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As we roll into February and, hopefully, an early spring, I am trying to keep some of my New Year's resolutions. Eat better, exercise more, the usual. But one of the things I am most focused on is appreciating time with people I care about. Family, friends, clients, neighbors, people in general. We got rid of our cable -- my husband is having a harder time than I am -- but we find ourselves more engaged with each other at home. I take more time to talk to my neighbors when I walls the dog. Doing good where I can. All good things. So as I try to keep the usual

resolutions, I am focused on making small changes for the entire year.

Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day filled with love!



Cheers,

Karen Darker

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education matters Resident Writer, **Dino Papadopoulos**, M.Ed Questions About Tutoring: What Makes A Good Tutor?

Every student needs a little extra help from time to time. Trying to catch up, keep up or get ahead in school often requires some outside help. This help can come in the form of a study buddy, helpful older sibling, resourceful teacher or professional one-on-one tutor.

We know that tutoring works, but what makes a good tutor? Many home tutors are good at keeping your child "afloat" (thorough homework, quiz and test support) but is he or she prepared to teach your child "how to swim" (skill mastery leading towards academic independence and confidence)? Here are attributes that you should look for to find the best fit for your child. A good tutor...

- 1 ... is trained. Tutors who receive continuous training are more effective than tutors who don't. Big surprise. If you're looking for a tutor, ask about the training he or she has received. Did you know that all Sylvan tutors are state certified and certified in Sylvan instructional techniques?
- 2 ... works with your child's classroom teacher if you want. Tutoring is most impactful when it's coordinated with classroom instruction.
- 3 ... assesses. Before tutoring begins, kids should have an assessment so the tutor knows the pupil's strengths and needs. There's no sense wasting time on material they have already mastered or putting off getting to what's needed.
- 4 ... has a good track record. Before hiring a tutor, check out his or her credentials, experiences, ideas about learning and fondness for kids. Lots of people know math, for example, but not everyone can teach it. It's also helpful to get recommendations from other parents.
- 5 ... makes learning fun and simple. When your child is having difficulty, the last thing you need is to complicate life any more than it already is. Tutoring should be easily implemented and "feel right." Trust your instinct. Learning isn't always fun but there's nothing wrong with making it fun as often as possible. If a creative tutor can inject some humor and delight into difficult lessons, go for it.
- 6 ... is timely. The worst mistake you can make is to wait before getting help. As soon as you suspect your child is having difficulty, get help. I speak from experience - I've seen it happen time and again.

- 7 ... uses some technology. Most kids are motivated by and attracted to technology. The technology should be interesting, interactive, simple and easy to use. It shouldn't replace plenty of face-time with the tutor, though.
- 8 ... provides value. Think of tutoring as one of the most important investments you will make, with a payoff in priceless confidence.

It's hard for children to ask for help. They often do so in indirect ways - sulking, arguing about school and homework, losing interest or bringing home low grades. Show them that everyone, adults included, need a little help now and then. That's why we have mentors, role models, coaches and heroes. It's brave to ask for help.

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Katherine Poss and her adorable pup, Tango – a chihuahua mix she rescued nine years ago – moved into their historic bungalow on 46th Street last September, and they are loving life in Ardsley Park. Originally from Spartanburg, South Carolina, Katherine came to Savannah in 2008 and lived in Emerald Point, Bull River and the Landmark Historic District downtown before making Ardsley her home.

"I fell in love with my house straight away and its location on Chatham Crescent is perfect for me," Katherine explains. "As a three-bedroom/two-bath, it is one of the smaller houses in the neighborhood but it is perfect for Tango and me; and it comfortably houses my mother who, I am delighted to say, is a frequent guest here. We can stretch to accommodate more visitors as needed -- just a few weeks ago, good friends came to visit - a lovely couple, their two young children, both under five years old and an exuberant Labrador!"

Katherine was aware of Ardsley Park's great reputation many years before she moved here. And although she and Tango enjoyed the parks and squares of downtown, she felt welcomed by Ardsley's quiet, dog-friendly atmosphere, which is a great fit for her life today. Her house was built in 1938 by the Cohen family, who made it home for many years. Katherine purchased the house from two sisters and was charmed by the structure's light, airy feel as well as practical aspects, such as plenty of storage.

