



# WADMALAW

Newsletter - Issue 21

Keep Wadmalaw Beautiful

May 2021

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## KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL

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## EYE ON THE ISLAND

We are pleased to start this feature to highlight hidden influences on Wadmalaw Island. As residents, we can see its attractions – peaceful, uncrowded, friendly – but invisible forces and external challenges are constantly pressuring the island to change. The following outlines our current baseline.

Wadmalaw is approximately 10 miles long by 6 miles wide. Its surface covers 41.9 square miles. According to the TownCharts website (<https://www.towncharts.com/South-Carolina/Demographics/Wadmalaw-Island-CCD-SC-Demographics-data.html>), the island's population was 2,999 in 2018 – up from 2,725 in 2010, an increase of 10.1%.

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*Regular inspiration is everywhere on Wadmalaw – we're blessed!*

## WICC'S NEW ROOF SHELTERS WIDE RANGING ACTIVITIES

If you drive down Katy Hill Road, you will come to the charming Wadmalaw Island Community Center. Beautifully landscaped and nestled in the trees, it now sports a brand new roof, the result of fund raisers, community partners and friends of the center. It represents the care and love that Wadmalaw residents have for this building.

Partnerships include but are not limited to: Sea Island Chamber of Commerce; Charleston Area Senior Companion Program; Meals on Wheels of Charleston; Holy Spirit Church Paraclete Foundation (which provides needed home repairs to residents of Johns and Wadmalaw Islands); Seacoast Church; New Jerusalem AMEC; Salem Baptist Church; and Charleston County Public Library.

WICC networks with other organizations to help residents of the Sea Islands who live on Heir's



*WICC has a new roof and fresh landscaping to welcome island residents.*

Property. Seniors living on these properties often cannot repair their homes because they cannot provide a clear deed to their land. One Heirs Property Seminar held at the center by a local law firm resulted in over 60 Seniors having their wills drawn up at no cost.

A lot of what goes on at the center goes unnoticed except by the people who benefit from these programs. There is an amazing variety of informative and fellowship opportunities. For instance, the Center provides school supplies for elementary, high school and college students in the community.

Home-bound elder residents are taken meals, and their homes are checked for safety, warmth, firewood, blankets and to be sure that all appliances are in working order. These basic needs are lovingly covered and coordinated through WICC volunteers. Help is given for replacing appliances and furniture, or building ramps, all provided by various agencies and WICC Partners.

Due to Covid, the annual October Festival was not held in 2020, but it should not be missed! It is an event for the entire community, with food, entertainment, and displays of services and products by local organizations. In 2019, over 300 community members enjoyed local music, food and vendors, and over \$ 3,000 was raised to support WICC's mission.

A variety of seminars are held at the center, such as help with Veteran's benefits, wellness living led by a

...continued on pg. 3

## 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  
Services at 10:00 AM

### 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. Pattie E. Gordon, Pastor  
Rev. Shamond Riddy, Director  
of Visitation  
Services at 10:15 AM

### Rockville Presbyterian Church

2479 Sea Island Yacht Club Road  
Rev. Fred Hope, 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.

## HEROES WORK AT EDITH FRIERSON

The sign in front of Edith Frierson Elementary School simply states, "Heroes work here."

After the mandate in March 2020 to close schools, the staff at Frierson worked diligently to reach every student while at home. Those who had internet were easy enough, but some needed school buses to come to their neighborhoods and provide wi-fi. A few received paper packets of school work, brought to them by the bus drivers, who ferried it back to the teachers to grade.

Over the summer, Frierson Principal Dr. Deborah Davis-Cummings met with her teachers and asked, "How many students do you think you can safely teach in person next fall?" Afterwards, she literally spent hours measuring each room to determine how many children could fit into each instructional space, meeting Covid-19 guidelines.

