

## The Savannah Scottish Games Where History and the Present Meet

BY CATHERINE SIMPSON

The 46th Annual Savannah Scottish Games will be held May 4th at Bethesda Academy in Savannah, Georgia. As you enter Bethesda's beautiful, spacious grounds overlooking the Moon River, be prepared to spend the day enjoying a variety of entertainment for the entire family.

The day begins with the Athletic Competition, one of the best-known features of the Scottish Games. The competition includes seven events: The Caber Toss, The Sheaf Toss, Clachneart (Stone Put), 22 lb. Hammer Throw, 28 lb. Weight Throw, 56 lb. Weight Throw, and the 56 lb. Weight Toss for Height.

Next, head to the dance area to take in the ScotDance USA Southeast Regional Highland



The Shire of Fort Castle demonstrates armored combat

Photo by DaBrooksOhana Photography

Dance Championships. The best Premier highland dancers in the southeast will demonstrate the strength and beauty of this ancient form as they vie for a spot to represent the SE at the

National Championship in Boston. In the afternoon, watch the Pre-Premier dancers demonstrate the

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### START BOATING...NOT OWNING



\*\*\* MORE DETAILS INSIDE \*\*\*

# Front Porch

BY CHRIS BRANTLEY, EDITOR

Happy Almost Spring! It's time to get outside and have some fun.

In this issue, you can read about the upcoming 46th Annual Savannah Scottish Games and Celtic Festival at Bethesda. This all-day, rain-or-shine event takes place on May 4.

Also, learn about the changes to Georgia's most popular historic site, Wormsloe, now that the new Visitor Center has opened. I have the Annual Pass and love it. In just minutes, I can walk or ride my bike and discover miles of nature trails with picturesque views of the Moon River and marshes. My dog, Harper, enjoys it too. I love my

Bluff walks, but Wormsloe is my go-to when I want a quiet walk in the woods. It's also a great place to take family and friends when they visit you.

Finally, Mr. Ed (Yannett) gives you his perspective on the importance and growth of your home equity. This will prepare you for the homebuying and selling season which kicks off in the Spring.

Make sure you send us your pictures of the Class of 2024 for the Summer issue in June. We will feature all the upcoming high school and college graduates who live in the mailing area of the IOH News. Email your high-resolution photos to [chris@isleofhopenews.com](mailto:chris@isleofhopenews.com)

and include the school of the graduate.

And as always, please support our Advertisers. We couldn't publish the Isle of Hope News without them!



## Calling All Grads!

**If you're graduating in 2024, or a parent of someone in the class of 2024, let us know!**

We want to honor all the high school and college graduates in the IOH News mailing area in the Summer Issue of the Isle of Hope News.

Please send a photo (formal or casual) to [chris@isleofhopenews.com](mailto:chris@isleofhopenews.com)

*Please send high-resolution photos if possible.*



**The Isle of Hope News is a quarterly 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.

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## Scottish Games

- Continued from page 1 -

dances they've learned. The ages run from 4 years old to adults. The intricate footwork and the dancing will transport you back to Scotland.

Pipe and drum competition returns to the games this year. The thrilling and haunting music of the bagpipe is the soul of Scotland. Coupled with the drums, the sound of bagpipes becomes even more enthralling. Come to hear the mesmerizing sounds for yourself and see if you don't agree.

Music lovers can also enjoy phenomenal performances by other Celtic bands, including Lochlann. These musicians sing and harmonize Scottish and Irish songs accompanied by fiddles, recorders, flutes, guitars, and the bodhran. More Celtic entertainment will be added to the lineup soon!

