

# LIVING IN I'ON

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



## DECEMBER EVENTS

- FRI 12/5 First Friday
- SUN 12/7 Giving Lights
- TUE 12/9 Women's Coffee
- WED 12/17 Yarn Buddies
- TBD TBD Women's Movie Night
- JAN. 2026 Potluck Supper
- JAN. 2026 Lunch Bunch

## IMPORTANT DATES

- TUE 12/2 IDC Meeting
- TUE 12/9 IDC Submittal Deadline
- THU 12/11 Recycling Pickup
- SUN 12/14 Hanukkah Begins
- TUE 12/16 IDC Meeting
- THU 12/25 Christmas
- FRI 12/26 Recycling Pickup
- FRI 12/26 Kwanza Begins

## DOCK CLOSINGS ON PAGE 2

**2025 I'On Board Meetings**  
**Monday Nights**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room**  
**159 Civitas Street**

December 15



## A Holiday Message from the Board

As the holiday season approaches, our neighborhood once again transforms with familiar warmth and sparkle. Lights grace the trees in the Square, volunteers decorate our streets with wreaths and garland, and the Tree of Lights on Maybank Green prepares to shine brightly.

On December 7th, our community will gather for I'On's 23rd Holiday Festival of Giving, lighting our paths with luminaries and our hearts with generosity.

Your I'On Assembly Board of Directors would like to express our appreciation for your engagement and volunteer spirit throughout 2025. Time after time, residents step forward to help, organizing events, supporting neighbors, caring for shared spaces, and offering their skills wherever they are needed. It is your commitment that keeps I'On thriving.

We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful neighborhood, one defined not only by its surroundings but by the spirit of giving that we share. As the New Year approaches, we hope you'll take a moment to reflect on the memorable moments, acts of kindness, and special gatherings that have made this year so meaningful.

From all of us to each of you... Warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season and a safe, prosperous New Year!

- Tom O'Brien, Board President
- Bob Adams, Vice President/Treasurer/Finance Chair
- Donna Davis, Amenities Chair
- Stephen Wood, IDC Liaison
- Roy Rathbun, Landscape & Infrastructure Chair
- Elaine Blaisdell-Taylor, Secretary/Communications Chair
- Lon Waggoner, Covenants Chair



Santa brings his magic to the Annual I'On Holiday Festival of Giving

		<b>DOCK CLOSINGS - DECEMBER 2025</b>
DATE OF EVENT	EVENT TYPE	CERMONY TIME
Friday, December 12th	Wedding & Reception	4:25 - 4:55
Saturday, December 13th	Wedding & Reception	3:25 - 3:55
Sunday, December 14th	Wedding & Reception	4:25 - 4:55

For an up-to-date list of common area reservations, please visit the community calendar located on our website! <https://ioncommunity.com/calendar/>

**FIRST FRIDAY**

**Friday, December 5 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**  
**Hosted by Suzanne Leonard at 46 Joggling Street**



No need to RSVP, just please remember to bring your own libations, drinking glasses, and a small appetizer to share.

Many thanks to Donna and Bud Davis for hosting us at their gorgeous home last month. We have June forward in 2026 open. Please contact Wendy Nixon at (203) 858-7909 or Lydia Gulyas at (843) 817-0138, if you would like to host a First Friday cocktail event. We really appreciate all who open their homes to our neighbors!

Many thanks to Karen Rathbun for doing so much for First Fridays this year. Thank you to Lydia Gulyas for stepping up to help for 2026.

**WOMEN'S COFFEE**

**Tuesday, December 9 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Hosted by Marilyn Follmann at 93 North Shelmore Boulevard**



Thank you to Marilyn Follmann for hosting this month's Women's Coffee.

No RSVP needed. Bring a cup for coffee or tea and join us. For further information, contact Abigail Wolitzer at [abbywolitzer@yahoo.com](mailto:abbywolitzer@yahoo.com) or Farrah Follmann at [ffollmann@yahoo.com](mailto:ffollmann@yahoo.com).

**YARN BUDDIES**

**Wednesday, December 17 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Hosted by Penny Leighton at 125 Ponsbury Road**



Penny Leighton is hosting Yarn Buddies on Wednesday, December 17th, at her home, 125 Ponsbury, from 10 AM to Noon. Please let Penny know if you are able to attend, via text: 843-327-0449 or email: [penny.leighton@comcast.net](mailto:penny.leighton@comcast.net)

Yarn Buddies was formed to encourage creativity, share imagination, offer assistance, and inspire those who have an interest in the handcrafted arts. Anyone interested in the arts of handwork, be it knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, jewelry making, quilting, crewel, embroidery, cross-stitch, etc. are warmly invited to attend.

