

So You Want to be a Firefighter? The IOHVFD Needs You!



Members of the Isle of Hope Volunteer Fire Department

Photo submitted

BY KELLI MILLS

Residents of Isle of Hope are well aware of the many gifts of living on this small island paradise.

We have spectacular views, abundant wildlife, mostly friendly neighbors, a bevy of amazingly talented people, a variety of churches, a fantastic

pool/park, and a fabulous marina.

All of these combine to create a special place

- Continued on page 3-

The Isle of Hope Art and Music Festival Returns in October 2022

BY HOLLEY JAAKKOLA

The Isle of Hope Art and Music Festival will return Saturday, October 22, 2022!

The festival will feature talented local artists and musicians. Artists will

locate at the Isle of Hope Marina Pavilion, Paxton Park, Rose Avenue, and Bluff Drive from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The Music Festival will be from 10 am – 8 pm at the IOH Marina. The organizers will announce an incredible

lineup of musicians soon. In addition, some of your favorite local food trucks will provide tasty food and treats. The Isle of Hope Marina will sell beer, wine, soda, and water.

- Continued on page 14 -

Front Porch

BY CHRIS BRANTLEY, EDITOR

It's not easy to walk the dog when it is colder outside, especially when the sun is hiding. But come Spring, it gets much less painful. In fact, I can't wait to get to the end of St. Thomas Avenue, where I live, and see the sun breaking across the Skidaway River. The breezes, which sometimes gust in March, calm down going into April. Gentle winds ripple across the surface of the water, and the marsh grass sways gently back and forth.

Azaleas pop open all around.

Harper, my dog, and I excitedly explore the island as it comes back to life. Well, honestly, she mostly chases the squirrels frolicking around.

I don't think we're alone. Most of us start to perk up as Winter turns to Spring, especially in a coastal town, as we anticipate getting outdoors more and back in and/or on the water again.

Now, I love me a Winter oyster roast or ten, but you

can't beat Isle of Hope in Spring and Summer. The beauty is incomparable as the island begins to bloom again and the creatures start to make their happy sounds. All the islanders, not just the faithful dog walkers and fitness fanatics, get outside to enjoy the sunny days. You see walkers, riders, porch sitters, and dock enjoyers. You hear the sounds of outdoor parties, marina events, and other festivities all around the island.

We have a lot to look forward to this year. First, the Isle of Hope Marina "Pavilion Series" cranks up in April with live music, food, beer, and wine. (Page 14). You can join

Isle of Hope News

The Isle of Hope News is a bi-monthly publication serving Isle of Hope area residents & 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.

- Continued on page 4 -

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So You Want to be a Firefighter?

- Continued from page 1 -

to live, and one of our most valuable community assets is the Isle of Hope Volunteer Fire Department (IOHVFD). Even Jimmy Buffet "claims" it.

The IOHVFD is celebrating its 73rd year of service, and that's no small feat for a subscription-funded, voluntary organization. There are few things more reassuring than knowing help is so close in an emergency. Response time is critical for many calls.

So, I was concerned when the local news put out an article in August 2021 with the headline "Emergency Medical Response disbanded for Isle of Hope's Volunteer Fire Department." The piece referenced a 'shake up' and 'lack of manpower.'

Afterward, I received texts and emails from neighbors asking what this meant for our community. As stated in the article, many feared the fire department would only be responding to fire calls.

So I sat down with Chief Tom Christiansen, Lieutenant Chris Miltiades, and by phone, Lt. John Beasley to understand the changes to come. What I learned was encouraging.

The IOHVFD implemented the Isle of Hope/Dutch Island First Responder program in 1998. At the time, the response time for Chatham EMS was longer, so the volunteer unit could provide faster, possibly life-saving medical care. First responders must complete an extra 60 hours of training in addition to fire training, so they can stabilize a patient until EMS arrives. They also provide the additional benefit of a familiar face showing up and offering comfort at a scary time.

My neighbor Barbara experienced this firsthand in 2017 when she fell in her home and broke her hip. For two hours, she laid on the kitchen floor in

severe pain and used a broomstick to try to knock the phone off the charging station.

Finally succeeding, she called 911, and in what felt like five minutes (and probably was), four of our firefighters burst through the door. She said they were the most welcome faces she's ever seen. By the time EMS arrived, they had done a preliminary medical exam, wrapped her in blankets, and calmed her to the point that she was laughing and joking with them.

One of the responders who came to Barbara's aid that night was our neighbor, Andy, who, unfortunately for us, has since moved away from Isle of Hope. Andy, a wonderful, caring, humorous man, took a vested interest in Barbara's recovery. He drove her to therapy for six weeks until she could move again. He went above and beyond "neighborly duties" and is indicative of the volunteers who live in our community.

