; and Backyard Pizza Oven, open to professionals and amateurs. Athletic events included freestyle acrobatics, largest dough stretch, fastest pizza maker, and fastest box folder.

For Pitera, the experience offered an opportunity to measure his skills alongside fellow pizza makers whose commitment matched his own.

"The level of talent, passion, creativity, and dedication at this competition was absolutely unbelievable," he wrote. "To be surrounded by some of the best pizza makers in the industry and walk away with this honor means more to me than words can describe."



His announcement also reflected on the years of work behind the championship, tracing a path from his teenage pizza-making days in New York to restaurant ownership in Charleston.

"I've never stopped learning, pushing myself, or trying to become better at what I love doing," he wrote.

Pitera thanked his wife, Julie, his family, employees, and customers for supporting a journey he described as filled with long hours, sacrifices, challenges, and passion.

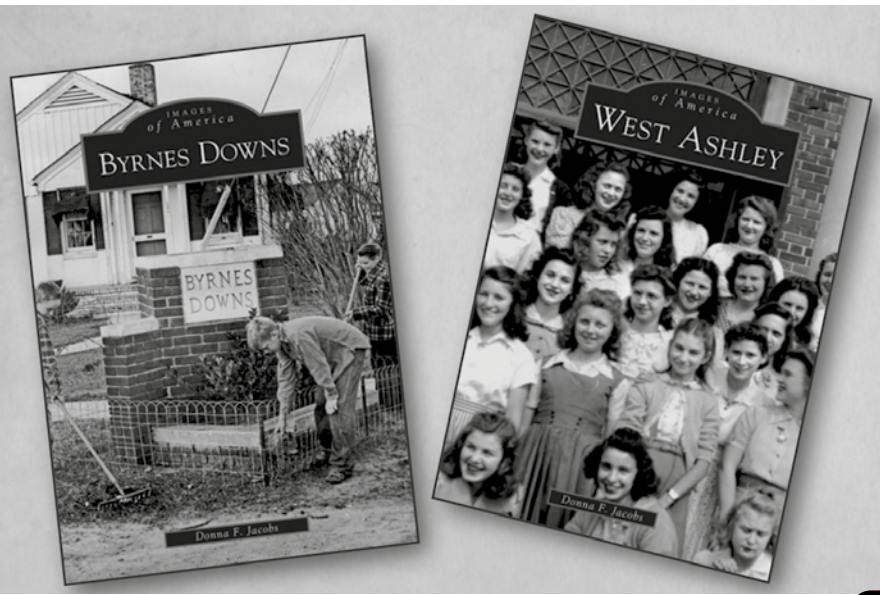
Next comes the opportunity to carry that work onto an international stage, representing his restaurant, his community, and the United States.

"Time to represent Charleston, South Carolina, and the USA on the world stage!" he wrote.

Pizza a Modo Mio is in the Bees Ferry Crossing shopping center at 3125 Bees Ferry Road. For more information, call (843) 640-3897 or visit www.modomiopizza.com. For more information about the world championship, visit campionatomondialedellapizza.it.

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Take a step back in time to the early days of St. Andrew's Parish, modern day West Ashley.
By West Ashley Flashback author Donna F. Jacobs
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COMMUNITY

"The General Collection which was sort of a vertical files of City records, newspaper clippings, some might call it odds and ends, but it really is sort of our Google or our encyclopedia."

— Meg Moughan, City of Charleston Records Manager

West Ashley Flashback

By Donna Jacobs

Let's Go Treasure Hunting

The City of Charleston's General Collection is a treasure trove of information and stories

Treasure Hunting has a certain allure, mystique, and excitement to it. Who didn't get caught up in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* or *National Treasure*? And in our very backyard is one of the best treasure-hunt stories around: the discovery of the Hunley. Many of these stories, whether on a movie screen or happening in real life, start with a trip to an archive.

Recently, the City of Charleston undertook a major overhaul, organization, centralization, and digitalization of the treasures found in their archives. Many people were involved in this monumental task. One lady in particular who helped sort, file, and bring to archival attention was Ernestine Fellers.

