

# LIVING IN I'ON

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



### January Events

- THU 1/4 Women's Movie Group
- FRI 1/5 First Friday
- TUE 1/9 Women's Coffee
- TUE 1/16 Lunch Bunch
- WED 1/17 Potluck Dinner
- SAT 1/20 S'more Social Event
- WED 1/24 Yarn Buddies

### Important Dates

- MON 1/1 New Year's Day
- THU 1/11 Recycling Pickup
- MON 1/15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- THU 1/25 Recycling Pickup

### DOCK CLOSINGS ON PAGE 2

**2024 I'On Board Meetings**  
159 Civitas Street  
Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

January 29  
February 12



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!


### REMEMBER THAT HOA BILL? IT'S DUE!

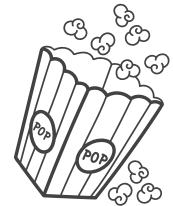
The 2024 I'On Assembly Annual Assessment is due on January 1st, but don't fret, you have until January 31st to pay it... but not a day later!

The annual budget is based on the assumption that all owners will pay by the due date. When they do not, it impacts the Assembly's ability to fulfill its obligations. You can find the approved collection policy on the I'On website.

Questions? Please email [Emily Simpson](mailto:Emily.Simpson@ravenelassociates.com). Visit [www.ravenelassociates.com](http://www.ravenelassociates.com) to pay online or drop check payments off to the HOA office at 159 Civitas Street, Suite 211.



		<b>DOCK CLOSINGS - JANUARY 2024</b>
Date of Event 2023	Event Type	Ceremony Starts
Saturday January, 6th	Wedding & Reception	4:55 - 5:25
Sunday January, 14th	Wedding & Reception	4:25 - 4:55
Saturday January, 20th	Wedding & Reception	4:25 - 4:55
Saturday January, 27th	Wedding & Reception	3:55 - 4:25



**I'ON WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP**

**Thursday, January 4 - 4:20 p.m. at Regal Palmetto Grande**

The I'On Ladies Movie Group is going to see the 4:20 showing of "The Boys in the Boat" on January 4th at the Regal Palmetto Grande at the mall. Afterwards we will go out for dinner.

Please RSVP to me, Jan Laabs at [laabsjan@hotmail.com](mailto:laabsjan@hotmail.com), by Wednesday, January 3rd at noon. I need to know if you are attending just the movie or the movie and dinner for an accurate number for a reservation. It should be a fun outing. Hope you can make it.

**FIRST FRIDAY**

**Friday, January 5 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Would you like to host our next First Friday cocktails?**



We have hosts for March, April and May, but are still looking for hosts for January 5 and February 2. No need to RSVP, just please remember to bring your own libations, drinking glasses, and a small appetizer to share.

Many thanks to Vicky and John Wynn who hosted a lovely evening in December.

We have openings for January, February, June 7, August 2, September 6, October 4 - 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

**WOMEN'S COFFEE**

**Tuesday, January 9 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Hosted by Farrah Follmann at 122 West Shipyard Road**



We will continue the Tuesday morning coffee tradition in the New Year at the home of Farrah Follmann, 122 W. Shipyard

No RSVP needed, just bring your own cup for filling.

## LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, January 16 - 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Hosted by Margie Bondy at Tavern and Table  
100 Ronnie Boals Boulevard, Mount Pleasant



Many thanks to Amy Goldy for hosting December's Lunch Bunch at Leon's. Let's kick off the New Year with lunch at Tavern and Table ([tavernandtable.com](http://tavernandtable.com)), 100 Ronnie Boals Blvd. (continuation of Church Street off Mill Street) in Mount Pleasant. We look forward to seeing you!

RSVP prior to Friday, January 12th to Margie Bondy ([Margaretbondy@gmail.com](mailto:Margaretbondy@gmail.com)) or (203) 984-0830. Contact Kristen Anderson at [kristenande@gmail.com](mailto:kristenande@gmail.com) with questions.

## POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday, January 17 - 6:30 p.m. at the Creek Club  
Hosted by Becky and Jim Head



Thank you to Amy Goldy for hosting December's Potluck. Becky and Jim Head will host January. **We need hosts for February on. Please contact Wendy Nixon if you are interested.** 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!

