

LIVING IN I'ON

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



FEBRUARY EVENTS

FRI	2/6	First Friday
SUN	2/8	S'mores Making Fun
TUE	2/10	Women's Coffee
SAT	2/21	Community Garden Opens
SUN	2/22	Oyster Roast
WED	2/25	Yarn Buddies
TBD	TBD	Women's Movie Group
Returns Mar.		Lunch Bunch
Returns Mar.		Potluck Supper

IMPORTANT DATES

TUE	2/3	IDC Meeting
THU	2/5	Recycling Pickup
TUE	2/10	IDC Submittal Deadline
SAT	2/14	Valentine's Day
MON	2/16	Presidents' Day
TUE	2/17	IDC Meeting
THU	2/19	Recycling Pickup
TUE	2/24	IDC Submittal Deadline

DOCK CLOSINGS ON PAGE 2

I'On Board Meetings
Last Tuesday of Each Month
6:00 p.m.
Conference Room
159 Civitas Street



2026 I'On Assembly Board of Trustees

We would like to thank everyone who attended the 2026 annual meeting and happy hour on Tuesday, January 20th.

A big thanks to Mike Russo for co-hosting the happy hour prior to the meeting and to all the neighbors who voted online and submitted proxies prior to the meeting. The annual meeting cannot happen without the participation of the community.

On January 21st, the Board held their Organizational Meeting. The newly elected I'On Assembly 2026 Board of Trustees are as follows:

Elaine Blaisdell-Taylor – President
 Stephen Wood – Vice President/IDC Liaison
 Chris Colen - Secretary/Communications Chair
 Roy Rathbun – Treasurer/Finance Chair
 Donna Davis – Amenities Committee Chair
 Lori Feehan – Landscape & Infrastructure Chair
 Lon Waggoner – Covenants Committee Chair

Congratulations to the newly elected officers. The monthly Board meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m.

2026 I'On Assembly Board Meeting Dates

- March 31
- April 28
- May 26
- June 30
- July 28
- August 25
- September 29
- October 27
- November 24
- December 29

(December date may change due to holidays)



**Welcoming love in I'On.
Happy Valentine's Day!**



DOCK CLOSINGS - FEBRUARY 2026

DATE OF EVENT	EVENT TYPE	CEREMONY TIME
Saturday, February 7th	Wedding & Reception	4:55 - 5:25
Friday, February 13th	Wedding & Reception	4:25 - 4:55
Saturday, February 14th	Wedding & Reception	4:25 - 4:55
Sunday, February 15th	Wedding & Reception	4:25 - 4:55
Friday, February 20th	Wedding & Reception	3:25 - 3:55
Saturday, February 21st	Wedding & Reception	3:55 - 4:25
Sunday, February 22nd	Wedding & Reception	3:55 - 4:25
Friday, February 27th	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, February 6 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Hosted by Ann Riopel at 244 Ponsbury



No need to RSVP, just please remember to bring your own libations, drinking glasses and a small appetizer to share. We're looking for hosts for June, August, September, October, November and December. Please contact Wendy Nixon at (203) 858-7909 or Lydia Gulyas at (843) 817-0138, if you would like to host. We really appreciate all who open their homes to our neighbors! **Also, Wendy would like to step down. Please contact the I'On Board or Wendy, if interested in volunteering for the job. You simply work with Lydia to find hosts for each monthly First Friday cocktail event, and communicate the information to the Newsletter Editor monthly. It's easy and fun.**

WOMEN'S COFFEE

Tuesday, February 10 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Hosted by Susan Miller at 24 Prescient Street



Thank you to Rossana Guimaraes for hosting us in January. We hope you will join us for a warm cup of cheer at the home of Susan Miller this month. No RSVP needed. Bring a cup for coffee or tea and join us. For further information, contact Abigail Wolitzer at abbywolitzer@yahoo.com or Farrah Follmann at ffollmann@yahoo.com.

LUNCH BUNCH

WILL MEET AGAIN IN MARCH



Thank you to Linda Hanson for hosting a cozy lunch at Amalfi's in January. Wonderful traditional Italian comfort food and great company. The next Lunch Bunch will be held in March hosted by Kinnet Ehring. Please look for details in the March Newsletter.

Good News! Patricia Fritzinger has generously stepped up to handle the Lunch Bunch chair position. Please assist her in offering to help host future lunches and especially, ATTEND them. Hosting is easy! Pick your favorite restaurant, make a reservation, collect RSVPs and give the details to Patricia (patricia@myagentpatricia.com).

I will miss this role, but I have met some wonderful people, which developed into long-term friendships, dined at fabulous restaurants, and have loved the diversity of the diners and hosts over the years.