In September, Frierson opened at 50% capacity. Teachers had 12 in-person students and 12 virtual ones that were to be taught at the same time. It was difficult at best, and teachers and students were stressed and frustrated. It was a learning process. Everyone tossed out ideas that might work for students and staff. Dr. Cummings listened, and reached out to the community for assistance.

Berkeley Electric aided in the construction of 3 outdoor classrooms. They cleared 2 areas in the woods behind the school. A third outdoor classroom, on the opposite side of the school near the volleyball court, was created in the grass. A community member donated mulch as flooring. Berkeley brought in large "spools" (used for cable) to serve as outdoor tables, and numerous stumps for seating. Volunteers sanded every piece and painted colorful designs on the makeshift chairs. Everything was smooth and sealed to make the students more comfortable.

Teachers and students alike love these outdoor classrooms. It provides a time for fresh air and feeling safer during the pandemic. The 2 classes in the woods can use school internet, so they often bring their devices to work outside. The other area cannot

access the internet, but Dr. Cummings hopes this will be remedied in the future.

There is a 4th area behind the school that is being developed as an outdoor garden and learning lab. There will be a building to house all of the materials and tools, and a new well (solar-powered) to water the plants. Students and teachers are excited about the possibilities, and would love to have garden-minded people from the community to assist them in this new adventure.

Frierson is now operating at 90% capacity with 154 students in the building, and a few still being taught virtually from home. Everyone wears a mask, and desks are partitioned off with plexiglass. Covid-19 safety guidelines are closely followed. Some parents are just not comfortable with face-to-face learning yet, and the staff understands. It's a process. In order to protect Frierson's most treasured friends, the Reading Partners program has been deferred until a safer time.

There are 187 students on the waiting list for next year. To think this was the school that the county wanted to close due to low enrollment! Through a lot of hard work, inspiration, training and dedication, Frierson is thriving. The teachers and students can see that the program is working. More Montessori classrooms are added each year, and will eventually span to Grade 8, with maximum enrollment of 258. Wow. Heroes do work here. Every day.



Frierson students learning in an 'outdoor classroom.'

## CHARLESTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR MAY

**10a.m. Daily:** Virtual Storytime (Children & Families)  
Stories, songs, dances, and crafts.

**Every Sunday in May:** 5 p.m. Exam Time Stretches -  
from CCPL's Facebook page (Teens)

**Saturday, May 1:** 11 a.m. Tech Team: 5 Tips for  
Avoiding Email Scams (Adults)

6 p.m. Self-Publish Your Cookbook (All ages)

**Sunday, May 2:** Noon - Teen Job Fair Day 1: Cover  
Letters and Resumes

**Monday, May 3:** Noon - Teen Job Fair Day 2: Summer  
PT jobs/online applications

5 p.m. Legal Clinic with the SC Bar: Credit Card Debt  
and Repair (Adults) REGISTRATION REQ.

**Tuesday, May 4:** Noon - Teen Job Fair Day 3: Dress  
for Success

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

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# WICC'S NEW ROOF SHELTERS WIDE RANGING ACTIVITIES

...continued from front cover

volunteer attorney, hurricane preparedness information from the Sea Islands Chamber of Commerce, cooking classes by the Lowcountry Food Bank, fitness classes, Jazzercise for Seniors, and a dementia workshop.

At other programs, one can learn to make Sweetgrass baskets, volunteer with voter registration drives, help high school students fill out scholarship applications, or attend a weekly Bible study led by pastors from various denominations, with lunch following.

WICC is a hub of care and outreach to Wadmalaw, providing food, fellowship, special events for Seniors and Veterans, and so much more.

All of this is coordinated by the talented and super energetic Bertha Middleton. It is a jewel for Wadmalaw Island that blesses it in so many ways and belongs to the entire Community. Everyone can be so proud and grateful for its services.

Take that drive down Katy Hill Road and stop in to say "Hello." You may find there is something there for you that will enrich your life, as it has done for so many others.