Since the First Responders program began, the response time from Chatham EMS has improved enough that an ambulance arrives as or right after the fire department responds. If you received and read the fire department newsletter, you saw that out of 143 calls for emergency service in 2021 on IOH/Dutch Island, 120 were for medical assistance. Over the years, 911 calls have increased for non-emergency medical needs all over the country.

Regardless of the reasons, it is taxing on our volunteer firefighters, who also work regular jobs. They often respond to calls that are not true emergencies, such as headaches or stomachaches, which come early in the A.M. hours. These non-emergency calls and the need for more volunteers with extra medical training prompted the IOHVFD

- Continued on page 6-

Front Porch

- Continued from page 2 -

the Carefree Boat Club if you want to get out on the water and don't own a boat (Page 15). Finally, if you want to pick up some new skills and serve the IOH Community, you can volunteer with the Isle of Hope Fire Department (Front Cover) and/or join the Isle of Hope Historical Association (Page 5).

And breaking news, I was ecstatic to find out that one of IOH's best-loved events, the Isle of Hope Art and Music Festival, returns in October of 2022. Thanks to Holly Jaakkola and Erica Wilson, who have stepped up to host the event along with support from the Isle of Hope Historical Association (Front Cover).

Our next issue goes out in June, and by then, the Isle of Hope Pool will be going strong. Go to isleofhopepool.com to sign up for the latest Membership info.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our advertisers. Without you, this community magazine would not be possible.

If you have any questions about advertising or want to submit a story or story idea, please email me at chris@isleofhopenews.com.

Now, go have some fun in the sun!

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(Streetcar Schedule from Savannah Morning News)

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So You Want to be a Firefighter?

- Continued from page 3 -

to disband the First Responders program.

However, the fire department will still respond to car wrecks, boat fires, bicycle/golf cart accidents, and anytime EMS needs their assistance. The daytime on-duty firefighter may also respond to medical calls if available. So do not fear; we are still well-protected and served by our IOHVFD.

Unfortunately, our current volunteer firefighters are aging, and the department needs younger volunteers to carry on this vital service.

I'll admit to knowing very little about the requirements to be a firefighter. Hollywood depictions of massive structure fires, trapped fighters, and the buddy that always carries his partner out at the last minute have shaped my perceptions. While this makes for exciting cinema, those rare occurrences aren't typical of day-to-day operations for Isle of Hope.

One of our newer volunteers, Tracy Castillo, a Wymberley neighbor of mine and the daughter of Chief Tom Christiansen, explained much about what happens during training and structure fires.

For instance, some trucks carry foam, which is more efficient than water at putting out fires. Firefighters also use thermal imaging cameras that detect heat energy through walls, smoke, and dust to locate victims faster inside a building.

Tracy's grandparents founded the IOFVFD. Her father, uncle, and cousin also volunteer, so community service and firefighting are in her blood. Tracy said, as kids, she and her sisters hid

in buildings during the training nights so the volunteers could practice using the cameras. While I was in Tracy's home, I met her husband and their four children, who she homeschools. As we talked, I heard a call come in on the radio that volunteers carry.

While there is always a need for firefighters who gear up and go inside burning structures, the IOVFD is always looking for new volunteers to help support their community. To become a member, you must 1) attend three consecutive months of training and meetings and 2) within one year, obtain your basic or Fire 1 training certificate. The IOHVFD pays for all training, and it takes place in the Monday night training sessions at the fire station.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer or want to see what goes on at the station and meet our current firefighters, call 912-355-4403 to plan a Monday night visit.

So, next time you hear the sirens and wonder where the fire trucks are headed, consider serving the Isle of Hope community as a certified Volunteer Firefighter Volunteer.

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	Our Hope Arbor Care Partner Support Group meets <i>every Tuesday at 10:15 on the IOHUMC campus.</i> All family Caregivers supporting loved ones with memory impairment are invited to join this encouraging group.

A Wymberly Romance

BY TOM PARRISH

I was introduced to this area in the '70s, worked in it in the '80s, then bought into it in the '90s. Coming from an urban environment, I was in awe of its beauty.

The first time I crossed the causeway, I knew it was special. I could just feel it. I still do, even to this day. I love to open the windows and smell the marsh. It tells me I'm home.

I considered myself fortunate to be able to buy in Wymberly. I worked two jobs for many years for just that privilege. Bought a circa 1950's house in need of major upgrades.

It was Wymberly that I wanted, not the house.

I was a decent neighbor most of the time, but unfortunately, I was a busy man.

My relationships with my neighbors were more of the "Hi" and "Bye" variety.

Seems I was coming, or they were going.

Since retirement, though, I'm in the neighborhood a lot, and I'm seeing and meeting, and being with neighbors. It's nice, and something I've enjoyed.

And what about my relationship with Wymberly?

While physical attraction may be cause to begin a relationship, it takes a lot more than that to sustain one. Love needs to be nurtured to grow.

