



LIVING IN I'ON

It's a way of life, not just a place to call home



December Events

FRI	12/1	First Friday
SAT	12/2	Holiday Decorating
SUN	12/3	Festival of Giving
WED	12/6	Lunch Bunch
THU	12/7	Playground Social
TUE	12/12	Women's Coffee
WED	12/13	Potluck Dinner
WED	12/13	Yarn Buddies
TBD		Women's Movie Group

Important Dates

TUE	12/5	IDC Meeting
THU	12/7	First Night of Hannukah
TUE	12/12	IDC Submittal Deadline
THU	12/14	Recycling Pickup
THU	12/21	Winter Solstice
MON	12/25	Christmas
TUE	12/26	First Night of Kwanza
FRI	12/29	Recycling Pickup
SUN	12/31	New Year's Eve

DOCK CLOSINGS ON PAGE 2

2023 I'On Board Meetings
159 Civitas Street
Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

December 11



A Holiday Message from the Board

Dear Living in I'On Community,

The holidays are a time to gather with family, friends, and neighbors to share the joyful spirit of the season. In I'On, our diverse community will gather this Sunday to shine light on kindness and generosity, as we line our streets with glowing luminaries to celebrate the 20th Holiday Festival of Giving.



While some of us were born here in the low country, others have found their way from around the country and even around the world. We are a diverse people of different faiths, ages, nationalities, thoughts, and views. Living side by side, we show respect and caring for our community and one another.

The Board of Directors is taking this moment to thank you for your support and volunteerism throughout the year, for sharing your time and talents and most of all for providing the fabric that binds our community. We continue to be very proud of what we have built in I'On.

From all of us to all of you... Happy Holidays and all best wishes for a Safe and Joyous New Year!

Your I'On Board of Trustees,

*Julie Hussey, Robert Adams, Simon O'Shea,
Michael Spalding, Lon Waggoner, & Stephen Wood*



**DOCK CLOSINGS - NOVEMBER 2023**

Date of Event 2023	Event Type	Ceremony Starts
Friday, December 1	Wedding & Reception	3:55-4:25
Saturday, December 2	Wedding & Reception	3:55-4:25
Sunday, December 3	Wedding & Reception	4:25-4:55
Friday, December 8	Wedding & Reception	4:25-4:55
Saturday, December 9	Wedding & Reception	4:25-4:55
Sunday, December 10	Wedding & Reception	4:55-5:25
Saturday, December 16	Wedding & Reception	4:25-4:55
Friday, December 29	Wedding & Reception	4:55-5:25
Saturday, December 30	Wedding & Reception	4:25-4:55
Sunday, December 31	Wedding & Reception	4:55-5:25

FIRST FRIDAY**Friday, December 1 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.****Hosted by Vicky and John Wynn at 174 North Shelmore Boulevard**

Many thanks to Cheryl and Bob Pitts who hosted a lovely evening for us in November.

No need to RSVP for the December 1st First Friday, just please remember to bring your own libations, drinking glasses and a small appetizer to share. Our hostess has requested all guests be vaccinated.

We still have openings for January, February and June (through next December). Please contact Wendy Nixon at (203) 858-7909, if you would like to host a party. Our committee will make it easy. Also, feel free to contact Wendy if you would like to help on the FF or Potluck Committee - many hands make light work (and it's not that much work anyway!) Best, Wendy Nixon and Dawn Beaver, your FF coordinators

PLAYGROUND SOCIAL HOUR**Thursday, December 7 - 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.****Hosted by Jessica Smith at the Scramble Playground (behind the shops at I'On)**

Join us for a playground social this month. Come meet your friends for a fun afternoon and holiday treats! Contact Jessica Smith at (407) 267-5968 or by email at Jessicadb25@gmail.com with questions.

WOMEN'S COFFEE**Tuesday, December 12 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.****Hosted by Susan Fitzgerald and Joyce Stifel at 185 North Shelmore Boulevard**

The December Holidays Swing into Style at the I'On Women's Coffee. **New this year is an optional cookie exchange.** To participate, bring 2-3 dozen cookies (homemade preferred) on a plate to share. Materials will be provided to select your new assortment.

No RSVP needed, but we hope you will join Joyce and Susan as they bid adieu!

POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday, December 13 - 6:30 p.m. at the Creek Club

HOST NEEDED



Thank you to The Eco Group for hosting November's Potluck. We have no hosts for the upcoming months so if you would like to host, please contact Wendy Nixon at (203) 858-7909. It's a great time to get out and socialize with your neighbors, hope you'll join us this month. Tis the season!