The Scottish Games also has many activities for the wee ones. They may encounter Zephyr, a mythical fairy, and then listen to a wide selection of Scottish tales told by Linda Bandiller. Children can participate in



**A Border Collie Herds Sheep During the Savannah Scottish Games**

games such as sheaf toss, caber toss, haggis hurl, stone throw, welly toss, and a sack race. A children's kilted run is held on the athletic field immediately following opening ceremonies. Children may also do crafts, coloring, and other games. Lads and lassies can get a Games Passport at the front gate. If they fill it with stamps or signatures from each clan tent, their full passport can be redeemed for a prize at the information tent.

Don't miss the Border Collies. These incredibly intelligent and responsive dogs were first bred on the boundary between Scotland and England from breeds brought to the area by Vikings. In old Gaelic, collie

meant "useful." Scotland has more sheep than humans, so the sheep-herding Collies became known as the "useful breed." Come and watch them in action. They are always a crowd favorite.

Want more action? The Shire of Fort Castle, a group of medieval reenactors, provides interactive demonstrations of medieval activities, such as armed combat, dance, juggling, and more. From these reenactors, you can learn ancient arts like calligraphy, armoring, metalworking, and more. Another group of reenactors, Clan Nom Con, is composed of dedicated

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*Isle of Hope News*



Wormsloe's New 2,000-square-foot gift shop

BY CHRIS BRANTLEY

Wormsloe opened its new visitor center to the public after nearly four years of construction on January 4, 2024. The 6,000-square-foot building includes a spacious porch with a fireplace, a 2,000-square-foot gift shop, a meeting space, and an introduction to the site. The building was the first capital improvement to Wormsloe in

25 years.

The construction also used repurposed materials from the Barrow's private residence on the grounds. Slate roofing from a historic dock is located on the wall behind the Wormsloe sign in the gift shop. An iron gate from a 1930s formal garden hangs above the outdoor fireplace on the patio.

In the next two years, the old visitor center will be transformed into a museum.

Wormsloe, the oldest

property in Georgia to be held continuously by the same family, also houses a private residence on 50 acres of the grounds. Craig and Diana Barrow are the ninth generation to live at Wormsloe since Noble Jones founded the colonial estate in the mid-1730s. In 1972, Wormsloe was put on the National Register of Historic Places. The Barrow family donated the property

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# Wormsloe

- Continued from page 6 -

to The Nature Conservancy, which transferred the land to the state of Georgia the same year. Wormsloe, managed by the Department of Natural Resources, is the most visited historic site in Georgia. Nearly 200,000 visitors come each year.

Gretchen Greminger, the Historic Site Manager since August 2016, explained some of the changes resulting from the new Visitor Center. Trolleys, similar to the ones used on Jekyll Island, will transport guests from the Visitor Center down the 1.5-mile avenue canopied by Live Oaks. Tour guides will introduce newcomers to Wormsloe and its history on the way. Wormsloe implemented the trolley system to preserve the most iconic, oak-lined road in the country.

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# Ask?

## Mr. Ed

Straight From The Horse's Mouth



## Your Home's Equity: A Real Estate Agent's Perspective on Its Importance and Growth

As a real estate agent deeply involved in the homeownership journey, I've seen firsthand that owning a home isn't just about having a roof over your head. You want to build a financial foundation for your future. I've watched hundreds of people making millions of dollars when they finally sell their homes! One of the most vital aspects of maximizing your return when you sell is your home's equity. So let's dive into what equity means, why it's essential, and how to increase it over time.

### Understanding Home Equity

Home equity is the financial stake you own in your property. It's the difference between your home's current market value and the amount you owe on your mortgage. For example, if your home is valued at \$350,000 and you owe \$250,000 on your mortgage, you have \$100,000 in equity. Your equity grows as you pay down your mortgage or your home's value increases.

### The Significance of Equity

Equity is more than just a

number—it's a powerful tool. When it's time to sell, substantial equity translates into a larger profit, providing you with more capital for your next home purchase or other financial needs. However, the benefits of equity extend beyond selling. You can tap into your home's equity through loans or lines of credit to fund renovations, consolidate debt, or cover significant expenses, offering a financial lifeline when needed.

