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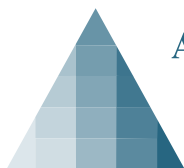
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Glorious Spring

What is it about spring that makes us feel happier, lighter and more youthful?

William Shakespeare wrote, “April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.” He was right about that—April is usually when we begin to recognize the first buds of the season; feel that lightness of spirit.

Though the New Year brings a sense of new beginnings, we have to muddle through winter—the uncertainty of the weather, the quirky slant of the sun, the short hours of daylight and by the time spring arrives, we are ready for it.

We live in an area of temperate climate and despite the fact we can get out and enjoy the many activities our community has to offer nearly year-round; no season brings us out in droves more than spring time. It is a respite from the short days of winter and the pause before the humid heat settles in to stay for the summer.

We dust off the patio furniture, pull out our gardening accoutrement and get our hands in the dirt; garden, plant and trim. Spring lushness surrounds us—the bright greens of our lawns and parks, the colorful flowers that seemingly overnight, shoot up out of the ground or the pots we’ve planted them in. The air brings in breezes of serenity.

Our spiritual warrior awakens and there’s a sense of rebirth. Nature and its inhabitants are noisy and glad about it. We get out and do—walk, run, exercise, take on a new challenge and clear out the clutter—literally and metaphorically—and we feel inspired and renewed.

In this issue, you’ll read about the people who founded a Mount Pleasant tradition, “The Blessing of the Fleet,” and how this month marks its 30th anniversary—bigger, better and more beautiful than ever. A local golf pro gives tips about how to improve your game, just in time for one of golf’s busiest seasons. Master gardeners highlight what to plant to make your garden gorgeous, or what to choose if your green space is limited. A professional organizer gives tips on how to decide what to keep, toss or donate, and how the act of opening up space in your closet can open up your life.

Our pages give you glimpses of our wonderful community and the people in it. I hope you’ll get out and say hello to each other. Breathe in the season, get a spring in your step.

Happy Spring!

Brigitte Surette, Editor
Brigitte.Surette@LifestylePubs.com

ON THE COVER The Blessing of the Fleet 2016
PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY NICOLE HARVEY, SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGER, THE TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT

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Mt. Pleasant

L I F E S T Y L E

APRIL 2017

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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Pub Talk

If I lived in Des Moines would anyone ever visit?

There is a lot to love about the Lowcountry - the weather, our welcoming Charleston culture, food!, the ocean, Southern hospitality and the list goes on. There's a reason Charleston is consistently ranked as a top tourist destination. What this means to us...is visitors... or as I say, the "Florida effect."

When we lived in Florida years ago, I found it amazing how many old Northern friends and distant relatives suddenly wanting to re-connect, particularly during the winter months. I never knew I meant so much to them.

And I welcomed each and every one of them. You simply cannot have too many friends or too good of relations with extended family. So visitors visited and we did the whole Florida thing - over and over and over again. Yet even realizing I was often a friend or family member of convenience, there was never one time it failed being a rich time talking about old times and catching up with each other's lives.

Now we live in Mt Pleasant and it is Destination Charleston for friends and family. I still love every visit regardless of how remote the connection. I love exploring the city and the surrounding area. It

does not grow old to me. I am proud of Charleston, its rich history and the way so much has been preserved.

It is not Florida with its theme parks and acres of asphalt. Thank God. It is Charleston with its abiding Southern hospitality, sweet-water baskets and exquisite cuisine.

Recently I welcomed six female high school classmates - all at once. They choose Charleston this year for their annual girl's weekend and I was touched they reached out wanting to re-connect. My wife and I met them downtown at the Charleston Grill on King St. (where else?) and enjoyed a delightful evening talking about old times, old friends, friends no longer with us, kids and grandkids. High school was many years ago but it did not seem like it, the years evaporating before us.

So welcome your friends, walk King St. for the umpteenth time and bring them to the USS Yorktown to spend some tourist dollars in Mt Pleasant. And be melancholy when they depart.

Time is fleeting, relationships are precious and you could live in Des Moines.



Bill Northrop
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Wando High School Presents "Aida"

Under the direction of Christine Cleary, Wando High School recently performed "Aida" to multiple sold-out performances. Hundreds of students participated including stand-outs Charlotte Marchell in the lead role of Aida and Will Basco as Adames.



Alex Hodges as Amneris



Will Basco as Radames



Will Basco as Radames and male ensemble



Will Basco as Radames and Charlotte Marchell as Aida



Traezon Wright as Mereb and Charlotte Marchell as Aida



Alex Hodges as Amneris with female ensemble



Zach Green as Zoser



Charlotte Marchell as Aida



Some of the cast and crew of Aida



L to R, Alex Hodges, Hayden Bogan, Will Basco, Zach Green

AROUND TOWN

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30TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL NAMED STS TOP 20 EVENT

The Southeastern Tourism Society (STS) has named the Blessing of the Fleet & Seafood Festival one of the STS Top 20 Events for April 2017. A Top 20 Award brings publicity and recognition to the best events in the Southeast and travel industry experts select 20 events per month, publicizing them throughout the U.S. East Cooper Medical Center and Harris Teeter both return as Co-Presenting Sponsors for the 30th annual celebration on Sunday, April 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Memorial Waterfront Park.

