The purpose of this article is to provide an update of the recent activity of the Public Safety Committee. As a quick review, the Seabrook Island Public Safety Committee is a citizen board consisting of 5 volunteer members that was established by ordinance of Town Council. The fire service committee is chaired by an appointed member of the Town Council. The remaining at-large members are recommended by the chair and appointed by the full Council. Committee members serve for a two-year term which runs concurrent with the terms of the Mayor and Town Council.

One of the responsibilities of the committee is to include the property as it would then belong to the new owner, SIUC would then service that new customer. It remains our intent to service the property in a timely manner. As we service the property we are not willing to do so.

In the last few weeks, the Seabrook Island Utility Commission (SIUC) has received a handful of questions regarding our water and sewer service obligations and questions about available and future sewer capacity. Below is a bit of history and an overview of the current status.

Service Area Obligations

The Town of Seabrook Island purchased the water and sewer business from a private entity in 1995 through an Ordinance that established the Seabrook Island Utility Commission. At that time the Town agreed to accept the existing obligations to provide sewer service to limited areas outside of Seabrook. These included Canoe, Kiawah River Estates, Freshfields and the existing Bohicket Marina. Included in this obligation is a future development at new Freshfields, and property along Seabrook Island that includes the new treatment capacity. Water Capacity - SIUC purchases all of the water we deliver to our customers from St. Johns Water Company, which in turn purchases it from Charleston Water. We do not control or treat the water in our system and as we are not responsible for it. We simply pass the water along to our customers. There are plenty of water capacity to serve our main customers. Sewer Capacity - For all new customers, it’s our policy (similar to many utilities) that new customers build their own sewer lines at their cost all the way to the main line and then deed that infrastructure to SIUC. Regarding the impact a new customer has on our larger sewer treatment infrastructure and the potential cost to expand our treatment capacity, SIUC believes that existing customers should not have to foot this bill. As such, we charge all new customers an impact fee for service to our main customers and those said costs. Not surprisingly these costs have increased in the last couple of years and as such has impacted the fee.

Potential Andell 400 acres - 480,000 gallons per day peak flow = Actual daily flow would probably average 24,200 gpd. This is about 2.2% of our capacity. We are only going to serve this facility if and when the project is built out, the development is significant at 30% of our capacity. The following is a high-level view of the impact of new or potential projects near Seabrook that we are obligated to serve if they are built. These are estimates that provide a general idea. Capacity estimates are based on average flow per peak period. None of these projects are built and none of these projects have paid any impact fee.

- Bohicket Marina - 36,000 gallons/day (gpd) peak flow - Actual daily flow will probably average 24,200 gpd. This is about 2.2% of our capacity.
- MUSC - 6,000 gpd peak flow - Actual daily flow will probably average 4,800 gpd. This is 0.4% of our capacity.
- New Grocery Store and Retail (Kiawah Partners) - 12,000 gpd peak flow - Actual daily flow will probably average 9,000 gpd. This is 0.4% of our capacity.
- Marina expansion - 10,675 gpd peak flow - Actual daily flow will probably average 7,135 gpd. This is approximately 0.7% of our capacity. Note that we are only going to serve this facility if the Town decides to allow the property.

It’s our policy to always provide service to our customers. If the Town chooses to accept the property, SIUC would then serve that new property as it would then belong to the Town. If the Town chooses not to accept a property, SIUC would not and could not without Town’s approval choose to provide service to such a property.

The following is a bit of history and an overview of the current status.

SIUC is actively planning for the anticipated growth areas immediately outside of Seabrook. When these developments are built out, the development is directly responsible for installing and paying for all the infrastructure for their development to the point of hook up with the SIUC system. Further, the developments pay an impact fee to SIUC that goes towards paying for the additional infrastructure. Thus, these developments should not financially impact existing SIUC customers. SIUC is actively planning for the future needs of our customers and we are committed to continuing to provide excellent service both in water and sewage.

Healthy and Happy New Year!

Annie Smith-Jones, Chair
Larry Buckman
Jim Ferland
Seabrook Island Utility Commission
Commissioner@siuc.org
https://www.siuc.org

1. Never give personal information.
2. Never call a 900 number to claim a prize.
3. Don’t succumb to the pressure of an aggressive con artist.
4. Be aware of health products and treatments that promise fast and amazing results and/or cures.
5. Be aware of any cheap repair work or other home improvement that otherwise would be expensive.

These and other important subjects would be part of any educational outreach program.

So, what’s ahead for 2023? The PSC will continue our data collection and improve the Fire District’s ability to serve the residents and visitors of Seabrook Island. The PSC will continue to improve the ability of the city to respond to the needs of our members. We have a large team of volunteers who are dedicated to serving our community.

The committee will also remain focused on the task of being sure that we are as prepared as possible for any weather emergency. There are lots of people who help the PSC do this important task, most volunteers. To them we would like to offer a sincere “thank you.”

We would also like to recognize the members of the PSC, Ed Mahle, vice chair; Virginia Lark Asbell; Frank Price; and Art Jones. Their willingness to be part of this group and volunteer constructive suggestions and ideas is greatly appreciated.

And finally, on behalf of the members of the PSC, we would like to wish all a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Seabrook Island Utility Commission Overview

VOL 25 • ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2022

Public Safety Committee

FROM TOWN HALL

The Seabrook Staff and Contributors want to wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!
Wells. He received his PhD in crystallography from Tulane University and worked for DuPont for many years, first as a chemist and later as a human resources consultant. Joe was passionate about classic music, particularly opera; he sang in the Tulane Choir and then in various local choirs throughout his life including the Island Choral Ringers. He also loved traveling, playing golf, good food, and good friends.

Joe Leslie Wells, 80, of Seabrook Island, South Carolina, son of Mary Elizabeth Finan Wells and William Leslie Wells, entered eternal rest Thursday, September 15, 2022. Joe was born March 5, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, son of the late Victor Perry Wells and Anna James Wells. He received his PhD in crystallography from Tulane University and worked for DuPont for many years, first as a chemist and later as a human resources consultant. Joe was passionate about classic music, particularly opera; he sang in the Tulane Choir and then in various local choirs throughout his life including the Island Choral Ringers. He also loved traveling, playing golf, good food, and good friends.

Holidays are a time of joy and reflection, a chance to reconnect with loved ones and to pause from the routines of daily life. This year, Seabrook Island has prepared a festive atmosphere with a variety of events to celebrate the holiday season. From carol singings to candlelight tours, there is something for everyone to enjoy. The Summerhouse Art Center is hosting a holiday open house featuring local artists and their works. The Seabrook Island Museum is offering a special exhibit on the history of the island, while the Seabrook Island Library is hosting a series of children’s storytimes and craft activities. And for those who enjoy outdoor activities, the nature trails around the island are illuminated with twinkling lights, creating a magical experience.

For Seabrook Island residents and visitors alike, the holiday season is a time of giving and sharing. Acts of kindness and generosity are encouraged throughout the community, with local businesses offering discounts and promotions to support local merchants. The Seabrook Island Foundation is collecting donations for the Seabrook Island Food Pantry, and community-wide volunteer opportunities are available through the Seabrook Island Volunteer Association. By coming together to celebrate the holidays, Seabrook Island creates a sense of unity and shared purpose.
Preserving Green Space on Seabrook Island

Seabrook Island's wildlife habitat or greenspace has been significantly diminished due to habitat modification or land use change. Much of the island's once extensive forestland has been replaced by suburban development. Where greenspace does remain within the Seabrook Island Development (SID), it is fragmented and present in isolated patches. The progressive loss of greenspace on Seabrook Island is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 in 1973 and in 2020, respectively.