"When I saw the gorgeous screened porch and backyard I just thought 'wow,' and knew that I wanted to live here. I missed gardening when I lived downtown and find yard work gratifying and good





for my health. My mother is a keen gardener and I have wonderful memories of visiting my grandparents in Greenville as a child and spending time in their moss garden, which I considered to be my own 'secret garden.'" Katherine's grandmother's antique furniture is displayed in the tastefully decorated home, along with additions from local furniture and antique stores.

The fact that Katherine has an eye for style and décor is no surprise as she worked for four years for Savannah's Tour of Home & Gardens after moving to Georgia. In 2016, she joined the Telluride Mountain Film Festival, by which time she was aware of the work of Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF), where she has worked full-time since last summer.

"I got involved in the organization's Preservation Festival as a volunteer and then the young professionals' group within HSF, the 13th colony. This led to me chairing 2015's Annual Gala, which was a great experience and equipped me for my current role of full-time events coordinator for HSF."

Moving to Ardsley Park coincided with Katherine's task of pulling together last October's prestigious Annual Gala, a vital fundraiser for HSF, which returned to Atlantic Mall in 2017.

"It was a crash course in getting to know my neighbors," Katherine recalls. "The first part of our gala takes place as cocktail parties in people's homes before moving to the main venue for dinner, music and dancing. It was a case of working closely with the wonderful residents here who agreed to host the private parties, as well as lots of local liaising over practical aspects, such as street closures and water access."

Katherine is passionate about the HSF and committed to its future plans to grow HSF's operations, secure new financial resources, improve HSF's image

and visibility and increase public policy efforts to protect Savannah's many historic districts – which, of course, include Ardsley Park. Following its formation in 1955, Historic Savannah Foundation started a Revolving Fund to buy and restore endangered historic properties. Their efforts have saved nearly 370 buildings throughout several of Savannah's historic districts. Katherine is excited about the future of the organization, which she says "keeps Savannah, Savannah" while embracing the future.

"I am so happy to be part of Historic Savannah Foundation; I love the engagement with members of our communities and making sure that people understand the extent of our work. What it all boils down to is that **Historic Savannah Foundation** saves buildings, places and stories that define Savannah's past, present and future."

And when she has finished work at HSF's York Street offices for the day, it is only a six-minute drive to her new home and Tango. "I am always so happy to pull into my driveway and living here is even better than I thought it would be," she said.

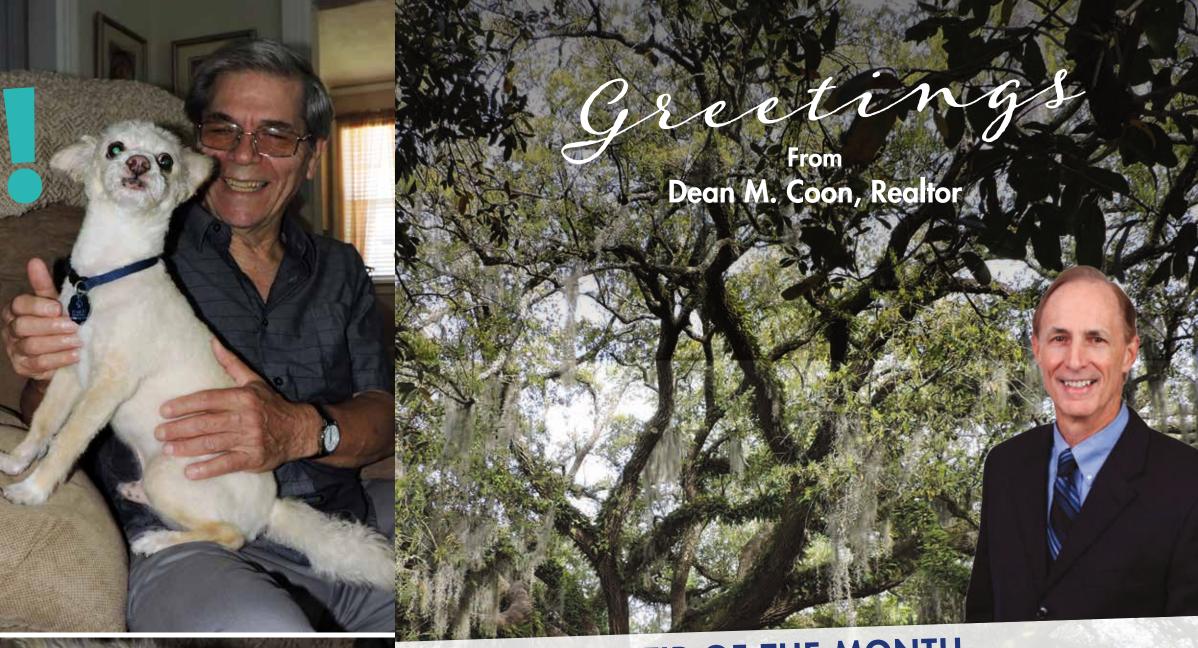
For more information about Historic Savannah Foundation, please visit www.myHSF.org or call 912-233-7787 or like their Facebook page and follow them on Twitter.

