



# WADMALAW

Newsletter - Issue 9

Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful

May 2018

## WADMALAW ISLAND LAND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## WADMALAW ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

Bertha Smalls-Middleton  
Director

## CREATING A BEAUTIFUL FIRST IMPRESSION



*"Bridge to the Fork"  
The beautiful gateway to our island*

has placed a trash can on the Wadmalaw side of the Jenkins bridge to give fishermen a convenient place for their trash to reduce litter at the bridge.

Brigade 16 team members each volunteer just 1.5 hours per month, but have clearly made a difference on Maybank Highway. KWB is beginning to organize additional "brigades" for other road sections on Wadmalaw.

*(continued on page 2)*

## RENOWNED CHEF HEADLINES COMMUNITY CENTER FUNDRAISER

All Wadmalaw residents and friends are invited to attend a luncheon prepared by renown local celebrity chef, Barry Waldrop. The Lowcountry Seafood Luncheon will be accompanied by jazz music entertainment on Saturday, May 26th beginning at noon at the Wadmalaw Community Center (WICC), 5605 Katy Hill Road.

Waldrop, a Wadmalaw resident, founded the Stono Café and spent 25 years as a top chef on the Charleston restaurant scene before launching his company, True Charleston Cuisine. He is bringing his culinary talent to support a fundraiser for the WICC and will be serving up delicious seafood and his special ice box coconut cake for dessert.

All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the WICC and its activities and programs which support our community and its residents. The Center is administered by its current Volunteer Director, Bertha Smalls Middleton, and was founded 35 years ago through the vision of the late Anderson Mack, Sr.

The WICC runs weekly Bible Studies for seniors and hosts seminars for residents on topics as wide ranging as Heirs property and real estate education. It also provides regular meal delivery to shut-ins on the island as well as assistance with home repairs for those in need. Wadmalaw

*(continued on page 7)*

## FRIERSON TO BECOME A MONTESSORI SCHOOL NEXT FALL

Most residents don't realize how close Wadmalaw came to losing Edith Frierson Elementary School. Six years ago, because of high turnover in principals and teachers, Frierson experienced poor enrollment and low test scores, and was slated to close its doors. It was revealed that between 80 to 100 school-age Wadmalaw residents went off the island for their education. A vocal and determined School Improvement Council (SIC) and the local group, Friends of Frierson, appealed to the Charleston County School District (CCSD) to give the school more time to improve. It was granted.

The parents, teachers and community received a survey asking what kind of school they would like Frierson to become. At their request, Frierson was changed to a School of Technology in hopes of attracting more students and bringing up test scores. They hired a personalized learning coach and a full-time computer instructor. Principal and teacher turnover continued, and because there was no stability, this change did not

*(continued on page 3)*

## ISLAND-WIDE LITTER PICK-UP SATURDAY, MAY 5TH

Meet at 8:30 AM at the Community Center,  
5605 Katy Hill Road.

**PLEASE JOIN US TO  
KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL**

## WADMALAW ISLAND CHURCHES

### Grace Chapel

Chapel of Ease of  
St. John's Church  
Rockville Township  
Services in June, July and  
August at 9:00 AM

### Little Rock Baptist Church

6522 Maybank Highway  
Rev. James Peterson, Pastor  
Services at 11:30 AM  
Bible study and prayer on  
Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

### New Bethlehem Baptist Church

1945 Liberia Road  
Rev. Zachary Williams  
Services at 11:00 AM

### New Jerusalem AME Church

6179 Bears Bluff Road  
Rev. Tony J. Slater, Jr., Pastor

### New St. James Bethel AME Church

5305 Maybank Highway  
Rev. William R. Jones, Pastor  
Services at 10:00 AM

### New Webster United Methodist Church

4755 Bears Bluff Road  
Rev. Leonard Huggins, Pastor  
Rev. Tony Richardson, Sr.,  
Associate Pastor  
Services at 10:15 AM

### Rockville Presbyterian Church

2479 Sea Island Yacht Club Road  
Rev. Mark Hunt, Pastor  
Services at 10:00 AM

### Salem Baptist Church

5768 Bears Bluff Road  
Rev. Martha Florence Brown,  
Pastor  
Services at 11:00 AM

### Salem Presbyterian Church

5591 Maybank Highway  
Rev. Robert L. Capers, Pastor  
Services at 11:00 AM on 2nd  
and 4th Sundays, 9:30 AM on  
1st and 3rd.

## ROCKVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ENTERS NEW SEASON, WELCOMES TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

*One of a continuing series of profiles on Wadmalaw churches and their pastors*



*Rockville Presbyterian Church*

At the very end of Maybank Highway, nestled in under the several-hundred-year-old Grand Oak trees decorated with Spanish moss, you'll find Rockville's only full-time operating church congregation, Rockville Presbyterian Church EPC. The charming church reaching up into the trees with its tall signature steps and long porch was built in 1850 by Dr. Daniel Jenkins Townsend.

While the church has been established for nearly two centuries, it is in a season of new beginnings, transition and renewal. In November of 2017, Rockville Presbyterian Church (RPC) welcomed Rev. Dr. Don Hardman as its

transitional pastor, after the previous full-time pastor resigned a couple months prior. Don and his wife, Barbara, moved to Wadmalaw Island from Myrtle Beach, SC, and they say the island already feels like home.

John and Lynn Johnson are two of those people. They have attended RPC since they moved to Rockville nearly 16 years ago. Lynn says, "The most beautiful thing about it (RPC) isn't the setting or the building, which are truly beautiful. Its beauty lies in the spirit within the church and its' parishioners. A Christ-centered message is preached on Sundays, and the people carry it out in their daily lives, supporting incredible missions and programs. It is a vibrant, living reminder of Christ's presence on earth!"



*Rev. Don Hardman*

*"This is a great little church," said Hardman. There's just something about this place that's attractive-that draws you, and the people are really what make it special."*

Rev. Hardman, who has more than 40 years of experience in pastoral ministry, says he wants to build up the church, so it is healthy, strong and in excellent condition for the next permanent pastor who eventually takes his place. Hardman estimates he will spend at least one year focusing on this growth and development before beginning the search for a permanent pastor, a process that can take up to one year. This process of rebuilding the church is already underway. In May, RPC will elect new Elders and officers who play a large role in the church's decision-making.

One of Hardman's specific goals during his time leading RPC is to re-establish some of its diversity by regaining more young members. He also hopes to have a greater focus on local missions and ministry. "Mission has been a part of this church's life and we're trying to grow it even more," said Hardman.

Looking ahead, RPC has two upcoming events that are aimed at living out its mission by reaching out to island residents. On the third Sunday of May (May 20th), RPC is hosting Brunch at the Bench. This service on the water followed by brunch is a time of worship, fellowship and food. More information about Brunch at the Bench can be found on the church's website. Next month, on June 27-29th, RPC will host Vacation Bible School (VBS), a multi-day program of religious education and fun for children.

The church has open doors and is eager to welcome new visitors. Worship services begin at 10 a.m. on Sundays, followed by a time of fellowship.

## CREATING A BEAUTIFUL FIRST IMPRESSION

*(continued from front page)*

If you have just one hour per month you are willing to spend to help make our island a more beautiful place to live, please contact Stuart McDaniel at [mcdanielstuart@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcdanielstuart@bellsouth.net). You will enjoy meeting and working with your neighbors while making a contribution to improving the appearance of our island. Join a brigade!

Other KWB projects, including several beautification projects, are in the planning stage. If you would like to participate on the steering committee for KWB, please contact Robert Siedell at [rsiedell@gmail.com](mailto:rsiedell@gmail.com).

**Wadmalaw** is a non-profit publication distributed to all Wadmalaw postal addresses quarterly (February, May, August and November) supporting **Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful**, and also the **Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee** (WILPC), and the **Wadmalaw Community Center** (WICC).

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# FRIERSON TO BECOME A MONTESSORI SCHOOL NEXT FALL

(continued from front cover)

positively impact achievement nor enrollment. The pressure was still on to change or close.