**Contact:** Bertha Middleton, Volunteer Director WICC, P.O. Box 46 Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487 - 843-557-8408. Follow her Facebook page: @middletonbertha

## TUFTED TITMICE: OUR SLIGHT, STEADFAST BACKYARD BUDDIES

It is easy to take for granted even the most beautiful sight once you get used to seeing it. At first glance, tufted titmice appear to be small, nondescript birds. But if you stop to really look at them, you'll notice they have a bluish tint to their gray feathers, and a muted splash of burnt orange under each wing. They have slight, feathery crests on their heads that look like little mohawks. While they are small, they have a surprisingly loud voice and can be heard singing even in winter. Some of their raspy alert calls sound like they are coming from a much larger, more intimidating bird. Tufted titmice are native to South Carolina and can be found in deciduous forests across the eastern United States. They are very common visitors

to backyard birdfeeders all year, especially in winter. Often, they are the first birds brave enough to visit a new feeder. They love sunflower seeds and they just can't resist an offering of their favorite food. Watch closely: they will take one seed at a time from the feeder, fly to a nearby perch, crack the shell, and eat the seed. And repeat.

Tufted titmice nest in tree holes, either natural cavities or ones carved out by woodpeckers. Many birds rely on dead trees to make their homes, which is one reason it is important to let dead trees remain in yards and forests whenever possible. Tufted titmice have also been known to utilize nesting boxes. They will stuff their nests with soft hair from various animals, ranging from rabbits to raccoons. Some have even been seen stealing hair off the backs of living animals!

The tufted titmouse may not have flashy feathers like some of our other Wadmalaw Island birds, but don't ignore these slight little backyard buddies. They are as remarkable and reliable as a good old friend. And everyone knows: friends make life more enjoyable.



A Wadmalaw Tufted Titmice

### MEET KWB BRIGADE VOLUNTEERS



**Names:** Dennis & Becky Browne  
Maybank Highway, Brigade 15

**Occupations:** Dennis is a retired Real Estate Broker and Becky is a retired Chief Financial Officer

**Years on Wadmalaw:** 3

**Why we are Brigade members:**

"We both enjoy the outdoors and community service making the decision to join the cleanup KWB brigade a simple one."

Join over 120 residents from all over the island working together to keep our island litter-free. Email: KWB at keepwadmalawbeautiful@gmail.com or call/text 843-566-5702 to volunteer

### Support our WADMALAW newsletter

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## RESIDENT PROFILE:

### ROSIE WHITE

Rosie White has lived her entire life on Wadmalaw. She loves her island, and everyone on this island loves her.

Rosie spent the first six years of life with her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Totter Simmons, on Last Street, which is now Roseville Road. Some old-timers might remember her great-grandfather, Willie Potter, and her grandfather, Shine Brown, two legends on the island. At age six, Rosie moved to Dunwell Street with her parents, Tina and Washie Brown, and has lived there ever since. Her daughter Mignon (Liz) and her two grandchildren live nearby.



Longtime Wadmalaw resident, Rosie White.

So many remember Rosie from her days working alongside Carroll Suggs at King's Grocery, the only store on the island which had everything, including crank kerosine. Many children, such as Riley Bradham, Frank Thornhill, Brad Rumph, John Smoak, and Will and Rachel Suggs, often came by the store to get some candy and visit with "Mama Rosie". She also worked for sixteen years at John's Island Cleaners, where she greeted her friends and followers every day.

Rosie loves people, her New Bethlehem Baptist Church and Wadmalaw Island. She states, "everybody knows everybody, and if you don't belong here, we know who you are!" She remembers many happy times riding bikes to the "Bo Hog" tree, and meeting up with friends to play baseball in "the pasture", which was the field behind Annie Heyward's house.

While facing health challenges beginning in 2017, Rosie remains grateful to everyone who has helped her along the way, including Micah LaRoche, Lucia Folk, and the Wadmalaw Island Community Center.

Things are looking better now, and everyone is grateful. Especially Rosie.



