se of Hope News

December-January 2017/18 IsleofHopeNews.com

# **Tiny Homes to House Homeless Vets**

By Lauren Brantley

Tiny Homes — We have seen them on HGTV. They look like something that radical minimalists would try out for living space. Yet, they have become part of the homeless solution for Savannah. This innovative idea has been developed by the Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless (CSAH). I recently interviewed Cindy Murphy Kelley who heads up this nonprofit and their Tiny Homes for Veterans project.

After hearing Cindy speak at Lifebridge Church, a supporter of the project, I wanted to know more about this unique solution. The Problem: In 2016, we had 4513 people in our community who were homeless some or all of the This number comes vear. from counting one person who uses one service during that year. It is unduplicated meaning if the same person uses additional services, she or he is only counted once. Of these 4513 persons, 286 are homeless veterans. Some veterans come back from war with PTSD and undiagnosed head injuries. Often, they



Exterior and Interior of the Tiny Home

have trouble adjusting and go from job to job eventually resulting in a loss of a home through eviction. It is hard to address veteran's many issues until they have permanent housing.

Some soldiers at Fort Stewart who are exiting the service are enrolled in a construction training program. These soldiers are building the first 12 Tiny Homes to be located on 3 1/4 acres at 75 Dundee (just off Wheaton Street). When the project is complete, there will be 72 homes (6 villages with 12homes in each village). To be considered, veterans apply and attend a workshop on Living Small. Residents will be selected by lottery as there will not be enough homes to meet the need. Veterans will be encouraged to engage in community. Homes come equipped with the basics needed for daily living and a modest rent.

Each village of twelve persons will be a selfmanaged entity with a selected resident manager (initially appointed but eventually elected by

(continued on page 10)

# **Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

As the year draws to a close, it's time to look back on all the great times we've had on Isle of Hope this year. In fact, we've got a two page spread of photos from the recent Isle of Hope Art and Music Fest. It was a blast, but just one of the many fun happenings that took place in 2017.

Who can forget the good times we all had at the monthly Isle of Hope Pavilion Series. Or the many oyster roasts at the IOH Marina that were used to help those — like Isle of Hope's favorite son Sammy Moore — or raise funds for the IOH pool.

We also joined Team Yannett and sponsored the first Isle of Hope Kids Safety Day — giving away bike lights to all the kids who wanted them. And two lucky IOH kids even won FREE bikes!

And speaking of kids big and small — everyone loved this year's Halloween adventures on Bluff Drive.

And once again, we also weathered another hurricane.

Yes, Isle of Hope is a beautiful place with breathtaking views, but more than that it's a community filled with good neighbors, who appreciate the charm of this enchanted place and are always working to make it an even better place to live and play.

Thank you Isle of Hope! Your support and the support of our advertisers (many who live or grew up on the island) makes this publication possible. We look forward to an even better year in 2018.

The Isle of Hope News is a bi-monthly publication serving Isle of Hope area residents and advertisers. It was started by Isle of Hope resident, Ed Yannett in 2011 and mails to 2,400 residents in Isle of Hope, Dutch Island and surrounding areas.

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# My Ponderosa on Isle of Hope

By Tom Parrish

My idea of having a good time is walking my property line. These aren't my words; I got them from an old Marshall Tucker Band song. They do describe me to a "T" though.

Today was a beautiful autumn Sunday afternoon at the homestead. I've been outside, not doing much, just piddling and spending some time with my dog. Thought about raking some leaves, but my back's still killing me from playing golf yesterday. Someone's burning leaves in the neighborhood, and while I perversely enjoy the odor, I also worry about the dry conditions and the environment.

These are my thoughts as ol'Duke and I meander around our property. My significant, workaholic "other" who's had her nose in her work all day remains inside and laughs at me. We only have a small house in Wymberley on less than half an acre of land, so I assure you she doesn't feel like the lady of the manor.

To me though it is the Ponderosa, and I'm



Tom and Duke

Ben Cartwright. We're surrounded by people with similar lifestyles and homes but I don't care, I'm still Lorne Greene when I'm on mine.

(continued on page 12)



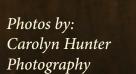
# ISLE OF HOPE ART & MUSIC FEST





















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# Your Neighborhood Real Estate Report

#### By Ed Yannett

The year is almost over. So it's a good time to compare how the Isle of Hope, Dutch Island and Chatham County housing markets have performed compared to 2016.

First, let's look at the Isle of Hope and Dutch Island.

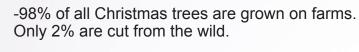
As of the end of November of this year, 38 homes sold on Isle of Hope. This was six less than during the same time period in 2016. The average sold price for 2017 was \$369,776 compared to \$412,216 in 2016. But, if you look deeper, you'll see that sometimes real estate statistics can be misleading. Here's why. In 2016, a home on Grimball Point with a lot of acreage sold for \$2.6 million, so this skewed the average sales price way up. If you remove it from the mix, you'll find that the average sales price in 2016 was actually \$361,286 or \$8,4900 below the 2017 price. So taking that into consideration, the average home sale price on Isle of Hope rose by about 2.4%.