**Would you like to host?** Let Wendy Nixon know at (203) 858.7909. Thanks! Best, Wendy Nixon, Lendy Barnard, Amy Goldy and Carline Soutter, your Potluck committee

## YARN BUDDIES

Wednesday, January 24 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Hosted by Lesley-Anne Read at 121 Ponsbury Road



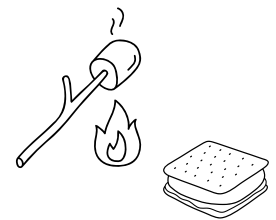
Yarn Buddies will be gathering at the home of Lesley-Anne Read, 121 Ponsbury Road, on Wednesday, January 24th, from 10 a.m. to Noon. Please contact Lesley-Anne if you plan on attending this fun event at (203) 417-1150 or via email: [lafread@hotmail.com](mailto:lafread@hotmail.com)

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.



## S'more Social Event

Saturday, January 20th, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Hopetown Road Fire Pit







## FROM THE I'ON TRUST

### 20th Annual Festival of Giving

Thank you all so much for the success of the 2023 Giving Lights of I'On. A special thank you to our young volunteers who helped make things a little easier. An extra big thank you to all the Committee Members, and Captains! We could not do it without you!

Although the weather was not on our side, the neighborhood was gorgeous with all the lit luminaries. Giving Lights had participation of over 76% of neighbors and 577 homes! We are thrilled to have raised close to \$40,000 for The Formation Project! We know these funds will create a positive impact in our community.

The carriages were another success and we are so fortunate to be able to have horse drawn carriages in our very own neighborhood!



The rain began to fall just as Santa arrived in his horse drawn carriage. A few sprinkles, however, could not dampen the spirits of young and old alike. It was a beautiful night of giving in I'On.



### The I'On Trust Board of Directors

As we end this year, we extend appreciation to our outgoing board member: Laurens Smith. We are grateful for his time and commitment to the Trust's mission of bringing neighbors together and making I'On a wonderful and fun place to live.

We would also like to thank the rest of our 2023 board members, Shannon Runquist, Catherine Kotz, Kathryn Martin, Reid Elliot, Shelley Scott, Steve Zaleskie, Leigh Willard, and Debbie O'Lunney for making 2023 such a wonderful year full of events - and working on making 2024 even better! Thank you all for volunteering your time to the Trust. We are lucky to have you!





## MORE FROM THE I'ON TRUST



Thank you to all of the I'On volunteers who make events like Giving Lights, pictured above, so wonderful.

### Thank You Volunteers!

The Trust wants to thank everyone who helped us put on events like the July 4th Parade, an Easter Egg Hunt, Screen on the Green, Halloween in the Hood, and the Giving Lights among many, many others. We couldn't put these events on without help from our neighbors and we thank you for your time.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Joyce Stifel and Susan Fitzgerald. Joyce and Susan have been so wonderful to volunteer their time to organize the monthly Women's Coffee. It is such a terrific I'On tradition that welcomes neighbors, both old and new, for some good conversation and friendship. Thanks to Farrah Follmann, Marilyn Follmann and Abby Wolitzer who will be taking over for 2024. Special appreciation to Mary Kaplan who heads our ambassador program and does a fantastic job. We are so fortunate she will continue in this role in 2024

### Mark Those Brand New 2024 Calendars and Save the Dates!

- Sunday, February 25th, Annual Oyster Roast, Westlake Amphitheater
- Sunday, March 3rd, Pizza da Michelino truck, Maybank Green
- Saturday, March 30th, Easter Egg Hunt, Maybank Green



### A Look Back at the 2023 Ladies Hat Luncheon

A wonderful time was had by all those who attended the Ladies Lunch Bunch Luncheon on October 26th. There were 24 attendees at The Charleston Place, Palmetto Cafe. The winner of the best hat went to neighbor Millie Haehl.

The ladies who lunch (pictured right) gathered beneath the grand chandelier at Charleston Place. The winner of the best hat was Millie Haehl (pictured left), in her festive finery.