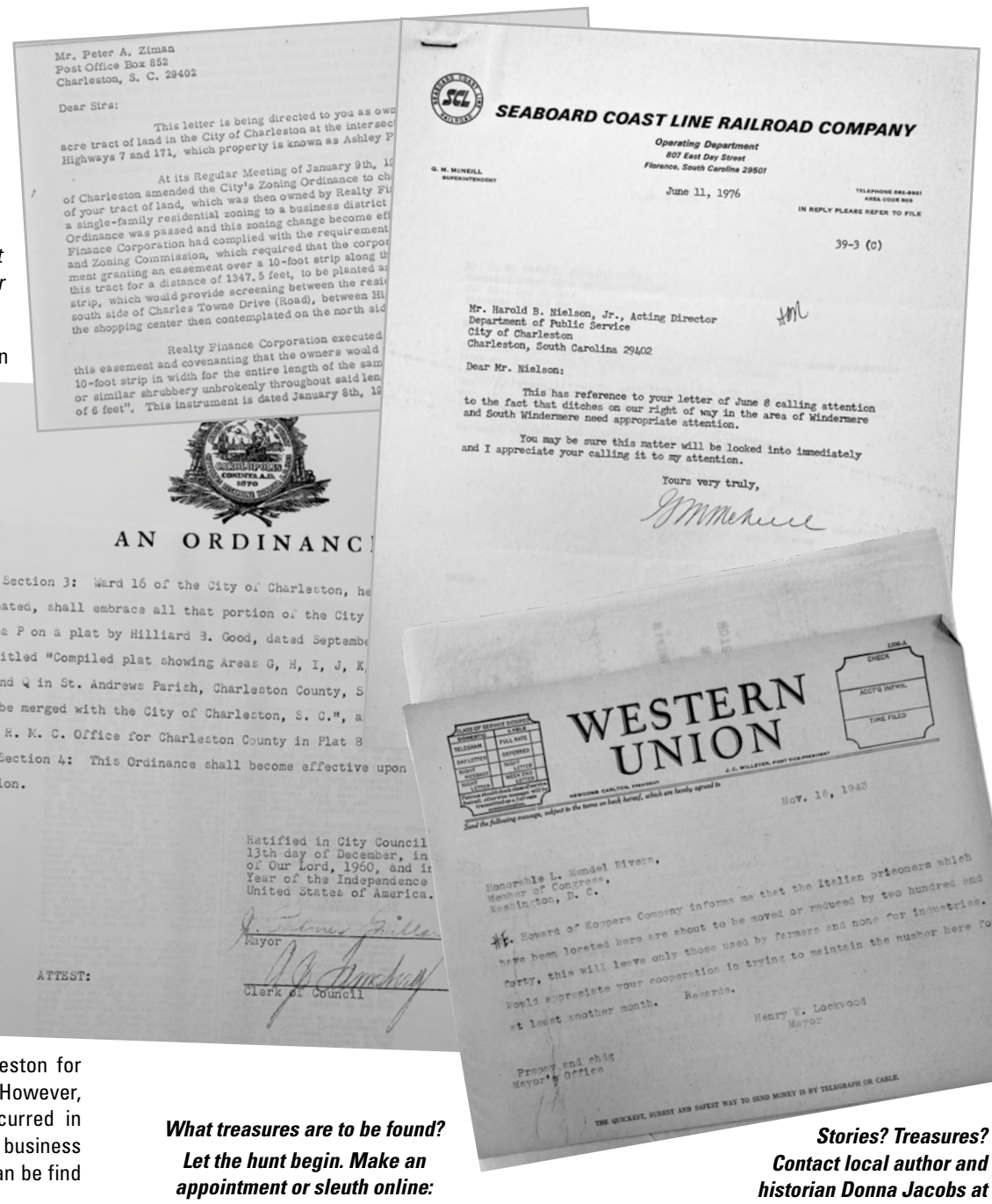
Ernestine is a treasure within herself. She was honored at a 2023 City Council meeting for her work, with Meg Moughan, Records Manager, providing the words:

"When I started with the City almost ten years ago, I entered a warehouse space out on Savannah Highway that was full to the brim with boxes, and I had no idea how I was going to make my way. From that day until to this day, Ernestine has been my guide through records management. Her knowledge of the history of Charleston surpasses anything I know. She can recall anything about history from the time that she was born practically. For the time that I've been with the City, Ernestine has been working on something that we call the General Collection which was sort of a vertical files of City records, newspaper clippings, some might call it odds and ends, but it really is sort of our Google or our encyclopedia. It's a guide path to a lot of what we have in Records and to us in Records, the name General Collection just didn't do it justice. So, in December when Ernestine retired, we, in Records, renamed the collection the 'Ernestine Fellers City Reference Collection,' and we're going to frame it and put it on a plaque in Records Management. It just imbues her spirit and her love for the City. Thank you."

