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*Neighbors*

MAY 2020



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## LETTER TO RESIDENTS

### Dear Neighbors,

We are all likely feeling a bit bleary at the moment, but there are plenty of opportunities in May to celebrate, spread love and give thanks. Brother and Sisters Day on the 2nd, Cinco de Mayo on the 5th and Mother's Day on the 10th are just a few holidays that make this month special. Call your mom, send a funny video to your sibling and prepare a tasty Mexican meal! This delightfully pleasant month also signals summer is right around the corner. The smell of fresh-cut grass and BBQs, the sight of flowers bursting in vibrant hues and the sounds of children's laughter ascending from backyards provide a welcome semblance of normalcy. Find joy right outside your door!

In this issue, hear from one of our expert contributors as they share their advice on sedation dentistry. This issue is also chock-full of heartwarming stories like Butch and KJ Perron's heavenly love story and neighbors sharing well-wishes using chalk to scribble messages and drawings on each other's driveways and sidewalks. Need another reason to smile? Meet Tank, our pet of the month. And discover how a nonprofit is changing the lives of young people and what a Facebook group is doing to help healthcare workers.

Neighbors, you should all be proud of yourselves for demonstrating such resiliency, kindness and compassion during this age of uncertainty and sorrow that's impacted our entire world. We hope we've done our part well to shed some light in the darkness!

All the best,

*Lainey*



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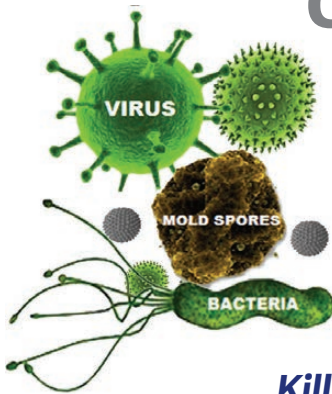




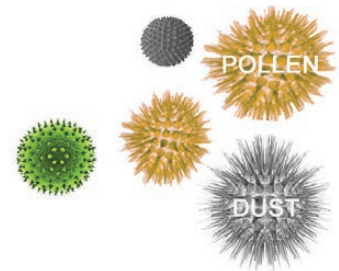
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EXPERT CONTRIBUTOR



# Sedation Dentistry Helps You *Relax* in the Dentist's Chair!

CONTRIBUTED BY DR. SHANNON HUDSON,  
PELHAM LINKS FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

*Does the thought of having to visit the dentist fill you with fear? You are not alone.*

Many people fear trips to the dentist, and that fear stops them from keeping their oral health in good condition. But, there are now several options available in sedation dentistry to help create a more relaxing and comfortable visit to the dentist. The options include inhalation sedation, oral sedation, and IV sedation. These can be used to help with every visit, ranging from invasive procedures to simple cleanings.

**Inhalation sedation** | You breathe nitrous oxide ("laughing gas") combined with oxygen through a mask and the gas helps your whole body to relax. Once the procedure is over, the gas wears off quickly, and you can drive yourself home.

**Oral sedation** | You take a pill prescribed by your dentist about an hour before your procedure. The pill can make you drowsy, and there is a possibility you may even fall asleep during the procedure. You can be awakened with a gentle shake but will need an escort to drive you to and from your appointments.

**IV sedation** | You will receive a sedative drug, similar to oral sedation, but instead, you will receive this drug via an IV. This helps the drug to take effect more quickly and for the dentist to continually adjust the level of sedation. You will also need an escort to drive you from your appointment after using IV sedation.

Dr. Shannon Hudson of Pelham Links Family & Cosmetic Dentistry states: "Sedation dentistry may also be appropriate for people who have a low pain threshold, cannot sit still in the dentist chair, have very sensitive teeth, have a bad gag reflex, or have a large amount of dental work to complete in a single visit."

If you have dental anxiety, ask your dental professional which sedation options they have available and if those options are appropriate for you.

