

Charleston Club Tattler

Volume 19, Issue 95

A publication of The Charleston S.C. Club of Washington, D.C. Area

Website: <http://charlestonsclub.org>

October 1, 2016



Bi-Lo is Leaving The City Oct. 5th

Bi-Lo's Leaving Downtown Charleston



The Bi-Lo on Meeting Street in Charleston is closing Oct. 5th, the store previously was a Piggly Wiggly for 52 years. The last day for the 36,312-square-foot store, which has catered to the mid-peninsula's residential population for much of its life and is now surrounded by a redevelopment boom taking place along upper Meeting and King Sts. Bi-Lo's departure will reduce the number of supermarkets on the peninsula to two for at least the next two years; Harris Teeter on East Bay Street and Food Lion on upper King Street. Publix plans to build a store on Lockwood Boulevard, but it's not scheduled to open until 2018.

Bi-Lo is owned by Southeastern Grocers Inc. of Jacksonville, FL. No reason was given for closing the downtown supermarket, which it acquired less than three years ago. "Southeastern Grocers has made the very difficult, yet necessary, decision to close our Bi-Lo store located at 445 Meeting St. in Charleston," district manager Bill Scales said Tuesday. "We are proud of our history in this community, and it's been our pleasure to serve our customers there. We look forward to continuing to provide great service and value to our customers at our 17 remaining stores in the Charleston community."

The supermarket's pharmacy was expected to close in September. Southeastern Grocers said it is encouraging the 69 employees at the peninsula store to apply for open positions in nearby Bi-Lo locations. "Until the store closes, we will work hard to continue delivering the great service and value our customers have come to expect," Scales said.

The 2.2-acre Bi-Lo site was sold about a year ago for \$10.8 million to a company led by Mount Pleasant-based McAlister Development Co. At the time, the new owner characterized the purchase as a long-term investment in an area of the city that's undergoing rapid changes. Anthony McAlister, CEO of the real estate firm, said he was informed Monday about the store's closing. As for what will happen to the building once the supermarket moves out, McAlister said, "I'm not in a position to discuss future

plans for the property right now."

Longtime shopper Valerie Washington said she was shocked the store is closing. She said it is very close and convenient to her home. "The developers are coming in and not taking into consideration how people get to the grocery store," Washington said, as she shopped in the store. "Charleston is not going to look like Charleston anymore." Bi-Lo acquired the Meeting Street store in the fall of 2013, when Charleston-based Piggly Wiggly Carolina Co. Inc. began to sell off its namesake supermarkets after running into financial trouble.

Dr. Hayden – New Head of The Library of Congress

Dr. Carla Diane Hayden was sworn in as the 14th Li-



brarian of Congress on September 14th in a ceremony in Washington, where Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath of office, and Hayden's mother held the Lincoln Bible. Dr. Hayden becomes the first woman and the first African-American to serve as Librarian of Congress.

Hayden was born in Tallahassee, FL in 1952; she is a graduate of Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL). She received her master's and doctorate degrees in Library Science from the University of Chicago Graduate Library School. From 1970 and 1980, she worked at the Museum of Science and Industry and the Chicago Public Library. Around this time, she encountered Michelle and Barack Obama. Dr. Hayden taught as an Assistant Professor of Library Science at the University of Pittsburgh before returning to Chicago to begin her professional career as a children's librarian at Chicago Public Library.

"People of my race were once punished with lashes and worse for learning to read. And as a descendant of people who were denied the right to read, to now have the opportunity to serve and lead the institution that is the national symbol of knowledge is a historic moment," Hayden said at the ceremony. Hayden has been a champion for Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library for the past 23 years. She has poured her heart and soul into the city's libraries, leaving a lasting legacy. Hayden came to Baltimore in 1993,

leaving her position as chief librarian of the Chicago Public Library. In Baltimore, she inherited 22 libraries, 500 employees and an annual budget of \$40 million. She quickly got to work. Under Hayden's leadership, the libraries came into the 21st century as she kept up with technology, updating the software and offering patrons Wi-Fi and electronic books. Under her watch, the library has brought best-selling authors to town. During the Baltimore unrest in April 2015, Hayden supported the librarian of the Penn and North location, allowing the doors to stay open as a safe haven for those who chose to come there.

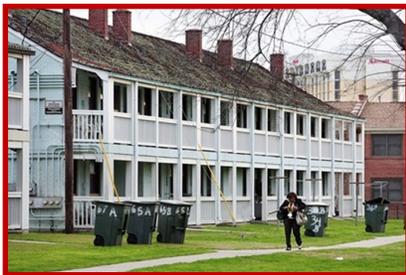
She was the president of the American Library Association (ALA) in 2003-2004. During her presidency, she was the leading voice of the ALA in speaking out against the newly passed U.S. Patriot Act. While president of the ALA, Hayden chose the theme "Equity of Access." Hayden was vocal in her public opposition to the Patriot Act, leading a battle for the protections of library users' privacy. She especially objected to the special permissions contained in the law that gave the Justice Department and the FBI the power to access library user records.