## REAL ESTATE SALES (JAN 7, 2021 - APR 8, 2021)

Vacant Land	Acres	Date Sold	Price
Anchor Watch Dr. Lot 63	7.9	01/12/21	\$445,000
Anchor Watch Dr. Lot 52	4.13	01/15/21	\$520,000
0 Pawlett Blake Drive	4.39	01/26/21	\$89,500
9 Retriever Road	68.29	02/03/21	\$1,265,000
6110 Drop Anchor Lane	3.33	02/05/21	\$110,000
Lot 30-B Admiral Blake Ln.	5.14	02/11/21	\$145,500
21 Josie Ridge Road	9.11	02/23/21	\$300,000
1158 Pilot Boy Road	3.3	03/23/21	\$735,000
0 Bentz Road	23.5	03/25/21	\$300,000
6079 Josie Ridge Road	4.64	03/29/21	\$115,000
5753 Boone Haven Road	3.2	04/08/21	\$265,000
Residences	Acres	Date Sold	Price
2481 Sea Island Yacht Club	0.97	01/07/21	\$1,548,750
2764 Anchor Watch Road	3.83	01/29/21	\$2,280,000
1990 Liberia Road	0.97	02/08/21	\$239,900
1964 Long Creek Road	5.9	03/05/21	\$732,000
1777 Tacky Point Road	2.97	03/12/21	\$705,000
5920 Selkirk Plantation Rd.	62	03/15/21	\$2,500,000
1168 Pilot Boy Road	3.19	03/26/21	\$1,985,000

## BERTHA BOOKER AND HER SOLAR SEA SALT!

When Wadmalaw resident Bertha Booker was laid off from her job in international shipping, she decided to "go local" and start a small farm. Having an interest in historical agriculture, the idea occurred to her during a kayak trip from Rockville across to Botany Bay: Why couldn't she make local sea salt as one of her products?

As no one had made sea salt commercially in South Carolina for many years, it took Booker over a year to finally get the green light to set up her small solar salt farm on a Wadmalaw plantation. There, local seawater is settled, filtered and evaporated naturally in the sun to grow beautiful white, flaky crystals.

Along the way, Booker discovered the incredible coincidence that South Carolina's first commercial salt works had been founded by colonist William Mellichamp at Botany Bay in 1724. The most fun part of her entire adventure, says Booker, has been uncovering this almost forgotten history and sharing it with customers at the Charleston and Kiawah Farmers' Markets.

As solar sea salt is a seasonal product, you can call Booker at 843-377-6805 to check availability.



Bertha Booker with nature's own salt from the sea!

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## NEIGHBORS FIGHT COVID-19

Like the rest of the country, Wadmalaw has felt the impact of the Covid-19 virus. On March 21, islanders lined up at St. James Bethel AME Church to receive 500 doses of the Moderna vaccine administered through the Palmetto Palace, a non-profit organization which takes a mobile health clinic to underserved communities. The event was reported on the front page of the March 22nd Post and Courier. By the end of the day, all 500 doses were administered.

Earlier, on March 3rd, the Moderna vaccine was also offered to Wadmalaw residents at New Bethlehem Baptist Church on Liberia Road. A total of 200 doses were administered.

On February 12, local pharmacist Dr. Lisa Gehlken spoke at the Wadmalaw Island Community Center to provide information about the vaccine. Typical questions people asked were: Does it affect fertility? (No obstetric board has supported this.) Does it contain pork? (It contains no animal proteins.) Will it cause cancer? (There is no evidence to suggest this.) Also noted: The vaccine does not cause autism or dementia; it does not affect DNA; there is no DNA, a tracking device, nor the virus itself in the vaccine. Anaphylactic reactions caused by the vaccine are extremely rare (11 cases per million administered vaccines). Inflammation at the injection site is a sign that the vaccine is working.