On June 27, 2025 an open house provided a peek into these archives and what is a resource treasure for locals doing the deep dives into the history of the City of Charleston.

For us west of the Ashley, though, there's a caveat. St. Andrew's Parish was not a part of the City of Charleston until the early 1960s. There are a few items that surface in the archives prior to that time about the land to the west, like the work to get water to the Parish in the late 1930s and early 1940s that are recorded in the Council minutes.

This was due in part because the St Andrew's Parish Water Commission was coordinating efforts with Charleston for this major infrastructure project. However, once the initial annexation occurred in 1963, our business became city business and more modern information can be find in the collection.



What treasures are to be found? Let the hunt begin. Make an appointment or sleuth online: www.charleston-sc.gov/Archive.aspx

Stories? Treasures? Contact local author and historian Donna Jacobs at westashleybook@gmail.com.



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East Meets West Ashley

The Mah Jongg craze is spreading like wildfire

By Joan Perry

Pung, King, Quint, Chow, Bam, Crak!

It's not a new language, although it could be. If you hear happy chatter and peals of laughter, along with the clicking of tiles, your neighbors may be learning or playing Mah Jongg.

The centuries-old Chinese game has become the latest social sensation. Mah Jongg has taken over your friend's living room, the Waring Senior Center, Rhodes Home & Gift, Social 19, the Fox and the Falcon in Avondale, Bees Ferry Library, Magnolia Plantation Gift Shop, and filling weekend beginner classes at St. Andrew's Family Fitness.

Elaine Fischer has been playing for fourteen years and moved to Shadowmoss four years ago. She tried to help me grasp the rippling effect of the game's appeal. Fischer mentioned teaching a neighbor, who then taught her family. Her own grandson started playing as a toddler and now at 13 enjoys playing with his great-grandmother, age 83.

"The game brings together all ages, and keeps your brain so busy that for a while you forget everything else." The pace of the game allows for friendships and conversations to build, and takes us all away from our screen addictions for a while. She has very few social rules for her groups, other than a strict "no drama" rule.

The game, often described as easy to learn but hard to master, is played with the goal of being the first to build a winning hand of 14 tiles, which consists of four sets and one pair. It's just as important, not to let anyone else win.

Fischer coordinates beginner lessons and home game parties as well as large-scale tournaments with 250 attendees that include raffles, prizes and 50/50 drawings. Vendors sell merchandise with everything from tiles, mats, themed earrings and socks.

Yes, there are Mah Jongg themed tattoo designs.

Fisher welcomes questions about Tuesday night open play $5 PIE (NMJL rules no blanks), the upcoming January 10th tournament, and group or private lessons by emailing: iluvmahjchs@gmail.com or following her facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/mahjonthemovechs/.

I was fascinated by the diverse international path the game has taken, from a game played primarily by Chinese men in the mid-to-late 1800s, around the Yangtze River Delta. When it initially became popular in the US, it was played by the American elite, including the President and First Lady Harding and Hollywood celebrities. In the late 1930s, a group of Jewish women decided to standardize the game and simplify some of the complicated scoring rules. They met in New York City to form the National Mah Jongg League (https://nationalmahjonggleague.org/) in 1937.

Charleston ladies chimed in on the topic online, describing their collections of vintage tiles, including designer sets and antiques made of ivory.

Christina Counts with Palmetto Pong, was on a business trip when she came across a cute boutique offering a Mah Jongg class. She signed up and has been hooked ever since.

"At first I loved the challenge of the game and the ability to play online. What keeps me coming back is the community. The friendships, laughter, and incredible support among players and fellow mahjong entrepreneurs make it so much more than a game."

Counts founded Palmetto Pung in January, along with daughter Cate Counts, who is the creative force. Son Olin gets in on the action, organizing tiles to prepare for classes. Her advice to a newbie is to jump right in! Follow @palmettopung on Instagram or the Facebook group for upcoming events: https://www.facebook.com/PalmettoPung.

I walked down to The Fox and Falcon in Avondale to spy on the action and watched



Counts working table to table advising the players.