The Nominating Committee of the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association is pleased to announce that several candidates have agreed to run for four available positions on the Board of Directors and three candidates have agreed to run for two positions on the Nominating Committee. The current terms will expire for John Künne, Chuck Rehl, and Chuck Cross. Sam Dolinsky's term will also expire, but he is running for another term.

The Nominating Committee reviewed 200 candidate recommendations and personally reached out to about 190 candidates. We are grateful for those who have agreed to serve. The names of the candidates who have agreed to run for the Board or the Nominating Committee are as follows:

Board of Directors, Three Year Term (Four available positions):
- Kevin Boyle
- Sam Dolinsky
- Sue Ferland
- Andrew Grimalda
- Susan May
- Joyce Phillips
- Mike Shimp

Nominating Committee, Two Year Term (Two available positions):
- Sarah Cassady
- Timothy Croal
- Luke Hoover

As home building continues apace on Seabrook Island and the remaining vacant lots dwindle quickly, the Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy (SIGSC) is working diligently to preserve green space on the Island. In SIGSC’s 22 years of property acquisition, 42 properties have either been donated or purchased, and over 30 acres of land have been protected just since 2020, 8 lots totaling almost 3 acres have been donated to the Seabrook Island Property Owners Association with permanent conservation easements. This could not have been done without the support of numerous generous Seabrookers.

As you will see, modest, unsubsidized SIGSC signs mark all conserved properties so that you can identify them as you travel around the Island. While these properties will never be developed, SIGSC provides oversight and maintenance.

A key asset of our island home is its natural beauty and the abundance of wildlife. The Conservancy helps to ensure that the immense value of that asset is preserved and protected for all of us. Green space also helps reduce soil erosion and flooding, increase wildlife habitats, and promote water quality, climate regulation and quality of life.

Established in 2000, the Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy is a 501 (c) (3) corporation with the goal of obtaining high visibility properties and easements that facilitate the preservation of substantial green space, habitats, and preservation within the SID. Around 40 of these acres are protected from development by trusts and conservation easements. The remaining acreage is at risk of being lost to residential development. The SIGSC and Seabrook Island Green Space Conservancy (SIGSC) are working diligently to acquire and conserve as much of this remaining greenspace as possible. If you wish to donate land, make a financial contribution, or learn more about Seabrook’s land conservation program, please go to https://www.SIGSC.net.
Ed and I were at Seabrook during an unseasonably warm week in November and went birding on North Beach several days. Shortly before or after high tide is the best time to observe birds on the beach. High tide got us up early that week and we were treated to the beautiful sunrise as we began our hunt. And what great finds on those early mornings!

What fun to see 10 Piping Plovers, including our snowbird Red Yellow, huddled down in the beach wrack at high tide. After observing them in the scope and shooting a few photographs, we walked down the beach and ran into a visiting mom and daughter from Rhode Island. The young woman had written a school paper on Piping Plovers and asked if we could tell her where to see one. See one?? How about 10! We took them down the beach and shared our scope so they could observe the plovers. How excited they were!

We like to go to the beach this time of year to look for salty marsh sparrows. These are hard to find little birds that are in the marsh grasses at high tide. Often they can be seen by the old inlet. It takes a lot of patience and a lot of “pishing” to get a glimpse, as their color camouflages them in the marsh grass. We were fortunate to get some great looks and photos. Three varieties frequent Seabrook this time of year, the Saltmarsh, the Nelson’s, and the Seaside. Each is unique in appearance and a “cutie patootie”!

As we were searching for the salty sparrows we heard the clattering cackle of a Clapper Rail in the salt marsh – usually heard but not often seen. It must have been our lucky morning as we got great looks of this bird too, as it stalked along the muddy edge of the marsh, twiching its tail along the way.

Another surprise was the Reddish Egret we spotted in the lagoon over several days. It’s such a joy to watch this bird feed and do its “dance”. It leaps, runs, jumps and twirls. One description of them is “choreography worthy of Fred Astaire!” Reddish Egrets “dance” to stir up the bottom and get their prey to come out of hiding and swim around. Sometimes they raise three wings over their head to create a shadow on the water, then wait for the fish to be attracted to a patch of shade to catch them! Reddish are usually at North Beach late summer into early fall. This was a very late one and a real treat to see in November.

Seabrook Island Birders’ Upcoming Programs

December 7 • Evening Program
7pm • Lakehouse

Seabrook Island Birders presents
Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks & Limpkins…are SC residents!

Wednesday December 7, 2022

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2022
Registration starts 7:00 pm - Program starts 7:30 pm
Location: Live Oak Hall at the Lake House
Join/Renew SIB in 2023 for only $15.00
Register: www.evotickets.com/clubseabrook/roseate-spoonbills-wood-storks-limpkin-sc-residents-
tickets: 469193180917
Questions? Email us at: SeabrooksIslandBirders@gmail.com

Seabrook Island Birders presents
A World on the Wing by Scott Weidensaul

Book reading in December & January Zoom program on January 22, 2023

Join Seabrook Island Birders as we read A World on the Wing by Scott Weidensaul.

Scott is a renowned bird migration expert, and author of more than two dozen books on natural history. These include New York Times bestseller A World on the Wing, and Pulitzer Prize finalist Living on the Wing. He’s a contributing editor for Audubon, and is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society. An active field researcher, his studies of migration have taken him all around the world.

Our island-wide book reading culminates in an author led Zoom program on Sunday, January 22, 2023. SIB members can attend a book club style reception at the Oystercatcher Community Center at 4 pm, then view Scott’s Zoom at 5pm. SIB members & guests can view the 5pm Zoom from the comfort of their homes.

“...I’m not a birder, but Weidensaul persuades me that I could be, and that a greater appreciation of the movement and behaviour of migratory birds might bring me into closer contact with what it means to be a living thing on Earth...- Ashish Ghoshal, The Guardian

Read Scott’s book: A World on the Wing available at Indigo Books, John Mother Library, Amazon.com
Attend Scott’s program: Sunday, January 22, 2023
4-5pm reception, at Oystercatcher Community Center
Zoom with Scott at 5pm
Registration information will be available January 2023
Questions? Email us at: SeabrooksIslandBirders@gmail.com
If you haven’t been keeping up with Seabrook Island Village, Neighbors helping Neighbors, you’ve been missing out on a lot.

The services the Village offers to its members has morphed into something quite different than just the services we’ve been making to our members in the past. We realized that SIV staff and volunteers were seeing our members but were not seeing each other, so we initiated quarterly get togethers with wine and cheese. That brings us to the current year where those quarterly gatherings are now monthly events, with full meals at the Oyster Catcher Community Center, with adult beverages and prizes. These meetings are sometimes the only social events on our members’ calendars and we are thrilled to offer these opportunities for connecting with other Seabrookers.

Our Thanksgiving event on November 10th had to be cancelled due to tropical storm Ian. That means our December event on December 8th will be a full-blown Thanksgiving/Christmas big celebration. Many of our volunteers enjoy coming to these events as well. Friendships have developed between our volunteers and members, either because the member is being driven to some appointment or is getting a home visit from a volunteer.