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meet precious pets

Ardsley Living met Toby last summer and he has been patiently waiting his turn to shine! Toby's parents are Joyce and Paul Schifanelli and they adopted him from a rescue center in Carmarello, CA, when they lived there before moving to Ardsley. He is around nine to 10 years old and is a Maltese/Mini-Poodle mix who came from an abusive home. They named him for Joyce's maternal grandmother and he is a happy, loved dog. "He seems human and is so appreciative of his loving family and home now," said Joyce. The Schifanelli's believe he didn't understand English when they got him, so he may be Ardsley's first bilingual pup! He is a total lap dog and happily greets everyone that comes by to say hello. It's amazing how a loving home can change an animal and help them to trust and love life!







TIP OF THE MONTH

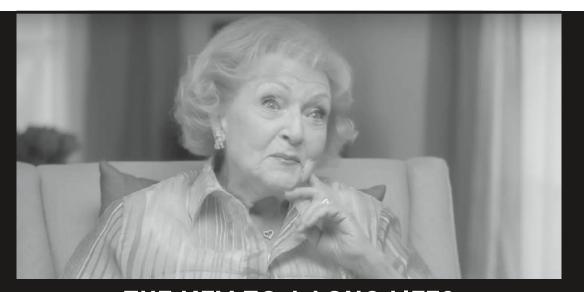
You've always heard that the 3 most important factors in selling your home are "location, location and location." Actually, I believe the answer is "price, location and condition." You passed the location test by having a home in Ardsley Park. Now focus on price and condition.

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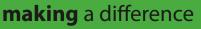
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One Love is also seeking various volunteer positions. Please consider joining our family and make a difference in these animal's lives!

- Volunteer Coordinator The volunteer coordinator welcomes, compiles and updates the list of volunteers to facilitate communication with volunteers when needs and/or events arise.
- This candidate should anticipate a time investment of about six hours per month.
- Cat Care Coordinator One Love as fairly large cat program where we foster 40-65 cats in our network at any one time. We also manage the cat kennels at Pooler Petsmart Store
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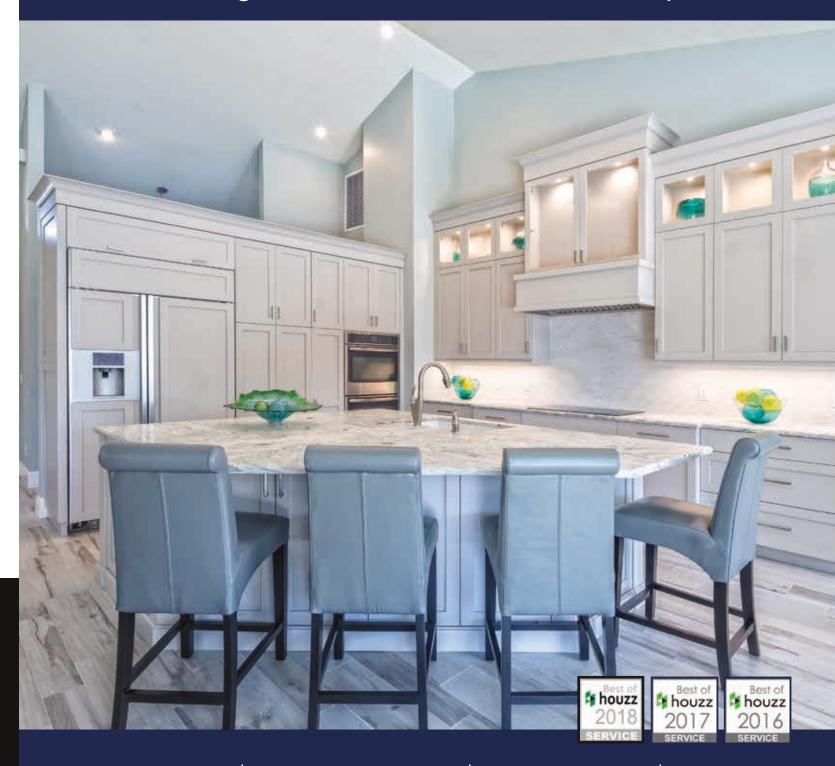
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Well, this is exciting!