The days a home stayed on the market (DOM) before

selling decreased compared to 2016. In 2016, it stood at 107 days. This year it averaged 98 days. At the end of November, there were also 24 homes for sale on Isle of Hope.

At the end of November, 17 homes had sold on Dutch Island compared to 14 in 2016. But the average sales price dropped from \$524,761 in 2016 to \$469,982 so far this year. That's a decline of 10.4% and there were no outliers like the Grimball property on Isle of Hope. Homes also sold slower in 2017. In (continued on page 14)

### **Christmas Tree Fun Facts**



-There are approximately 350 million Christmas trees growing on U.S. farms

- It takes an average of 7 years for a Christmas tree to mature. In the first week in your home, a Christmas tree will consume as much as a quart of water per day.

-The first Christmas tree was decorated in Latvia in 1510.

- The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree tradition began in 1933.

-The Rockefeller Tree is lit with 30,000 energy efficient LEDs which are powered by solar panels.

-Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas Trees in 1882.

-Christmas tree lights were originally small candles and date back to the 17th century.

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## **Merry Christmas!** Thank You IOH for a Great 2017!



Dear Isle of Hope,

Thanks to you we've had a record-setting year in 2017. I love selling homes, but the most rewarding part of my job is being able to give back to this amazing community. Lisa, Ed Beck, Charlie and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

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#### IOHUMC

Dec. 17 Christmas Cantata 8:45 AM & 11:15 AM Worship

Dec. 17 Anchor - Non Traditional Service 10:00 AM

Dec. 19 Blue Christmas 6 PM

Dec. 24 Worship 10:00 AM

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services 3 PM, 5 PM, 7 PM

Dec. 24 Anchor Service 5 PM

Dec. 31 New Years Day Worship Service 10:00 AM

#### **IOH Baptist Church**

Dec. 23 - Community-wide Pancake Breakfast in memory of Lowell B. Dasher (free) 8:00 - 10:00 AM

> December 24 Sunday School 9:20 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve Service 5:30 PM

#### St. Thomas Episcopal

Dec. 16 Blue Christmas 5:00 pm St. Thomas Chapel

Dec. 24 "A Walk to Bethlehem" 3:00 PM - kid-friendly service with a stations of the nativity

Dec. 24 Traditional Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

Dec. 31 a service of Christmas lessons and carols 9 am.

#### Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church

Mass is celebrated the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 am and on major Holy Days.

> Mass will be at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24.



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# Tiny Homes (continued from page 1)

residents). Residents will meet regularly to make decisions about how to live in community, determine basic rules of behavior and allow for individual needs and creativity. Residents will not be required to see a case manager or attend AA meetings or attend other services. However, such services will be available for the time a resident is interested in such support.

Village residents will work together to coordinate efforts for activities such as grocery shopping, medical appointments, maintaining the interior and exterior of their homes as well as maintenance of the communal areas. Village residents will also elect a representative to sit on a Council of Villages (6 villages of 12 persons each) to plan for larger activities and problem solve for community wide efforts or concerns. They anticipate that it will take some time for the smooth operation of each village. CSAH will provide staff leadership to support village efforts to determine what works best for them. They expect mistakes but also expect villages (and individuals) will improve with time. As residents heal they will have opportunities to work, volunteer, and give back to the community at large.

The Tiny Homes are 16x8

(128 square feet). The four Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliant units are 18x8 (144 square feet). They are well built homes with exterior cladding in cement board and a metal roof. If you drive by to see the model (704 Wheaton Street), notice the selected red and white exterior paint. The interior of the unit has tongue and groove pine on the walls and ceiling (11 feet, 4 - inch ceiling height). It has two windows, an entrance door with six light panels, a small kitchen with microwave, refrigerator and hotplate, a bathroom with shower and a single bed that works as a sofa during the day. The floors are ceramic tile and there is plenty of storage under the bed. Broader community enhancements will include outdoor tables, grills and gardens. Plans

are also in place for a small chapel on the site.

The materials cost for each Tiny House is \$7,000. The total project cost is \$1.7 million (land, 3 clubhouses, 72 homes, site preparation). This total cost, divided by 72 units reveals a cost per housing unit at \$23,611. This is incredibly affordable housing, and they are proud to show what can be done with creative, alternative approaches to housing development.

What impressed me most about this project was the example that this non-profit is showing the community. They are doing this by helping one sector of the homeless population and giving them a chance to have a life off the streets.



# **Tiny Homes**

Talking to Cindy helped me realize the scope of the homelessness problem in Savannah compared to other cities our size. Alternative affordable housing can be integrated into our community.

How to Help: The Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless is a 501 C3 nonprofit organization. They count on



7360 Skidaway Road Unit J-3 Located inside Sav Power Yoga 912-323-7356 www.SpryMindBody.com support from individuals, foundations and government contracts to meet our mission. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to CSAH. You may make your contribution via PayPal, on www.homelessauthority.org or mail a check to: CSAH, PO Box 8936, Savannah, GA 31412.