Come celebrate with your neighbors! Please join us for a delightful evening overlooking Hobcaw Creek and the marsh! Plan to arrive at 6:30 and bring a dish to share, along with your own plate, utensils, a beverage, and glass. There are no rules that you must personally cook what you bring. Please encourage new neighbors to join us... Potluck is a great opportunity to make new friends and catch up on neighborhood news. And don't be shy! You will find dinner partners aplenty once you arrive. No reason to hesitate to arrive solo!

Thank you to the neighbor who kindly offered to launder the tableclothes. Please drop them off on Wendy Nixon's porch at 344 North Shelmore Boulevard, when you get a chance. Best, Wendy Nixon, Lendy Barnard, Amy Goldy and Carline Soutter, your Potluck committee

YARN BUDDIES

Wednesday, December 13 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Hosted by C.J. (Carolyn) Pelletier at 90 Ponsbury Road



The festive spirit continues at C.J. (Carolyn) Pelletier's lovely home for the December 13th meeting of Yarn Buddies. Please let C.J. know by text or email if you are able to attend: (843) 697-2011 or cjpelletier8@gmail.com.

Yarn Buddies was formed to encourage creativity, share imagination, and inspire those who have an interest in the handcrafted arts. Anyone interested in the creative arts of handiwork (be it knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, jewelry making, quilting, rug hooking. etc.), is warmly invited to attend.

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, December 6 - 12:00 p.m.

Hosted by Amy Goldy at Leon's Oyster Shop, 698 King Street

Parking for Leon's is located at the lot on 688 King Street



November's Lunch Bunch was a fabulous meal at Malagon. Amy Goldy will host the December lunch at Leon's Oyster Shop (leonsoystershop.com) at 698 King Street with a maximum of 12 guests.

RSVP is due by Monday the 4th and will be taken on a first come first served basis. Please e-mail Amy at amyhgoldy@gmail.com to RSVP. Contact Kristen Anderson at kristenande@gmail.com with questions.

I'ON WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP

Sign up to receive future movie dates and times...



Our next outing will be announced by email to all neighbors on the movie list. If you aren't on the list and are interested please email Jan Laabs at laabsjan@hotmail.com. You will then receive an invite with all the information to attend the next outing. It may be awhile depending on what's playing.



THIS MONTH WITH THE I'ON TRUST

THE 20TH HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF GIVING

Sunday, Dec 3, 2023

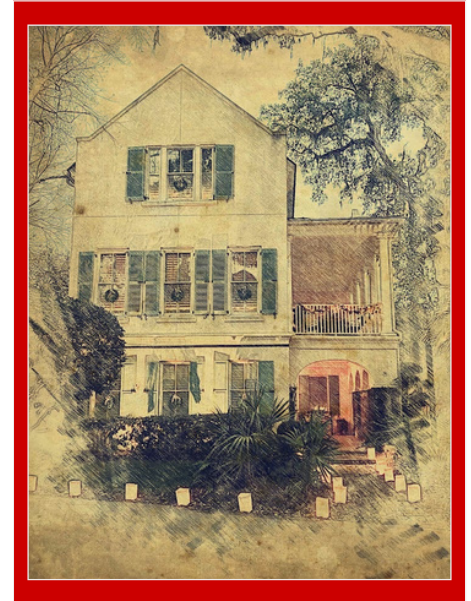
Glowing candles will line the streets of I'On in celebration of the holiday season! Dress in your most festive holiday sweater and follow the schedule below to join the fun:

- 5:00 p.m. - Light your luminaries
- 5:30 p.m. - Holiday Hut sponsored by William Means Real Estate. Sweet treats and hot chocolate will be served.



- 5:45 p.m. - Check presentation for The Formation Project, recipient of 2023 Giving Lights.
- 6:00 to 8:45 p.m. - Carriage rides. We ask for patience and we will do our best to accommodate all those that would like a ride.

Please contact Antonia Fokas at admin@iontrust.org with questions.



The engraved bricks surrounding the fountain in Perseverance Square, commemorate special people that have gone before and those we love and cherish in our lives today.

Perseverance Square Brick Engraving - 2024

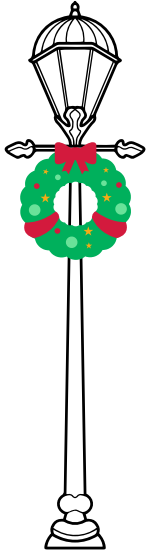
The I'On Trust is pleased to announce that Perseverance Square Brick Engraving is again being offered to I'On residents. For those of you unfamiliar with this wonderful I'On tradition, the project began in 2004 and now over 500 bricks have been engraved surrounding the fountain in Perseverance Square.