"The conversations are as good as the game! I leave the table with more than I came with, whether it's a new restaurant to try, a recommendation for a window cleaning service, a great recipe, or a little life advice I didn't know I needed. There's something about sitting around a Mah Jongg table that makes conversation flow naturally. It's part game night, part social hour, and sometimes the best source of local recommendations you'll ever find."

Fischer and Counts teach and play American Mah Jongg, following the rules of the National Mah Jongg League. What makes American Mah Jongg unique is the annual card of winning hands, which changes every year and keeps the game fresh and challenging. League and tournaments generally follow standardized rules.

Charleston makes an appearance in the game. In American Mah Jongg "Charleston" is a term for the tile passing phase that happens right after the deal.

My local experts had similar advice for beginners:

- Most people can learn. If you can recognize a pattern, you can play.
- The game is the perfect combination of luck, strategy, and the people you play with.
- The longer you play, the more strategic you become.
- It's great to win, but you can have a terrible hand and still have a fantastic time.
- Bring a friend or come solo, you'll soon feel right at home.
- The people around the table make the experience memorable.
- Beware, it can take over your life - but in a good way.

Stay healthy my friends and wave at me as I wander. Send ideas to: westashleywanderer@gmail.com.

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St. Andrew's Parks 2026 Holiday Programs



Holiday Tree Lighting

Date: Thursday, December 3 @ 6pm

Ages: All Ages | Fee: Free

Location: St. Andrew's

Picnic Shelter, 1095 Playground Road



Grubbin' with the Grinch

Date: Friday, December 11

Time:6pm – 8pm | Fees: $10 per person

Includes dinner, cookie decorating,

Grinch movie, a special guest, and more!

Location: St. Andrew's Gymnasium,

1095 Playground Road



Letters From Santa

Register by December 4

Fee: $5.00



Tennis Winter Break Camp

Ages: 5-12

Session 1 – Dec 21-23, 9:30am-3:30pm

Session 2 – Dec 28-30, 9:30am-3:30pm

Ages: 5-14

Session 1 – Dec 21-23, 9:30am-12pm

Session 2 – Dec 28-30, 9:30am-12pm

Location: St. Andrew's Tennis Courts
1095 Playground Road

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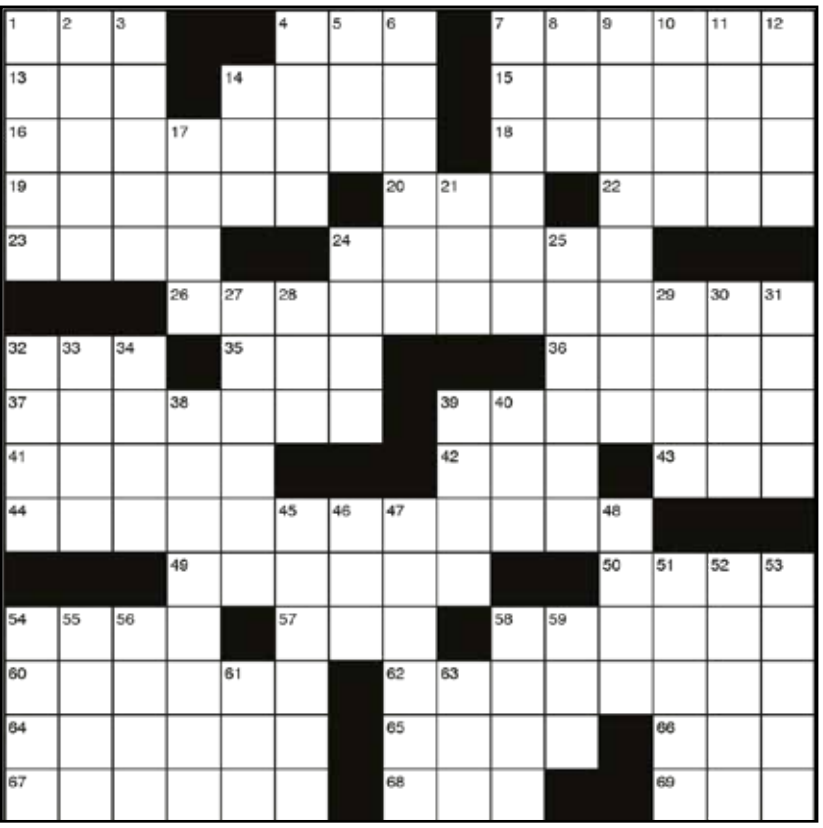
palate