**The information in this article is provided by the American Dental Association.**



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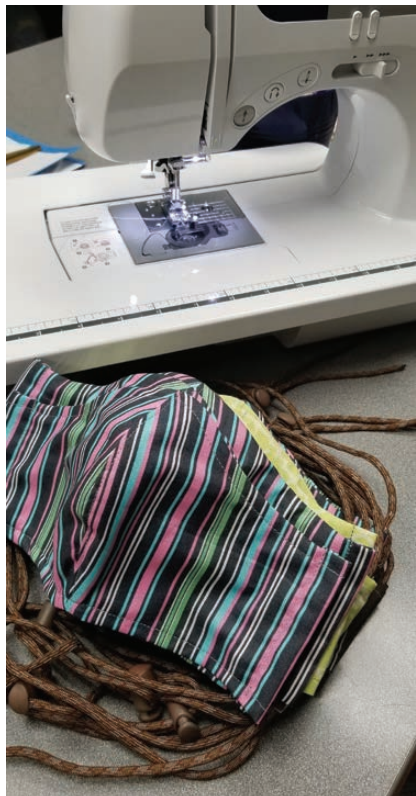
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# SEW. SOME. GOOD. GREENVILLE STITCHING TO PROTECT UPSTATE HEALTHCARE WORKERS



BY SHANNA WALKER



Any healthcare worker will tell you that in the fight against infectious diseases, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a crucial line of defense. So, what to do when the need for PPE outpaces the

supply?

Recently, healthcare workers across the country have been faced with this dilemma. They need to work to care for patients, but without the proper PPE, their patients could also get them sick, making them unable to work.

Five Forks resident Staci Armocida was particularly distressed by this problem. Armocida has worked in the nursing field for over 20 years, as both a critical care nurse and a nurse anesthetist. She is married to an orthopedic surgeon, and they have three young daughters at home. Protecting their family, friends, and co-workers is of utmost importance to the Armocidas.

Feeling a need to safeguard her own family and many others, Staci started researching ways she could help. She soon learned about a group of people in Charleston, SC, who were making masks to donate to healthcare workers at area hospitals. Staci knew right away that a similar group could be formed in the Upstate to protect healthcare workers in our area.

It started out small. Just a Facebook post asking for interested volunteers. That grew to a dedicated Facebook Group with the name "Sew. Some. Good. Greenville. (SSGG)" Within days, the Facebook group had over 500 members. Members continued joining, so a dedicated website, [www.sewsomegoodgvl.org](http://www.sewsomegoodgvl.org), was launched to better serve and organize the

members.

Members of the group find comfort and purpose by using their sewing skills to help healthcare workers who are sacrificing so much.

"Like everyone else, I have been overwhelmed and saddened by the events associated with the recent health crisis," says SSGG volunteer Erin Mercer. "I just could not believe what I was seeing in the news. When I heard about people in other cities sewing masks for their area hospitals, I knew I wanted to help in this way. I asked around about opportunities in the Upstate and was connected with Sew. Some. Good. Greenville."

Armocida is not only the founder of the group but also its main administrator. She, along with Emily Malsam, Megan Smith and Shelby Sinex, are working tirelessly with local hospitals to determine how to meet the needs and standards of each facility most effectively. They discuss the best sewing patterns and materials to use for the masks. They take that information and post it to the Facebook group so that members can be sure to make the correct type of masks. Gathering and disseminating information about mask standards is a critical component of the project.

"The last thing I want to do is have everyone start sewing and using up their supplies only to find out that their hard work was wasteful," Armocida says.

Members say that sewing the masks is relatively easy, and even a novice seamstress can produce several masks in a short amount of time. Patterns and video tutorials are posted to the group's Facebook page, and members often post tips and tricks to help one another.



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Mercer appreciates the guidance and camaraderie she receives from the group.

"SSGG. has contacted area hospitals and facilities to determine the recommended sewing patterns for each facility. Some prefer pleated masks with ties. Some prefer a design that works as a cover for n95 masks. All masks sewn have a pocket for a filter if the facility chooses to go that route. I've been sewing since I was a little girl, so I found the patterns to be straightforward and easy. I think a beginner would find the video tutorials to be helpful.

Finding the materials needed to make the masks is one of the biggest challenges faced by the group. Once again, community members rise up to assist. Individuals share supplies with those that need them. Local fabric stores A Smart Fabric and All About Fabrics have generously donated materials from their inventory. Once a group member is finished with at least 10 masks, a volunteer from the group will go and pick up the masks, or the seamstress will drop off the completed masks at a designated location. Local businesses Synergy Mill and ReCraft Creative Reuse Center have stepped up as logistical partners. They are providing warehouse space as a distribution center until the end of May. There are protocols in place to ensure that as the

masks are moved, they are handled in a way that minimizes the risk of contamination. Once the masks are gathered in a central location, they will then be sorted by type and delivered to healthcare facilities.