As Librarian of Congress, Hayden says she hopes to continue "the movement to open the treasure chest that is the Library of Congress." Hayden aspires to modernize the institution during her tenure by both preserving the collection and modernizing access to it, as she will be the first Librarian of Congress appointed "since the advent of the internet."

Wrecking Gadsden Green Maybe Harsh, But Necessary?

An op-ed column printed in a recent edition of the Charleston's daily newspaper once again stirred conjecture about the possible closing of the Charleston Housing Authority's Gadsden Green (Back the Green) public housing complex on the peninsula's west side. The 264-unit complex is among the oldest among the housing authority's inventory of over 1,300 units and makes up its second largest complex. It's located in an area bounded by President St., Hagood Avenue, Line Street and Ashton Street. The newspaper's columnist wrote of a frank assessment of the complex's position in a rapidly changing community. The headline bluntly stated "Take a Wrecking Ball To Antiquated Local Housing Projects."

For decades, speculation the complex would be demolished has circulated. Although the housing authority continuously denies any such possibility, the reality of the West Edge redevelopment project taking place adjacent to the complex, gives those conjectures new evidence of validity. Charleston City Council Dist. 3 representative James Lewis said while the author's admonition seems cruel, "That's their intention." Eventually, the housing authority will demolish the complex, he said.



"Once they've started building West Edge, they'll find a way to justify demolishing Gadsden Green. The Housing authority promised they'd never demolish Ansonborough Homes, but eventually they came up with a story about the soil being contaminated and tore it down," Lewis related. "It's cruel to say take a wrecking ball to the projects because you're talking about people's home and lives. But there's no question in my mind, in a few years those people will be displaced."

William Dudley Gregorie, the Dist. 6 representative on city council was less pointed, but shares Lewis' assessment. The issue is complicated, he said. Everyone understands the need for low-income, affordable housing, but complexes like Gadsden Green have outlived their purposes. Upgrades are a no-brainer, but everyone also knows that upgraded housing usually doesn't put the old residents back into the new housing. Rather than holding on to nostalgia and the cycle of poverty the complex represents, Gadsden Green residents would do better to look for better housing and home ownership opportunities, Gregorie said.

Public housing never was meant to be the permanent solution to housing needs for the poor it has become, he said. Rather than looking at Gadsden Green as a home for current residents and their children after them, families should be moving toward self-sufficiency and self-reliance. The West Edge redevelopment shouldn't be seen as an opportunity for displacement, but as an opportunity to prepare to participate in that future, he said.

Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer's \$27M Drive

The Susan G. Komen Organization recently announced a \$27M Health Equity Initiative to Reduce Breast Cancer Deaths in African-American Community. The Komen breast cancer organization gathered philanthropic, civic, medical and business leaders in Washington on September 15th to formally launch their \$27 million, 10-city initiative to reduce breast cancer death rates among African-American women. "African-American women are almost 40 percent more likely to die of breast cancer than white women in the U.S. and in some cities, that number is as high as 74 percent. That makes this a public health crisis that must be addressed immediately," said Komen President and CEO Dr. Judith A. Salerno. "We are deeply appreciative of friends and partners who are working with us to do so."



Komen's African-American Health Equity Initiative initially targets 10 U.S. cities where mortality rates and late-stage diagnosis of African-American women are highest. The goal: to reduce the mortality gap by 25 percent within five years of beginning work in each city. The Initiative will expand across the country. The formal launching of the African-American Health Equity Initiative comes shortly after Komen announced a broader 10-year plan to reduce current U.S. breast cancer deaths by 50 percent in 10 years. Komen's "Bold Goal" strategy focuses on health equity for all medically underserved individuals, and an en-

hanced focus on research into aggressive and metastatic breast cancer.

The initial targeted cities are Memphis, TN, St. Louis, MO, Dallas, Los Angeles, Virginia Beach, VA, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Washington, DC and Philadelphia. Baltimore and Detroit have been identified as high-priority areas as the program expands over the next year.

Emma W. Johnson: Teacher, Educator & Community Activist

Mrs. Emma Wilder Johnson taught at C.A. Brown and Burke High School for 34 years and continued to tutor and mentor after her retirement. The Partners for a Better Community (PBC) will host an event honoring her, The Emma Wilder Johnson Scholarship & Silent Auction on Saturday, October 15, 2016. The PBC is calling all of her former students from C.A. Brown & Burke High School (Classes from 1962-1992 & graduates), if she inspired you in any way come and show your support by attending the event or sponsoring a table! The event will be held at Trident Technical College Center, 7000 Rivers Ave., Building 920, in North Charleston at 6:00 p.m. The goal this year's event is to raise \$50,000.