FUN & GAMES

puzzle solutions on page 30

KLEW CROSSWORD



Klew Crossword

Play online: klew.app/p/4A1BD1

© 2026 Klew

ACROSS

1. Lighter or pen maker
4. Poke fun at
7. 1986 Tom Cruise film set among fighter pilots
13. "___ a deal!"
14. Puerto ___, U.S. territory in the Caribbean
15. Continent containing the Alps and the Rhine
16. Kitchen faucet output
18. Heraldic symbols on a coat of arms
19. Benes of "Seinfeld"
20. Breezy negative
22. Injection at the doctor's office
23. Lip-___: concert cheat
24. Stop, in a legal order
26. Bar event with a mic and a song list
32. Pixel, essentially
35. Gym floor covering
36. Give the nod
37. Malevolent glare
39. Seems, on the surface
41. Stamen's colorful surround
42. It follows Cancer but precedes Virgo
43. Put money on it
44. Longed-for destination
49. Diner or bistro, for example
50. Sauce simmered for hours
54. Showing signs of heavy use
57. Letters before a stage name
58. Eager worker, informally
60. One who cuts and polishes prose
62. Clock reminder for Nov. 1 ... and what to do with the last words of 16-, 26- and 44-Across
64. Packing a punch
65. The other side, so to speak
66. Eisenhower's nickname
67. Plumbing and carpentry, for example
68. Like a wilting bouquet
69. Ha ha, digitally

DOWN

1. Mosquito souvenirs
2. Nation that gave the world Dante, da Vinci, and espresso
3. Channel where filibusters go live
4. Initiation ceremony
5. Break it to get a conversation going
6. Island shared by three nations, including Malaysia and Brunei
7. IT department regular
8. Pronoun on a joint mortgage
9. Standing in the community
10. Mild oath of surprise
11. "What are you ___ these days?"
12. Hollow made by a swallow, say
14. Didn't walk
17. Candle's strand that catches a flame
21. Make a request
24. Calendar square or a plus-one
25. Attach quickly, as a lid
27. Bedelia of children's books
28. Charles, legendary soul pianist
29. Smash-and-___ heist element
30. "Present!" equivalent at roll call
31. Trial run
32. Johnny of "Edward Scissorhands"
33. Finished
34. Yugoslav leader Josip Broz ___
38. Mourned openly
39. NATO member to another NATO member
40. Pod resident
45. Gets the ball rolling
46. Sound from someone spooked
47. Early versions of a manuscript
48. Lacking color or excitement
51. Word in 'to no ___,' meaning utterly futile
52. Small lizard known for sticky feet
53. "Family Matters" nerd Steve ___
54. Had a good cry
55. Something a nose knows
56. Singer Ora
58. Spread beyond the margins, in printing
59. Tree ravaged by Dutch disease
61. Indefinite person, grammatically speaking
63. Light-bulb moment syllables

SUDOKU

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TRIVIA

1. WORDPLAY
What two-word term for online content designed to make people angry was named Oxford's Word of the Year in 2025?

2. ROCK N' ROLL
Rolling Stone just released a list of the Best 200 Rock Songs of the 21st Cenutry (so far). What 2003 hit was #1 on the list?

3. ACTORS & ACTRESSES
Best known as Stifler's Mom from American Pie, what actress the first two seasons of The White Lotus, who plays the wealthy, ill-fated character Tanya?

4. TELEVISON
Mr. Beef is the real restaurant in Chicago that serves as the primary exterior and pilot filming location for what popular TV show?

5. WORLD AFFAIRS
Last month, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva shocked many by winning what country's election?

6. HIP HOP
Who was just announced as the headliner for the 2027 Super Bowl Halftime Show?

7. LITERATURE
What author just released the sixth installment in the wildly popular A Court of Thorns and Roses series?

8. LAWSUITS
What legendary musician is suing Donald Trump's Campaign Committee for $10M for playing 'Rockin' in the Free World' at rallies?