## LUNCH BUNCH

January 2026

Hosted by Linda Hanson



Many thanks to Amy Goldy who hosted a very fun afternoon at Allora. Big turnout and great dining experience.

The next Lunch Bunch will be in January, hosted by Linda Hanson. Details to be included in the next newsletter. Please contact Kristen Anderson at [kristenande@gmail.com](mailto:kristenande@gmail.com), if you are interested in hosting. It is easy! Simply pick a restaurant, make a reservation, and collect the RSVPs.

## POTLUCK SUPPER NO DECEMBER POTLUCK



December Pot Luck will be taking a break in the month of December. We will have a New Year's Pot Luck in January. Look out for that date in an upcoming newsletter.

Thank you to Mary Swenson and Wendy Marcus for a beautiful Thanksgiving Pot Luck. We had a full house with lots of great food and fun bingo games.

## I'ON WOMEN'S MOVIE GROUP

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



To join the movie list to receive future e-vites, please contact Jan Laabs at [laabsjan@hotmail.com](mailto:laabsjan@hotmail.com). Meanwhile, enjoy some holiday classics at home.

### 🎄 Classic Christmas Favorites

- It's a Wonderful Life (1946) – Heartwarming, timeless.
- Miracle on 34th Street (1947) – Pure Christmas spirit.
- A Christmas Story (1983) – Nostalgia, humor, leg lamp.
- White Christmas (1954) – Musical magic with Bing Crosby.

### 👶 Modern Holiday Essentials

- Elf (2003) – Will Ferrell at his most joyful.
- Home Alone (1990) – Childhood chaos + perfect score.
- Home Alone 2 (1992) – More chaos, more Christmas.
- The Santa Clause (1994) – Light, fun, festive.
- Love Actually (2003) – Holiday romance staple.
- The Family Stone (2005) – Family holiday with heart

### ❄️ Cozy & Wholesome

- The Holiday (2006) – Cottagecore holiday comfort.
- Little Women (2019 or 1994) – Not strictly Christmas, but feels like it.
- Klaus (2019) – Beautiful animation + touching story.
- Arthur Christmas (2011) – Funny, sweet, underrated.

### 🎬 Animated Holiday Classics

- How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (1966) – Iconic.
- A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965) – Quiet, meaningful.
- The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993) – Halloween + Christmas brilliance.
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964) – Stop-motion charm.

### 🎄 Holiday Movies That Aren't Nice

- (aka festive chaos & “is this even a Christmas movie?”)
- Die Hard (1988) – Yes, it is a Christmas movie.
  - Gremlins (1984) – Cute... until they're not.
  - The Ref (1994) – Dark comedy hijinks.
  - Krampus (2015) – Christmas horror with style.

### 💖 Rom-Com & Lighthearted Holiday Movies

- Happiest Season (2020)
- While You Were Sleeping (1995)
- The Family Stone (2005)
- Serendipity (2001)

### 😄 Comedies for the Season

- National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)
- Jingle All the Way (1996)
- Scrooged (1988)



## THIS MONTH WITH THE I'ON TRUST

### THE 23rd ANNUAL GIVING LIGHTS OF I'ON

Sunday, December 7 - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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

- **5:00 p.m.** - Light your luminaries
- **5:30 p.m.** - Caroling at the Tree at Maybank Green - Students from School of the Arts will be leading the song. Please join us!
- **6:00 p.m.** - Check presentation for Friends of Morning Light part of Star Gospel Mission. Sweet treats will be available under the tent while neighbors socialize and wait for carriage rides.
- **5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** - Horse drawn carriage rides. **A sign up sheet will be e-mailed on December 4th.** Please leave the early slots to those that have young children. We will have 4 carriages and plenty of space for all to enjoy.



As always, a very special visitor will arrive by horse drawn carriage to delight children and adults alike. Please contact Antonia Fokas at [admin@iontrust.org](mailto:admin@iontrust.org) with questions.

### PERSEVERANCE SQUARE BRICK ENGRAVING – 2026



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.

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, 2026. 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.