"Momma J" as she was affectionately known, dedicated much of her Christian life to Youth Education. She received a B.S. in English from S.C. State and her Master's in Education from The Citadel. She taught English at C.A. Brown H.S. from 1962-1982 and ten years at Burke H. S. She was also a member of the National Teacher's Association. Because of her love, commitment, and passion for Education, she tutored children in her home, and on her own time, and was also a Women's Bible Study Teacher. Mrs. Johnson died in July 2010 and The Emma W. Johnson Education Scholarship Program was established in 2012 to provide opportunities for students looking to further their education. The Emma W. Johnson Scholarship offers entering Freshmen College students who are in good standing and have a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative overall grade point average at his/her high school.

The "Colour of Music Festival" in Charleston

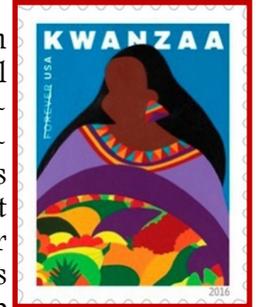
Now in its fourth year the Colour of Music Festival offers a musical kaleidoscope highlighting the impact and historical significance of black classical composers and performers on American and world culture. The 4th Annual Colour of Music Festival will take place October 19th-23rd, at various venues throughout historic Charleston. Assembling acclaimed black chamber ensemble players and artists to form the Colour of Music Orchestra, the four-day Festival showcases some of the top black classical musicians in the United States, trained at some of the most prestigious music schools, conservatories and universities in the world. This year brings leading black artists from across the globe to



"The Holy City" with featured performers from France, Britain, Colombia, and the Caribbean. Highlights include the debut of 18th century African-French composer Chevalier de Saint George's only opera ever discovered, The Anonymous Lover, featuring Magali Léger, native of Saint George's birthplace, the Isle of Guadeloupe, showcasing the Festival's All Things French (Toutes Les Choses Françaises) motif.

2016 MOJA Arts Festival

It's MOJA Arts Festival time in Charleston. The 2016 event will mark Charleston's 33rd annual festival. This Celebration of African-American and Caribbean Arts has been selected as one of the Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events for many years. The 2016 MOJA Arts Festival promises an exciting line-up of events with a rich variety of traditional favorites. The upcoming festival is scheduled for Thursday, September 29th through Sunday, October 9th. Nearly half of MOJA's events are admission-free, and the remainder are offered at modest ticket prices.



The MOJA Arts Festival is a multi-disciplinary festival produced and directed by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the MOJA Planning Committee, a community arts and cultural group, and the MOJA Advisory Board, a group of civic leaders who assist with fundraising and advocacy. *Moja*, a Swahili word meaning "One," is the appropriate name for this festival celebration of harmony among all people in our community. The Festival highlights the many African-American and Caribbean contributions to western and world cultures. MOJA's wide range of events include visual arts, classical music, dance, gospel, jazz, poetry, R&B music, storytelling, theatre, children's activities, traditional crafts, ethnic food, and much, much more. In addition to its myriad arts presentations, MOJA also includes an active and busy educational outreach component of workshops in the public schools and senior outreach in senior citizen homes.

This year the U.S. Postal Service will announce its new Kwanzaa "Forever" stamp during the MOJA Arts Festival, in a special event on Saturday, Oct. 1st on Marion Square during Heritage Day on the festival's opening weekend.

Oldest U.S. Veteran of World War II, Dies at 110

Frank Levingston (Nov 13, 1905 – May 3, 2016) was an American super-centenarian. He was the oldest living man in the United States and the oldest verified surviving American World War II veteran. He was born in Louisiana, one of seven children. He celebrated his 110th birthday on Nov. 13th and received a letter from the White House marking the occasion and "thanking him for his service." He called himself "one of the blessed ones," at the time.

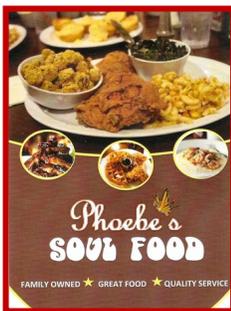


In December, Levingston was part of a group of veterans who traveled to Washington for a ceremony marking the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Ahead of the trip, Levingston was honored at a ceremony in Louisiana, when his local District Attorney, speaking at the ceremony, said when he looked at Levingston, he didn't see a 110-year-old man. "I see a young black soldier in green utilities with worn combat boots, scampering across the sand on those beaches," he said. Levingston served as a private during the Allied invasion of Italy in September 1943 and did a tour in North Africa. He was honorably discharged in 1945 and spent much of his post-military life in the cement finishing business. This well liked veteran, who never married or had children, lived alone in Lake Charles, LA, until this past April (2016) when he was moved to a nursing home to be closer to family in Bossier Parish, Lake Charles, Louisiana.