Names of I'On residents' loved ones, dear friends, and beloved pets along with those who have made a difference in someone's life or who have contributed to the community can be found on the bricks there. Perseverance Square is a uniquely wonderful place in I'On, shared and enjoyed by all in remembrance of those special people that have gone before and the ones we love and cherish in our lives today.

Just in time for Christmas, orders can be placed now through March 31st, 2024. Engraved bricks will be installed in May. If you would like to remember someone special in your life, or have your family name etched forever in I'On history, click the link to fill out a google form: [Brick Engraving](#). Each brick costs \$45 and can be engraved with up to 3 lines, 13 characters per line including spaces.

Your completed order form together with a check made out to The I'On Trust can either be dropped into The I'On Trust mailbox behind near the HOA office or by mailing to PO Box 1064, Mount Pleasant, SC 29465. Please email admin@iontrust.org when you have submitted your form.

Call for Holiday Decorating Help!



WHEN: Saturday, December 2nd
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Meet at The Scramble
Playground (behind William Means Real
Estate Parking Lot)

WHO: You! Volunteers will need a
golfcart/car and a stepladder.
Everything else will be provided. Kids
are welcome!

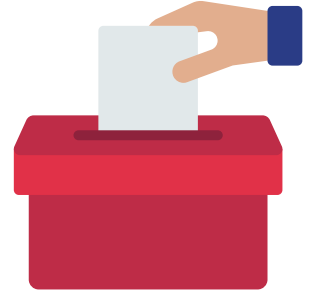
WHAT: Help decorate our street lamps
with holiday wreaths! Coffee, Hot
Chocolate, and Bagels will be provided.

If this is something you'd enjoy being a part of, please
RSVP to Blaire Harder at blaireajohns@gmail.com.

2024 Annual Meeting & HOA Board Election

The 2024 Annual Meeting is scheduled for
Monday, January 29, 2024, at the Creek Club.
The Assembly's Board elections will take place at
this time, with online voting and proxy collection
taking place prior to this date.

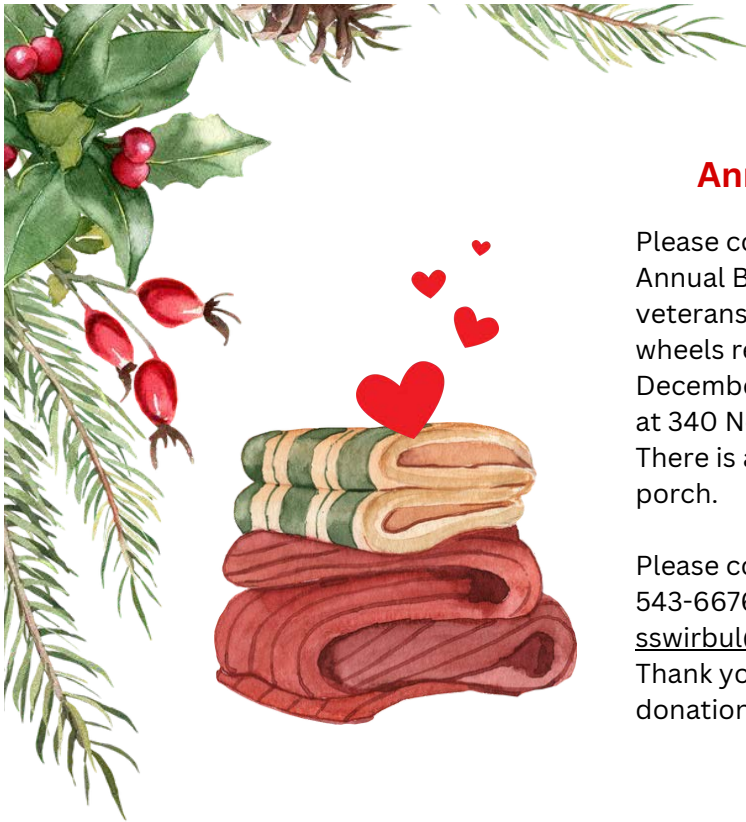
Please be on the lookout for the annual meeting
mailing coming to your mailboxes towards the
end of December and an email blast announcing
when online voting will be live!



Annual Blanket Drive

Please consider donating to our
Annual Blanket Drive to benefit our
veterans and senior citizen meals on
wheels recipients. All blankets are due
December 8th and can be dropped off
at 340 North Shelmore Boulevard.
There is a collection box on the front
porch.