## 2024 Annual Meeting and HOA Board Election



**DATE: Monday, January 29, 2024**

**TIME: 6:00 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Creek Club, 44 Saturday Road**

The agenda for this year's meeting includes the 2023 Civitas Award and the Board of Trustee election. There are six candidates nominated for the four open Board seats. Each candidate would serve a two-year term. The candidates are: Bob Adams, Michael Koon, Jody McAuley, Tom O'Brien, Simon O'Shea, and Roy Rathbun.

Please read the Annual Meeting package that has been mailed to your home. The packet includes detailed information on each candidate, the meeting invitation, meeting agenda, draft 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, and annual committee reports.

If you misplaced your annual meeting notice packet, please contact Mary James. We invite and encourage all homeowners to attend the annual meeting!

## No Fishing in Canals!

Due to the shallowness in the canals, we ask that all residents and their guests refrain from fishing in the canals. By casting lines in the shallow canal, they can cause damage to the electrical wiring for the aerators and can cause damage to the aerators, and hurt the wildlife. One aerator has been replaced this year, under warranty, due to damage from fishing lines. It is also important to make sure all fishing lines and hooks are cleaned up when fishing in our ponds, as they harm the wildlife in our community.



## Reading Glasses Donations Needed

The Zimbabwe Outreach, a 501c3 organization (<https://www.zimbabweoutreach.org>), would be so grateful to have the I'On community's help with collecting reading glasses for the communities of the Gwayi River in Zimbabwe. Earlier this year, James and I went to Zimbabwe as volunteers to buy food from local farmers and give the grain to local schools so the kids could have lunch. Along with collecting grain, we handed out Bibles to every family in their native language. But, then we realized we had a problem when individuals said they couldn't see the words. The health care for the residents of the Gwayi River is very little, and there are no glasses available.

We would be thrilled if the residents of I'On could help these villages of Zimbabwe by donating reading glasses they might not use anymore. You may drop off the glasses at 175 Civitas. Thank you for your support.

Laura Van Hove & James Mellinger

## Friendly Reminder

As a friendly reminder, motorized bicycles and scooters are not permitted to be on any trails within I'On. This includes the: marsh trail, Eastlake & Westlake paths, Maybank Green paths, canal paths, and the Saturday Road park trail.



## BUTTERFLY GARDEN

### Butterflies in December? So Far the Answer is Yes

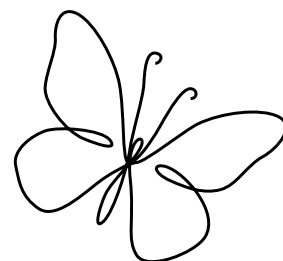
by April Gordon



This Cloudless Sulphur can be seen feeding on scarlet salvias and red Turk’s cap flowers

At the l’On Butterfly Garden the mild Fall weather has allowed nectar flowers such as zinnias, Turk’s cap, coneflowers, sunflowers, and scarlet salvia that normally would have succumbed to frost or freeze by now to survive into mid-December. Along with the flowers, some butterflies remain alive as well. When temperatures are in at least the upper 50’s and the sun is shining, butterflies emerge from their protective cover in leaf litter, dense shrubs, or other hiding places to feed on the nectar of our remaining garden flowers. The butterflies have been an unexpected delight to see so late in the year. For those (like me) who are not fans of Winter, these butterflies are welcome allies stubbornly holding on to whatever warm days remain against the inevitable encroaching cold weather. Sadly, Winter will at some point arrive to put an end to the flowers and butterflies until Spring. But until then, I will continue to visit the garden and revel in every butterfly I see living its life to the fullest. I invite you to come to the garden and enjoy watching them too—even if you like Winter. Happy New Year and may you, like our butterflies, live life to the fullest.

April Gordon at [dr.aprilgordon@gmail.com](mailto:dr.aprilgordon@gmail.com)



Toward the end of its life, this tattered Gulf Fritillary remains a regular visitor at the garden



This has been a record year for visitations by the magnificent Zebra Longwing shown here on Mexican sunflower



The Long-tailed Skipper is the most beautiful member of the Skipper family



## I'ON COMMUNITY GARDEN

### Happy New Year: Time to Register for a Community Garden Plot for 2024

by April Gordon



**In mid-December this garden plot is still growing summer plants such as basil, bell peppers, and zinnias along with cool weather young mustards, arugula, and cabbage**

Beginning January 1, a 5' x 8' garden plot can be reserved for a year of all-season gardening at the I'On Community Garden on Eastlake Road.