In November, the neighborhood association board voted unanimously to pursue a revision to our zoning ordinance that would prevent the unwarranted teardown of historic structures in the neighborhood.

December 14, 2017, I submitted a text amendment application on behalf of the association for the creation of the Ardsley Park -- Chatham Crescent -- and Ardmore local historic district. Under the proposal, buildings over 50 years old will see stronger protection. Structures in the neighborhood over that age will follow a more directed process that can result in a teardown of the building if it is under threat of imminent collapse, or if the owner can concretely demonstrate that it's financially unsalvageable. We'll also be afforded the expertise

of MPC staff to weigh in on the structures' historic merit to the neighborhood.

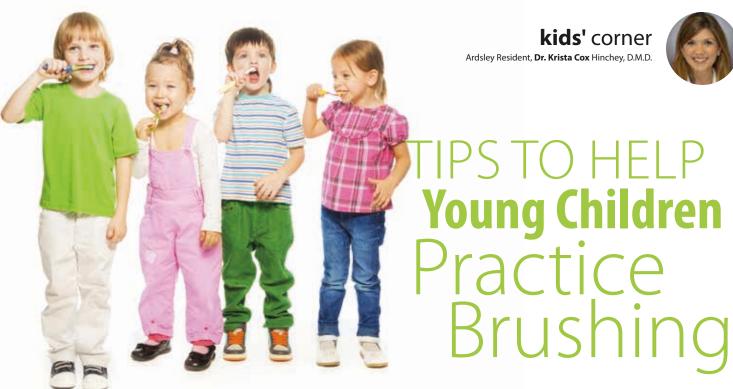
Our neighborhood is about to approach its' 118th birthday and it's time to formally get in the books that this is a wonderful place worthy of preservation.

Our hearing date is tentatively scheduled at the MPC for January 30. We will keep you posted on this measure for our community.

Interested in joining the neighborhood association? Contact us at ArdsleyParkChathamCrescent@ gmail.com for details or apply online at http://www.apccna. org. \$35.00/year.

Thank you! Nick

President -- APCCNA



As you might guess, the number one dental problem among preschoolers is tooth decay.

One out of 10, two-year-olds already has one or more cavities By age three, 28% of children have one or more cavities By age five, nearly 50% of children have one or more cavities

Many parents assume that cavities in baby teeth don't matter because they'll be lost anyway. But that's not true. Dental decay in baby teeth can negatively affect permanent teeth and lead to future dental problems.

- · Choosing a toothbrush. Use a soft-bristled toothbrush designed for brushing an infant's or child's teeth.
- · Holding a toothbrush. If the child has trouble holding a toothbrush, try making the handle thicker by putting it inside a tennis ball. Toothbrushes with thick handles can also be found in retail and discount stores.
- Teaching the child how to brush. Break the process into small steps that the child can understand and practice. Another way is to place a hand over the child's hand to guide the toothbrush
- · Using toothpaste with fluoride. Use toothpaste with fluoride that the child likes and that feels good in his or her mouth. An adult should always place toothpaste on the toothbrush.
- For children under age three: Use a small smear of fluoride toothpaste (or an amount about the size of a grain of rice).
- · For children ages three to six: Use a pea-size amount of fluoride toothpaste.
- If a child cannot spit: Have the child tilt his or her mouth down so that the toothpaste can dribble out into the sink, a cup or a washcloth. Since the fluoride in toothpaste is clearly meant to be swished but not swallowed, make sure to help or watch the child while brushing. When she is old enough, tell her to spit out the toothpaste after brushing.