Our weekly fitness program has turned out to be a huge success. It has been continued for some time into the future and the Village is now picking up 25% of the cost. Members enjoy being with each other, exercising together and getting some social time that not all members have.

We have also added programs of educational experiences. We have one coming up on January 26 where the panel will be discussing end of life choices and things we all need to think about to plan for our deaths, whenever they may occur. The panel will be Bonny Compton, Dr. Greg Compton and Irv Condon, who is the Charleston County Judge of Probate. The Compton’s will talk about end of life discussions with friends, relatives and family, open discussions about the state of your health. What do close ones need to know about various physical conditions you may be coping with and what is the prognosis for those conditions into the future.

As you can see, Seabrook Island Village, Neighbors helping Neighbors, has moved well beyond our basic charge of taking care of the actual needs of our members, to helping them prepare what lies ahead for them in the future.

Come join us. We’re having a lot of fun.

Barbara Burgess
As the calendar yearned ap prooches, it is always worthwhile to think about the tax ramifications on your investment portfolios and activities. Most actions that you might take in December are tactical, but some might be strategic.

My definitions are that “tactical” moves are in the shorter term: reasons and “strategic” moves are to implement plans to meet your long-term goals. Hopefully, your tactical moves will be a subset of your longer term investment philosophy. I am a strong believer that investors have a much greater risk of failure when they attempt tactical trades than they do with developing and maintaining a longer term strategic perspective.

Nonetheless, there is wisdom in this quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin: “In this world, nothing can be said to be certain but Death and Taxes.” To add a cliché, we must always have the “tactical” cat wag the “investments dog.” These two statements sum up to advising us to be aware of taxes we will owe, but that keeping our longer term strategic positions front of mind is more important in meeting our investment objectives.

One key tactic, particularly in a bear market, is tax loss harvesting. This is done by reversing the securities held in taxable investment accounts. This holds true for stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds and other such securities. Subtract the half of your total purchase price from its market value, and if the result is negative, you have a tax loss. If you then sell the security, you will realize the loss and it can be used to offset gains you may have realized in other securities. For most of us, we can subtract a net realized loss of up to $3,000 from your income when preparing your taxes. A net loss greater than that can be carried over to future tax years.

If you hold mutual funds in a tax-able account, this is a good time to check to see if there will be taxable distributions. For instance, I hold shares of The Gabelli Small Cap Growth Fund. Despite the fact that the Fund is in the red for the year, they realized long term capital gains that require a distribution to shareholders of $0.82 per share. I could avoid this pain by selling my shares, but that tactic would also trigger a capital gain. More importantly, I consider Gabelli SCG to be a strategic long term holding and I do not want to sell it.

So, what can I do? The Gabelli distribution is beyond my control. However, I can review other security positions I hold that have unrealized losses. Perhaps one of them now looks less promising and should be sold to offset the Gabelli distribution. I guess the upside of a Bear Market in both stocks and bonds is that many of us will find we have unrealized losses that can be harvested before December 31.

Another action that is sort of a blend of tactical and strategic is “re-balancing” your investments. If you have a diversification plan for your investment portfolio, you might be aiming for an asset allocation of 60% stocks, 20% bonds, 10% cash. If the market does not generally purchase price from its market value, and if the result is negative, you have realized long term capital gains from the Gabelli distribution. I guess the upside of a Bear Market in both stocks and bonds is that many of us will find we have unrealized losses that can be harvested before December 31.

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HEALTHY AGING
Jerry Reves, MD

IT'S THE MOST STRESSFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

Holidays are stressful and, therefore, not necessarily good for one's health. Merriam-Webster defines stress as “one of bodily or mental tension resulting from factors that tend to alter an existing equilibrium.” And that is the problem: the holidays do in fact disrupt our equilibrium—every December!

A major reason for the stress is that the reality does not meet the expectations. We want the holidays to be happy and merry! But, do you do so with one Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah? Expectations are also set high by all the media advertisements, the countless joyous holiday movies (rebroadcast every year), and the seemingly endless number of holiday parties (where only a Grinch would be out of sorts). Of course, the reality is we are the same people during the holidays as any other time; and things are not always as joyful as we hope. We might have suffered a major loss; we might have a chronic illness; we certainly have friends and family who can upset our equilibrium. The result is physical and mental stress.

STRESSORS
There are a host of stressors at this time of year. Your list will be longer than you might think:

1. ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING AROUND YOU. Your list will be longer than you might think.
2. Be careful of the holiday staffs. Provide a list of things that cause stress.
3. Be aware of the holiday staffs.
4. Be aware of the holiday staffs.
5. Be aware of the holiday staffs.
6. Be aware of the holiday staffs.
7. Maintain an exercise regimen and build in relaxation time.
8. Avoid confrontational conversations, e.g., politics.
9. If a believer: observe the holy days.
10. Accept/share your feelings, even if they are not cheerful.
11. There is one additional issue, most challenging at this time of year, and that is how to cope with the rash of parties and the all too frequent drinking that threatens our health.

HOLIDAY FOOD CHOICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose More Often:</th>
<th>Choose Less Often:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey breast</td>
<td>Beef prime rib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tossed salad</td>
<td>Stuffing / gravy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken breast</td>
<td>Pie / Cake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steamed vegetables</td>
<td>Bread pudding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral water</td>
<td>Candy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh fruit</td>
<td>Eggnog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain potatoes</td>
<td>Sugar-sweetened beverages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain rice</td>
<td>High-calorie alcoholic beverages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: What to Eat! http://www.dining.ucla.edu/housing_site/dining/SNAC_pdf/GiftOfGoodHealth.pdf

HOLIDAY PARTY ETIQUETTE

1. None to treaty, ally, etc. with for- es without thought.
2. No state to grant nobility
3. League offense and defense
4. Each sovereign except according to rights delegated, etc.
5. Name United States
6. Say to rights delegated, etc.
7. No state to grant nobility
8. No state to grant nobility
9. No state to grant nobility
10. Accept/share your feelings, even if they are not cheerful.

There is one additional issue, most challenging at this time of year, and that is how to cope with the rash of parties and all the food that threatens our health. UCLAs “Gift of Good Health” has published a marvelous short guide entitled “Healthy Eating for the Holiday.” (See table below.)

THE BOTTOM LINE
Holidays in this country primarily are commemorations of the birth of Jesus and Jewish Festival of Lights. These are occasions that have deep meaning for those who observe them, but for many the holidays have been remade into more than originally intended. It is also important at this time to remember and grieve for those lost to us—spouses, family, friends, your health, and the host of other sufferings of the year and previous years. And finally, since this is a time of happiness, take every opportunity to expose yourself to those things that are humorous and bring you laughter.

November, 1777: The Second Continental Congress adopts the Articles of the Confederation

1. Name United States
2. Each sovereign except according to rights delegated, etc.
3. League offense and defense
4. None to treaty, ally, etc. with forces without thought
5. No state to grant nobility
6. No state to treaty or ally together without liberty of the United States, etc.
7. This is how Arthur Middleton’s encoded notes on the Articles of Confederation begin, entitled simply Confederation, in Middleton’s papers housed in the South Carolina Historical Society archives. The document goes on to list fourteen articles. As a member of the Continental Congress that drafted and approved the Articles, Middleton’s papers include correspondence, memoranda, and other encoded notes about them and the process of developing them. Though adopted in 1777, Articles of Confederation were not fully ratified until 1781. They were a means of providing rule during the tumultuous American Revolution years, and the Articles were the law of the newly self-governing land until the United States Constitution was written and ratified about a decade later. The Continental Congress who approved them included several South Carolinians, Patrick Henry, Arthur Middleton, and Thomas Heyward.