SCHEDULE:

11:00a – Opening Band

12:30p – National Anthem sung on main stage with Honor Guard

12:35p – Mayor welcome speech, Presenting Sponsors and Procession announcement

12:45p – Procession begins at Pier Entrance Gate with Honor Guard, ministers, Mayor, dignitaries

1:00p – Blessing at end of Pier and Boat Parade in Charleston Harbor. Blessing to be broadcast live into the Park and out to the public via 94.3 WSC

2:00p – East Coast Party Band

3:30p – Shrimp-Eating Contest presented by Gilligan's

4:00p – Shag Contest with East Coast Party Band presented by Harris Teeter

5:00p – Festival Ends

"East Cooper Medical Center is proud that this will be our tenth year as a sponsor for the Blessing of the Fleet. The fact that last year our hospital celebrated 30 years of providing quality medical care to our community makes the 30th anniversary of the Blessing of the Fleet even more special," said CEO Jason Alexander.

"Harris Teeter is proud to be a co-presenting sponsor of the Blessing of the Fleet for the fourth year in a row," said Danna Robinson, communication manager for Harris Teeter. "Harris Teeter's commitment to the Lowcountry runs deep and sourcing high-quality, local products

is extremely important to us, so we are proud to celebrate Charleston seafood suppliers, while also supporting this fun, family event."

For more information visit ExperienceMountPleasant.com.



SHAGGIN' ON THE COOPER SERIES KICKS OFF APRIL 29

The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) invites people of the Lowcountry to put on their dancing shoes and get ready for a summer of shagging on the pier! The popular Shaggin' on the Cooper series kicks off the season on Saturday, April 29 at the Mount Pleasant Pier with live music by The Sugarbees.

Bands from Charleston and throughout the state will perform at the end of the 1250 foot-long pier next to Memorial Waterfront Park, the perfect spot to catch cool breezes, beautiful scenery, and views of Charleston Harbor and the Ravenel Bridge. Beverages are available for purchase on site, and food is available for sale at the Mount Pleasant Pier's River Watch Café. For more information, call 843-795-4386 or visit CharlestonCountyParks.com.

ECCO BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) is pleased to announce and welcome Stephanie McNulty Kelley as the organization's next Executive Director. A long-time ECCO volunteer and former Board member, Kelley has more than twenty years of experience working in higher education, demonstrated success in organizational leadership, a strong portfolio of consulting projects, and a lifelong dedication to community service.

ECCO was founded in 1989 as an emergency relief effort after Hurricane Hugo. The organization strives to eliminate poverty in the East Cooper Region by offering a number of programs. More than 4,500 families a year receive emergency assistance. Their services are enhanced through personal interaction with staff who provide individualized support for each client.

Kelley joined the staff in March 2017 and was honored by ECCO in the fall of 2016 as Volunteer of the Year. She remains dedicated to giving back and strives to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. For a full biography and list of Kelley's honors and achievements, visit ECCOcharleston.org.

The KING of Spring



What started out as a three acre strawberry patch over twenty years ago has now grown into one of largest crops of the delicious berries in the Lowcountry. Boone Hall's strawberries are legendary and are the backbone of the spring crops grown on some of the richest farmland in the Lowcountry. This year's crop arrived early in mid February due to the milder winter temperatures and with the

unpredictable weather patterns it is difficult to know how long the season will last. But make no mistake about it. While they are available, the farm staff insists this is one of the best crops of strawberries that have ever been grown at Boone Hall Farms.

The centerpiece of this spring rite of passage at Boone Hall is The Lowcountry Strawberry Festival. This popular spring event continues to strive to strike

a balance of providing fun exciting attractions and activities with wholesome fun on the farm.

As this event has continued to grow, different kinds of entertainment of all shapes and sizes has been incorporated into the festival. But it is important to note that at the center of it all has been and will always be strawberries.

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“LETTING GO OF THOSE
PRESSURES AND
NEGATIVE THINGS IN
YOUR SPACE REALLY
PUTS A POSITIVE
ASPECT ON YOUR LIFE.”

ARTICLE DEBORAH SLEDZIONA



After: Putting things in place puts everything into perspective!



Before: A cluttered closet can overwhelm each time you step into the space.

The thought of decluttering for spring can be daunting, but it doesn't have to be. We reached out to professional organizer and Mt. Pleasant resident, Jen Van Buskirk of *Home Organizing by Jen*, to discover her secrets to professionally organizing and energizing a space. Follow these five decluttering steps to make any space positively radiant this spring:

FOCUS ON ONE AREA

When setting goals, it is helpful to break them into smaller goals. "It is a very dangerous approach to focus on the whole home at once," Buskirk cautions. Focus on which spaces are going to give you the most satisfaction. Is it that disheveled closet? Is it a disorganized home office? Start with whichever space intuitively comes to you first.

SET MINI-GOALS

For those who may be intimidated by larger projects, once you have chosen a space, start by breaking it into micro-projects. For

example, if organizing a closet, focus on one aspect at a time (think categories: blouses, shoes, etc.). Set aside fifteen minutes each day to work on your project until it is complete. Watch your space gradually transform with each passing day.

LET IT GO

Letting go can be tough, but it is a necessary step in creating a more organized and positive space. To truly gain a sense of what belongs in a home, items must be addressed individually. "You can look at your scarfs and think, 'I love them all,' but then, you aren't addressing each individual piece," Buskirk says.