• **Keeping the child engaged in brushing.** Use a timer, a short song or counting as a game to encourage brushing for two minutes. Also, check out your cell phone applications, as there are fun apps that play music and form a picture to keep children engaged when brushing.



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OF ANTIQUES, ARCHITECTURE TIMELESSNESS OF TIME





There is something special about walking around a city with great architecture and just taking it in, enjoying the beautiful buildings and their relationship with the immediate environment. Occasionally, I take some time to do just that, to stroll down a street I have walked down many times before, but making a conscientious effort to see things differently and to notice new details. From the angle of light to a fleeting breeze or the scent of fresh blossoms, that relationship holds marvel and the realization that no two moments in time are ever alike.

I enjoy architecture, furniture design, antiques and the mystery of times past but it has not always been so. As a young boy, the Sunday shopping of antique stores with my parents was no match for an afternoon of bike riding or playing ball. With time, I have changed, and today I remember with nostalgia those afternoons and the promise of some great find. My father was an architect, a fan of Modernism and a master of space design. He also designed furniture, much of it inspired by the Bauhaus but with Modernistic accents.

It was no surprise that, in their visits to American cities, my parents were always drawn to places with much architectural history and to the antique shops that one invariably finds in such cities. When they visited, "discovering" the city, whichever city, was always a favorite activity. Nothing, however, could have prepared me for the way they fell prey to the charm of Savannah, the intelligent and meticulous design of its squares and parks, its historic architecture and mysterious past. The Green-Meldrim House was a favorite, perhaps because it combined the simple beauty of clean lines and a quasi-Mediterranean capture of light with the American Civil War period that holds great interest for visitors from Europe.

In the last two decades, Savannah has changed much, yet it has managed to keep its character; new buildings -- some very modern -- coexist charmingly with their historic counterparts. Personally, I like that mix when new buildings keep with the proportion, unity, and dignity that are characteristic of Savannah's original city plan and architecture. In just a couple of weeks, the Savannah Antiques and Architecture Weekend will offer a formal opportunity to enjoy and learn more about such topics. The weekend features a wonderful series of lectures and tours entitled "Then and Now, Antiques and Architecture in the Modern World" and brings together a group of distinguished architects, preservationists, and designers, all experts in their fields. The elegant reception and live auction within the Green-Meldrim House, the valuation of your treasured objects by celebrity appraisers, and the lectures, lunches and tours make for a most engaging cultural experience.

As I walk from the Tea Room to my car, the winter afternoon light cuts through the thick canopy of live oaks like a fading laser casting shadowy patterns on the walls of homes nearby. The scent of blooming sasanquas fills the air and settles in my soul like a gentle photograph of time. It is a timeless Savannah moment!

www.SavAntiquesWeekend.com



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AVERAGE DAYS

ON MARKET

Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Judy Miller opened her lovely home for the January meeting with most members in attendance. Helping to feed the crowd, Kim Ergul, Ashley McIntosh and Ann Moffett. Our featured speaker had to cancel so Julian Miller stepped in to discuss some of the changes being made by city council and the reasons behind the changes. He explained the need for the fire assessment fee, and where the monies collected will benefit the city for long-overdue repairs and upgrades. Former President, Ardis Wood, also reminded members of how quickly cheap signs can overrun Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent creating an unattractive neighborhood and unwanted trash.