Henry Laurens was a Charleston merchant, whose import-export business thrived in enslaved persons, rum, Carolina Gold rice, indigo, and other popular goods of the time. He was also the owner of Monck Point, a South Carolina state
COVAR, The Council of Villas and Regimes on Seabrook Island has 41 associations and regimes that comprise its membership. Close to 80% of the Short-Term Rentals (STR) on Seabrook Island can be found among our member neighborhoods. 2023 will bring new changes to your STR to ensure that it is compliant with The Town of Seabrook Island (TOSI) and Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA) regulations, as well as the State of South Carolina. The Town of Seabrook Island Ordinance 2020-14, passed in November 2020 required a Short-Term Rental permit for all rental units on Seabrook Island. This permit was in addition to the previously required Business License and Tax Obligations. On October 25, 2022, Ordinance 2022-5 and 2022-6 amendments were passed at Town Council meeting, starting at second reading and become effective January 1, 2023. Two major changes affecting STRs will be the addition of a 1% local (Seabrook Island) accommodations tax (2022-5), collected by TOSI, as well as an increase in fees for the application/renewal of an STR permit (2022-6), including a new fee schedule for applications not processed by the renewal application due date.

If you rent out your property through a rental agency, your Business License, Short-Term Rental Permit and Tax Obligations may be handled by your rental agent. However, it is your responsibility to verify which of them, if any, the agency is assuming responsibility. Any obligation for which the agency does not assume responsibility remains your responsibility as the owner. You must know the license and tax requirements of South Carolina, Charleston County, and the Town of Seabrook Island (TOSI). The license/permit/tax requirements apply if you, (1) rent exclusively through an agency, but it does not assume responsibility for specified license and tax obligations, (2) rent both through an agency and on your own or (3) rent exclusively on your own.

Short-Term Rental Permits

Requirements

Business License obtained from TOSI - TOSI requires a business license for “every person who is engaged or intending to engage in any calling, business, occupation or profession within the Town limits.” Property rentals are considered Class 7 licenses and the cost is based on the total gross income of the business for the preceding calendar year. Note that a business license only covers a single rental property. Multiple properties require a license for each property rented.

TOSI Permitting Requirements for Short-Term Rental Units

- Effective January 1, 2021, all residential dwellings which are rented or leased (or offered for rent or lease) as an overnight accommodation for periods of less than 30 consecutive days will be required to obtain an annual Short-Term Rental (STR) Permit, in addition to the above-mentioned Business License.

Renewing Your Business License and Short-Term Rental Permit

In 2023 - The application and renewal period for STRs will open on April 1, 2022 with a deadline of April 30, 2023. Within TOSI Ordinance 2022-5, there is a new fee schedule for STR permits effective January 1, 2023:

- 1. Short-Term Rental Permit New $450.00
- 2. Short-Term Rental Permit - Renewal $450.00
- 3. Modification of Existing Short-Term Rental Permit: Change of Owner, Agent, or Local Contact $25.00
- 4. All Other Modifications $100.00
- 5. Reinstatement of Suspended Short-Term Rental Permit $225.00
- 6. Late Application Fee (if received After Renewal Deadline or Commercial Renting Prior to Issuance) - $31 Days Late Permit Fee $450.00
- $26.41 Days Late Permit Fee $200.00
- $61.64 Days Late Permit Fee $450.00

Contact Nicole Nettles, Town of Seabrook Island Short-Term Rental Compliance Officer at nettles@municipalcharleston.org for further information, current costs, and license/permit application information. In case you are not aware of the language of Town of Seabrook Island Ordinance 2020-14, the ordinance was passed by Town Council on November 17, 2020, and became effective January 1, 2021.

Ordinance 2020-14 addresses Short-Term Rentals (STR) on Seabrook Island. Among many requirements this ordinance defines occupancy of a rental unit, with 2 people allowed per bedroom plus 2 for units under 2400 square feet while units over 2400 square feet are allowed 2 people per bedroom plus 4.

Bedrooms are as defined in the homeowner’s tax record on file with Charleston County. For example, occupancy for a 2000 square foot cottage with 2 bedrooms would be a permitted occupancy of 6 people.

There are other specific requirement in the ordinance that will apply to each rental unit. These requirements can be found online on the TOSI website (www.townofseabrook.com).

New SIPOA Short-Term Rental Policy

On May 16, 2022, the SIPOA Board of Directors approved a new policy concerning Short-Term Rentals on Seabrook Island. The new STR Policy, which can be found at www.sipoa.org under the “Visitors and Guests” tab requires all rentals to register their property with SIPOA. To process this request, you will be required to have a 2023 SIPOA business license number as well as TOSI STR permit number. Registration costs are at no cost to the property owner.

This new STR policy also clearly outlines SIPOA’s focus, which is on STRs. Of particular attention, “the management of Short-Term Renter Gate Passes entered per Rental Property must not exceed the number of bedroom in the Property (minimum 2 passes)”. Rental guests are no longer allowed to call the gate house to request additional gate passes. These requests must be processed through the rental management company.

Low and Medium Density (LSD) properties, as well as All Other Uses (LUS) are included in the vehicle count. For example, you are renting 2-bedroom unit, you are allowed gate passes for 2 vehicles or 1 vehicle and one LSV. 3 bedrooms are allowed 3 vehicles, 4 bedroom 4 vehicles, etc. All vehicles must display their gate pass at all times on the driver’s side dashboard, must be parked on the paved driveway or designated parking area for the unit and cannot be parked on any landscaped portions on improved properties. The rules are strictly enforced by SIPOA. “Failure to display a gate pass for entry and/or parking may result in a citation and violation assessment.”

SIPOA access fees per vehicle will also be charged for STR gate passes. All gate passes must be picked up at the new Gate Pass facility located on Seabrook Island Road, immediately after the entree to Bohicket Marina.
HOMEGROWN HOLIDAY BAZAAR

December 12, 2020
2620 Hanscombe Point Road (Legare Farms)
Johns Island, SC

The seventh annual Homegrown Holiday Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 12, 2020 from 10:00am-3:00pm at 2620 Hanscombe Point Rd, (Legare Farms) Johns Island. This event is a great way for local businesses to reach the community for the holidays and is brought to you by Sea Islands Chamber of Commerce.

The Homegrown Holiday Bazaar is the area's one-stop shop for all things LOCAL & FESTIVE! Over the last years we have had over 170 local vendors throughout the community joined together offering a unique shopping opportunity and fun-filled, eventful day. We hope you will join us this year for lots of holiday fun!

Charleston's Annual Holiday Parade of Boats

December 10, 2022
5:30PM • Admission: FREE

Join a Lowcountry holiday tradition, the Charleston holiday boat parade, as this display of lighted and festive boats proceeds from the Cooper River, through the Charleston Harbor and into the Ashley River. This family-friendly event will become a holiday tradition for everyone. View the procession along Charleston's waterfront, or decorate your own boat and join the parade. The festivities begin along the shores of Mount Pleasant at 5:00 p.m., and viewing from the downtown peninsula starts around 7:30 p.m.