Pick one item at a time and ask yourself: "Do I love it?" "Does it make me happy?" "Do I actually wear it?" If you can't answer yes, it's time to let go. You may be holding onto an item because somebody special gave it to you, but these items can build up quickly. If you are holding onto old gifts out of guilt or negative feelings, it's time to let it go. **CONTINUED >**



After: Categorizing and organizing-- vital to a positive flow!



Before: Disorganized shelves can feel chaotic.

"If it doesn't make you happy and if it isn't serving you, then it has no purpose in your space."

CATEGORIZE LOGICALLY

A key component to organization is categorizing. When addressing each item individually, ask yourself, "What other items do I think of with this piece?" If you want to find batteries, do you think of light bulbs? Tools? You probably don't think of cleaning supplies. Organization by category will vary from one person to the next, but it is vital that it makes sense and flows with an individual's lifestyle.

"It's important to question how you've always done it," she advises, "I come into spaces where people will put something in a place because that's where it has always been, but it might make sense to put it somewhere else."

PRACTICE MINDFULNESS

Once you have completed your project, it's important to keep it that way. The #1 culprit of disorganization is not being in the present moment.

Buskirk comments, "Often, we are so busy and preoccupied that we don't pay attention to what we are doing."

Suddenly, a once organized space is chaotic. When we practice mindfulness by taking the time to put items back in their proper homes, these tiny choices can make a great impact.

When you look around your home, ask yourself how your space makes you feel. Are you anxious? Or are you at peace?

"Letting go of those pressures and negative things in your space really puts a positive aspect on your life," she says.

Decluttering can be a positive experience and one that leads to energizing not just your home, but *you*. Just in time for spring.

For more spring cleaning tips, check out organizecharleston.com.

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MOUNT PLEASANT'S *Blessing* OF THE FLEET FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

A LOOK BACK AT
ITS BEGINNINGS

ARTICLE SYDNEY HERWIG





The Blessing of the Fleet is a centuries-old tradition, which began in Mediterranean fishing communities to serve as a benediction for shrimpers in hopes of a prosperous and safe shrimping season. Today, these blessings take place as far away as Australia and now, as close as Mount Pleasant.

But that wasn't always the case.

Up until 1988, local shrimpers had to travel annually to blessings in Georgia and Florida. Then, most of the blue-collar community either shrimped or worked in the naval shipyard and everyone couldn't leave town for a formal blessing.

Ann Magwood, one of the original founders of Mount Pleasant's Blessing of the Fleet, along with her then-husband, a shrimper, decided it was time the town had their own festival. They joined forces with five other shrimping families, and the rest is history.

Magwood couldn't have imagined how successful it would become.

"I remember those first few years waiting for drinks to go on sale at the store and I'd pile them up in my living room to get ready for the festival," Magwood says, laughing.

According to newspaper reports, 20 boats were blessed and over a thousand people were present for the very first festival; and all of it, orchestrated by five families.

For the first two years, revenue was mainly driven by T-shirt sales. As the festival's popularity grew each year, the families knew they needed help, and town officials stepped in, offering to set aside money for promoting tourism. The Town of Mount Pleasant (TOMP) continues to help each year with funding and equipment.

Nicole Harvey, Special Events Manager of the TOMP, serves as the liaison between the planning committee and the town, and the Magwood family continues to play a vital role in coordinating the festival.

In the beginning, the festival was held in the Old Village's Alhambra Hall Park. Over time, it outgrew this space, and in 2010, the festival moved to Mount Pleasant's Memorial Waterfront Park, where it's become bigger and better than ever.

"We started this as something small that we all would enjoy," Magwood says. "It's truly turned into something the town is proud of and we are, too." **CONTINUED >**



From L to R: Jennifer Magwood Ray, Wayne Magwood, Ann Magwood, and Mayor Linda Page.



Area vendors vie for a spot at the festival, where throughout the course of the day, 20,000 people will visit. Annual revenue generated from the festival goes to one or two beneficiaries. This year, 2017, those beneficiaries include two non-profits organizations; Charleston Port & Seafarers' Society and East Cooper Meals on Wheels.

"We try to choose non-profits that serve the Mount Pleasant Community. Sometimes we have one, and other years we have two," Harvey says.

During the festival there's seafood galore, a shrimp-eating contest, shag contest, live music, and countless crafts. A procession onto the pier followed by a boat parade, leads up to the main event: the blessing ceremony.

Port Chaplain Father Len Williams, who has led the ceremonial blessing for over a decade, blesses the boats as they come right up to the edge of the pier while 50 or so private boats look on from the harbor.

"It never hurts to have a blessing from God when you're out at sea," Magwood says.

This year, approximately 10 boats will be blessed, which is perhaps the only thing that has shrank in size since its beginning.

Although there isn't as many local commercial shrimpers in the area as there once was, it hasn't slowed down the festival. Mount Pleasant residents are prouder than ever to be a part of something that defines the town's roots.

"It's a lot of work for all of us, but when you get there and see how much it means to the captains and the town, it's just great," Harvey says.



The 30th Annual Blessing of the Fleet will be April 30, 2017, from 11 AM to 5 PM, at Mt. Pleasant's Memorial Waterfront Park. Admission is free.