Thanks to the generosity of our I'On community, over 2,000 pounds of food was donated to the East Cooper Community Outreach during the Thanksgiving Food Drive hosted by I'On at Home and the I'On Trust. Thank you for helping your neighbors in their time of need. **To learn more about ECCO and how you can help, please visit their website at <https://eccocharleston.org/>**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Wednesday, January 28 at the Creek Club, 44 Saturday Road in I'On**

The I'On Trust invites you to attend an hour-long performance of show-stopping melodies and unforgettable voices, when the Charleston Opera Theater brings Opera's Greatest Hits to our community. Whether you're a lifelong opera lover or brand new to the art form, this concert, featuring professional singers from across the Southeast, promises to delight with some of the most beloved arias, duets, and ensembles ever written. The evening's details will follow in the January 2026 Living in I'On Newsletter.



Now that the COVID-pandemic with its resulting supply chain and construction disruptions is in the rearview mirror, the IDC will be fully enforcing provisions in the CCRs relating to project completion.

Article IV Section 105 in the CCRs provides: "...Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Design Committee, all elements of proposed improvements for which plans are approved hereunder shall be completed within one year after the approval..."

If there are extenuating circumstances about your project requiring an extension, you must reach out in writing to Kristine Mobley (Neighbor Design Coordinator) for review and approval of an extension. Kristine's email address is: [idc\\_ion@ravenelassociates.com](mailto:idc_ion@ravenelassociates.com)

Also, all IDC projects require a deposit (with the exception of maintenance and repair), ranging from \$100 - \$10,000 depending on the project's scope, with some projects requiring two deposits (completion deposit and contractor deposit). It is the homeowner's responsibility to request a final IDC inspection no later than ninety (90) days after the project's completion. Please notify Kristine once your project has concluded and submit a completed Final Inspection & Deposit Refund Request Form. As always, feel free to reach out to Kristine with any questions.

**Trucks in I'On**



Over the last couple of months there has been an increase in very large 18-wheeler and semi-trucks coming into the neighborhood. As a reminder, the community has restrictions on trucks due to the tree-lined and narrow streets, making it difficult for these large trucks to maneuver. Please remind your contractors, delivery drivers, moving companies, etc. that trucks more than 45 feet with large cabs are not allowed in I'On. It is the owners responsibility to inform their delivery drivers, contractors, etc. of this restriction.



*A community of friends enjoying enriched, vibrant and independent lives together*

## Thanksgiving with IAH

Last month, over 20 members of IAH gathered for our annual Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Bob and Cheryl Pitts. The dishes everyone contributed were delicious, the tablescapes beautiful, and the company even better! Here at IAH, we are thankful for both our wonderful neighborhood and the many friendships and experiences that have sprouted from our organization over the last 10 years!



We also wanted to give a big thank you to our members who along with the I'On Trust organized a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit ECCO. We filled the ECCO van and collected over 2,000 pounds of food to help the less fortunate in our community celebrate the holiday. The food drive wouldn't have been possible without Barbara Adams who spearheaded the drive as well as our many volunteers who gathered donations from around the neighborhood and helped load up the truck and of course, all of you, who generously donated food and money. Thank you!!

## 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, having fun sharing cultural and social activities and helping each other.

Contact Elizabeth Sage, IAH Administrative Manager: [elizabeths@ionathome.org](mailto:elizabeths@ionathome.org)

or visit us at: <https://ionathome.helpfulvillage.com/>



## Please Join IAH for Holiday Strings with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra

On December 11th, I'On at Home will once again host our annual holiday concert featuring Yuri Bekker and his string ensemble from the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

This year, the concert will be held in the Old Village and IAH would like to invite our I'On neighbors to join us as our guests for the concert.

**What:** Holiday Strings with the CSO

**When:** Thursday, December 11th at 1pm

**Where:** St. Andrews Anglican Church, 440 Whilden Street

You can [RSVP](#) and find more details at the link. We hope you can join us!

**RSVP**

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## I'ON COMMUNITY GARDEN

### Need a Special Holiday Present? How about a Plot in the Community Garden!

by April Gordon

Give yourself, your family, or a friend a special present that lasts all year: a community garden plot where you can grow vegetables, fruit, herbs, and flowers all year long! Abundant research shows the benefits of gardening for individuals and communities. These include: exercise; better physical, mental, and cognitive health; improved diet; mindfulness and connection to nature; more social interaction with neighbors and family; support for the environment (pollinators, birds, soil health); and benefits for kids. For more detailed discussions see such sources as [mayoclinichealthsystems.org](http://mayoclinichealthsystems.org) and [kidsgardening.org](http://kidsgardening.org).