Armocida says that the response has been humbling and, at times, overwhelming. "People just want to help, in any way that they can," she says. "Coordinating those efforts and all the logistics gets a little mind-boggling, but I am so appreciative of everyone's willingness to help. So many of us are at home with extra time on our hands, feeling an incredible need to support people we know and love that are putting themselves at great risk just by going to work."

"By doing something to help others, we're helping ourselves. These masks can literally save lives. Every material donation, every stitch made, all those actions are helping hundreds, maybe thousands of people in harm's way."

As for future plans, Armocida has no idea how many masks will be needed or for how long, but she and the other volunteers are committed to keeping their sewing machines running as long as their services are required.

"I wish so much that care providers never

had to worry about adequate personal protective equipment," Mercer says. "But as long as there's a need, I'll be sewing!"

**If you'd like more information about Sew. Some. Good. Greenville, you can follow them on Facebook, or visit their website at [sewsomegoodgvl.org](http://sewsomegoodgvl.org).**

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# THE PERRONS: THANKING GOD FOR ANSWERED AND UNANSWERED PRAYERS

BY LAINEY VELTRI / PHOTOS BY EVOKE IMAGES,  
BUTCH AND KJ PERRON

If you ask Ralf “Butch” and Katherine “KJ” Perron, they’d say their marriage was divinely orchestrated. This month, the Simpsonville couple will celebrate 33 years of marriage.

Their love story began in a small church in Windsor Locks, CT. Even before either one had met the other, they each were passionately praying for God’s will in their lives. They didn’t know it then, but their prayers would ultimately lead them to each other thanks to their omnipotent and match-making Creator.

KJ’s petitions were predominantly geared toward how she could minister to others, believing she was being led to become a Bible translator in a foreign land. She had earned a four-year degree in Urban

Studies at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT in 1981. Butch, while in his senior year at the University of Connecticut in 1978, felt compelled to pray for his wife-to-be. He had no idea who but felt led to pray for the woman who would become his wife.

The couple ended up attending the same church, where a member during a service uttered prophetic words out loud referencing Butch and KJ by name. The two had not yet met, but believed later—once they connected and became a couple—the prophecy was ordained just for them.

“We like to say that our meeting is a match made in heaven,” KJ said. “The Lord made us for each other, and we really know it...I thought I would remain single and live in a jungle somewhere with a tribe on the mission field. But, God had other plans!”

Before Butch and KJ became a couple, they got acquainted through their small group Bible studies and young adult group activities. KJ was still convinced she was headed to the mission field. Butch was falling for KJ but because of her passion for mission work, he kept his distance so as not to interfere with God’s plan for her.

For two years, Butch prayed for KJ, who still had not left to do missionary work.

“In February of 1985, he mustered the courage one day to tell me how he felt about me,” KJ said. “He told me he liked me.”

KJ didn’t return the sentiment right away, but for a week had dreams about marriage, about Butch and about a May 9 wedding date.

“Something I was not expecting had been awakened in me,” KJ said. “I started to have romantic feelings for Butch.”

No longer able to hold back her emotions, KJ arranged to meet with Butch to share her newfound feelings for him.

“That night, I knew KJ was going to be my wife!” Butch said.

After several months of dating, praying and coming to terms with the direction God was leading them in, Butch proposed and they set a date for their wedding: May 9, 1987. They were married at Living Waters Fellowship Church in Windsor Locks.

“It wasn’t until after we were married that I was reading through my journals about our relationship and came upon my recording of those dreams I had

had back in 1985,” KJ said. “There was that date: May 9! I had not remembered it when we set our wedding date.”

Butch said: “KJ is God’s gift to Butch Perron.”

“KJ was, and still is, my dream-come-true,” Butch said. “Not a day goes by that I don’t thank God for this amazing woman.”