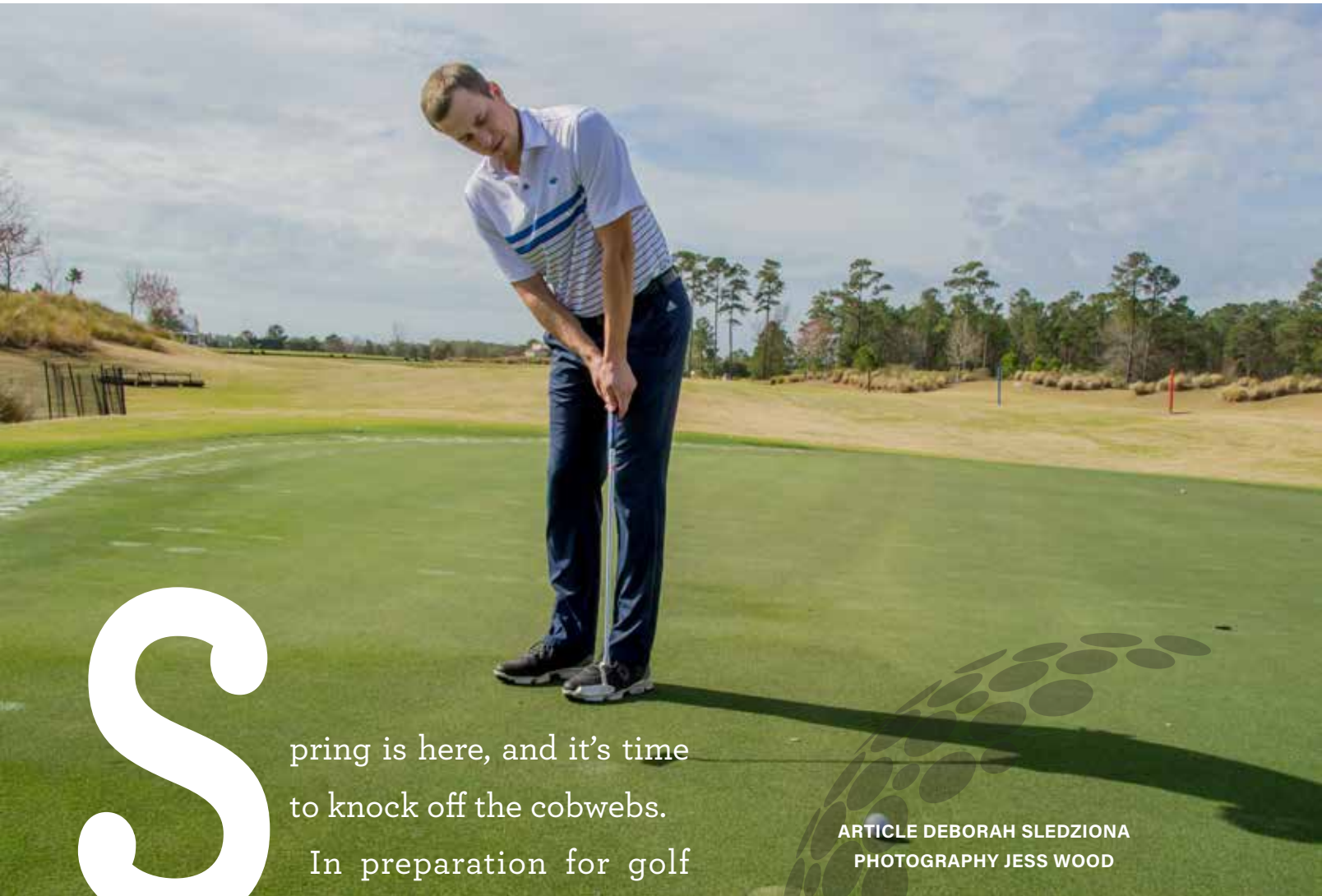
Ann Magwood (R) and daughter Jennifer Magwood Ray bow for blessing prayer during the festival.