### Expanding Your Equity

Here are three strategies to build your home's equity:

#### *Accelerate Your*

#### *Mortgage Payments:*

Each payment towards your mortgage's principal increases your equity. Consider making extra payments or paying more than the minimum to fast-track your equity growth.

#### *Invest in*

#### *Home Improvements:*

Strategic upgrades can enhance your home's value and, by extension, your equity. Focus on renovations with the highest return on investment,

such as modernizing kitchens or bathrooms.

#### *Benefit from*

#### *Market Appreciation:*

Sometimes, the market works in your favor, and your home's value increases over time, boosting your equity without extra effort on your part.

As your real estate agent, I'm here to guide you through buying or selling. But, I also want to help you navigate the broader aspects of homeownership, including managing and maximizing your home equity. That means ensuring your home isn't just a place to live but a cornerstone of your financial well-being.

Equity isn't just a financial term; it's a measure of the value and security your home brings to your life. By understanding and strategically increasing your home's equity, you're learning to invest in a more secure and prosperous future. Let's work together to make the most of your investment, from the day you turn the key in the door until you decide it's time to move on.



# Selling Mom's House?

Selling a loved one's home is more than a transaction; it's an emotional journey. At Team Yannett, we specialize in helping families navigate the complexities of selling older homes with compassion and expertise as your **ADVOCATE**.

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Wormsloe's New Trolleys

## Wormsloe

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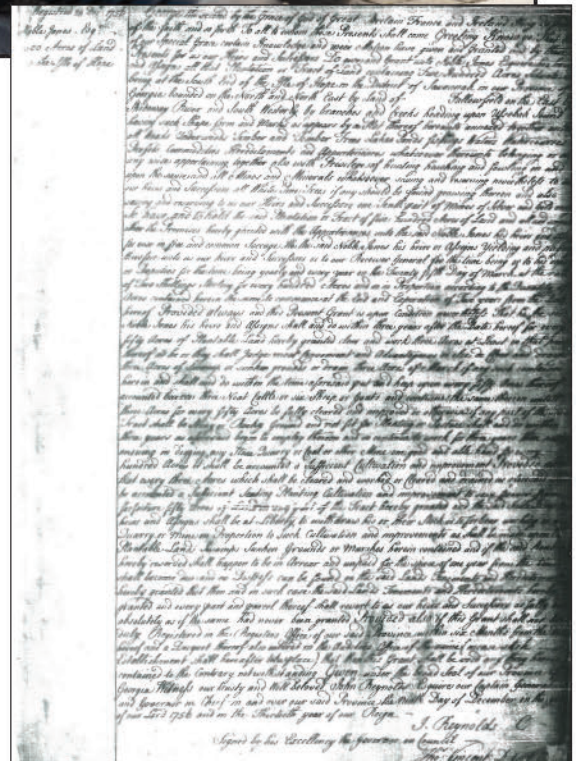
"Everyone wants that spectacular photo of Wormsloe's Avenue of Live Oaks," said manager Gretchen Greminger. "Cars would not be in the way, and guests could take their time. They could even walk the entire avenue, just enjoying the shade and Spanish moss."

"Reducing car traffic would also protect these majestic trees," said Greminger. "Our visitation has grown quickly, and the weight of vehicles pulling off to the side of the road can damage roots and compact the soil."

Although you can no longer drive down the most photographed street in the country, you can walk or bike down it. Wormsloe will offer bicycle rentals and you can bring your bike. The 3-mile Battery Trail (Orange) will be opened to bikers.

New native plants, young cypress trees, live oaks, and a water feature have been added to the site. Of course, you can still explore Wormsloe's 268 acres which includes almost six miles of nature trails, tabby ruins, and an area that portrays life during colonial times.