## He’s a numbers guy

Born in Wiesbaden, Germany, Butch migrated to the US after spending part of his childhood overseas. He graduated cum laude and with distinction from the University of Connecticut in 1978, earning a Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering degree. He earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a Research Assistant Scholarship at Purdue University in 1981. And then in 1995, Butch received his New Jersey State Teaching Certification in Secondary Mathematics from Purdue.



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He formerly worked as an engineer in Connecticut, developing math models for processing molten glass and commercial jet engines. He ultimately left engineering to begin a career in New Jersey as a teacher to impart his love for math to students. While in New Jersey, Butch taught in both private and public school systems, and even had a short stint as a kitchen designer at Home Depot and later at Mills Pride.

Eventually, Butch launched his own private tutoring business, driven by his love for mathematics. He tutors high-school students at Christ Church Episcopal School, teaches math courses at Greenville Technical College and was retained by the NJ Freehold School District as a home instructor.

"Amazingly enough, I do math all day, every day, and never tire of it," he said. "But, if I start to read a novel, after about an hour, I need to take a break to keep from getting exhausted."

#### She's a people person

Before KJ began her collegiate studies at the University of Connecticut, she took a month to travel across the country on a Greyhound bus via AmeriPass. During her travels, she visited family in Michigan and Washington, and made stops in Los Angeles, Hollywood, San Diego, and Washington, DC.

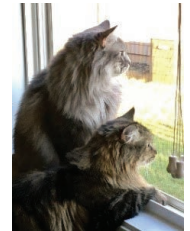
Bitten by the travel bug, KJ participated in a program with Indiana University that enabled her to travel to Peru for a year, where she lived with a Peruvian family and continued to hone her Spanish-speaking skills.



The Perrons enjoy a trip to Charleston



The Perrons pose with their tour guide in Charleston



Teddy and Fluffy

"I love interacting with foreigners," she said. "Spanish is my second language. I think in it and dream in it. I love that I can communicate with others this way."

KJ also worked at IPS International, assisting government officials from developing nations, setting up classrooms, supporting professors, and working with the social-cultural director in a variety of programs. She also worked as a receptionist and a trainer for a marketing company, where she became skilled in software and training for staff and clients.

"Someone once defined my role as a 'Virtual Assistant,'" she said. "It fits."

#### Converging in the Palmetto State

During a trip to Florida in 2009, the Perrons stopped in Simpsonville to visit old friends who'd moved from New York to South Carolina. Their friends took them to downtown Greenville and around Simpsonville.

"Something ignited in us, and when we returned to New Jersey, we started ruminating on the possibility of moving here," KJ said.

Seven years and many prayers later, the couple sold their NJ house and moved to

their new house in Shenandoah Farms.

"The location is perfect," she said. "We've been through other neighborhoods, but we just feel there's something special about ours."

The Perrons are still getting to know their neighbors and enjoy taking walks through the neighborhood. Butch, who loves serving people, likes to hand out breakfast bars to delivery workers and sanitation workers. KJ is a troubleshooter and loves helping others find answers and solutions to dilemmas.

The couple were unable to have children, but say they're blessed to have opened their home to foreign students, many of whom stay in touch with the Perrons. They do have two cats, Teddy and Fluffy, both 7-years-old, they call their boys.

"We just love these two," KJ said. "Teddy is the one with the brains and Fluffy is the one with the brawn...Teddy understands words; Fluffy is somewhat clueless when it comes to vocabulary."

Since they've moved to Simpsonville, they've discovered a few other couples they knew from their Connecticut church had also made the Palmetto State their home.

"All of us moved here all unbeknownst to the other and now we all attend the same church (Hope Church)," KJ said. "It's an amazing story that we all like to share. We know it's God. We're all waiting to see more of His plan for all of us."

Seems God certainly has a way of bringing people together. Butch and KJ Perron can attest to that.



Butch and KJ hang out with friends who moved to SC.

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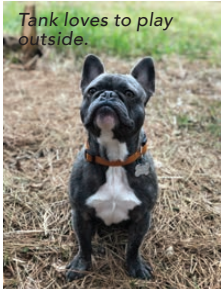
PET CORNER

# TANK: SILLY, STUBBORN AND CHAMPION NAPPER

BY LAINEY VELTRI / PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JERENE AND TRIPP GILLIAM



If there's a splash of sunshine, Tank will find it and get comfortable.



Tank loves to play outside.