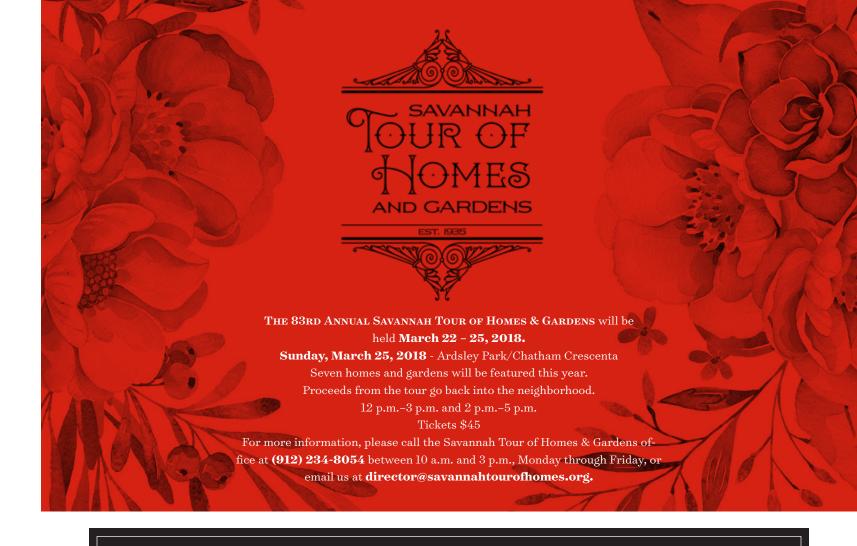








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Stanford & Company Is Now

Weichert

Stanford & Company

sponsor spotlight







Meichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. is pleased to welcome a new office in Savannah that prides itself on the high-quality service provided by its agents. The addition of Weichert, Realtors® Stanford & Company, formerly known as Stanford Realty Company, also continues the expansion of the Weichert® franchise footprint throughout the Southeast with the 12th office in Georgia.

"We are extremely excited about our new affiliation with Weichert, which will have a positive effect on our customers who have entrusted us with their home buying and selling needs," said Melissa Stanford, the broker/owner of the new Georgia affiliate. "The 'people first' philosophy put forth by Weichert fits well with our current business model of putting our client's needs first."

As part of the Weichert franchise network, Stanford's team can take advantage of training programs provided by Weichert to help agents offer the best real estate service in the industry. The Savannah affiliate will also be eligible to receive sales leads from the Weichert call center to help grow its local market share.

"Joining the Weichert franchise system gives us access to industry-leading resources to help provide our clients a memorable home buying or selling experience," added Stanford, who runs the company with her husband, Paul.

The Stanfords began exploring franchising as a way to grow the agency that they opened in December of 2016. The couple met with representatives from Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. earlier last year and were thoroughly impressed with the management systems, training programs and marketing support Weichert could provide to help develop staff and grow the company's local market share.

"We were simply amazed with the sales leads and resources Weichert could provide to help our agents secure new listings during our visit to their headquarters in Morris Plains, New Jersey," said Paul Stanford. "Our decision to go with Weichert is a definite game-changer."

Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. President and COO Bill Scavone was pleased to welcome the newest Georgia affiliate. "I am thrilled to welcome our new friends at Weichert, Realtors® -- Stanford & Company and their clients to the Weichert family. Their office has a reputation for great customer service and they are highly regarded in the Savannah area. The office also shares our client-first philosophy and is rooted in the region it serves."

Weichert, Realtors® - Stanford & Company is an independently owned and operated Weichert affiliate. The office serves Chatham, Bryan and Effingham counties.

For more information about Weichert, Realtors® - Stanford & Company, located at 7370 Hodgson Memorial, Suite E-2 in Savannah, contact Melissa Stanford at 912-356-5533 or visit www.stanfordrealtyco.com.



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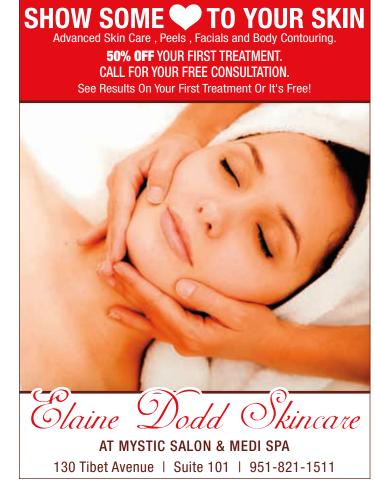
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around the town

SNOWMAGEDDEN, TREE LIGHTING AND GENERAL OGLESTORK!

It's always strange to put the APCCNA tree lighting in February but due to deadlines, this is the first opportunity. It was certainly cold that night and we didn't know the fake snow would be real in a month! Thank you to the Don Callahan team for sponsoring the event! It was a great turn out!

























Snowmageddon 2018! We are good for another 20 years...











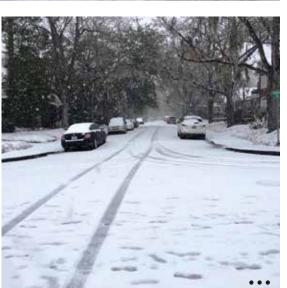












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Our Newest resident! General Ogelstork!