For \$75 you will have a freshly amended plot to plant flowers, herbs, or vegetables from seeds or transplants. You will also receive detailed garden guides and educational material, free straw mulch, access to water, and mulched pathways inside a protective fenced enclosure.

Through the process of gardening you will discover the satisfaction and convenience of having the freshest organic produce and herbs available at your fingertips as well as beautiful flowers, many of which attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinators to help the environment.

As a member of the community garden you will learn that your fellow gardeners take the "community" in community garden seriously. We freely offer friendship and shared experience and advice to each other or visitors to the garden who have questions. And if you have to be out of town or occasionally need assistance for other reasons with care for your garden, someone is always there to help.

If all of this sounds like community gardening is an experience you would like to have, contact April Gordon at [iongarden@gmail.com](mailto:iongarden@gmail.com) for more information or a registration form. Don't wait too long, however, since the number of plots is limited.



**Popular crops that will grow in our gardens through the cold weather include kale, onions, and lettuces - but not this pop-up zinnia flower**







## WHO ARE WE?

The I'On Eco Group (IEG) was formed in Fall, 2021 by a small group of neighbors who want to preserve the community's beauty by providing expert information to residents who are making choices that effect our environment. Since then, the IEG has provided accredited resources to I'On's HOA and community through HOA meetings, events and articles in the monthly *Living in I'On* newsletter starting in April 2022.

Here is some of our research that has appeared in the I'On newsletter. Please let us know your questions and thoughts as well as your ideas on what subjects you would like to have us research ([ionecogroup@gmail.com](mailto:ionecogroup@gmail.com)). To see more articles go to <https://ioncommunity.com/resident-services/document-resource-center/ion-newsletters/> and look for the I'On Eco Group article in each newsletter since April 2022.

**Lawns and Gardens:** Great reasons for planting native plants this fall, September 2023

<https://ioncommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Living-in-IOn-Newsletter-September-2023.pdf>

Garden Tips, June 2022

<https://ioncommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/June-2022-Living-in-IOn.pdf>

**Healthy Lakes and Marshes:**

<https://ioncommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/4.22-Living-in-IOn.pdf>

**Waste and Recycling:**

Hazardous Waste Collection, May 2022

<https://ioncommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/May-2022-Living-in-IOn-News.pdf>

**Energy:** What's Up with Solar Power? November 2022

<https://ioncommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/November-2023-Living-in-IOn-Newsletter.pdf>

Household Energy Use - Consumer Reports: "Buying a Heat Pump Could Get You Thousands in Federal Tax Credits and State Rebates," November 2022

<https://ioncommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/November-2022-Living-in-IOn.pdf>

**Sustainable Products:** Eco Friendly Gifts for the Holidays, December 2023

<https://ioncommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/December-2023-Living-in-IOn-Newsletter.pdf>

**I'ON ECO GROUP - Preserving I'On's beauty through sound environmental practices.**

Contact us: [ionecogroup@gmail.com](mailto:ionecogroup@gmail.com)



### **2023 was a Great Year for I'On At Home!**

We offered our members an unparalleled selection of programs and services while charting our future direction with an exciting new strategic plan. IAH continues to provide a great opportunity to make new friends, have fun together, learn new things and receive support services.

We held over 135 events and activities, featuring enriching cultural, culinary, musical, social, physical fitness, and educational experiences throughout the year. Our CHOICES events, promoting health, and emotional well-being, attracted strong interest. Special thanks go out to our Programs Committee for their hard work in creating the events that are at the heart of the IAH experience.

Our Volunteer Services Committee continues to develop new services to meet our member's needs including the Loan Zone offering short-term lending of a wide range of products and equipment with everything from wheel barrows, baby strollers, bicycles, bocce sets, kayaks to crutches & walkers.

We're developing a new strategic plan, starting with a member survey that revealed the high satisfaction level of current members. We will build on things members love, like more and diverse musical events while focusing on creating appealing new programs for younger members. We're also exploring a range of new services for our volunteers to help members.