A series of town hall meetings was held over the next year, asking for more input from the community. The SIC, Friends of Frierson, and the principal sat down with parents and residents of District 9 (Wadmalaw and John's Island) to see what they wanted Frierson to become. Over and over, the idea of a Montessori School was suggested. The School District agreed to fund this change and plans for the Frierson Montessori School began.

Montessori schools were developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, based on her scientific observations of how children learn from birth to adulthood. She created a child-centered method where children explore materials at their own pace, either working alone or with a classmate. Teachers are observers rather than lecturers, encouraging the students, asking questions and showing them choices. There are noticeable differences in the way a Montessori classroom is set up:

1. Classes contain mixed ages, usually three. (3, 4, 5-year old; 6, 7, 8-year old, etc.)
2. Although there are still periods of whole class instruction, Montessori classroom students have a work plan based on state standards. It is the teacher's job to explain to each student what his/her work plan is, and how to accomplish this. Students have a choice of activities within a prescribed range of options.
3. Students are usually allowed to work for several hours at their own pace and have freedom of movement within the classroom.
4. Because 'hands on learning' is an important part of the Montessori program, manipulatives are made of sturdy attractive materials, usually wood, and placed in baskets on shelves easily accessible to the children. The materials are there for the students' selection. Teachers and classmates are available to explain and guide them in their quest for learning.
5. Each student has a mat, which they spread out on the floor and sit on while they work. They all have notebooks to record their findings.

The plan is to have two Lower E 1 classes of 3, 4 and 5-year-olds at Frierson in the fall of 2018. Each class will have a Montessori-trained teacher who follows the child and is highly trained in observing the individual child's characteristics. There will be an equal number of students in each age group. Since Frierson is a public school, all 5-year-olds from Frierson's school zone will be accepted. If necessary, and an adequate number of students enroll, a third primary class will be added in this age group. Parents MUST enroll their child in this program prior to next year. Normally, this is not necessary but since this is a new program, a definite head count is needed before the start of school. All 4 and 5-year-old students from District 9 (Angle Oak, Frierson, and Mt. Zion) enrolled in the Frierson Montessori program will receive bus transportation to and from the program.

If a parent does NOT want their child to attend the Montessori program at EF, they may enroll them at either Mt. Zion or Angel Oak Elementary on Johns Island. CCSD will provide transportation from Wadmalaw for these students also. NOTE: All 3-year-olds enrolling in the Montessori program MUST be toilet trained in order to attend. Parents must supply transportation for them as well, since state law does not allow 3 year-olds on public school buses.

Beginning the Fall of 2019 school year, a class of 6,7, and 8-year-olds will be added to Frierson's Montessori program. The students who were 5 last year will move up to this Upper E 1 class. As students move up in age, new classes will be added until Frierson has a full Montessori program through 8th grade (not just 5th). They stay in each class for 3 years, and the older students become mentors to the younger ones in each grouping.

Parents will still receive progress reports and quarterly report cards just like before. Students enrolled in 1st-5th grades at Frierson next year will be in their "regular classes".

The SIC and Friends of Frierson are confident that the Frierson Montessori School will be a rousing success. The principal and faculty have shown their dedication and commitment to the Montessori program by participating in training over the past two years and promoting this exciting new concept to parents and the community.

### ***Want to see for yourself and still have questions?***

Please call the school or come by. The principal, Dr. Deborah Davis-Cummings, has set aside Wednesday mornings to conduct tours. Come see what they are so excited about and join Frierson in its new journey. Volunteers are always needed to tutor students, and the garden committee is looking for locals interested in digging in the dirt and helping the students grow and learn. 6133 Maybank Highway (843) 559-4500.



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# WILPC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## JANUARY 2018

**Zoning:** One plat was submitted to shorten a road, and it met zoning requirements.

**Education:** Edith Frierson Elementary is now taking applications for students to attend the Montessori School in the fall of 2018.

**Community Center:** Bob Cox stated that the repairs and upgrade to the water system have been completed.

**New Business:** Melinda remarked that the 30th Anniversary of the WILPC will be in February, and suggested that we celebrate at our next meeting on the 13th.