Tank is a good sport when Mom poses him in a box.



Sometimes, Tank likes to curl up in his Mom's chair.



Tank snuggles with his bunny toy.

Two-year-old Frenchie pup Tank is a furry little ball of muscle, who loves his peeps: the Gilliams of the Weatherstone community in Simpsonville.

In a family where most members' names start with J (Mom Jerene, her son Jacob, 9, and

daughter Josie, 4), Jacob suggested they give the pup a name that started with T like Dad Tripp. So after days of debate, the family named him Tank, which has become quite fitting!

"He's such a fun little dude," Jerene said. "He is the perfect combination of fun and silliness and loyal lapdog."

Tank is easygoing and accompanies his family on hikes, trips to the farm, and on the couch during lazy rainy days. He loves to sleep, eat, go anywhere and everywhere, and is very playful.

He sits and lays funny, sprawled out on his belly with his legs behind him. He scares himself when he passes gas, loves stuffed toys, sucking on them like a pacifier, and puts himself to bed every night like an old man.

"Like most dogs, Tank loves car rides, and will sneak out the door to get in the vehicle anytime he hears the word 'go,' said Jerene. "He is absolutely nuts about playing ball or chasing bubbles, and loves a walk or golf cart ride through the neighborhood."

Tank is the kids' protector.

"He so funny and sweet," Jacob said.

"He loves us unconditionally," added Josie.

As much as the Gilliams love Tank, this little guy is just as in awe of his family.

"We joke about being Tank's emotional support humans," Jerene said. "He is absolutely 100 percent attached to his humans and has serious withdrawals when we are not around."



One of Tank's favorite ways to relax: splotting!




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## CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

### FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE WHITE HOUSE: LEARNING LIFE SKILLS, CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER AND EXPLORING THEIR COMMUNITY

BY LAINEY VELTRI / PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY FRIENDS OF THE LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

*"The education of even a small child, therefore, does not aim at preparing him for school, but for life." – Maria Montessori*



Bishop Ivey shows off his artistic abilities.

**F**riends of the Little White House, a non-profit organization established in 2013 in Simpsonville, SC, is changing the lives of children with Autism and giving their families renewed hope.

The mission of the Little White House (LWH) is to meet the growing needs of children diagnosed in the Upstate of South Carolina. With the growing population

of children on the Autism spectrum (1 in 31 children in SC is diagnosed with Autism) and limited resources available in the area, families have found it difficult to find a situation that meets the needs of their children. Families have found hope in LWH.

The LWH employs a unique approach by providing behavior coaching, one-on-one interaction, small-group activities, life-skills training and social-skills development, all blended with a Montessori educational approach. LWH partners with families to offer techniques and encouragement that contribute to the success of the students' living life independently.

"The goal is for our families and students to feel supported and not alone," said Director Lu Grant. "We noticed what was lacking and that is peer interaction and a sense of belonging, from both the families and their children. They felt isolated."

"The concern is that our children are excluded from every day opportunities," said Leslie Mills, a mom of two students. "And that's where the Little White House comes in."

#### BUILDING A NETWORK

A group of about 12, ranging in age from 4 to 15 years, attend the Little White House. The children are engaged in Montessori activities to promote independent learning and curiosity as well as

traditional educational techniques. To reinforce what the students have learned, coaches expose them to daily outings and activities in society.

A crucial element to the students' success is their families' involvement and interaction with each other. Through the LWH, the families have created a network of people they can rely on for comradery, support and friendship.

The LWH tribe extends beyond students and their families. Through partnerships with the Rotary Club of Simpsonville, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, UCBI Bank, Waste Industries, Emily's Rock Garden and other local businesses and organizations, the mission to meet the needs of their families has been allowed to continue and real progress is being seen, Grant said.

"We want our families to feel connected with their community and feel less isolated from others," she said. "With these partnerships, we have been blessed to raise awareness and shine a light on those parents who may be struggling with a diagnosis."

#### IMPACTING LIVES

Nikki Bailey, mother to peer ambassador Emily, said the Little White House has had a positive impact on their lives by equipping her daughter and family with tools to function in daily life.

"Without Miss Lu, we would be in a very different place right now," Bailey said. "Emily has been able to work through the frustrations of daily life. Now that she can communicate with us, it's made it easier for us to help her."