We welcomed 19 new members this year, bringing our total membership to 165 with renewals continuing at a high rate. Our finances are solid and we have established a long-term reserve fund as well as a fund to pursue new initiatives identified by our new strategic plan.

Finally, our success is made possible by a dedicated, motivated, and energetic board, our committee members, and our administrative manager. We are especially grateful to Elizabeth Hazard, who has served two years as an outstanding Programs Co-chair. Also Steve Degnen, who creates all of the IAH communications, is stepping down mid 2024 after three years as Marketing & Communications Director.

We're very pleased to announce a very strong and capable Board for 2024:

President - Bob Hardie	Membership Co-chairs - Cathy Mooney & Karen Rathbun
Vice President - Jayne Eastman	Marketing/Communications Director - Steve Degnen
Secretary/Treasurer - Joe Fanelli	Programs Co-chairs - Mary Kaplan & Janet Gertz
Volunteer Services Chair - Kathie Haas	Administrative Manager - Mary Holtz

### **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](mailto:maryh@ionathome.org) or visit us at:  
<https://ionathome.helpfulvillage.com/>



## Purple Martins for I'On

The I'On Landscape Committee has approved installation of a gourd rack near the southeast corner of Eastlake to determine whether Purple Martins can be enticed to nest there. Charles Miller, 21 Grace Lane, will erect the gourd rack and act as caretaker.

Purple Martins are the largest members of the swallow family, and are related to Tree and Barn Swallows. From January through August, Purple Martins range from Florida to Canada in North America, and nest there before migrating to South America, where they remain from September to January. The Martins are usually in our area from early February through late July.



Martins have long had a symbiotic relationship with humans. Thousands of years ago, Native Americans in eastern North America began hanging gourds from wooden poles, inviting the cavity-dwelling birds to nest near their villages. The Native Americans furnished housing and protection from predators, and the friendly Martins provided cheerful songs, interesting social behavior, and, more importantly, consumed undesired insects. The Martins are now entirely dependent on humans to provide housing for nesting.

The male Purple Martin is black overall with a purple sheen. The female is less dark above with light color below. They enjoy being near humans and have a cheerful range of chirps and songs. They consume only insects caught in flight. Their diet ranges from mosquitos, houseflies, termites, and beetles to almost any bug that flies. The Martins should significantly reduce the number of annoying insects in I'On. The spring bloom of midges from our lakes will provide a welcomed feast.





As the sun sets on another year, the Communications Committee wishes you happiness in 2024

**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

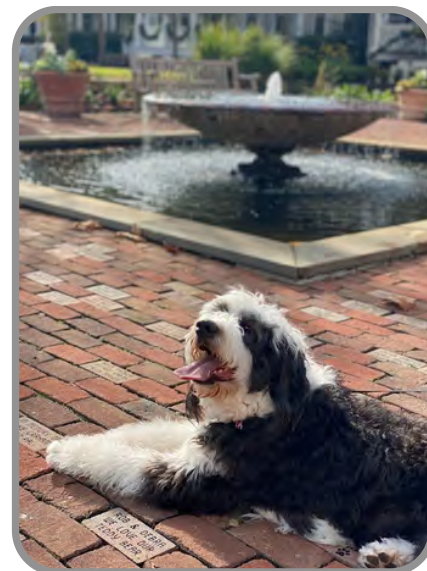


The Communications Committee wants to hear from you! Click [HERE](#) to submit your questions, comments, requests, or concerns. It's always a pleasure to hear from a Living in I'On reader!

## 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. Orders can be placed now through March 31st, 2024. Engraved bricks will be installed in May.



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

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 near the HOA office or by mailing to PO Box 1064, Mount Pleasant, SC 29465. Please email [admin@iontrust.org](mailto:admin@iontrust.org) when you have submitted your form.

For more information about ordering an engraved brick, please contact Michele Wilson at: [tenprowcc@gmail.com](mailto:tenprowcc@gmail.com)

## I'On Assembly Holiday Schedule

The I'On Assembly offices will be operating on an abbreviated schedule at the start of the New Year. Please see below. Emails will continue to be monitored outside of the office hours.

- January 1st – 2nd: Office closed for New Year's
- January 3rd: Office resumes normal hours