Rich Thomas and Phil Dustan from Johns Island want to hold a meeting between residents and government officials concerning the rapid growth and development of their island. They are asking for support from residents of surrounding islands to create a moratorium on new development until the current issues are properly addressed.

## FEBRUARY 2018

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Callouts for December 2017 and January 2018. Johns Island: 151 and 164 - Wadmalaw: 29 and 36 - Kiawah: 41 and 48 - Seabrook: 31 and 25

**New Business:** Officers were elected for the remainder of the 2018 year. They are: Chairman: Kevin Richbourg - Vice Chairman: Leroy Robinson - Secretary: April Long

30th Anniversary Celebration – Founding and former WILPC members were recognized and gratitude was expressed for their service and insight in creating the committee that continues to serve the island today.

Lewis Hay, chairman of the founding committee, explained how the WILPC was formed 30 years ago. He thanked Fred Horlbeck for his wisdom and the ability to put the ideas of the original 18 into words that have remained relevant to this day. He highlighted many of the challenges that the WILPC has faced over the years. Many things change, and many things remain the same, but the job of the committee is important and ongoing.

## MARCH 2018

**Zoning:** Melinda Kelley reported on a workshop for proposed development concerning improvements to an existing causeway on Johns Island. Other workshops are listed on their Facebook page under Charleston Zoning and Planning Department.

Johns Island - Berkeley Electric has purchased a new building and is asking for community input to determine what to do with the old facility on Maybank Highway.

**SPEAKERSt:** Jackie Todd and Joe Boykin, who are both running for Charleston County Council in the area that includes Wadmalaw. They talked about what they would do if elected.



# REAL ESTATE SALES (JAN 12 – MAR 3, 2018)

Vacant Land	Acres	Date Sold	Price
43 Josie Ridge	7.11	1-12-18	\$145,000
46 Josie Ridge	5.0	1-12-18	\$125,000
0 Lonnie Taylor Rd.	1.7	1-16-18	\$347,000
5756 Bears Bluff Rd.	2.29	1-16-18	\$38,000
1 Maybank Highway	161.8	1-25-18	\$1,125,000
3 Maybank Highway	100	1-25-18	\$1,500,000
4 Maybank Highway	79.4	1-25-18	\$1,500,000
0 Harts Bluff Road	1.5	2-15-18	\$140,000
2 Maybank Highway	137.3	3-02-18	\$1,625,000
Residences	Acres	Date Sold	Price
6000 Selkirk Plantation Rd.	4.8	2-1-18	\$1,850,000
1389 Polly Point Road	7.6	2-15-18	\$745,000
2506 Grace Chapel Road	0.6	2-26-18	\$295,000

## FIFTH GRADERS GO TO WASHINGTON, DC

For the first time in three years, Edith L. Frierson's fifth graders took a trip! Partnering with a class from Jane Edwards Elementary on Edisto Island, Ms. Fields' eleven students had the opportunity to see, touch, and feel the nation's Capitol during their trip on March 27-29.



**5TH GRADERS ON THEIR WAY!**  
(Front row l-r) Antasia Jenkins, Clarissa Romero, Marik Gibbs, Rashida Frasier, Naomi Moultrie (Back row l-r) Te'ericka Colter, Ms. Avis Fields, ZaDarius Simmons, Christopher Maxwell, Calvin Drayton (Not pictured - Jailyn Myers, Deon Roper)

Their busy three-day schedule included visits to the National Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress and Supreme Court, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the Arlington National Cemetery, and the African American History and Culture Museum. What a fun and educational experience!

## Wadmalaw ONLINE

**Wadmalaw Isl. Land Planning Committee website:**

[www.wilpc.org](http://www.wilpc.org)

**Community Center Facebook:**

Wadmalaw Island Community Center

**WILPC Email address:** [comments@wilpc.org](mailto:comments@wilpc.org)

**Wadmalaw News:** [wadmalawnews@gmail.com](mailto:wadmalawnews@gmail.com)

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# A DOCTOR WHO MADE HISTORY AIMS TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

One of a continuing series of articles about Wadmalaw residents:



Sandra Middleton

Sandra Middleton, a fourth-generation Wadmalaw resident, has a long list of accolades, including making history as the first African American woman from the Tri-county area to graduate from Medical University of South Carolina's School of Dentistry and the first dentist from Wadmalaw. Despite all her accomplishments, what she remains most proud of is her passionate pursuit of education- something many people, unfortunately, take for granted. Sandra desires to inspire to the young folks and show them "it can be done."