From the southeastern swamps, the Wood Stork is the only stork breeding in the United States. Its late winter breeding season is timed to the Florida dry season when its fish prey becomes concentrated in shrinking pools.

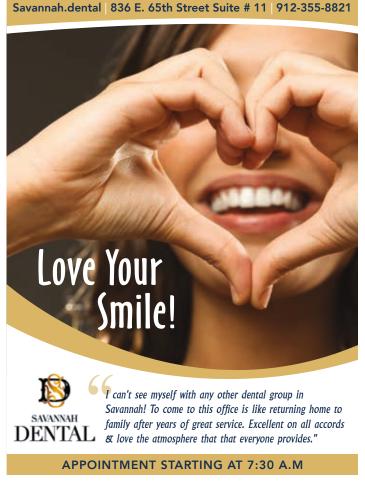


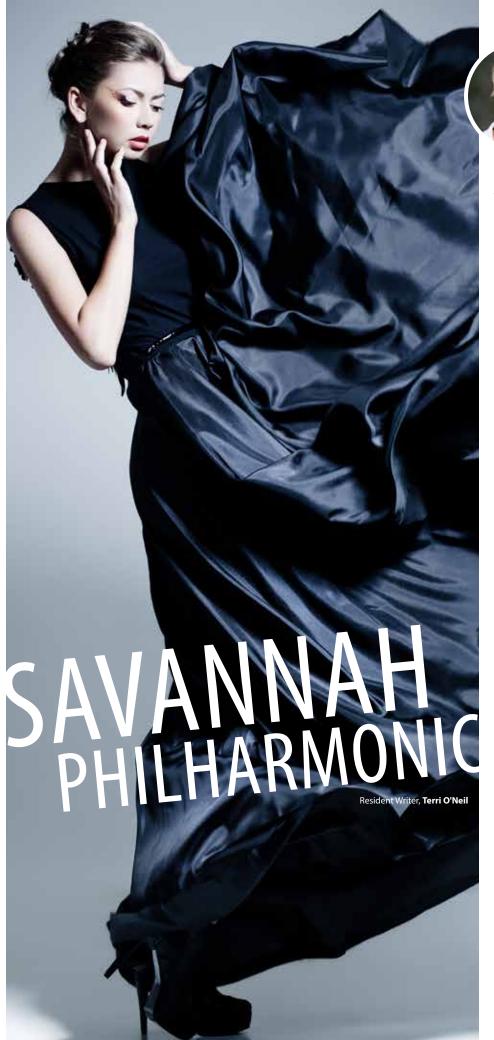




Savannah Arts Performs at the Savannah/Hilton Head Airport for the holidays!







Hello, Neighbors!

I hope you were able to share the wonderful music of Bach and Handel at our Royal Baroque concert last month and that you already have tickets for our next

performance. The nearly sold-out Piano Men, featuring the music of Billy Joel and Elton John, will be performed at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23, at the Johnny Mercer Theater. This electrifying concert will be one for the entire family! Student and group discounts available.

Tickets are also selling fast for our second annual "Couture in Concert" fundraiser featuring beautiful WORTH New York design house. The New York-style runway show, "You're Worth It," will feature a gorgeous collection of tailored clothes for women at the Desoto in Savannah's landmark district on Friday, March 2. The event kicks off with appetizer stations and open bar from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:45 p.m. This is fast becoming a stylish annual tradition for the Philharmonic. Local celebrities and community leaders will be the featured models.

We are all looking forward to the March 24 concert at The Lucas Theatre for the Arts at 7:30 p.m. Tchaikovsky and Brahms will feature violinist Sirena Huang, winner of the 2017 Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition and she'll join the Savannah Philharmonic for a performance of Tchaikovsky's fiery and passionate Violin Concerto in D major. The evening concludes with the lush and vibrant Fourth Symphony of Johannes Brahms, one of music's great, inspiring masterpieces.

Captivating Cello is at 5 p.m., Sunday, March 11, at the Yamacraw Center for the Performing Arts at Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts in downtown Savannah. In our final chamber concert, guests will enjoy the rich and vibrant tone of Savannah Philharmonic principal cellist Steven Thomas as he and our own Quynh Shannon perform Schumann's warmly romantic Adagio and Allegro and Beethoven's final Sonata for cello and piano, one of his fascinating and adventurous late works.