- Continued on page 10



The advertisement features a background of white cherry blossoms. On the left is a white wooden house-shaped planter. In the center is a circular portrait of Kelley Sullivan, a smiling woman with long brown hair. To the right of the portrait is a white house-shaped box containing contact information. The text 'Spring forward' is in large, stylized green and pink letters, with 'with a loan approval by YOUR LOCAL TRUSTED LENDER' in smaller blue and black text below it. The New American Funding logo is in the top left corner. At the bottom, a banner reads: 'WITH THE KELLEY SULLIVAN TEAM, YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF QUICK, SMOOTH, EASY, TRUSTED, LOCAL LENDING TO PUT YOUR OFFER ABOVE THE COMPETITION.' The footer contains a small house icon and the text: 'Georgia Residential Mortgage Licensee, License # 22564; NMLS#6606. New American and New American Funding are registered trademarks of Broker Solutions Inc. dba New American Funding. All Rights Reserved. Corporate Office is located at 14511 Myford Road, Suite 100, Tustin CA 92780. Phone (800) 450-2100. 03/2022.'

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A Wymberly Romance

- Continued from page 7 -

Over the years, had I taken her for granted? Did I spend enough time with her?

I always admired her beauty and grace, but did I tend to her needs? I fear not and am guilty on all counts.

Now I've fallen back in love, and I've got it bad. I've joined her Yacht Club without a boat, her Garden Club without a green thumb, and I can't seem to get enough of her.

So, what has rekindled my sudden passion?

Well, since I've retired, we spend a lot more time together, and

the more I've come to know her, the more my respect has grown.

I've become a far more attentive and ardent suitor. Eager to please, I find that I am once again thrilled by her beauty and seduced by her charms.

Years ago, I had to buy my way into the heart of Wymberly. What was love at first sight has blossomed into a marriage made in heaven.

I've earned the right to call Wymberly mine.

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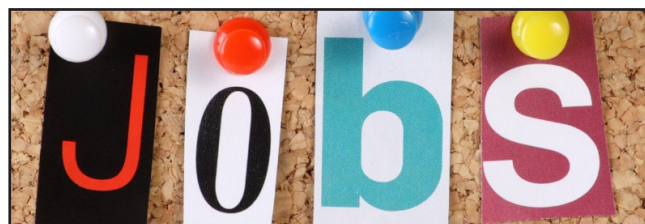
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#53 Henderson has a Guardian Angel



#53 Henderson Avenue will be restored by preservationist John Wyllly

BY POLLY COOPER

Deserted for 20 years, termite ridden, roof collapsing, vines choking it and brick mortar around the fireplace had crumbled to powder...it was a dreadful eyesore. #53 Henderson Ave. is now inching back to life. Neighbors watch the progress gradually beginning to show someone cares.

That someone is John Wyllly, a talented preservationist, who gets tremendous satisfaction from saving abandoned houses such as this early 1900's structure. His skill comes from restoring 25 forlorn abandoned dwellings over 25 years.

He is the kind of preservationist Isle of Hope welcomes rather than someone hiring a demolition crew and then constructing a McMansion.

After six years in the Navy in the nuclear power program aboard the USS Enterprise, John graduated from Georgia Southern



John Wyllly - Photo by Patty Turner

- Continued on page 12 -

#53 Henderson

- Continued from page 11 -

in business administration with a major in finance.

A few of John's favorite restorations are:

- 1716 Chatham Avenue at Tybee - a raised cottage built in the 1930s. He moved it to a nearby lot, restored it to its original charm, and was given a coveted award for historic preservation by the Tybee Island Historical Association.

- 1904 Stone Street on the back of Wilmington Island. John bought a 1922 fishing cottage destined for the dumpster and landfill. Thanks to him, today it is being comfortably occupied and enjoyed.

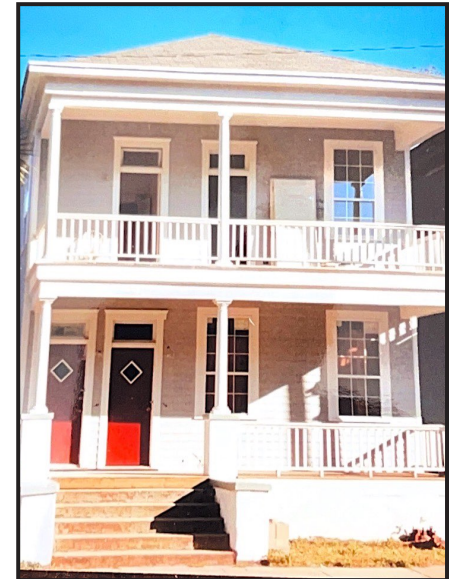
- 2210 Whitaker Street in the Starland District was built in 1890. The city boarded it up and posted the condemned signs. He began working on it in 2001 - his first major project.