Growing up on Wadmalaw Island, Sandra attended Rockville Elementary (which is now Frierson Elementary) and graduated from St. John's High School. "It took a village (to raise children) on the Island," Sandra said. "Growing up, I remember parents and teachers working together, and the church community stepping in to help support too."

Her first departure from the Island was to attend St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, NC, where she received her B.S. in Biology. From there she received her Masters degree in Teratology at Iowa State University, before returning to the Lowcountry to attend MUSC's School of Dentistry. Sandra graduated dentistry school on May 18, 1984.

After receiving a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree, she was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve. Sandra served her country for more than 30 years and is a decorated Veteran of the United States. She has been awarded one Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals for leadership, one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Award, four Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Humanitarian Service Medal for volunteerism during Hurricane Hugo in Charleston, and three Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbons. Her time in the military took her to several places overseas, including Italy, Cuba, Africa, England, Germany, to name a few. After returning home to Wadmalaw she says, "It's almost like I never left."

Sandra says living on the Island is so gratifying, not only because of Wadmalaw's beauty, but because of the many years of history for the Middleton family. Sandra's paternal grandfather, Rev. Isaiah Middleton, served in WWI with the U.S. military and preached for years at what is now New Holmes Baptist Street Church in downtown Charleston. Sandra's maternal grandfather was President of the Masons. Sandra is the daughter of Christine and Ernest Middleton. She has four brothers and four sisters. Sandra has attended St. James Bethel AME Church nearly all her life, as it is the family church on her mother's side. She remains a member of this congregation because of the incredible music, religious training, and for the love of family and friends who also attend.

This strong sense of community on Wadmalaw gives her a great sense of pride in herself and where she came from. "People are always filled with joy and appreciation when they approach me and say with a smile, 'You're the dentist!'" said Sandra.

In addition to inspiring others by sharing her story and reigniting the appreciation for education, Sandra invests her time and talents into the community. She has helped and mentored students on John's Island interested in dentistry, and also volunteers at the Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach on Johns Island, which provides emergency care to those who can't afford it.

## NEW FACILITY FOR BARRIER ISLANDS FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

The Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic has moved, but not very far. It is still located on 3226 Maybank Highway, but behind and across the parking lot from the original structure. Offering the same services as before (see the article in the May 2017 of Wadmalaw), the new expanded clinic will be able to see over 6000 patients each year. A grand opening was held in March after a year-long fundraising campaign. There are now seven examination rooms, a procedural room for minor surgeries, and the clinic's own lab.

Another fundraiser, the Barrier Islands Free Medical Clinic Golf Invitational, will be held on Monday, May 7 at the Country Club of Charleston. Details and registration are on the website: [bifmc.org](http://bifmc.org).

### JOIN THE WADMALAW NEWS TEAM!

Would you enjoy being part of the Wadmalaw newsletter? Do you have a topic you would like to see in a future issue? If so, please contact us at [wadmalawnews@gmail.com](mailto:wadmalawnews@gmail.com) or write to us at Wadmalaw, Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

#### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE OF WADMALAW:

Tori Bolt	Patricia Miller	Huger Sinkler	Fred Holland
April Long	Kevin Richbourg	Dennis Vane	
Andrea Freiwald	John Shannon	Barbara Dotterer	

### You can support the continued publishing of WADMALAW

The Wadmalaw newsletter is funded primarily through donations from island residents. If you would like to see the continued publishing of this newsletter, please make a contribution by sending a check to Wadmalaw News, P.O. Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 294878. Our thanks to the following residents who have contributed since our last issue: Sarah West John Coppedge Pat Kohler

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# HYDROPONIC TOMATOES ON WADMALAW



Shawn and Elizabeth Ransford

Wadmalaw has a long history of farming, and Shawn and Elizabeth Ransford are doing their part to keep that legacy alive with a modern twist: using a soilless approach. The Ransford's moved their two children to Wadmalaw a few years ago after seeing their hobby of hydroponic tomato farming take off. The Ransford's tend

about 3000 tomato plants per season in their greenhouse on Maybank Highway. They try to keep everything as healthy and natural as they can, which is why a soilless method was a good fit for them.