Wishing You a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

2740 Colonel Harrison Dr, Johns Island
5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths, 3206 F^2 | $974,900

This stunning home is located in Stonoview, one of the most sought-after riverfront communities on Johns Island. Featuring ten-foot ceilings and an abundance of large windows, this light and bright space offers river and lake views all around. The huge kitchen with quartz countertops, subway tile backsplash, large walk-in pantry, and a spacious island opens to the living and dining areas with a ship-lap detailed fireplace. The location can't be beat, close to the community deep water dock and kayak launch, and across the street from the pool, pavilion and playground.

Listed By:
Jack Wilson, REALTOR®
704.561.9843
jwilson@dunesproperties.com

The Kiawah Seabrook Group | Dunes Properties®
Real Estate Sales | Conveniently located at Bohicket Marina | 843.768.9800

A LEGENDARY WATERFRONT CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Thousands of Christmas lights go on at dusk! Nightly lights display begins November 25th

CHARLESTON'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARADE OF BOATS

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Best Places to view the parade: Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina, Mt. Pleasant Memorial Waterfront Park Pier, SC Aquarium area, Liberty Square, Charleston Maritime Center, Riley Waterfront Park, and The Battery area as far as Tradd St.

PLAN YOUR SALTY DOG CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE
charleston.saltydog.com

Enjoy fireside s'mores every Friday 5-8pm through February!
On Monday, November 7, 2022, Low Country golfers teed up in the 11th Annual Seabrook Island Veteran’s Day Charitable Golf Tournament to recognize veterans and raise money to support the Charleston Fisher House and the Ralph Johnson Veterans Hospital in Charleston. The event is sponsored by the Seabrook Island Club and the Kiawah-Seabrook Exchange Club with the Seabrook Island Real Estate Company as a major contributor. During the opening ceremonies, the flag was presented by the St. Johns High School Jr. ROTC Color Guard and WWII veteran Ed Gillen was recognized for his service. The Seabrook Island Club hosted 200 golfers including 20 Wounded Warriors who wanted to show their support for veterans of all eras. The event raised over $28,000 for the Fisher House and Ralph Johnson Charleston Veterans Hospital. The Ocean Winds Flight 1 winning team was composed of Paul Ricken, Constantine Constandis, Weston Malon and Bryan Thomas. The Ocean Winds Flight 2 winners were Vic Evans, Cliff Williams, John Brock, and Wounded Warrior Mark Beaulieu. The Crooked Oaks Flight 1 leaders were George Fink, Bill Greubel, Wounded Warrior Barry McManus, and Wounded Warrior Shawn Whitmore. The Crooked Oaks Flight 2 champions were Martin Vincenttens, Barbara Vincenttens, Bob Burke, and Sally Burke. The event in 2023 will be on Monday, November 6.
A Brief History of Seabrook Island Dog Owners Group (SIDOGS)

Was it Brie or Was it Cheddar?
In 2004, a very sweet Labrador snatched a piece of cheese from a cocktail party on the beach. This canine error caused much discussion about the subject of dogs-off-leash on the Seabrook Island beaches.

As a result, the Seabrook Island Dog Owners Group was started by Jerry and Hutchie Cummin and Ronda Dean to encourage the town of Seabrook Island to adopt an ordinance allowing off-leash dogs on the beach. This was passed on a trial basis for one year designating an area for dogs to be off-leash but under voice control on North Beach, with different times for winter and summer seasons. The ordinance became permanent in 2006, although over the years it has been adjusted to consider the wellbeing of coastal birds, turtle nesting periods and campers at Camp St. Christopher.

The mission statement of SIDOGS is:
1. SIDOGS intent is to provide a unified voice for communication to the town of Seabrook Island, Seabrook Island Property Owners Association (SIPOA), rental clients, other dog owners and residents of Seabrook Island specific to dog ownership and respectful cohabitation of dogs and all residents of Seabrook Island.
2. Reduce the number of offensive incidents involving dogs through education and communication.
3. Provide ongoing training opportunities to our membership for obedience, health, nutrition, and other issues owners may have with their dogs.
4. Schedule informative and interesting meetings several times a year with guest speakers.
5. Provide periodic email blasts with updates relative to our group and its upcoming activities.

Each year SIDOGS has organized both educational and fun events with various speakers and has also assisted SIPOA with some of their dog activities.

Our presentations have included:
1. Therapy dogs, training, mission, and institutions served.
2. Demonstration of the K9 Unit of the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office.
3. Handling medical emergencies by Angel Oak Animal Hospital.
4. Acupuncture for dogs by Bees Ferry Hospital.
5. Nutrition for dogs by Ric Sommons from Dolittles.
6. Dr. Alan Green DVM, founder of Charleston Veterinary Referral Clinic.
7. Hank Greer and Joe Elmore from the Charleston Animal Society on their history and evacuation pipeline for help after hurricanes.
8. Dog Whisperer by Barbara Rawson.
9. Kelly Orris – dog training
10. Pilots and Paws Transport Rescue Dogs for Free

Our fundraising events have included annual beach walks and donations collected at meetings. The total raised from 2006 – 2022 is over $30,000.

Who Can Join?
Any Seabrook Island resident or property owner with an interest in issues affecting dogs on Seabrook Island. Our annual dues help offset some of the costs involved in our various activities. Please join us to continue this good work in our community. To find out more about SIDOGS or how to become a member, please visit our website at www.sidogs.org.

Meg Davidson

Meg Davidson
Plan. Councilwoman Finke noted the next Environmental and Wild- life Committee meeting will be on November 16th. Mayor Gregg noted the Town’s Annual Public Safety Committee Meeting on October 18th. Councilman Kortvelesy discussed potentially having a table with the Charleston County Sheriff’s Department information during the Chow Town Food Truck Rodeo’s or having a Public Safety Fair.

Public Works Committee: Councilman Barry Goldstein noted the following items:
1. The installation of the new second floor electrical panel.
2. The upcoming off-road vehicle buildout planning meeting.
3. The proposed new library and town hall project.

Public Safety Committee Meeting on October 18th. Councilman Kortvelesy discussed the possibility of having a table with the Charleston County Sheriff’s Department information during the Chow Town Food Truck Rodeo’s or having a Public Safety Fair.

Special Committee: None.

Town Administrator: Councilwoman Patricia Fox expressed concern for the future of the town hall side of the Shred Event on October 21st. Councilman Mike Williams noted the need for the Shred Event on October 21st.

Ordinance 2022-06: An ordinance to amend the Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina. Section 9-15 of the Code to add a section for the collection of fees for services provided by the Town. A discussion about the need for the Shred Event.

Ordinance 2022-07: An ordinance to amend the Code for the Town of Seabrook Island, South Carolina. Section 9-15 of the Code to add a section for the collection of fees for services provided by the Town.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31PM.
The Exchange Club of Kiawah-Seabrook makes more than $138,000 in grants to Johns/Wadmalaw Island projects.

Each year, the Exchange Club of Kiawah-Seabrook awards grants to organizations in the Low Country whose mission is to help the citizens of Johns and Wadmalaw Island. This year’s award ceremony, held November 2 at the Seabrook Island Club, was a celebration of the great work being done by these organizations for the community. Recipient organizations are identified by Club members committees in five categories and organizations are vetted in detail, and in many cases, board members conduct on-site visits with the organizations prior to making the awards. It’s not unusual for the relationship between the organizations and Club members to extend beyond the grant, with Club members providing counsel and serving on the boards of various organizations.