**POTLUCK SUPPER
WILL RETURN IN MARCH**

Thank you to Amy and Billy Goldy for hosting our January Potluck and Trivia. Our next Potluck will be in March.

YARN BUDDIES

**Wednesday, February 25 - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Hosted by Donna Davis at 3 Edenton Road**

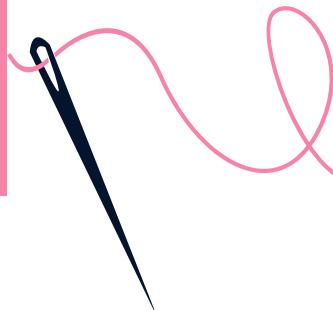


Donna Davis will be hosting Yarn Buddies this month. Please let Donna know by text, email or phone, if you are able to attend: (804) 405-8297 or donnad108@gmail.com. Many thanks to Barbara Wade for hosting a fun and entertaining January get-together!

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.



Where friendships are knit, fun is spun, and creativity is stitched together. That's what Yarn Buddies is all about.

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

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



To join the movie list and receive future e-vites, please contact Jan Laabs at laabsjan@hotmail.com.

The Oscar nominations were announced on January 22nd. Here are the 10 Best Picture Nominees: *Bugonia*, *F1*, *Frankenstein*, *Hamnet*, *Marty Supreme*, *One Battle after Another*, *The Secret Agent*, *Sentimental Value*, *Sinners*, *Train Dreams* - [CLICK HERE](#) for full list of 2026 Oscar Nominations.

The Oscars will be broadcast live on March 15 at 7:00 p.m. on ABC and Hulu.



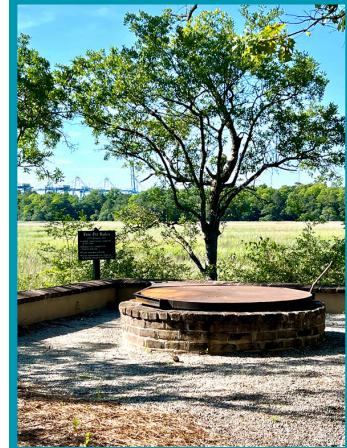
THIS MONTH WITH THE I'ON TRUST

S'mores Making Fun

Sunday, February 8 - 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Hopetown Road Fire Pit



Weather permitting, we will gather to make s'mores at the Hopetown Road Fire Pit before settling in to watch the Superbowl. A sweet, fireside treat the kids will love! Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

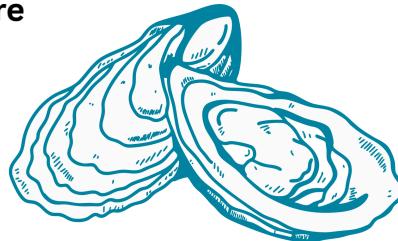


I'On Oyster Roast

Sunday, February 22 - 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. at the I'On Amphitheatre

Pricing, ticket link, and additional details coming soon in an E-Blast from the I'On Trust.

Contact the trust with questions at (843) 881-7541 or email admin@iontrust.org



Perseverance Square Brick Engraving 2026

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. Orders can be placed now through March 31st, 2026. Engraved bricks will be installed in May. Contact admin@iontrust.org or call (843) 881-7541 with questions.

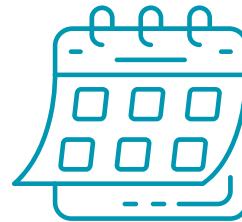
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

I'On Trust Spring Concert with the Blue Dogs Trio

Saturday, March 28 - 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Westlake Amphitheatre

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4 - 9:00 am. at the Eastlake Soccer Field



ART IN I'ON
MOUNT PLEASANT, SC

Saturday, April 25 - 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Update on Westlake Pump



Thank you to those residents who took the time to share their concerns regarding the recently installed pump and associated structure at Westlake during the December board meeting. The Board values resident feedback and takes all comments and concerns seriously.

After further discussions with the Landscape Committee and our landscaper, Ruppert, we are pleased to share an update. The pump will be relocated to the interior of the amphitheater tower, and the exterior structure will be completely removed. Additionally, landscaping will be adjusted accordingly to hide any exterior pipes.

We are happy to confirm that these changes will be completed at no cost to the Assembly. Ruppert will have this completed by the middle of February. This solution allows us to maintain the necessary functionality of the pump while improving the overall appearance of the area. We believe this approach best serves the long-term interests of the community. If you have any questions, please contact Emily at: esimpson@ravenelassociates.com



Attention I'On Residents Who **RENT** Their Property

If you rent your property, it is important that you inform the Assembly office and provide your renters contact information. We want all owners and current tenants to be notified of any important information relating to the community.