If you would like to learn more or make a gift in person, call the Executive Director, Cindy Murphy Kelley at 912.644.7945. Ms. Kelley is available to speak to groups about the work of CSAH and how to best help homeless individuals. There is also a need to organize and formalize our rich, broad faith community to provide an impactful approach to reducing homelessness by doing sustainable good.

Lauren Brantley, a Resource Teacher at Savannah Arts Academy, loves to interview interesting people and tell their stories.

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# Ponderosa (continued from page 3)

Duke knows his way around. Our backyard is fenced, and I've often watched him from the kitchen window as he makes his rounds. First thing he does after one of his many naps is to patrol the perimeter of our backyard. Once he is assured that all is copacetic he comes up on the deck, peers through the window, and tries to lure me outside.

Duke is as big and as pretty a Chocolate Lab as you've ever seen. When he bats his baby browns at me I'm a goner. Grabbing a jacket and a beer I go out to join him. He's ecstatic, and that makes me pleased. We make our way out front, where we can continue making our rounds.

"Kitty Cat" chasing is the first order of business. Our neighborhood is lousy with cats, and they all seem to adore our yard. Duke is all dog, and it is his upheld sworn duty to give chase. At 12 years old, though he runs like an arthritic, overweight linebacker chasing a Herschel Walker, he never seems to catch them.

When we moved here many

years ago, I walked the boundaries of our property with him, and ever since he's never set a paw over them without permission. These devious felines will escape his feeble chase, and then just sit there taunting him. Just beyond our borders, they know they're safe and that he won't leave home. To these conniving cats, he must seem like a dolt for his territorial instincts, but I know just where he's coming from and respect him all the more for them.

I've caught up with him (continued on page 13)





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# experience mortgage Occollonde

Kelley Sullivan is a Senior Mortgage Loan Officer at BankSouth Mortgage in her hometown of Savannah. Since 2004, Kelley has been offering clients a unique depth of industry knowledge and expertise, while taking great measures to keep the home buying process as stress-free as possible. A graduate of St. Vincent's Academy in downtown Savannah, Kelley knows her hometown community inside and out. With this home-field advantage, Kelley can offer her clients local market insights with a personal touch to help meet their unique home buying needs.

Kelley's career as a mortgage specialist has led to a passion for helping people. In her spare time, Kelley enjoys volunteering through a variety of community organizations like the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She is also a member of the Women's Council of Realtors, Mortgage Bankers Association and Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah.

Her greatest passion is her children, Andrew and Dylan. Together they enjoy fishing, boating and other activities that allow them to take advantage of the beautiful coastline in the Savannah area. Their most recent hobby is a new winter tradition of snow skiing.

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# **Ponderosa** - (Continued from page 12)

now, and he proceeds to lead me around the lot. We've got this little feud going as to who's the boss around these here parts. Most of the time I'll let him lead, but sometimes my insecurity gets the best of me, and I make him follow. Today I just stroll, sip my beer and let him show me any new developments. He points out where a branch is down. Moles are burrowing over there. Another dog has been over here and "I'm not happy," he says. "See these deer droppings? Should we be concerned?"

He doesn't miss a thing, and makes sure I'm also aware of them. Myself, I see the Camellias are budding and fixing to pop. Pine straw blankets the yard and I'll be able to put off raking it for only so long.

Both cars need washing and the shed needs painting, but that's OK.

Then we sit on the front steps as the sun sinks and the air chills. We talk a bit, aroom each other, and enjoy the approaching evening together. Finally, I say, "Come on old man, its dinnertime," and reluctantly rise. Of course, he's off like a pup at the sound of his magic word, and I finally catch up with him by the back door waiting by his bowl.

I feed and water my best friend then tell him it's bedtime. With his belly

full and his ears thoroughly scratched he contentedly curls up by the door. I enter the house, note it's warmth and hang up my coat. My baby is still immersed in her work, but she takes a moment to get up and greet me. She complains that I smell like the dog, but then hugs me and tells me how much she loves me.

Life is great ain't it?

Tom Parrish, a full-time Bus Operator, part-time Writer and proud Grandpa, has lived on Isle of Hope since 1994. You can email him at tpar@live. com.

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# Real Estate (continued from page 6)

2106, the DOM was 130 days, but so far this year it stands at 181 days or 39.2% longer. At the end of November, 11 homes were listed for sale on Dutch Island.

Now to help put this in a broader perspective, let's look at Chatham County as a whole. As of November 30, 4,529 homes had sold in Chatham County compared to 4,079 in 2016. That's an 11% increase. The average selling price for the homes stood at \$247,374 and homes stayed on the market an average of 105 days before selling, which was 5 days longer than in 2016. At the end of November, 1661 Chatham County homes were for sale.

To sum it up, the Isle of Hope housing market ticked upward gradually during the last year as rates have remained low and inventory has held steady. On the other hand, the Dutch Island market has slowed down some. But if the economy continues to heat up and mortgage rates rise, buyers will lose some of their purchasing power, so I expect 2018 to start strong as buyers seek to get ahead of interest rate increases.

You can reach Ed via email at edyannett@kw.com or by mobile phone at 912-844-9000.





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