Hydroponics is a growing method using water instead of soil as its base to feed the plants. The Ransford's use coco coir to deliver nutrients to their plants and depend on bees and other beneficial insects to help them grow. Using a complex pipe system throughout their greenhouse, they grow massive tomato plants with up to 50 feet of vine growth at maturity. Shawn notes that there are some farmers who still use stilts to climb to the top of the vines to harvest the fruit. The Ransford's have chosen to use

modern lifts instead, making the job a little safer for the average worker.

Shawn calls his tomato plants "beasts" because of their natural bent to want to grow in an unruly manner. "You have to train them where you want them to go. It's like trying to break a wild horse." During the growing season from January to July, the Ransford's will harvest between 12,000 and 15,000 pounds of these "beasts". The rest of the year they grow cucumbers to even out the growing season.

This year the Ransford's are growing 13 varieties of tomatoes, all of which have their own unique flavor and texture. The Ransford family is split on whether the Sun Sugars or the Cherokee Purple are tastier, but their customers all agree on one thing: they're some of the most delicious tomatoes you'll ever try. Restaurants downtown like Husk and SNOB, as well as local wholesalers are the primary recipients of the Ransford's harvest, but if you're lucky you might get a chance to sample their delicious bounty at the John's Island Farmer's Market.

With no background in farming or agriculture, the Ransford's are grateful for the opportunity to turn their hobby into a thriving business, and to help ensure that Wadmalaw's legacy of agriculture continues well into the future.

# JOHNS ISLAND LIBRARY OFFERS FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS

## STORYTIMES

Baby Storytime (birth to 24 months with adult)  
Mondays, May 14 and 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime (all ages with an adult)  
Tuesdays, May 15, 22 and 29 at 10:30 a.m.

## PROGRAMS

**Book-a-Librarian** (adults) - Throughout May  
Have a technology question? Need help formatting your resume or completing a job application? Call 843-559-1945 and make an appointment with a librarian for a 30-minute one-on-one session.

**Teen/Tween Trivia Tuesdays** - Throughout May  
Stop by the Reference Desk every Tuesday and get a new trivia sheet. Answer at least 3 of the 5 questions correctly and get a piece of candy.

**Ida Berman's Collection of Photographs: Life on John's Island during the Civil Rights Era**  
Ida Berman was a celebrated photographer and immigrant known for her insights into American

life and culture. This exhibit, presented by A Backpack Journalist, includes never-before-seen photos of places and scenes on John's Island in January of 1959, including people working at The Progressive Club, and portraits of Esau Jenkins, Myles Horton and other modern era civil rights leaders.

**Photography Exhibit: Amber Wilder**

**The Charleston Lowcountry Rose Society Display**

**Kids Rock Talent Show** (up to age 18)

Come share your talent and win a prize. Sign up this month for the talent show set for Tuesday, June 12 at 2:00 p.m. Call 843-559-1945 to register.

**Assistance for Veterans** (adults)

Wednesday, May 2 from 10a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Veterans or spouses of veterans who need care assistance can meet with an accredited VA claims representative to find out about the Aid and Attendance benefit. No appointment needed.

**Older Americans Month** (adults)

Thursday, May 3 from 10:30-11 a.m.

Join us to celebrate Older Americans Month with MUSC's College of Nursing. Light snacks provided.

**Teen Movie Time** Thurs., May 3 from 3:30-5:30 pm  
Jumanji (2017) Rated PG-13; 1hr 59 min.

**Knit and Purl: A Casual Knitting Group** (adults)

Saturdays, May 5 and 19 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Bring your knitting materials and join us each month to knit with fellow crafters. All skill levels welcome!