Please email your property address and tenants contact information to Nina at am.ion@ravenelassociates.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

Curbside Debris Update

Mount Pleasant is no longer picking up leaf bags or other trash if they are placed on or near storm drains. Debris should be placed in paper bags on the road by the curb, not on your lawn, manholes or storm drains, at a safe distance from all utilities but not blocking the road for safe travel.

The trash collection vehicles will come through the neighborhood the same day as the garbage truck. They operate machinery that loads debris in trucks for the collection of trash. Pick up machines have damaged storm drains in the past so they are no longer picking up the leaf bags or other trash if it is on the concrete structure and or within 5 feet of it.



ION COMMUNITY GARDEN

There Are Still Community Garden Plots Available: Get One Now

by April Gordon



Most of the community garden plots for 2026 are taken, but don't wait or you might miss out on getting one of those that are left. For only \$75 you get a 5' x 8' garden plot that is cleared and freshly amended with straw available for mulching it. The garden is surrounded by fencing (to help keep out unwanted critters) with water provided and well maintained mulched pathways for easy access. Don't know much about gardening? You also receive up-to-date how-to gardening advice and frequent updates throughout the season. Plus your community garden neighbors are happy to offer help with your garden questions or with occasional watering when requested.

Community gardeners planting their spring gardens come in all ages and sizes

Gardening takes work and perseverance, but it pays off when you harvest fresh vegetables, herbs, and flowers you have grown yourself. We begin the spring season in February beginning with our garden opening on Saturday, February 21 at 1 pm. And with our mild coastal South Carolina climate, we can garden all year! So join us at the community garden by getting your plot today!

Contact April Gordon for a registration form at iongarden@gmail.com.



We can garden year-round including the winter. This garden is growing in mid-January after several cold snaps



BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Mystery Plants in the Butterfly Garden and How They Got There

by April Gordon

Cold weather has killed back most of the plants in the butterfly garden, and they won't return until warmer weather arrives. However, in a recent trip to the garden, I noticed patches of green that marked the emergence of plants that are growing and beginning to bloom now in late January despite temperatures sinking into the 20's. Most of us would dismiss these plants as weeds and pull them up. But I have learned from experience that many of the plants we view as weeds are valuable sources of food or other resources needed by the pollinating insects our garden is designed for. My response to these unknown intruders now is to research them to see what they are and if they might deserve a place in our garden. In our mild climate, spring begins in February and pollinating insects begin to emerge from dormancy when there are few commercial plant resources available for them. Many of the plants that are growing and blooming (and useful to pollinators) are likely to be—"weeds"!

Four of those plants found in our garden are the topic of this month's newsletter: pink garden sorrel, creeping buttercup, henbit dead-nettle, and common blue violet. To my surprise all of them but the buttercups are beginning to bloom. They will all be flowering in February and provide vital nectar, pollen, and leaves for hungry pollinators. I have had to research to find out what these plants are because none of them were planted in the garden and my knowledge of wild plants is limited. These plants just showed up! How they got here was also a mystery to be investigated. See next page for what I found...

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Continued from page 6



Pink wood sorrel beginning to bloom

Pink Garden Sorrel (*Oxalis articulata*)

Garden sorrel is an attractive mounded perennial growing up to a foot tall. It is a non-native plant originating in South America but now found around the world. It will bloom throughout the early spring and is a valuable food resource for bees and butterflies, but it has also been long valued by humans for its lemony flavor in salads, soups, and tea. (All parts of the plant are edible.) How did it get in our garden? Seeds are easily spread when they explode from seed pods and are carried by the wind or on animal fur. Seeds and plant parts also stick to shoes, garden tools, or mulch and compost and can be moved long distances. In our case, the likely source of transmission is from a large area of garden sorrel in an undeveloped area near the garden. A lucky seed was somehow transferred to the garden and germinated in a part-shady, moist area of the garden: a perfect location.

Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*)

Found worldwide, creeping buttercup originated in Europe but has become naturalized in the eastern United States. It is not edible by humans; but its seeds are eaten by birds, and its bright yellow flowers in the spring are attractive to pollinators especially bees. I had never seen this plant before it started growing in our garden but found that birds eat and spread its seeds relatively long distances. Seeds can also be spread by the wind or on shoes, tires, garden equipment, and mulch and compost. Its origin in our garden remains a mystery.