Since the program was launched, the Club has granted more than $2.5 million to organizations supporting Johns and Wadmalaw Island. The following are this year’s award recipients for each category:

**Community Service/Hunger and Shelter**
- Backpack Buddies
- Blessings Basket
- Meals on Wheels
- Sea Island Cares
- Sweetgrass Garden Co-op
- New Horizon Food Pantry
- We Care of Charleston
- Helen-Zion Food Pantry
- Helen-Zion Senior Citizens
- AMOR Kitchen
- St. James Bethel AME Sunday Dinner
- Health and Housing
- Harvey Hand Free Medical Clinic
- Paraclete Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity
- Water Wellness Mission
- Child Abuse/Prevention
- Dee Norton Advocacy Center
- Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina
- Low Country Orphan Relief (LCOR)
- KALOS

**Youth and Education**
- Angel Oak Elementary School
- Charleston Day School
- Camp Hi Hopes
- Charleston County Juvenile School
- Community and Schools
- CSO Education
- First Flight Elementary School
- Hug Gap Middle School
- Mt. Zion Elementary School
- Youth of the Month
- High School Scholarship
- Americanism
- Friends of the Fisher House
- Seabrook Island Veterans Day Golf Outing

**Youth of the Month**
- Charleston Collegiate School
- Camp Happy Days
- Youth and Education
- Dee Norton Advocacy Center
- Charleston School
- Paraclete Foundation
- Helen-Zion Food Pantry
- Helen-Zion Senior Citizens
- AMOR Kitchen
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The story of Santa and Christmas is nothing but a myth. It’s a myth because nothing but a myth could be so outrageous. Many of the prominent cultures of the world are involved in the myth. The story is built upon elements of Christian religion, Nordic, and Germanic cultures that combine to create an impossible tale that we should believe.

The myth begins about 280 AD with a Turkish monk, named Nicolas, who inherited a fortune. He spent the rest of his life giving his wealth away to the poor children. Nicolas rose to become a bishop in the early Christian church and died on December 6th, 343 AD. Tales of his good works followed his death and he was made the patron saint of children around 800 AD.

His memory was carried along through the ages by the Dutch who celebrated his birthday every December 6th. The current name of Santa Claus is an evolution of Sinter Klaus, the Dutch name for St. Nicolas. From there the tale gets crazier as it rolls down the years through other cultures.

It is not clearly known how the Nordic culture of the North Pole, the snow, reindeer, toys, and full of life, a workshop, with toy-making elves, got attached to the myth. Nor is it known how the act of delivering all those toys, down the chimney, all in one night could happen. But here we are.

In some cultures, not all kids were rewarded with toys. The Austrians also included the anti-Santa, Krampeg, to their celebration. Krampus, a child-eating ogre who roamed the dark streets of Austrian towns every December 6th. It was his job to eat the naughty kids who were not on Santa’s nice list. This part of the myth was not widely spread and didn’t evolve into giving a lump of coal to the naughty kids instead of eating them. This was a huge relief to Austrian children.

The question of whether Christ is a religious holiday is open for discussion. O’Hanlon says it best. “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.” He exists in our minds today.

The Club holds dinner meetings about every three weeks, providing an opportunity for fellowship and fun, along with a guest speaker discussing some aspect of life in the Low Country. Other activities include an annual holiday concert and rehearsals to the Christmas Symphony throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more about the Club, please fill out a membership application form at the Seabrook Island Club or contact Ron Leggett at 843-768-8879.

"The Truth About Christmas" by Paul Tillman

Think of the entirety of the story as a huge snowball rolling forward to the present. Pieces of all the cultures it rolled over as, without rhyme or reason, stuck to it. A cozy workshop in the North Pole, elves to build the toys, brightly lit trees, yule logs, jolly Santa, a sleigh piled high with toys pulled by reindeer that can land on a roof top, and a jollySanta that can fit down a chimney while remembering the kids that every child in the world wants. Oh please?

However, despite its impossibility, this childly fantasy was brought into a reality by nineteenth-century artists. Washington Irving wrote about the Dutch’s version of Christ- mas, Clement Moore penned the poem, “The Night Before Christ- mas” and Thomas Nast, a commer- cial artist, drew the modern-day ver- sion of Santa for magazines which is in our minds today. If logic is our metric, the myth of Santa is impossible to take seriously. But, logic should not apply in all in- stances. To decry the myth of Santa requires us to ignore its value. An article written by the editor of the New York Sun in 1879 to Virginia O’Hanlon says it best. “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love, generosity, and devotion. So, we should never abandon the myth of Christmas just because it isn’t logical. Instead, we must keep it close to our heart, as it reflects the very best of human na- ture and how we could interact with everyone all year long.

EXCHANGE CLUB OF KIWAH-SEABROOK

AmazonSmile
You Shop. Amazon gives.

What if you could support the Exchange Club charities without writing a check or donating time? Well you can! Simply use the link below to direct Amazon to send our club a donation based on your purchases.

To donate, follow the instructions below to direct Amazon to send our club a donation based on your purchases:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1358132

By Paul Tillman

The Truth About Christmas

by Paul Tillman

Thank you for supporting the Exchange Club charities without writing a check or donating time. We appreciate your support.

Grace Jaffe

Seabrook Island Club

December 2022

Page 13

The Seabrookian

The Exchange Club of Kiawah-Seabrook

Tuba the bull-legg8@gmail.com.

If you are interested in learning more about us, please fill out a membership application form at the Seabrook Island Club or contact Ron Leggett at 843-768-8879.

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Evening Program Explores ‘LOST CHARLESTON’

Seabrook Island Natural History Group (SINHG) had to postpone their program “Lost Charleston” due to Tropical Storm Nicole. It is now rescheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 7:00 pm at The Lake House.

The presentation will explore “Lost Charleston” with author Leigh Handal, whose book of the same title was published in 2019. It will recall the many mansions, hotels, markets, and restaurants that disappeared during much of the 20th century when the city reinvented itself as a tourist destination after the devastations of the Civil War and natural disasters such as the 1886 earthquake.

Handel has also co-authored the training manual used by the city’s licensed tour guides, and is active in the preservation campaign for the St. James Goose Creek Chapel of Ease Historical site. Professionally, Handel worked for many years in public relations and has served as the local chapter president of the Public Relations Society of America. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and The College of Charleston, for which she served as president of the college’s Alumni Association.

SINHG Evening Programs are open to all Seabrook Island residents and guests. There is a $5 fee for non-SINHG members. To learn more about SINHG, visit www.sinhg.org.

To make reservations, visit the SINHG website. If you already registered for the canceled November 10 date, you do not need to re-register.

SIP ON THE SEASON

The holiday season is here, and with comes chilly weather in Charleston. You can warm up with hot cider or feel merry and bright with a peppermint libation at cozy bars and restaurants around town.

Check out these seven fall + winter cocktails that will get you in the holiday spirit.