Get Your Game On

Five pro tips you need this golf season



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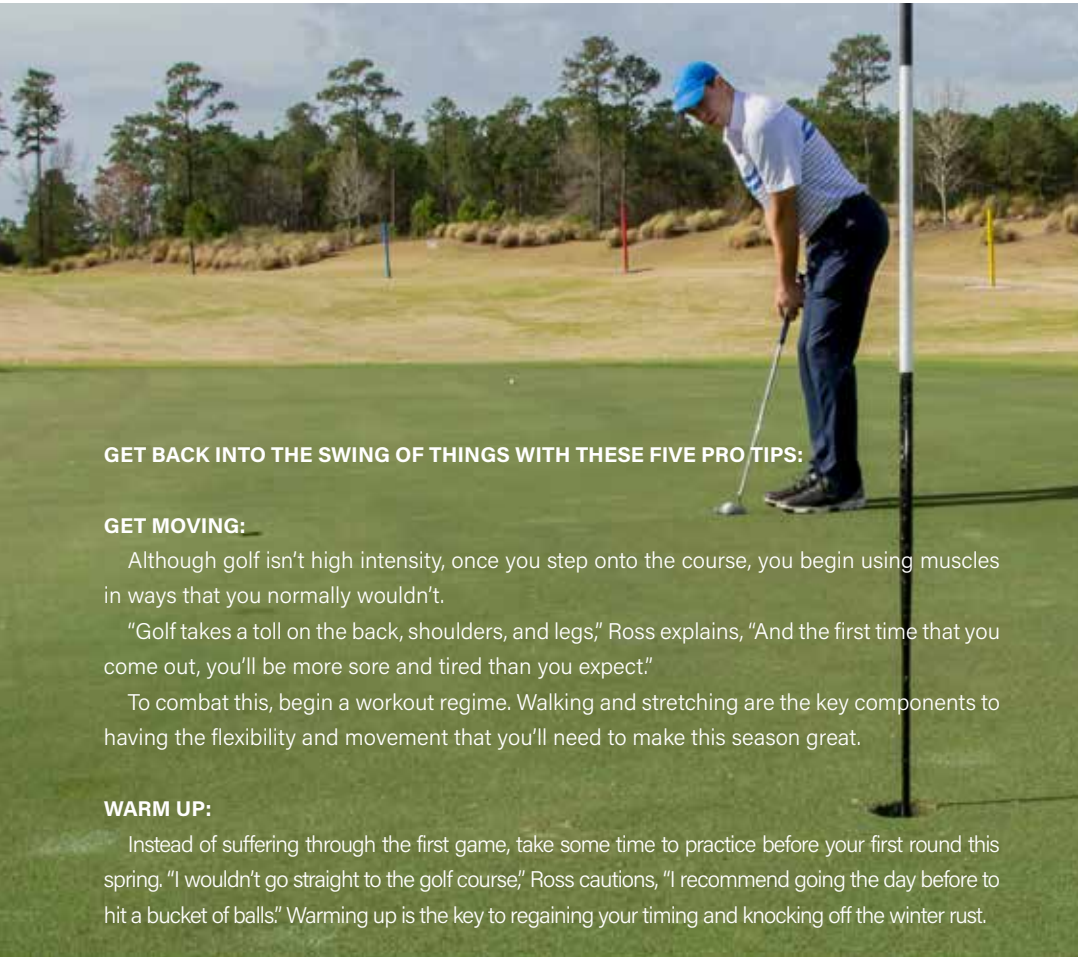
pring is here, and it's time to knock off the cobwebs.

In preparation for golf season 2017, we reached out to Golf Professional and PGA Apprentice, Billy Ross, of Rivertowne Country Club in Mt. Pleasant to get the lowdown on how to start your season off right.

ARTICLE DEBORAH SLEDZIONA
PHOTOGRAPHY JESS WOOD



CONTINUED >



GET BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS WITH THESE FIVE PRO TIPS:

GET MOVING:

Although golf isn't high intensity, once you step onto the course, you begin using muscles in ways that you normally wouldn't.

"Golf takes a toll on the back, shoulders, and legs," Ross explains, "And the first time that you come out, you'll be more sore and tired than you expect."

To combat this, begin a workout regime. Walking and stretching are the key components to having the flexibility and movement that you'll need to make this season great.

WARM UP:

Instead of suffering through the first game, take some time to practice before your first round this spring. "I wouldn't go straight to the golf course," Ross cautions, "I recommend going the day before to hit a bucket of balls." Warming up is the key to regaining your timing and knocking off the winter rust.

PRACTICE YOUR SHORT GAME:

Short game can be more difficult to master, but Ross reveals that it is the key component to scoring well and seeing improvement in your game. You can practice in several ways: tripping and putting around the green, bunker play, and hitting 100 yards in. He suggests that if you don't have time to hit a bucket, visit the putting green instead.

FOCUS ON YOUR SWING:

Timing is a key component to the swing, and swinging too fast or out of rhythm can make your game ugly.

"Focus in your head that you want to swing smooth and slow," Ross says, "Hit with 75% of your power, rather than 100%."

A ball hit with 75% power and better contact will surpass a ball hit with full power and less precision.

SEEK OUT A LOCAL PROFESSIONAL:

Whether you need to set goals, build a solid foundation, or get your game back, a local golf professional can help. "Seek out one of your local professionals and inquire about lessons," Ross suggests. Lessons are highly individualized and can take as little as thirty minutes. Not sure where to start? *Rivertowne Country Club* is home to numerous pros who are willing and available to help get you moving along this season. With outstanding weather and courses to be envied, Mt. Pleasant is truly a golfer's paradise. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned player, this town offers something to every level of golfer.





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Dunes West: Nationally acclaimed by *Golf Magazine* and *Golf Digest* as a "Top 10 Resort Course". Situated along Wagner Creek and the Wando River. Call ahead for tee times at 843.856.9000

Snee Farm: Home to a George Cobb designed championship golf course and host of the prestigious Rice Planters Amateur Golf Tournament. The 6,834 yard, 18 hole, par 72 course boasts picturesque marsh views. Call 843.884.8571 for more information.

Charleston National: Rated by *Golf Digest* as the best non-resort golf course in the Charleston area. Offering marsh and water views, this Rees Jones designed championship course is open to the public year-round. 843.884.4653

RAISE THE "BARRE" ON YOUR FITNESS PROGRAM

ARTICLE SYDNEY HERWIG

LOCAL FITNESS EXPERTS TELL YOU HOW

Barre is rapidly becoming a favorite among fitness fanatics.

Though it's been around for years, its popularity has grown significantly and its roots, ballet-based, focuses on low-impact, isometric movements to choreographed routines. Light weights, resistance bands and exercise balls may be used and classes usually work three specific targets: Thighs, seat and abs.