For up-to-date information on the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, please visit www.savannahphilharmonic.org. And for information about sponsorship opportunities for the new season, please email me at terri@ savannahphilharmonic.org

LIGHTHOUSE FINANCIAL GROUP



My journey with the financial services industry began because of a personal experience with my parents. They were born and raised in India and then move to England where my sisters and I were born. We moved to Atlanta, GA, in 1967, where I was raised. I relocated to Tybee Island in 1992 and convinced my parents to also move next door in 1995. Life was good! Unfortunately, in 1998, my mother had a stroke and passed away quickly. Since I was the daughter living next door to my father, I started going through all of their accounts and documents and the legal process of an unexpected death with no will. This was a horrible time because I had not only lost my mother, but my father was inconsolable.

Having worked in the corporate world, this was a new experience navigating through their life insurance policies, investments, probate court processes, etc. However, I was determined to get everything in order. My parents were misled by an insurance agency in England and we had to fight to get it resolved. This was a huge learning experience for me and I decided to start taking some classes while still working in my corporate job. I saw a huge need to help people get their affairs in order and to help ensure that their accounts were legitimate.

In 2002, I started my company Savannah Senior Solutions, LLC. As an independent financial services firm, we dedicate ourselves to helping people with retirement, income, legacy planning as well as preparing for possible long-term care illness and inevitable death. In 2007, my daughter, Moya, joined my growing business and in 2012, we renamed it Lighthouse Financial Group, LLC.

Many years later, here we are. With 20 years of experience, we specialize in helping retirees and pre-retirees in developing their income, retirement and estate plans. We are an independent financial services firm dedicated to providing quality plan-



ning assistance to every client on an individualized basis. We are able to help our clients pursue their goals and design a retirement strategy through the use of insurance and investment products by listening to them and understand the big picture including their family, plans, and dreams.

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Saturday, March 24, at 10 a.m. First Presbyterian Church on Washington. Please bring a dozen filled eggs for each child. ArdsleyParkChathamCrescent@

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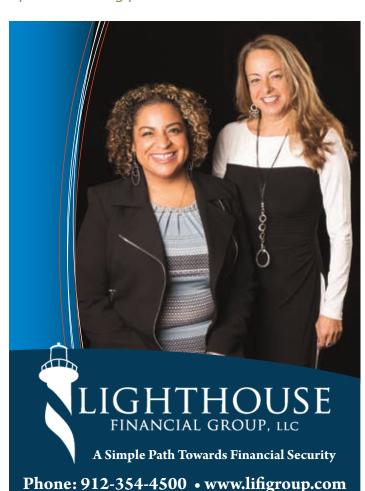


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With tax season around the corner, it's important to avoid tax scams. Here are a few tips to make sure that your hard-earned money doesn't end up in the wrong pocket.



FILE EARLY

By filing early, you can avoid someone beating you to your refund. The IRS accepts only one refund per Social Security number. If a thief has access to your Social Security number and files a bogus tax return, you could be out your tax refund. While the IRS is taking steps to prevent fraudulent returns, it never hurts to be safe rather than sorry. Sadly, most people don't realize that they are victims of tax fraud until the IRS fails to accept their tax return. Be on the forefront of identity theft by checking your credit report frequently for suspicious activity.

DON'T FALL FOR PHONY PHONE SCAMS

If an "IRS agent" calls your house, beware. They may use a number of tactics, such as demanding payment, asking for a credit card number over the phone, or even threatening to have you arrested. Instead of conversing with a so-called IRS agent, hang up and call the IRS directly and report the scam. People have fallen for phone scams in recent years at a hefty price tag of over \$23 million.

BE WARY OF PHISHING SCAMS

Have you ever received an email, text message, or a message on social media from the IRS requesting personal information? Or saying that you have an outstanding refund? Don't take the bait. Hit delete instead. Phishing emails are engineered to retrieve sensitive, personal information from unsuspecting people. Beware of the request to "update your IRS e-file immediately" and look-alike IRS websites.

Avoid tax scams when April 15 rolls around. Protect your hardearned tax return. After all, you deserve it! YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO



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