Registration for plots for 2026 begins on January 1. Contact April Gordon (at [iongarden@gmail.com](mailto:iongarden@gmail.com)) for a registration form. Plots are limited in number and assigned on a first come/ first serve basis. So enjoy your holiday cheer but don't forget to reserve your plot. Here's what you get for \$75 per year:

- a 5' x 8' raised bed garden amended every spring
- a sunny location with water provided, mulched pathways around plots, and a perimeter fence to protect the area from unwanted critters
- a startup guide containing garden rules, planting information, and other helpful information and suggestions
- garden newsletters with cutting edge information on gardening, current happenings in the garden, and how to deal with garden problems

Our garden philosophy is that growing a garden is more than producing a delicious ripe tomato or a beautiful dahlia. It is a chance to meet, learn from, and form friendships with your neighbors; an opportunity to involve the entire family in learning where food comes from and to enjoy healthy food (and other plants) you have grown yourself; and being out in nature and appreciating the environment that sustains us.



**Community gardeners get to know each other as they share ideas on planting their new spring gardens**

### BUTTERFLY GARDEN

## Meet the New Native Plant Extension of the Butterfly Garden

by April Gordon



Chinese privet had formed a thick hedge next to the garden fence and created dense shade in parts of the garden area jeopardizing the growth of garden plants

After many months of research and planning, the native plant extension of the butterfly garden was planted on November 12. The area, located outside the community garden fence on Eastlake Road, had become overgrown with invasive Chinese privets that had crowded out most of the other plants originally growing there and were so large their branches were shading out parts of the community and butterfly gardens.

With the support of the HOA, plans were made to eliminate the privets and replace them with smaller native plants that would not intrude on the community and butterfly gardens and would be consistent with their goals of promoting healthy biodiversity and other environmental benefits in the garden area. Another part of the plan is to educate the larger community about the importance of native plants to the environment and demonstrate how all of us, neighborhoods and individual

homeowners alike, can incorporate native plants into our landscapes to not only help the environment but to create beauty as well.

Next steps include helping the new mostly perennial plants establish themselves over the winter months so they can begin to grow and thrive once warmer spring weather returns. Additional plants will also be added as needed along with interpretive signs and educational materials for those who visit the garden area. This will be a continuing project over the years, but we are off to an exciting beginning.



With the privet cleared, the garden pathway is exposed again and a large sunny planting area for native plants is created

The butterfly garden depends on neighborhood volunteers to maintain and promote the garden. If you like gardening and/or activities that promote nature and the environment, contact April Gordon at [dr.aprilgordon@gmail.com](mailto:dr.aprilgordon@gmail.com) about joining Team BG.



Newly planted native trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennial flowers will become much larger over time and fill the area with colorful foliage and flowers that provide food and habitat for wildlife including birds, butterflies, and bees



### Welcome New Neighbors

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

**Janet & Tim Shaughnessy**  
56 Sowell Street

**Lindsey Korepta & Ryan DeYoung**  
41 Jane Jacobs St

### Moving Around I'On:

**Thomas & Haley Mathewes**  
43 Montrose Road



### Communications Committee

**Elaine Blaisdell-Taylor**  
Communications Chair

**Fran Tepperman**  
Living In I'On Editor

**Mary Kaplan**  
Ambassador Chair

**Paula Shugart**

**Antonia Fokas**  
I'On Trust

**Emily Simpson & Nina Patton**  
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!

### 2026 Annual Meeting & HOA Board Election

The 2026 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 6:00PM at the Creek Club. The Assembly will be hosting a Happy Hour before the meeting from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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 in December and an email blast announcing when online voting will be live!



### I'On Assembly & IDC Office Holiday Schedule

The I'On Assembly and IDC offices will be operating on a remote work schedule during the holiday season.

Please see below for the schedule. All emails and phone calls will continue to be responded to.

- December 22 & 23: Remote Working
- December 24, 25 and 26: Offices Closed for Christmas
- December 29 & 30: Remote Working
- December 31 and January 1: Offices Closed for New Years
- January 2: Remote Working
- January 5: Offices resume normal in-person hours