Dan Willoughby, president of our Isle of Hope Historical Association, added ... "When an old house sits empty too long, you wonder if its next visitor will

be a bulldozer. Someone had to step up to keep part of our history out of the landfill. All of Isle of Hope



2210 Whitaker Street, before restoration took place.



2210 Whitaker is now beautifully restored.

should be happy that John beat the bulldozer to #53 Henderson." The sad old cottage was on seriously borrowed time.

Carson Hucks, who grew up next door at #55 with his parents and five siblings in 545 square feet (yikes!) recalls, "Frank and Mary Mock lived next door in #53. In 1953, Nina and Sam Porcher bought it and moved in. They tore off the front porch and built the cement porch."

"Sam Porcher was an oiler at Union Bag keeping the machinery greased and lubricated.

Nina worked at the Central of

Georgia Railroad and was secretary at the Methodist Church. Sam's son, Charlie,

lived there after Sam died to care for ailing Nina".

Carson recalls, "Our address was Rt. 3, Box 344, Isle of Hope. Didn't need to add Savannah, Ga." He now lives on Rosenbrook Ave.

Carol Jordan, who now lives in #51 Henderson Ave. grew up in #47 Richmond Ave. After living away, she returned in 1991 and bought #51. She is delighted to hear John's happy sounds of restoration! She recalls when Nina was weak and couldn't climb the porch stairs, Garland Wilson, a member of the Baptist Church, recruited pals from his church to build a ramp for her!

Patty Turner lives on the other side in # 55 with her dog Rosie. "I am so excited to see what John is doing with the Porcher house. It's looked terrible in the seven years I've lived here." Yes indeed...very happy sounds!



Carson Hucks on Henderson Avenue in 1950.



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Isle of Hope Art and Music Festival

- Continued from page 1 -

Holley Jaakkola and Erica Wilson, who are co-hosting the event this year, have a talented team of local volunteers and support from the Isle of Hope Historical Association to help put on the festival, which will feature IOH favorites and welcome new vendors.

The Isle of Hope Artist Guild started The Isle of Hope Art and Music Festival more than 18 years ago. Residents and artists joined together for the first festival in front of Noel and Ruthie Wright's house on Bluff Drive. Eventually, it expanded to the Isle of Hope Marina and Pavilion.

In 2011, the Art Festival, started by Noel and Ruthie Wright, added a parade, museum, and Music Festival to celebrate the 275th anniversary of Isle of Hope. The residents loved the Music Festival, so organizers kept it going, and it became known as the Isle of Hope Art and Music

Festival.

The Isle of Hope Historical Association presents the festival now, and corporate and individual sponsorships fund the event. It is free for attendees of all ages. It is a rain or shine event. If you would like to be a vendor, sponsor, or volunteer, please contact us at iohartmusicfest.com.

To join the Isle of Hope Historical Association, please visit iohha.org.



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Tips for Spring Boating Preparation

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Spring has sprung! To make the most of this beautiful boating weather, be sure to prep your boat –as well as your cruising guests– to get the most out of the coming summer’s boating fun. Here are some tips to get your season started right.

Spring Boating Preparation Tips

Making sure that you’ve properly de-winterized the vessel’s engine is the first step. If the oil wasn’t changed before the boat’s winter rest, now is the time to do it. Include a change-out of the oil filter and the transmission fluid when you do. If your boat has an outboard, prepping its oils and inner workings is just as important. Cooling systems should be flushed and the antifreeze replaced with the appropriate water and coolant mixture. Also, check those batteries, and you will likely need to replace them before dropping that hull back into the blue.

Speaking of the hull, be sure to give it a thorough once-over for cracks, blistering, and chipping. Make sure the exterior of the boat is properly cleaned with a safe product. Restoring the boat’s gel coat helps to prevent oxidation. You may need to repeat gel coat restoration during the summer, but it’s well worth the trouble. Working on preparation during the spring makes any further preventive hull maintenance go more smoothly. Be sure to test every one of your electronics, from radio to depth finder, compass, GPS, and more. Examine your life jackets for wear and tear, quality matters with life jackets. If a jacket needs replacing, make sure they have bright coloring, collar handles, and sturdy strapping.

Above all, be conscientious about requiring that everyone onboard wears one. A boat should never be in the water without enough jackets to outfit everybody. And, too, all fire extinguishers and flares should be checked to assure they’re in good operating condition.

Last, but not at all least: Have a float plan and keep a weather eye. Assure that someone who isn’t going out with you is informed about all of your primary stops and anchorages, as well as your anticipated time of return. Be on the lookout for weather change-ups while you’re boating. You want to have a great time when you’re out there. The best way to ensure that is to properly prep your vessel and your guests before the hull even hits the water this spring. Then grab that sunblock, pull out that rod and reel, and drop that swim ladder!

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