"The vaccine was not developed hurriedly overnight," Dr. Gehlken said. "The technology and science have been studied a long time. It is better to have the vaccine than risk getting the virus. Even those infected with Covid should still be vaccinated once they are symptom-free, since the long-term immunity from the virus is unknown. People getting a two-dose vaccine must get both doses."

In January, Jacqueline Baer, FNP-C, of Angel Oak Family Medicine, called her patient, Thelma David, to tell her that she had received a supply of the vaccine. She asked if Thelma and her husband, Dante, needed one, but the Davids were already vaccinated. Ms. Baer then

asked Thelma if she would help spread the word that vaccinations were available at her clinic. As a result, Mrs. David formed a team to call neighbors, friends and relatives living on Wadmalaw, Johns Island and North Charleston. They focused on those who might not have internet access, mainly the elderly. The volunteers arranged for 1000 people to receive vaccinations at the clinic on Bohicket Road. "Jackie and her mother, Clara Lobo, wanted to help, and made it possible," says Mrs. David. "We were able to do something pretty nice for the community and help one another."

Neighbors helping neighbors. That's life on Wadmalaw.



From left to right: Claudia Austin, Thelma David, Arleen Cohen, Jacqueline Baer, DNP, FNP-BC, FRE and Clara Lobo at the Angel Oak Family Medicine clinic on March 24, 2021. Not shown: Margie Morse, of Kiawah and Robin Coaxum, from Johns Island.

## ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE INVASION

In 1964, it was big news: the Beatles had invaded the USA. For fans of John, Paul, George and Ringo, it was a happy and exciting time. In 2020, another invasion of beetles was not good news. In late spring of last year, Asian long-horned beetles were discovered in the Stono Ferry neighborhood of Hollywood. This past February, the beetles were found in about 30 trees on the small island behind Stono County Park. As of early March, almost 4,000 trees in the Lowcountry were infested. They all had to be cut down, with every piece of wood removed from the site, quarantined, and put through drying ovens to destroy eggs and larvae. Infested trees have also been found in Johns Island, Adams Run, Ravenel and Charleston. Wadmalaw Island was inspected by Clemson's Invasive Species program, but no beetles were found. Two quarantine areas are in place in the Lowcountry.

The Asian long-horned beetle is native to China and Korea: it is black, 1 to 1.5 inches long, with an irregular pattern of white spots on its wings, 4" black and white antennae, and bluish feet. They probably entered the US in shipping crates and packing materials, and spread in firewood, building materials and storm debris. So far, they have been found in five other states, and the US Department of Agriculture is working closely to monitor the spread. The infestation has killed thousands of trees, primarily maple, elm, poplar, willow, ash, sycamore and birch. Once infested, there is no cure. The good news, however, is that thanks to alert tree watchers and quick aggressive measures, the beetles have been eliminated in two states.

Experts say the beetles probably invaded the Lowcountry about seven years ago. They bore holes and lay eggs in their chosen trees. Then, when ready to emerge, the larvae bore tunnels through the trees to exit, moving on to the next tree. By this time, the damage has been done and the tree shows signs of dying. Large amounts



Photo credit: Dr. David Coyle, Clemson University

of sawdust and wood shavings can be found around the base, with discoloration around egg-laying sites in the bark. Sap can be seen oozing from pencil-sized exit holes, with dieback of crown leaves and branches.

Please check your trees, and if you see any signs of infestation or damage, contact Clemson Extension Service at 843-973-8329 or STOPALB@Clemson.edu. Together, we can stop them.

# LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

As a new feature, we will highlight several small/local businesses in each newsletter.

Supporting local business is a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors, to support our fellow islanders, and to foster a sense of community.

LET'S MEET OUR FIRST THREE BUSINESSES...!

## • Cherry Point Seafood Company, Olivia LaRoche



**About Cherry Point Seafood:** We are a family owned and operated seafood company that sells fresh shrimp to the public nearly year round. We provide shrimp to 22 Harris Teeters and supply Whole Foods with fish, as well as several other fish

markets in the area (including Crosby's, Abundant Seafood, Blackbird Market, and Lowcountry Shellfish).