Please contact Susie Swirbul at (203)
543-6676 or by email at
sswirbul@gmail.com with questions.
Thank you in advance for your
donation.



BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Growing Milkweed for Monarchs: A Cautionary Tale

by April Gordon

The fall migration of eastern Monarchs is nearly complete, and after an arduous journey these intrepid travelers will spend the winter in the oyamel forests of Central Mexico. To those fortunate enough to view large numbers of Monarchs along their migratory flyways, it can be hard to believe that these iconic butterflies are endangered, having suffered a decline in their population of 80-90% in the past 20 years. Although there are a number of reasons for this decline, a major cause is the sharp reduction in native milkweed plants that are essential to their survival. Unlike adult Monarchs that can feed on a variety of nectar flowers, Monarch caterpillars can only eat milkweed leaves. Major causes of the loss of milkweed include the widespread use of pesticides in agriculture and habitat loss due to land clearing and the replacement of native plants by invasive and non-native plant species.

Growing awareness of the importance of milkweed for Monarch survival has led to efforts to protect native milkweed and plant more of it, including in home gardens and other landscapes. This effort to increase the supply of milkweed for Monarchs inspired the creation of I'On's butterfly garden and our commitment to planting a variety of milkweed to help grow the Monarch population. Unfortunately, supplying the milkweed Monarchs need is not as easy as it might seem. Even though there are about 140 species of native milkweed in North America, only 25% of them are significant host plants used by Monarchs, and the number that are easily grown or available commercially is limited.



Migrating Monarch in late October on Tropical Milkweed at I'On Butterfly Garden

Those who have bought milkweed from local nurseries are probably purchasing non-native tropical milkweed (*A. curassavica*) native to Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central/South America. With its attractive orange-red or yellow flowers (sometimes falsely sold as native butterfly weed), tropical milkweed is popular because it is easy to grow, long-blooming, non-invasive, and loved by Monarchs and other pollinators. Despite its appeal, recent research is showing that tropical milkweed has major drawbacks that have led to warnings from the experts to avoid growing it. One problem with tropical milkweed is that in mild climates like ours it does not die back like native milkweed, which allows a disease called OE (ophryocystis elektroschirrha) to build up on the plant's leaves. OE can result in death of Monarch pupae or wing deformities that lead to early death because the butterflies can't fly. Another problem is that the late blooming flowers encourage Monarchs to interrupt their migration and reproduce offspring that can't survive the onset of cold weather.

Because providing enough native milkweed can be challenging, at the butterfly garden we continue to grow tropical milkweed to ensure we have enough for our butterflies. But we are following the protocols about how to do so safely as suggested by experts we have consulted. In mid-November we cut the plants down to the ground and keep them cut back until early spring. By doing this, fall-migrating butterflies will continue their journey, the OE parasites are eliminated, and disease-free new leaves are produced that result in healthy butterflies. The bottom line: help Monarchs by growing and protecting native milkweed or, if growing tropical milkweed, do so responsibly.

To know more contact April Gordon at dr.aprilgordon@gmail.com.



Newly emerged Monarch with deformed wings from OE will be unable to fly



One of the best milkweeds to grow is native Butterfly Weed (*A. tuberosa*)

I'ON COMMUNITY GARDEN

Get Ready to Grow in 2024 at I'On's Community Garden

by April Gordon



A look through the garden fence in May reveals plots bursting with flowers, herbs, and vegetables

Contact April Gordon at dr.aprilgordon@gmail.com for more information and request a garden application beginning on January 1. Don't wait too long after January 1 since availability is first come/first served.

Beginning on January 1, I'On residents will have an opportunity to reserve one of only 27 plots in our neighborhood community garden. Highly admired by residents and visitors from other neighborhoods, our community garden is a special amenity that allows us to grow a wide variety of plants all year long. Flowers, vegetables, herbs, berries: all thrive in our rich organic soil. The garden is conveniently located within a fenced area in the large Eastlake Dr. field off Mathis Ferry Road. For \$75 you get a 5'x 8' raised bed garden which is amended each year and supplied with water and straw mulch. Don't worry if you are a novice gardener. All gardeners receive in-person gardening advice from our local Clemson Extension agent at our garden opening in February as well as detailed garden and planting guides and supplemental information throughout the year.