**Kids Art Workshop** Saturday, May 5 at 12p.m.

Come join the fun and paint the day away.

**Celebrating Dia with Criss Cross Mangosauce**

Saturday, May 5 at 4:30 p.m.  
Bilingual concert and storytelling presentation with audience participation.

**S.C. History Series: Is South Carolina History Relevant?** (young adults and adults)

Tuesday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m.  
Join CCPL's historian, Dr. Nic Butler, to hear why it's important to study South Carolina history.

*(continued on page 7)*

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## PLASTIC POLLUTION ON WADMALAW



*Help us keep Wadmalaw beautiful*

Ever wonder what happens to the plastic bottles, foam cups, and bags that you see along the side of Maybank Highway and in our marshes? Plastic trash, in the presence of sunlight breaks down after a few months into small particles, called microplastics. When it rains these plastic particles wash into

our swamps, creeks and marshes. While the degradation of plastic in the environment is generally believed to occur slowly, a researcher at The Citadel found in salt marshes plastic bags become microplastics in about 8 weeks. Some other sources of microplastics in our creeks and marshes are cosmetics like facial scrubs, fibers from synthetic clothing, fishing line, and industrial waste.

Small plastic particles in our marshes and creeks are an environmental and human health concern. When the plastic particles wash into our creeks and marshes, marine life including fish and shellfish eat them. Pollutants, like pesticides and other toxic chemicals, in the soil and water stick to the plastic particles just like iron filings stick to a magnet. Some shrimp and other marine life prefer to eat plastic particles instead of their normal food items. Unfortunately, microplastics have no nutritional value and once inside the gut of marine life, the pollutants and toxic chemicals attached to them are released and harm the organism, sometimes even killing them. Microplastic particles clog the gills of marine life making breathing difficult. Plastic particles also become trapped in the intestines of marine animals making it difficult for them to grow. More than a quarter of all fish sold in markets in California contain

plastic, according to a recent study. The presence of microplastics in foodstuffs may be harmful to human health.

Larger plastic items are also thrown or wash into our creeks and marshes and harm wildlife. Thousands of sea turtles, whales, and seabirds die each year from eating or becoming entangled in plastic. When marine life becomes entangled in discarded monofilament fishing line, polypropylene rope and plastic bottle holders, they are unable to swim or fly normally. Thus, they cannot capture their food. Some marine wildlife mistake floating plastic bags for jellyfish, a favorite food, and eat them. Once in the gut this plastic can cause death. More than 50 percent of the world's sea turtles that have been examined had some kind of plastic related health problem. Many sea turtles examined by the South Carolina Aquarium had a plastic health problem.

Plastic is supposedly cheap. However, plastic takes a toll on the environment. Sixty to 100 million barrels of oil are used every year to make plastic. A giant patch of floating trash in the Pacific Ocean is about the size of Texas. Similar patches are found in the other oceans. This trash includes everything from footballs and kayaks to Lego blocks and microplastics. Most of this trash comes from land. Plastic is believed to constitute 90 per cent of all rubbish floating in the oceans.

During the February "Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful" litter cleanup volunteers collected over 249 orange bags of litter weighing over 1.5 tons. This litter had accumulated since the previous pickup in November. Plastic bags, foam containers, plastic cups, and other plastic items that were thrown or blew from vehicles were among the most abundant items in this litter. Removing this trash from our roadsides enhances the natural beauty of Wadmalaw. It also protects our marshes and marine life from plastic pollution.

## RENOWNED CHEF HEADLINES COMMUNITY CENTER FUNDRAISER

*(continued from front page)*

students are provided with back-to-school supplies each fall and the Center regularly arranges volunteer opportunities for high school students.

Sweetgrass basket weaving classes are held twice a month at the Center. The WICC also regularly sponsors community programs such as the Gospel Singers Brunch and the Black History Month Celebration, both held earlier this year.

For the last two years, the WICC served as venue for two New York

originated plays, offering Wadmalaw residents the opportunity to see live New York theatre performances. The Center also provides critical support to the Wadmalaw Land Planning Committee (WILPC) by hosting its monthly meetings.