**Your Connection to Wadmalaw?** We started selling seafood in 1933 at the end of Maybank and moved to our current location in the early 70's.

**Contact Info:** We are located at the end of Cherry Point Rd. (2789 Cherry Point Rd.) The best way to reach us is through Facebook @ cherrypointseafood, or Instagram

**What do you love most about Wadmalaw?** The thing I love most about Wadmalaw is the water. The water that I grew up on and in is the very same water that keeps Cherry Point going.

## • Bugby Plantation U-Pick, Adair McKoy



**About Bugby:** We grow fruits and vegetables to offer at our UPick and grow heirloom corn for our family's milling operation (Marsh Hen Mill) on Edisto Island to grind for grits.

**Your Connection to Wadmalaw?** Our family has lived and worked on Wadmalaw for nearly 300 years, and has farmed for 53 years, starting on Martin's Point.

**Contact Info:** Follow us on Facebook @ Bugby Plantation UPick or call 843.209.3246

**What do you love most about Wadmalaw?** The opportunity to play in God's dirt and share with others what he is growing and doing.

## • Wadmalaw Soaps, Amber Davis



**About Wadmalaw Soaps:** Handmade artisan soaps made with the only best Natural and Organic ingredients. Real soap (not detergent soaps like in stores) is great for everyone especially people with skin issues. We offer custom batches of soap and also organic coffee lip balm and a few

other products via our Facebook page. I keep my business small so I can continue to offer the best possible ingredients locally.

**Your Connection to Wadmalaw?** We started making soaps, using local ingredients (including milk from our goats) as a hobby in 2007 off of Bear's Bluff Road.

**Contact Info:** Our soaps are sold at Black Bird Market, True Value Hardware, or contact us at <https://www.facebook.com/wadmalawsoaps/>

**What do you love most about Wadmalaw?** Visiting the winery, fish hatchery, tea plantation or Angel Oak.

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A Wadmalaw Island Resident



'Masked' visitors are bane to island gardeners!

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## THE FAT HEN RESTAURANT: A COUPLE'S FAMILY AFFAIR

Fred Neuville, nationally acclaimed chef, smiles with pride when he tells of his 13-year journey with The Fat Hen Restaurant. A native Virginian, Fred married Joan, a social worker, in 1996 in Denver, and they soon relocated to the Low Country. Having vacationed on Folly Beach as a child, Fred knew the lure of Charleston's marshes and grand oaks.

For 9 years, Fred, a graduate of the Culinary Institute, worked as head chef/partner in area restaurants. However, he and Joan dreamed of having their own restaurant. In late 2006, Joan saw that St. Johns Café on Maybank Highway was for sale, so they purchased it. Joan took charge of decorating, bookkeeping, and helping with the staff. They opened The Fat Hen on July 8, 2007. Fred said, "We did our business plan for 89 diners the first night, and we had 350! We borrowed catering staff and had all our kids helping out." Their restaurant specializes in French Lowcountry cuisine using local produce, fish, and meat.

In 2012, the Neuvilles moved to Wadmalaw. Fred says, "I love the serenity and having a place to decompress after working long hours dealing with lots of people." This extraordinary couple, by the way, raised and then adopted four foster children, who are now young adults. When they all get together, including a new granddaughter, it is anything but serene in the Neuville house!

Their love of children is also reflected in their philanthropic work. The Fat Hen sponsors a St. Johns High School Scholarship Fund. So far, they have awarded 5 scholarships. When the pandemic ends, Fat Hen will resume having fundraisers, which have already raised over \$37,000 for the program.

When asked about getting through the pandemic, Fred states, "When the Governor shut us down, we thought all that we had worked for was gone. We ran on a skeleton crew, scaled back the menu, consolidated the kitchen stations, and expanded outdoor seating. What we lost inside, we gained outside." He added, "PPP (The Payroll Protection Program) saved us."