Community gardening is not just about growing plants, however. It is also about growing friendships with other I'On neighbors; appreciating nature and ecology; enjoying fresh, healthy food; improving your physical and mental health; improving family relationships through a shared activity; and teaching your children about all of the above. (For a detailed discussion read: <https://www.healthline.com/health/healthful-benefits-of-gardening>).

Children love to eat vegetables freshly picked from the family garden





Happy Holidays from the I'On ECO Group

There are so many fun things to look forward to during the holidays! You may find that a cleverly filled holiday stocking or an imaginative "Secret Santa" gift is one of the best parts. The I'On ECO Group is here to help you find ideas, while buying things that are good for the environment.



How about Body Lotion in a bar? The beautiful scents are natural and, since it comes as a bar, you don't have all that plastic to recycle. Plus, you can take an ample quantity on a trip and not worry about carry on rules regarding liquids. <https://www.moonvalleyorganics.com/collections/moisturizers>

If your gift is for one of those wise people who take their own lunch to work - or even someone who buys a salad every day - they can stop using plastic utensils with this great bamboo cutlery set! <https://dilohome.com/products/travel-bamboo-cutlery-set-eco-friendly-utensils-with-pouch-1>

No matter where you are in the winter, you need lip balm. Choose one of Oprah's favorites. Poppy&Pout. What better way to get moisturized than with a balm that comes in a cardboard tube and contains only safe, natural ingredients? Safe even for your children! <https://poppyandpout.com/products/pink-grapefruit-lip-balm?variant=32180777975940>

For Makeup wearers, buy washable makeup remover pads made of recycled plastic bottles. No more stained washcloths or searching for cotton balls! <https://us.dockandbay.com/products/reuseable-makeup-wipe-home-peppermint-pink>

With one of these in their car or suitcase, they will never again have to accept a plastic bag to bring wine and snacks back to the hotel room. <https://www.baggu.com/products/standard-baggu-wavy-gingham-green>

These will save lots of plastic or aluminum wrap and there is even have a one shaped like a half avocado and a little yellow one that covers the top of a half-eaten banana! <https://foodhuggers.com/products/food-huggers>

A gift for the sibling who always liked playing with slightly melted candle wax. They will love these for storing any kind of food. <https://www.beeswrap.com/products/the-tri-fecta>

For the parent who loves to be outdoors with the kids, or the grill master who hates to put on insect spray just to test the steak. Here are deet free repellent patches that you peel and paste on. They work! <https://www.joannaczech.com/products/yellowstone-mosquito-repellant-patches>

A cute way to clean up the kitchen. Each one replaces 17 rolls of paper towels! https://shop.freetheseocean.com/products/reusable-swedish-dishcloth?sscid=b1k7_j5fqj&

I'On Eco Group
Preserving I'On's beauty through sound environmental practices.
 For information, contact us at ionecogroup@gmail.com



Hello I'On Neighbors,

Season's greetings and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and joyous holiday season from all of your I'On At Home friends and neighbors!

Here are a few of the IAH events and programs in November and December that make this time of year special for our members.



Over 55, I'On At Home is for you!

Join us and become a part of a lively group of neighbors interested in learning new things, sharing cultural and social activities and helping each other.

Contact Mary Holtz, IAH Administrative Manager: maryh@ionathome.org or visit us at: <https://ionathome.helpfulvillage.com/>

Welcome New Neighbors

*Be sure to stop by to welcome
and introduce yourself to...*

Cate & Jon Sage
145 Ponsbury Road

Elizabeth Wilkes
59 Jogging Street

Edward & Joanne Kotz
138 North Shelmore Boulevard

Reese & Sadie Dorrier
149 N Shelmore Blvd

Moving around I'On...

David & Kate Grange
154 North Shelmore Boulevard

Communications Committee

Michael Spalding
Communications Chair

Fran Tepperman
Living In I'On Editor

Mary Kaplan
Ambassador Chair

Antonia Fokas
I'On Trust

Kathie Haas
Danielle Marin

Mary James & Emily Simpson
HOA Managers, Ravenel Associates



The Communications Committee
wants to hear from you!
Click [HERE](#) to submit your questions,
comments, requests, or concerns.
It's always a pleasure to hear from
a Living in I'On reader!

I'On Assembly Holiday Schedule

The I'On Assembly offices will be operating on an abbreviated schedule during the holiday season. Please see below for the abbreviated schedule. Emails will continue to be monitored outside of the office hours.

- December 20th – 22nd: Office hours from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- December 25th & 26th: Office closed for Christmas
- December 27th – 29th: Office hours from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- January 1st – 2nd: Office closed for New Years
- January 3rd: Office resumes normal hours