1. Eggnog | Vintage Lounge, 545 King St. | Sip on this seasonal favorite starting on Black Friday and check out Toddy Tuesday for weekly hot toddies.
2. Irish Coffee | Élevé, 55 Wentworth St. | The Irish Coffee at this rooftop restaurant features whiskey, whipped cream, and nutmeg + will warm you right up.
3. Peach Cobbler Martini | Kaminsky’s Dessert Cafe, 78 N. Market St. | Delight in RumChata, Peach Schnapps, and cream in this martini through the end of November + stay tuned for the cafe’s winter cocktail menu.
4. Call It a Night | Little Palm Bar, 237 Meeting St. | Try a specialty cocktail with vodka, cold brew coffee, cacao, and butterscotch this winter at Little Palm — check out the Little Fine holiday pop-up beginning Wednesday, Nov. 23.
5. Jingle All the Way | Hotel Bennett, 404 King St. | Served out of the lobby’s life-size gingerbread house, this hot chocolate beverage with marshmallows will be available from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day.
6. Peppermint White Russian | Blind Tiger Pub, 36-38 Broad St. | Enjoy this cocktail with peppermint cream, Kahlua, and a candy cane garnish by the fire pit starting Thursday, Dec. 1 at the bar’s tree lighting event.
7. Hot Apple Cider | The Dewberry Hotel, 334 Meeting St. | Celebrate National Apple Cider Day with this seasonal libation served in the Living Room, or sip on the hotel’s classic hot chocolate.

Before you go, here’s a party favor: Bulldog Tours is offering its Holiday Strolls Cocktail Tour combining the yuletide history tour featuring stories of Charleston’s Christmases past with stops at three festive lounges for a signature holiday cocktail.

From CHS Today

OFFICIAL DEALER

3444 Maybank Highway
Johns Island, SC 29455
JISmallEngineRepair.com
Gary works in oils and pastels in a variety of subject areas, including marine art, Low Country landscapes and portraits. In recent years he’s done numerous works for corporate clients, mainly maritime scenes from the colonial, Revolutionary and Civil War eras. As a studio painter he typically works on a painting—particularly detailed ship and historical works—over weeks or months, using layers of transparent glazes. Gary notes, “It's not a fast way to paint, but the result is something I don’t get with a more direct approach.”

One of those detailed paintings now in the works, is a large canvas for the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the American Battlefield Trust. Gary states, "It’s a Revolutionary War scene that actually took place on Seabrook. The British landed tens of thousands of troops here in 1780, beginning the Siege of Charleston and the war in the South. The painting's from the van - tage of the British on North Beach, with troops in the foreground and ships beyond. It’s a little-known piece of history.”

In addition to maritime and Low Country paintings, he plans to show a few “different things” at the December exhibit, including paintings of people.

Gary studied for nearly a decade with marine artist Jack Coggins and at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Following a career in journalism and advertising he taught professional writing at Penn State. Over the next 21 years at Penn State, he also taught studio painting and American history. He and wife Kathy moved to Seabrook full-time in 2014.

There will be reception on Thursday, December 1st for Gary. Come out, talk with Gary and enjoy viewing his magnificent works of art.

You can also see his work at www.garykunkelman.com. ▲

For more information on the Seabrook Island Artists Guild, its membership, classes, events and workshops, please visit our website at www.seabrookislandartistguild.com

The Racquet Sports Complex is at a very exciting juncture as we embark upon improvements that are slated to begin on November 14. Our goal during this process is to communicate weekly so you are aware of court closures, changes to the operation, or anything that could impact upon the safety of our Members and their guests.

We anticipate that there will be times more disruptive than others, so if you have any questions, please call the Racquet Sports Pro Shop at 843.768.7543. Laura, Robert, and the Racquet Sports Team will do everything they can to ensure that we can utilize as many courts as possible but know that the most important aspect is your safety. We will post signage frequently should traffic patterns be affected and ask that you follow our recommendations.

Phase 1A consists of improvements to our hardscape and landscape, and we are hopeful that we can proceed in phases so that you can still enjoy the courts that are accessible. Thank you for being so support - utive during this time. We are all looking forward to elevating your Racquet Sports experience. ▲
A Week on Bordeaux’s Canal de Garonne

Kelly and Thad Peterson; Inger and Derek Frye; and Lucy and Ray Hoover

It is Fall in the French Bordeaux. Ahead we spot a lone figure. It is Nichole peddling her bike down the tree-lined towpath towards us. She is not only our sommelier and tour guide but also an efficient “herder” of lost, late, or errant passengers. After a morning tour in the village of Nérac and lunch at Le Moulin des Saveurs, five of us needed a walk. Ahead our barge is within the lock and has almost lowered to the discharge point before continuing its trip down the canal. We would need to quicken our pace if we hoped to reboard.

It is the fourth night of gastronomic exploration of the French countryside, bike rides, strolls along the canal’s tree-lined towpaths, and precious hours of camaraderie with dear friends.

The idea of a canal cruise in Bordeaux was born exactly a year before on a yellow houseboat moored in Sausalito, California, within San Francisco Bay. Instead of a few days on the stationary houseboat, on this adventure, three couples would transverse the Canal de Garonne for 55 miles from Boé to Castets et Castillon through the French countryside. And best yet, there would be a dedicated onboard crew of four. Including a personal French chef.

Our floating home and principal means of transportation for the week would be the Rosa; a 100-ton barge converted from a sailing vessel some years back. Painted in a mystical light on the ground. The gravel road was strewn with yellow leaves falling from sycamores along the path. The crunch of gravel and the rustle of leaves underfoot was a sound we knew and loved.

The last mile and a half is strewn with the dry, brittle brown leaves falling from the sycamores along the path. The last mile and a half is strewn with the dry, brittle brown leaves falling from the trees.

For the week, Kelly and Thad Peterson, Inger and Derek Frye, and Lucy and Ray Hoover would cruise through hectares of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, and French-trained culinary master Chef Stefan. Committed to ensuring our adventure would be memorable, our crew delivered beyond the limits of our wildest expectations.

The canal’s towpaths and nearby villages. Her knowledge of all things in the Bordeaux is stunningly impressive. Either on a bike or in her van, Nichole was always there. We accused her of having identical twins, triplets, or even quadruplets strategically positioned along the route — no one could be in all those places simultaneously as Nichole had been that week.

It was an international affair, with six passengers from the South Carolina Lowcountry, all with previous roots in Atlanta but who had never met before relocating to Seabrook Island. But there was also Captain Julian from East London; his wife, Dutch-born Nichole, sommelier, and guide extraordinaire; attentive and personable Agatha from Poland and French-trained culinary master Chef Stefan. Committed to ensuring our adventure would be memorable, our crew delivered beyond the limits of our wildest expectations.

From East London, now living in Ste, France, Cockney accented Captain Julian masterfully orchestrated our week of adventure. The captain runs a well-organized ship as its pilot, navigator, general manager, quality assurance officer, and chief engineer. Either on a bike or in her van, Nichole had been that week.

For the week, Kelly and Thad Peterson, Inger and Derek Frye, and Lucy and Ray Hoover would become immersed within southwestern France’s countryside, discovering charming, quaint, warm two-colored villages, wall-encapsulated medieval bastides, winding farm roads, artisan wine, goat cheese, and Armagnac producers and a Rembrandt masterpiece hidden within a tiny church.

We would cruise through hectares of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, and Semillon vineyards and fields of red apple and purple plum orchards. Over thirty vintages of local whites, reds, and roses from the French regions’ wine appellations were selected to complement the local produce had almost lowered to the discharge point before continuing its trip down the canal.

Gastronomic exploration of the French countryside, bike rides, strolls along the canal’s tree-lined towpaths, and precious hours of camaraderie with dear friends.