- Continued on page 12 -



On December 24, 1756, Noble Jones received a land grant from King George II for 500 acres in southern Isle of Hope that comprised the Wormsloe Plantation (<https://iohha.org/historic-documents>)

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## Wormsloe

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Wormsloe has returned to having 400 Live Oak trees planted with the help of the Savannah Tree Foundation, The Rotary Club of Savannah, and the Friends of Wormsloe. The Friends of Wormsloe is a group of local volunteers who work to promote, support, improve, and preserve Wormsloe State Historic Site. Wormsloe receives a \$2.50 donation if volunteers log their hours through the organization.

The site hosts several events throughout the year, including the "Colonial Faire and Muster" in February, which highlights aspects of 18th-century life, such as music, dancing, crafts, and military drills.

You can purchase a Historic Site Annual Pass. This pass provides unlimited admission to Wormsloe and all of Georgia's state historic sites. You can buy the passes online at [gastateparks.org/ThingsToKnow](http://gastateparks.org/ThingsToKnow) or the Wormsloe gift shop.

Available passes:

\$50 family (admits up to 4)

\$30 adult (admits 1 adult 18 or older)

\$25 student (admits 1 under 18 or college student with valid I.D.)

If you just want to go for the day, the cost is \$11.25 for adults, \$8.50 for those 62 and over, \$5 for youth 6 to 17, and \$2.50 for children under 6. Visit [gastateparks.org/Wormsloe](http://gastateparks.org/Wormsloe) to learn more.

## Women Take Over Wormsloe

Saturday, Mar 23, 2024  
10 AM to 4 PM

Celebrate the lives and skills of women in early Georgia. Discover the important, frequently overlooked, contributions that women made to Georgia's success as a colony. Interpreters and reenactors will demonstrate 18th century skills needed to survive and thrive in the Georgia wilderness.

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## Discovery in a Ditch

BY POLLY COOPER

Look what I found down deep in the ditch!

This wooden gnome, under gunk and grime. Who knows how long it had lain in the dirt? Little doubt...quite a long time.

The Gnome was spotted from a golf cart on a spin, and lifted to safety, so repairs could begin. We named him "Dumbledore" and begin to adore him: donned our thinking caps and planned how to restore him.

Patience and perseverance; sandpaper and paint... A gnome of neglect, he no longer ain't. The woodcarver was skilled. That's indisputable!

A fine specimen "Dumble" is. That's inconstestable!



**YUCKY!**

Moral of the story is... *One man's trash is another man's treasure.*

Rescuing Dumble was our sheer pleasure!

\*Golf Cart driver - Noel Wright



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## Scottish Games

- Continued from page 4 -

historians and reenactors mainly from Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida. They focus on studying and representing Scottish Highlanders of the 1736-1746 era. Scottish Highlanders were known as some of the best soldiers. Due to their reputation, most of General James Oglethorpe's troops for his mission to Fort King George in Darien in 1736 were Scottish Highlanders.

If you've ever wondered if you have a bit of the Scots in you or are interested in a specific clan or clans in general, visit the many clan tents surrounding the Scottish Games arena. Each tent offers a wide variety of artifacts, history, and listings of surnames associated with their clan. There's also a genealogy tent where regional experts and different historical associations will help you dive into your past and trace your family tree. But watch out. Genealogy is a worthwhile adventure that can become an addiction.

The Scottish Games also has food and beverage vendors offering traditional Scottish foods, American foods, sweets, craft beers, and mead. The Scottish Marketplace has 15 or so vendors who sell goods made by Scots with Scottish materials, some even made in Scotland. You can also buy a T-shirt commemorating the event.

Mark your calendar for May 4th. The Savannah Scottish Games begin at 8:30 a.m. and culminate with the Closing Ceremony at 4:30 p.m. See you there!

Visit online at SavannahScottishGames.com for more information and to buy tickets.

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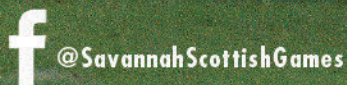
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