New "Homie Restaurant" in Summerville Area

There's a new **Soul Food Restaurant** that just opened on Saturday, Sept. 10th in Summerville. Family and friends gathered for the next generation of the Russell clan's entrepreneurial venture. Nadia Hill, the daughter of Charleston Club member **Emmett Russell** (Juanita) and niece of Charleston Club member, **Reggie Russell** (Elaine) along with her cousin Stanley Russell (nephew of **Emmett** and **Reggie's**), had a gala-style grand opening (weekend) for "**Phoebe's Soul Food**" restaurant! The Summerville gala was complete with music by Charleston's radio station **99.3 The Box**. The name of the restaurant is a tribute to their aunt, Phoebe Russell McPherson who died this past February 19th in Forestville (MD). Phoebe was a culinary master, she made a name for herself cooking southern gourmet meals. The restaurant is located at 1704 Old Trolley Road, in Summerville (Southwest off I-26). Phoebe's is also well positioned on social network/media with her own website (www.phoebessoulfood.com) and on Facebook (**Phoebe's Soulfood Restaurant**); Phone 843-771-4500. The next time you're in Charleston, ...*Stop by and get an "Old Fashioned Southern Cooking" good meal!*



Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners ...

• The **Gullah/Geechee Angel Network** and **Carlie Towne Productions** in collaboration with Queen Quet, Chiefess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation and the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition will bring to the MOJA Arts Festival stage the new dramatic presentation, "**Gullah/Geechee Knows Emanuel: A Gullah/Geechee Story**" on Saturday, October 8th, at 7 p.m. at The Pointe Center at 4870 Piedmont Ave. in N. Charleston. **Gullah/Geechee Knows Emanuel: A Gullah/Geechee Story** will take the audience

on a journey through the Gullah/Geechee memories of the history of Emanuel in Charleston. Starting from the founding of Emanuel A.M.E. by Denmark Vesey and Gullah Jack to the tragic slaying of nine members of Emanuel A.M.E. in June 17, 2015.

- The **Charleston Club's 2016 Holiday Celebration** is on **December 2, 2016** at **Martin's Camelot Room**, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. This year's celebration will begin at 8:00 p.m.; the Cost is \$55.00 per person and it will be Semi-Formal! Be sure to sign up as soon as possible! Points of contacts for **Tickets: Karen Champaign**, 478-954-3292; **Brenda Owens**, 301-996-7756; and **Ben Randall**, 301-602-3417. Payments should be sent to: **Mary Wade**, Financial Secretary, 13406 Vandiver Ct, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.
- Nearly 80 relatives and friends of **Esau Jenkins** gathered on Thursday, Sept. 22nd on their way to the Smithsonian's **National African American Museum** in Washington. Six of his 13 children, countless grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and many cousins came to celebrate the civil rights leader and community organizer's inclusion in the permanent collection of the new Smithsonian museum. The "Send-Off Ceremony" was held at Gadsden's Wharf (the future site of the International African-American Museum [IAAM] in Charleston) at Charleston's Maritime Center. The overall theme of the event was "Faith, Love and Progress" with appreciation given to those who exhibited panels from Jenkins' VW bus in their permanent display. The story of the VW bus began in 1948 when Jenkins promoted political education for Charleston's African-American residents and continues today with the lasting impacts he had on society.
- Reminder, The **Carolina Group's Christmas Party** is also being billed as **Holiday Reunion Party**; if you plan to be in the Charleston area during the Christmas holidays...you will want to be there! All Charleston Area Schools are invited to participate in their Dinner/Dance on Thursday, December 22nd at The Charleston Rifle Club on Heriot Street (just North of Mt. Pleasant St off Rutledge Ave). Your Point of contacts are: **Bobby Smalls** ~ 843-722-6456 or **Irvin Seabrook** ~ 843-556-2578.

Happy Birthdays!

October Birthdays:

Jeanette Steward ~ Oct. 2nd, ~ Jerry Ravenell ~ Oct. 4th, ~ Ned Felder ~ Oct. 7th, ~ Bonnie Edwards ~ Oct. 8th, ~ Zeni Jackson ~ Oct. 12th, ~ Bobby Brown ~ Oct. 13th, ~ Clarence Howard ~ Oct. 13th, ~ Jametta Martin ~ Oct. 18th, ~ Sharon Snow ~ Oct. 20th, ~ Elisabeth Greene ~ Oct. 22nd, ~ Brian Smalls ~ Oct. 22nd, ~ Linda McNeill ~ Oct. 24th, ~ Mary Dunkley ~ Oct. 27th.

- *The Fly on The Wall!*