...
Chef Stefan spoke instead through the creative genius of his cooking with a week of the best French cuisine any of us have ever had; or will ever have. “Unique” is a word too often overused, but not in connection with Stefan’s triumphal creations. A young Monet of the kitchen, his dishes’ flavors, and visual presentations were a feast for both the palate and the eyes.

Echoes will long endure, “May I top that off?” when Julian discovers a nearly empty wine glass, or Agatha’s “Are we ready yet for nibbles?” launching hours of nightly feasting. So will “That’s where you are.” after Nichole finds us miles from the barge or when Stefan proudly displays two hares to be featured as the “pièce de résistance” during our last dinner. And no one will forget Derrek’s nightly guitar strumming or our group’s serenade thanking the crew for a once-in-a-lifetime week with a new creation, “The Twelve Days of Bordeaux.” All will be remembered for years.

This adventure would also profoundly open a new dimension never imagined or anticipated before we boarded our flights from Charleston to Paris. Though Lucy and I had known the Fyfe’s for eight years and the Peterson’s for five, away from the distractions of community and family, we learned more about each other than we had in all those years before. While untethered from the routine obligations of community and family, we shared the circuitous twists and turns that brought us to our little island haven in the South Carolina Lowcountry. From far disparate early childhood roots in England, Denmark, Sweden, Colorado, Texas, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, fate and serendipity brought the six of us together as neighbors. But the experience of sharing life’s litany of many joys and challenges while on board a small blue barge on a canal in the French Bordeaux will forever bond us as close friends.

It was a week of enriching friendship, gastronomic overindulgence, and a celebration of the beautifully inspiring southwest corner of the French countryside. Viva the experience together on the Barge Rosa with great friends cruising down the Canal de Garonne through the vineyards of the French Bordeaux!}

Author’s aside. Before arriving in France, we knew that four days in Paris and a week onboard the Rosa would be a calorie-rich extravaganza. To prepare for the consequences of so much “over-consumption,” we committed to a program of extensive walking while in Europe, otherwise, we were worried about the excessive baggage charges the airlines would impose on us with all the weight gain. Based on the final computations from Lucy’s Fitbit, 96,453 steps were logged in Paris; in Bordeaux, 37,769; in Spain, 76,943 totaling 211,165 paces or the equivalent of 105.58 miles. Despite this impressive achievement, all but two of the six of us gained a substantial amount of “additional baggage.”

Footnote: Sadly, while friends Sam Unger and Claudia Arkush were in Brittany and Normandy, an unexpected and obstinately stubborn COVID virus paid Claudia an unwelcome last-minute visit preventing them from joining us on the Rosa. Both being wine lovers and foodies, they would have loved it. Thankfully, Claudia fully recovered with only very mild symptoms, while Sam remained unscathed. We missed them.

Ray Hoover

▲

Santé!

(Until our next time together…)
Calling All Hoosiers

Seabrook Island residents are preparing for the 10th Annual Indiana Day on Sunday, December 11, 2022 to celebrate the 206th anniversary of the state’s admittance into the Union on December 11, 1816. The gathering has become an annual event which includes food, drinks, games, prizes, and singing all with a lot of Hoosier gusto.

Participants (including spouses and significant others) are asked to bring a hearty appetizer to share. The organizing committee will provide plates, utensils, and soft drinks (BYOB). Participants are also asked to donate $5 per person to cover costs associated with the event. The event takes place at the Oyster Catcher Community Center on Seabrook Island beginning at 6:00 PM and will last until 8:30. If you have a connection (Born, raised, lived, educated, traveled through; anything works) and would like to attend, please contact Max Willis at 843-768-8301 or mwillissc@yahoo.com.

Holidays Around the World

FESTIVAL OF HOUSES AND GARDENS!
HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION’S LARGEST FUNDRAISER

Historic Charleston Foundation’s largest fundraiser and educational tool is a community favorite. Purchase your tickets to tour some of Charleston’s most beautiful homes and gardens on historic streets including King Street, Tradd Street, Legare Street and new for 2023, a Montagu Street tour.

Enjoy a new lineup of exciting speakers in the Food for Thought Lecture series, experience reimagined Live Like A Local events such as workshops, musical programs, and sunset historic harbor cruises. Or sign up for one of the Foundation’s acclaimed Morning History Walks with licensed tour guides; the options are endless! Visit our website for full details of above

We’re back for our 70th Annual Festival of Houses and Gardens! Historic Charleston Foundation’s largest fundraiser and educational tool is a community favorite. Purchase your tickets to tour some of Charleston’s most beautiful homes and gardens on historic streets including King Street, Tradd Street, Legare Street and new for 2023, a Montagu Street tour.

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Tickets are on sale now until the program sells out. We’re back for our 70th Annual Festival of Houses and Gardens! Historic Charleston Foundation’s largest fundraiser and educational tool is a community favorite. Purchase your tickets to tour some of Charleston’s most beautiful homes and gardens on historic streets including King Street, Tradd Street, Legare Street and new for 2023, a Montagu Street tour.

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Tickets are on sale now until the program sells out.
Vienna Light Orchestra Christmas Concert
December 16, 2022 - December 18, 2022
South Carolina Society Hall • 72 Meeting Street

With over two thousand flickering candles illuminating the performers, The VIENNA LIGHT ORCHESTRA will feature some of the worlds most beloved Christmas favorites, played by world-class musicians over the course of 60 mesmerizing minutes.

VIENNA LIGHT ORCHESTRA — CHRISTMAS

Whether you’re looking for a beautiful and unique Charleston Christmas event or a nostalgic candlelit experience, the timeless seasonal music is an evening at the Theatre you and your family will not soon forget. VLO’s awe inspiring performance is a positive interruption from the noise of the world — while elevating audiences into an atmosphere of seasonal favorites. You don’t need to know all things orchestral music to enjoy this evening of magical ambiance, simply unplug and savor the music you’ll hear.

Field in specially selected venues in comfortable idyllic settings so you can immerse yourself with Christmas music in a relaxed but awe inspiring atmosphere bathed by the flicker of over two thousand candlelights. Prepare to soar into the clouds! This concert series is coming to the South Carolina Society Hall, a historical venue of purpose and elegance located on the Charleston peninsula, just a block away from the historical Rainbow Row.

It’s that time of year again! The merriest time of the year. The opportunity is coming on Thursday December 15, 2022 10:30 to 3:30 to make your gift count. The Seabrook Island Blood Drive will be held at the Lake House. The Drive is open to all and the need is critical. Contact RedCrossblood.org, Donor APP: code Seabrook to schedule your appointment. Not sure of your schedule, walk ins are warmly welcomed. You can also cut down on your interview time by using RedCrossblood.org/Rapid Pass the day of your donation. Questions? Contact Kathy Rigtrup at 973-715-3005 or ktrup2@aol.com

We look forward to seeing you on the 15th!

LETTERS TO SANTA
November 25 - December 19
As Santa arrives on Friday, November 25, Freshfields Village invites guests to drop Letters to Santa in our special mailbox this holiday season. The mailbox will be located near the Christmas Trees on the Village Green and the letters will be delivered directly to Santa via his elves.

Full schedules and details online: freshfieldsvillage.com/events
We list and sell more real estate on Seabrook Island than all other companies combined. If you are looking to purchase a new home, cottage, villa, or homesite — or list your property — contact one of our expert REALTORS® today.