Tickets for the event are \$18 per person and all proceeds will go to support WICC programs. For more information and advance ticket purchase, contact either Bertha Smalls Middleton at 843-557-8408 or Bob Cox at 843-696-2385.

## JOHNS ISLAND LIBRARY OFFERS FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS

*(continued from page 6)*

**The Week South Carolina Rebelled: April 14-21, 1775** (adults) Tuesday, May 8 at 11:30 a.m. Join CCPL's historian, Dr. Nic Butler, for a discussion of the long-forgotten spark that ignited the American Revolutionary War in SC.

**Coffee and Conversation** (adults) Wednesday, May 9 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Socialize with other seniors and enjoy some coffee.

**STAR Therapy Dogs** Saturday, May 12 at 2:00 p.m. Read to a furry new friend, a certified therapy dog and their handler. They always love a good story!

**Sea Islands Book Club** (adults) Tuesday, May 15 at 2:00 p.m. 'Cigar Factory' by Michelle Moore

**Workshop: Bouncing Oobleck** Wednesday, May 16 at 3:00 p.m. Make some messy goop, then watch it dance to music.

**Teen Hour of Code** Thursday, May 17 from 3:30-5:00 pm Join Mrs. Cleveland in the Auditorium for an hour of code. Activities include Star Wars, Gumball, Moana, Code Combat and Minecraft.

**Bee-wonderful with Charleston Beekeepers** Saturday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. Learn about bees and beekeeping in Charleston from a member of the Charleston Beekeepers.

**Round Table Discussion with Councilwoman Johnson** (adults) Wednesday, May 23 at 12:30 p.m.

Discuss concerns and issues with Councilwoman Anna Johnson of Charleston County District 8.

**Tween Movie Matinee** Wednesday, May 23 at 3:00 p.m. Majority rules on which one of two selected PG-rated movies to watch. Come early to have a vote!

**Purposeful Play - Get Outside.** Thursday, May 24 at 1:00 p.m. Make some great creations to use outside at home with other families. how to use the library's downloadable media on your tablet, phone, e-reader or laptop? Call 843-559-1945 and make an appointment with a librarian for a 30-minute one-on-one session.

# WADMALAW NEWS

P. O. Box 3

Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487

Email: wadmalawnews@gmail.com



Do you have a family member or friend who throws trash on Wadmalaw roads?  
Please help us **KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL.**

Advertisement for a Low Country Seafood Luncheon. The top features a still life of seafood (lobster, crab, shrimp) and a plate with the date "SATURDAY MAY 26". A circular inset shows a photo of Barry Waldrop. The text reads: "JOIN US FOR A LOW COUNTRY SEAFOOD LUNCHEON FEATURING EXECUTIVE CHEF BARRY WALDROP". A menu lists: "FISH GUMBO OVER RICE, SUCOOTASH, CORN BREAD, COLE SLAW, KEY LIME PIE, ICE TEA" for "\$18.00" which "INCLUDES DINNER AND JAZZ". The event is at the "WADMALAW ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER, 5605 KATY HILL ROAD, WADMALAW ISLAND, SC 29487". Contact info: "MORE INFO OR ADVANCE TICKETS CONTACT BERTHA MIDDLETON: 843.557.8408 BOB COX: 843.696.2385". Design credit: "DESIGNED BY DANIELA GRAPHIX | 803.292.4620 | INFO@DANIELAGRAPHIX.COM".

## YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$100 – SUBMIT YOUR KWB SLOGAN IDEA

**KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL** is asking island residents for their suggestions for its slogan for this year. It should convey a message focused on keeping our island beautiful and/or protecting our island's special character. Entries can be up to 10 words, but brevity is key.

**Submit your suggestions to:** Wadmalaw News, P. O. Box 3, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487 or email: [wadmalawnews@gmail.com](mailto:wadmalawnews@gmail.com)

The winner will receive \$100 and will be announced in the August issue of *Wadmalaw*. **Deadline is May 31st** and more than one entry per person is allowed. Please enclose your name and contact information with your entry to ensure we can reach you if you win.



The Plantation Singers performed at the WICC Gospel Brunch on March 24th.