Henbit Dead-Nettle (*Lamium amplexicaule*)

Originating in Europe, henbit is widespread around the world and naturalized in North America. All above ground parts of the plant are edible raw or cooked and have a sweet-peppery taste similar to celery. Most important for the butterfly garden is that henbit is considered to be a major early nectar and pollen source for pollinators including honeybees. Henbit is so common that many of us have probably seen it growing in our yards, and it pops up frequently in the community garden and around the butterfly garden. A big reason henbit is so ubiquitous is that its easily spread seeds can lie dormant for years before germinating.



Henbits' pretty pink flowers are beginning to open in an unplanted community garden plot

Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)

The only native plant on our list, violets have been widely used for food and medicine and also ornamental in yards and gardens. Used by bees and butterflies for its nectar, violets have the distinction of also being a host plant providing food for several fritillary butterfly caterpillars (including variegated fritillaries in our area). Although violets may have spread to our garden by airborne seeds, violets also have a rather unique animal seed spreader—ants. Ants carry violet seeds back to their nest to eat where some can eventually germinate.

Another advantage violets have is that they grow in disturbed, shady, moist areas—including under trees where other plants struggle. Whatever the source of seeds was, several violets are growing in a shady, moist area of the butterfly garden where they have few plant competitors.

We are keeping these four wildflowers as part of the butterfly garden along with other surprise mystery plants that are useful to our pollinators. We have learned a valuable lesson that just because we don't know a plant, find it at a garden center, or deliberately grow it, doesn't mean it's just a weed to be eliminated. It could provide food (or medicine) for us (foraging is a big hobby now) or for the wildlife around us. As Ralph Waldo Emerson remarks, "What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered." Or A.A. Milne, "Weeds are flowers, too, once you get to know them." April Gordon at [dr.aprilgordon@gmail.com*](mailto:dr.aprilgordon@gmail.com)

*We are looking for neighborhood volunteers for Team BG to help keep our butterfly garden beautiful and thriving. If you love nature, the outdoors, or gardening, consider becoming a member. Contact April.



Since the creeping buttercup is not starting to bloom yet, this photo of the shiny yellow flowers in bloom from 2025 is used instead



Somehow finding a way into a shady corner of the butterfly garden, a patch of violets with its delicate blue-purple flowers is spreading



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

Jumping into the New Year with IAH!

In January, IAH rang in the new year with fun neighborhood gatherings, interesting discussions, and outdoor activities despite the cool lowcountry temperatures!

A group of IAH gentlemen gathered for Bros and Brews at the newly renovated O'Brions Pub to enjoy fellowship over a beer and our monthly happy hour group met at Community Table to catch up after everyone returned from their holiday adventures.

We had several discussion groups, including a film forum led by our own Fred White on the classic "It's a Wonderful Life", as well as an important discussion led by longtime IAH member Barbara Cole on aging and the importance of being prepared for what the future may hold and making appropriate plans. Additionally, our monthly Public Affairs Panel gathered to discuss recent developments in both domestic and foreign affairs.



IAH members enjoying a floral arranging workshop led by Cathy Remington

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

Welcome New Neighbors

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

Melanie & Peter Birch
51 Krier Lane

Christina & Jimmy Kowalishin
25 Duany Road

Tracy & John Mahood
220 Ponsbury Road

Moving Around I'On:

David & Linda Hartman
72 Jane Jacobs



Communications Committee

Chris Colen
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!

2025 Civitas Award Winners

The Civitas Award has been given to an outstanding member or members of the I'On Community since 2003. It is awarded to a person or persons who have gone above and beyond the call of service. The word Civitas is Latin for citizenship; conveying a sense of community, responsibility, and a common purpose.



Congratulations to 2025 Civitas Award
Winners Bob Hardie and Susy Teale

We would like to congratulate Bob Hardie and Susy Teale as the 2025 Civitas Award recipients! Bob and Susy's previous years on I'On at Home's Board and Committees, along with their community participation, is what makes I'On a special community! I'On would not be what it is today without all the past, present and future volunteers who continue to keep the I'On community thriving!



Welcome New Communications Chair

Following a hiatus of a few years, Chris Colen returns this month to the role of Communications Chair. Chris is the recipient of the 2024 Civitas Award in recognition of his contributions to our community. He has previously served as Covenants Chair, Board Liaison to the IDC, and Vice President.

An 11-year resident of I'On, Chris and his wife have fully embraced the many offerings of our community. They were drawn to I'On for its architecture and design, proximity to Charleston, amenities and infrastructure, including common areas, walking paths, and water access, as well as the high quality of upkeep and the diverse backgrounds and experiences of I'On's residents. Chris looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of I'On in his roles as Board Secretary and Communications Chair.