Studios are popping up nationwide and Mount Pleasant is no exception. We talked to the experts to get the lowdown on Barre and its benefits.

The Barre Code owner, in dancer pose
Courtney Vorchek



The Barre Code ladies take the street in wide second pose

Brett Duvivent, Barre South owner



Barre South studio in action

Barre Evolution Owners Nancy Meyer and Nicole Wallen



Pure Barre studio in action working the inner thighs



BARRE CODE

Barre Code is the newest studio in town. Find them on Facebook or thebarrecode.com, visit their studio on 1440 Ben Sawyer Blvd or call 843.732-1805 for updates and info about on their grand opening party and other total body conditioning services they offer.

"Modifications are given in every class format, making classes achievable for all levels at all times," owner Courtney Vorachek says.

BARRE SOUTH

Barre South soon celebrates a one-year anniversary and offers yoga-barre classes as well. Regulars and new clients can expect special offers including Happy Hour Class Fridays at 5:30 PM. For more info visit barresouth.com, call 843.606.0462 or stop by their studio on 735 Coleman Blvd.

Owner Brett Dunevant recommends, "Begin with at least three times a week and you'll start seeing results more quickly."

BARRE EVOLUTION

Barre Evolution offers various types of barre-based classes at their two local studios including yoga-infused and pre/post-natal classes. Check out their Facebook page for info on workshops. Visit barreevolution.com or call 843.654.9045 for locations and info.

"Wear fitted athletic clothing--no shorts--and sticky socks to prevent slipping," says owners Nancy Meyer and Nicole Wallen

PURE BARRE

Pure Barre, with three local studios, offers classic barre classes and a cardio-focus class, *Pure Barre Platform*. The first week is free for new local clients. For locations and more info visit purebarre.com or call 843.606.0559.

Owner Jen Leitch recommends five to ten classes to get into the flow. "The technique never plateaus and gets more addictive over time. Be patient with yourself and trust the journey!"

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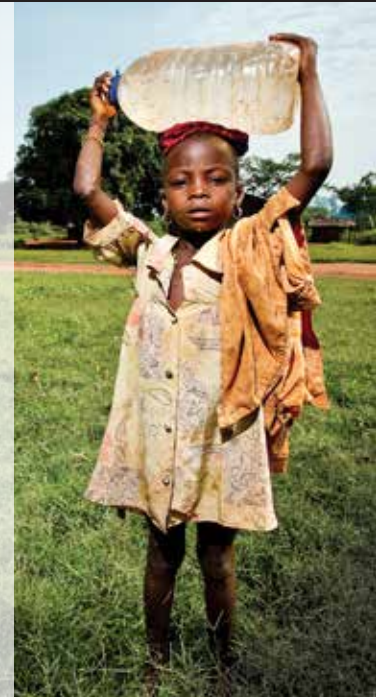
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Master Gardeners from L to R:
Jennifer Lyman, Sandra Staffon
and K.C. Welch

A woman in a red hoodie is seen from the side, holding a white tulip in a green pot. She is standing in a hardware store aisle, with a light green door and various items hanging on the wall behind her. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Full Bloom

in the Lowcountry

SPRUCE UP YOUR SPRING GARDEN

ARTICLE SYDNEY HERWIG
PHOTOGRAPHY JESS WOOD

We waste no time when spring arrives. Almost overnight, shorts and sandals make their appearance, our harbor fills with more boats and the gardening gloves come off the shelf, ready for a new season of planting.

For many, gardening is an activity to look forward to year after year. For others, it's a challenge.

We recruited Sandra Staffon, manager and horticulturist at Sweetgrass Ace Hardware, to offer advice to gardeners of all stages on how to partake in the planting adventure.

On any given day, you'll find the regulars stocking up on supplies and chatting with Staffon about the status of their gardens, as well as novice gardeners asking questions about soil, pots, seeds—you name it—she has the expertise when it comes to gardening.

New to gardening? Staffon recommends bringing in a picture of the space or pot you're going to use and know the following going in:

How is the sun—morning versus afternoon? What are some of your favorite colors? How big is the space?

Once your gardening strategy is in place, she recommends some prep work:

1) Get the soil ready. Pick up a home soil testing kit to test for NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) and pH levels – a measure of acidity of alkalinity.

2) Sketch out your garden plan—you'll save time if you know what you need from the get-go.

3) Choose the right plants to suit your space and conditions. Shade impatiens, coleus or ferns and ivy thrive in shady spots. Dianthus, Million Bells or petunias love full sun. **CONTINUED >**

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No yard? No problem.

"Many opt for patio or container gardens in these instances. We have planting bags and earth boxes, which you can grow vegetables in without being directly in the ground," Staffon says.

Nemesia, Diascias and Vincas, perfect for beginners because of their ease of care, work well in containers and window boxes.

At Sweetgrass, flowers, plants and succulents are abundant and the choices are limitless. If herbs, are more your style, try basil, thyme, oregano and rosemary. Citrus and/or olive trees could be the perfect focal point for your patio or backyard garden.

Foodies love fresh garden vegetables and Staffon's vast selection includes tomatoes, squash, okra and sweet potatoes.