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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

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)
• **Holiday Tree Lighting** – Thursday, Dec. 3, 6pm. Free. St. Andrew's Picnic Shelter, 1095 Playground Road.
• **Grubbin' with the Grinch – Includes dinner, cookie** decorating, Grinch movie, a special guest, and more. Friday, Dec. 11, 6-8pm. $10 per person. St. Andrew's Gymnasium
• **Letters From Santa** – Gives children a personalized letter directly from Santa's workshop along with a sprinkle of magic reindeer food for Christmas Eve. Register by Dec. 4. $5.
• **Tennis Winter Break Camp**: Ages 5-12 — Session 1: Dec 21-23, 9:30am-3:30pm. Session 2: Dec 28-30, 9:30am-3:30pm Ages: 5-14 — Session 1: Dec 21-23, 9:30am-12pm. Session 2: Dec 28-30, 9:30am-12pm at St. Andrew's Tennis Courts

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 for more information.
• **Putting Your Garden to Bed – Preparing Pollinator Habitats for Winter**: Nov. 19th 4-5pm. Magnolia Park & Garden, 720 Magnolia Rd. Free, register 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** – Nov. 5, 10am-12pm, $12, ages 12 & up
• **Tea Farm Creek Canoe Trip** – Nov. 14, 10:30am-1:30pm. Fee: $50, ages 12 & up.

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
• **There's Still a "Lot" to Learn** – Nov. 7, 13, 14, 28 from 11am-12pm
• Eco-explorers – Nov. 3, 17, from 11-11:30am
• **From the Collections: Special Artifact Highlight** – Nov. 7, 1-2pm
• **Colonial Trades and Harvest Day** – Nov. 14, 10am-4pm
• **Dining Detectives: Ceramic Mending Game** – Nov. 14, 1-2pm

Magnolia Plantation & Gardens
3550 Ashley River Rd., (843) 571-1266, www.magnoliaplantation.com
• **Airing of the Quilts** – Nov. 7, 9am-4pm, free, included with admission
• **Blueprint: The Art & Science of Cyanotype Printing** – Nov. 14 & 15, 9am-3pm. $350
• **Stretch & Sip: A Mindful Morning** – Nov. 14, 9-11am. $50
• 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
• **Panel Discussion: The Future is in Their Hands. Empowering a Next Generation of Preservationist** – Nov. 17. $25
• **Candlelight Tours** – Nov. 28, $45
• **Family Friday** – Nov. 6, 10-11am, for toddlers and preschoolers, $5
• **Free Days** – Nov. 3 & Dec. 12. Pre-registration required and space is limited.
• **Whiskey in America:** Archaeology Lecture and Tasting – Nov. 7 at 3:30pm. $75.
• **Webinar: Secrets of Drayton Hall, Ask Me Anything with Trish Lowe Smith** – Nov. 12, donation based
• **A Cup of History: The Way of Tea** – Nov. 14, 12:30-3pm, $110
• **Land, Liberty, & Loyalty:** The Drayton Hall and Middleton Place Legacies – Nov. 21, $10
• Holiday Sip and Shop: A Festive Lowcountry Shopping Event – Nov. 29, 10am-3pm, free admission

Middleton Place
4300 Ashley River Rd., (843) 556-6020, www.middletonplace.org
• **3rd Annual Bourbon and Bluegrass** – Nov. 7, 5-8pm, $250, VIP $500, limited availability
• **Michael W. Twitty**: Nov. 6, 10am-4p:30m, free with admission – Rooted in History, Exploring the ASÉ Garden; From Garden to Table: Cooking with Michael W. Twitty; Meet the Author and Book Signing
• **Storytime Under the Oaks** – Nov. 7, 10:30-11:30am, geared towards children ages 3-5, free with admission
• **Conversations of Freedom Speaker Series: Indigenous Groups' Role in the American Revolution** – Nov. 8, 3-5pm, free, pre-registration required
• **Generals Thomas Gage and George Washington: Their Rubric on the Eve of the American Revolution** – Nov. 15, 3-4pm, free, pre-registration required
• Scarf with Indigo Veggie Print – Nov. 22, 1-3pm, $70

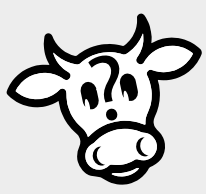
SENIOR PROGRAMS

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, andevents for updates, as someof these events may have changed.***

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

B	I	C	■	■	R	I	B	■	T	O	P	G	U	N
I	T	S	■	R	I	C	O	■	E	U	R	O	P	E
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Rage Bait
2. 'Maps' by Yeah Yeah Yeahs
3. Jennifer Coolidge
4. The Bear
5. Brazil
6. Jay Z
7. Sarah J. Maas
8. Neil Young

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