It means a lot to Fred and Joan that all 4 of their children have worked at the restaurant. Fred says proudly, "It is a family-owned business that was not started with big money. I had a great job running 2 restaurants and a catering company. We could have gone bankrupt and become homeless." He also thanks the community for all their support.

The Neuville's story is like many American success stories: They took a big risk, worked very hard, persevered through adversity, gave back to the community, and are still going strong.



Fred Neuville in front of his restaurant

## EYE ON THE ISLAND

...continued from front cover

This makes it the fastest growing population in the Greater Wadmalaw CCD (Consolidated Census District), which includes Rockville, Wadmalaw Island, Meggett, Kiawah Island, Seabrook Island, Ravenel and Hollywood. For Charleston County, the population increase in the same period was 17.5%. For the US as a whole, the population grew 6.3%. Even though the numbers for Wadmalaw are very small, the population is growing faster than the nation.

The population density of Wadmalaw is 72 people per square mile. The highest density within the CCD is 283 people, and the lowest is Meggett at 68. On nearby Johns Island, which has seen almost unlimited development over the past two decades, the density numbers are far higher.

Low population and density and a strong zoning regime translate into more open space, peace and quiet. These are increasingly desirable qualities in Charleston County, which is becoming more crowded every day. The Lowcountry Land Trust includes Wadmalaw in the CAWS (Cooper, Ashley, Wando, and Stono Rivers) Basin and notes that it "includes iconic marsh-lined river corridors and many of the barrier islands around Charleston, SC. CAWS Basin faces increasing growth pressure."

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Wadmalaw is slowly growing, but neither as fast nor as much as the rest of Charleston County. As other parts of the County become more crowded with people, homes and businesses, and traffic increases, less growth and less development, paradoxically, have contributed to making Wadmalaw more attractive to those wanting to escape the more populous areas.

### WRITERS WANTED

Would you like to write for *Wadmalaw*? 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

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# WADMALAW NEWS

P. O. Box 3

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**Do you know someone who throws trash on Wadmalaw roads?  
Please help us **KEEP WADMALAW BEAUTIFUL.****

## **IF TREES COULD TALK... THEY'D SAY, "THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU CUT US DOWN."**

**A**nd they'd be right. Here's why. You may think that those trees block your view of the water. You might think they're messy, and that they drop leaves, needles, seeds, or cones on your nice clean lawn. You might even think that if they're not hardwoods, they don't matter.

And you'd be wrong. All of the trees that stand between you and the water serve a practical purpose. Without trees, the soil in your yard can become saturated when storms come. Heavy rain would hit the ground hard and run off into the rivers and streams, taking your topsoil with it. Tree roots hold the soil in place, because they run under the soil and create spaces for water to flow, and absorb the rainfall that trees need to live. Leaves, needles, and branches also create a canopy over your yard that filters and slows the heavy rainfall before it hits the ground, minimizing water damage to your property. Even when trees die off, they provide important habitat for wildlife.

The seeds and cones that fall from the trees serve a purpose as well. If left in place and allowed to grow, these seeds produce new vegetation, whose roots limit erosion and soak up more water. They protect your property from flooding while enriching the soil.

You might respond, "OK, I'll keep the trees, but I want to mow down this sea oxeye, groundsel, and wax myrtle that stand between me and the marsh. They have no place in my yard."

Big mistake. The marsh buffer is also there for a purpose. The natural vegetation that grows at the edge of the marsh helps to absorb rain that runs into the marsh and changes its salinity. These changes can make the

marsh unhealthy for the plants and creatures that live there. Native marsh plants filter pollutants, such as pesticides and herbicides, that come from your lawn and surrounding areas. These contaminants poison the water and everything in it, eventually ending up in the food chain.

People who live on the water want a beautiful view, but clearing out too much of the natural vegetation comes at a steep price. Please think twice before cutting. It may enhance your view, but it also increases the risk of serious flooding and pollution of the marsh and sea.