Annuals and perennials are budget-friendly and great for novice gardeners—lots of color, easy to care for and the perfect option to test your gardening skills before committing to a large garden space. Smaller space dwellers can enjoy their own kind of garden inside with air plants, which require no soil and grow inside a terrarium. *Zamioculacas zamifolia* or ZZ plants are nearly indestructible and the perfect solution to bring garden green inside.

"No matter where you plant your garden, or what plants you use, having the right soil is the most important thing you can do," Staffon says.

You'll find Staffon and her staff most any day of the week at Sweetgrass Ace Hardware, ready to help you make your garden grow. For more info call 843.884.0064

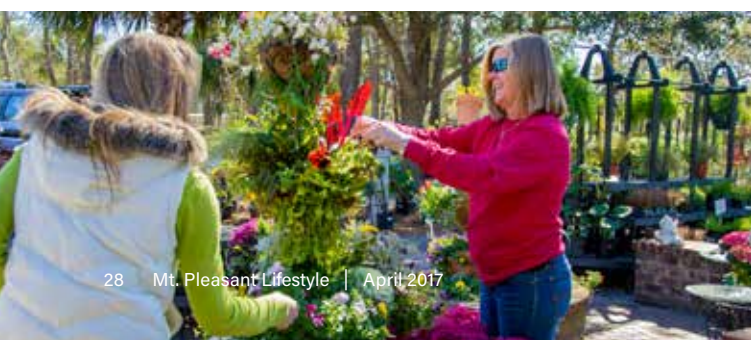
Happy gardening!



Easy Care Air Plant inside a terrarium



Sweetgrass Garden on a sunny day



I LOVE God
I LOVE My Country
I LOVE My Family and
I LOVE Dentistry

~Steve Crossland

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Mother's Day Photography Mini Sessions



- Come out to join Jess Wood Photography Saturday, May 6th for Mother's Day Photography Mini Session.
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- This will be truly a beautiful moment to capture for years to come.

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April



APRIL 1

COOPER RIVER BRIDGE RUN

MOUNT PLEASANT

RACE BEGINS AT 8 AM.

Not just an event--an experience! The 10K race begins at 8 a.m. on Coleman Blvd. in Mt. Pleasant and ends downtown. Be a part of a 40-year tradition! For more information call 843-856-1949.

APRIL 1-9, VARIOUS TIMES

VOLVO CAR OPEN

FAMILY CIRCLE TENNIS CENTER, DANIEL ISLAND

The Volvo Car Open is a tournament rich in tradition. Watch world-class tennis competitions in a beautiful stadium on Daniel Island. Family friendly events and live music throughout the week. Various times and ticket packages. For more information visit VolvoCarOpen.com.

APRIL 2

CHARLESTON HONEY & BEE EXPO

CINNEBARRE, MOUNT PLEASANT

Sixth Annual Charleston Honey & Bee Expo! Free Family-friendly event. Buy and taste local honey and honey cotton candy. Educational booths, guest speakers, games, live music and food trucks with menus utilizing local honey! Pet friendly!

EVERY TUESDAY BEGINNING APRIL 4 THROUGH SEPTEMBER! 6:30 PM - 8 PM

FARMERS MARKET

MOUNT PLEASANT

The Mount Pleasant Farmers Market is open! Enjoy local produce, food, live entertainment and more! Opens at 3:30 PM.

APRIL 4

AN INTRODUCTION TO YOGA & MEDITATION WITH HEALING TREE HOLISTIC HEALTH AND YOGA

MOUNT PLEASANT LIBRARY

One-hour all-levels mindful Vinyasa yoga class to increase flexibility, improve balance and promote health, followed by a 30-minute guided meditation for blissful relaxation and serenity. Participants are encouraged to bring water and their own mat. For adults and teens. For more info call 843-849-6161.

APRIL 13

CHARLESTON MUSIC FEST - CHAMBER MUSIC BY WORLD CLASS ARTISTS

RECITAL HALL, SIMONS CENTER FOR THE ARTS, DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON

CONCERT BEGINS AT 7:30 PM.

The Charleston Music Fest is a year-round presenter of chamber music of the highest possible artistic standard and adds to the colorful cultural life of Charleston. Classical and contemporary chamber music performed by world-class artists. Ilya Kaler, violin; Yuriy Bekker, violin; Natalia Khoma, cello; Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano. For more information and to purchase tickets visit Music.cofc.edu/concerts/Charleston-Music-Fest/.

APRIL 15

THIRD SATURDAY CRAFT SHOW

MOUNT PLEASANT

Local artisans and vendors will be displaying items for sale at the BiLo Palmetto Pavilion on Shelmore Blvd in Mount Pleasant near the l'On subdivision. Various talents to include photography, jewelry, recycled crafting, shea butter lotions and candles plus much more. For more information call 843-884-0163. tcnmt.com

APRIL 16

ST. ANDREWS EASTER SERVICE

BOONE HALL PLANTATION

SERVICE BEGINS AT 8:30 AM

Gates open at 7:30am - Service starts at 8:30am

No admission fee to Boone Hall required to attend this service
Event is open to the public at no charge.

APRIL 20-23RD, VARIOUS TIMES

LOWCOUNTRY STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

BOONE HALL PLANTATION

Festival rides, petting zoo, giant inflatables, interactive games, live music, contests and more! Strawberry picking open!

For more information visit BooneHallPlantation.com/lowcountry_strawberry_festival.

APRIL 23

LOWCOUNTRY KIDS EXPO & CRAFT FAIR

OMAR SHRINE TEMPLE

FROM 12 PM-5 PM

Lowcountry Kids Expo is a FREE Expo features local area businesses and resources focusing on health & wellness, special needs, education, child care, safety, and other important family-related topics. Also a Craft Fair! Shop with over 40 local artisans offering unique products. Free admission, free parking and free activities! Contact events@sunshinefamilyexpos.com for more information.

APRIL 24

2017 GOLF TEES TO HOUSE KEYS BENEFIT GOLF OUTING

SNEE FARMS COUNTRY CLUB

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM;

TEE OFF AT 10 A.M

The Eighth Annual East Cooper Habitat for Humanity "Golf Tees to House Keys Benefit Golf Outing" at the Snee Farms Country Club. Support Habitat for Humanity by playing in the golf outing. Team prizes for first and second place low gross, longest drive and closest to pin competitions, putting contest and major hole-in-one prize.

For additional information, contact Christine Pinson (843) 881-2600 ext. 201 or christine@eastcooperhabitat.org

APRIL 27

WHY ARE YOU HURTING?

MOUNT PLEASANT LIBRARY

FROM 6-7:30 PM

Glenda Eady, LMT of Back in Touch Massage, LLC will discuss some of your daily activities that may be contributing to your overall body pain. Demonstrations of correct movements to help improve pain and the basics of therapeutic massage. Registration preferred (call 843-849-6161, press 2 for Reference), but walk-ins are welcome.

CONTINUED >



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**BEGINS APRIL 29
THROUGH THE SEASON
AND ENDS IN SEPTEMBER**

SHAGGIN' ON THE COOPER

MOUNT PLEASANT MEMORIAL PARK PIER

Get ready for a summer of dancing on the pier! The series kicks off on Saturday, April 29th! Dance the night away to live music. Opens at 7 pm. To purchase advance tickets or for more information on these events, call 843-795-4386 or visit CharlestonCountyParks.com.

**SAT APRIL 29-30,
FROM 7 PM TO 12 AM**

HOPE JAM IV

ISLE OF PALMS, THE WINDJAMMER

Party with a purpose at the Windjammer for the 4th Annual Hope Jam. Live music, local celebrities, auction items, raffles and free door prizes. 100% of proceeds go to the families of children fighting big battles. Tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Benefits the Ethen Richardson Foundation. For more information visit ethenrichardson.org.

APRIL 30

**BLESSING OF THE FLEET AND
SEAFOOD FESTIVAL**

MOUNT PLEASANT MEMORIAL PARK PIER

11 AM - 5 PM

The 30th Annual Blessing of the Fleet & Seafood Festival is back! Be a part of a tradition; boat parade and ceremonial blessing of the shrimp/fishing fleet, local seafood samplings from some of Mount Pleasant's best restaurants, live music, a craft show, art exhibition, Shag and shrimp-eating contests, and family-friendly activities. Admission and activities are free! For more information contact: events@tompsc.com.

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THE LOVELY *Lull of Spring*

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE?



ARTICLE MAYOR LINDA PAGE

Who doesn't love Spring? It starts quietly as daylight lingers a few more moments each late afternoon. Birds start singing a little louder and the air is scented with the subtle aromas of blooming flowers. We find ourselves longing to open windows, have lunch outside, take trips to the garden shop, and buy new flip flops. Nature's paintbrush promises art; worthy displays of azalea, wisteria, tea olive and all varieties of southern shrubs. Neighborhoods are filled with sounds of children playing outside a little longer each day, and they don't quiet until the streetlights start to glow. We hear their laughter through our open screened windows.

Spring is my favorite time of year.

Winter has tied me down with gray days, heavier clothing and equally heavy food, but Spring brings the Farmers Market with juicy plump strawberries that stain your hands, arriving first from Florida, then from our Boone Hall Farms. There's asparagus and tender mustard greens, and the last of winter's collard greens begin to taste bitter as days warm up.

Local playground fields crowd with young baseball players, while their parents slather themselves with Skin So Soft to combat the dreaded no-see-ums. My yard becomes green, not from the sod we laid last fall, but with every type of weed you can imagine. It's the one time of year my lawn appears lush.

Then there's that yellow greenish bane of anyone who suffers from allergies: pollen dust to coat our cars, patios, ponds and our lives.

Spring won't last long. It will fade into even warmer days and the laziness of summer. We will lose the desire to plant flowers and instead, just sit on the patio. Fans are replaced with air conditioning, and the brown marsh grass will ever so slowly become vibrant green. So, let us enjoy the meditation of Spring, the uncluttered life that it promises with the brighter daylight that we are brought, and the blessed sense of renewal here on the pleasant side of the river. Bask in the sunlight, but don't forget to enjoy the rain. Welcome the gentle showers needed for Earth's awakening from her winter slumber.

Please throw some caution to the wind this season. Try some special spring rituals: go for a bike ride; fly a kite; lie in the grass to hunt for four leaf clovers; climb a tree; put your blanket under the stars and pretend you remember the constellations. Go to the pond to feed the ducks, and while you're there, try and skip a stone. Eat some jellybeans, or better yet, eat some Peeps. Go buy a really great umbrella and then plan on getting caught in a spring shower.

And, remember don't just live. . . create a life.





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