Emily, 12, also made the transition back to public school this year, mainstreaming into the seventh grade.

"You'd never know this was a little girl with severe autism," her mother said.

Kim Ivey, another mom, said the Little White House has given families hope.



Top (from L to R): Emily Bailey shows off her modeling skills. / Lu Grant, Jessica Younger, Tristan Daughtry and members of UCBI Simpsonville on Main Street as The Little White House Adult Ambassadors provided breakfast. / John Houston Mills, Tinsley Meister and Bishop Ivey sit alone at the counter of Waffle House in Mauldin with no adult help and showing independence. Bottom (from L to R): William Dantin and Jessica Younger at Running Club practice for the Santa Run 5k. / Tristan Daughtry poses with workers from Waste Industries—one of the organization's donors—as he experienced being "a garbage man." / Bishop Ivey and John Houston Mills, best buddies, hug and stick together.

"The Little White House has shown us that things are not hopeless, that you are not alone on this unexpected life journey, that rejection is unacceptable and our child's potential is endless," Kim said. "We are a family at the Little White House, a family dedicated to our children being accepted for who they are in a society that has yet to realize their capabilities. The necessity of integrating our worlds is essential. It cannot be avoided forever."

Kim said she's grateful for what LWH is doing for her son.

"They truly see him for who he is, intelligent, funny, imaginative, loving, and want him to reach his potential because they know he can," Kim said. "They are truly selfless at The Little White House. Their tireless efforts are beyond compare and our family is proud to be a part of this life-changing program."

#### GROWING THE PROGRAM

Friends of the Little White House relies on two annual fundraisers—a BBQ dinner and a remote control car race held at Fountain Inn RC Complex—to sustain the program throughout the year. They also rely on support from the community to continue their mission.

**For more information about the Little White House, calendar of events, and how you can personally impact and aid their vision, please visit their website at [www.thelittlewhitehouse.org](http://www.thelittlewhitehouse.org).**



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KIDS CORNER

# NEIGHBORHOOD SCAVENGER HUNT

BY RACHAEL WILES

With the weather getting nicer and the cancellation of some of our regular activities, many of us are spending a lot of time walking outside and getting to know our neighborhoods better! Why not turn your daily walk into a scavenger hunt? Use this list or make your own. Turn it into a competition or just check off items as you find them. You never know what you might see when you really look around.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A house with a black railing            | <input type="checkbox"/> A basketball goal         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A blue car                              | <input type="checkbox"/> A black garage door       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A plant in a window                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-season decorations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A recycling bin or trash can            | <input type="checkbox"/> A "Welcome" sign          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Someone out for a walk                  | <input type="checkbox"/> A bench                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A dog                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> A statue                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A license plate that spells a word      | <input type="checkbox"/> A cat                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A house with a "9" in the number        | <input type="checkbox"/> A fountain or birdbath    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A bird                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> A team flag               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A fire hydrant                          | <input type="checkbox"/> A skateboard              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A bike                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> An open mailbox           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A porch with two chairs                 | <input type="checkbox"/> A spider web              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An outside light left on in the daytime | <input type="checkbox"/> Fill-in-the-blank         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An open garage door                     |  |



## Simpsonville Sleuth

BY RACHAEL WILES

Congrats to **Maggie Pilley** from Sycamore Ridge! She found the 9 hidden Easter eggs in the April issue. There were 4 in the Holly Tree Pediatric ad and 5 in the top right corner of page 3. Maggie, enjoy your free admission to the Upstate Pinball & Arcade Museum. Check the latest information to make sure it is open for business. It's located at 109A West Trade Street in downtown Simpsonville.

May 4th is Star Wars Day. May the fourth be with you as you look for the ewok hidden in this month's issue.

Send an email with your answer to [rwiles@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:rwiles@bestversionmedia.com) with your name and what neighborhood you live in. I'll randomly select a winner from all the correct entries submitted by May 6. Good luck, Sleuths!

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Simpsonville Public Works Reminder

With the potential for shortages in toilet paper, do not flush wipes, paper towels or other paper products in toilets. Toilet paper is the only sewer-safe product that can enter the sewer system. Failure to follow these guidelines can result in sewer backups and overflows. Anyone with sewer issues can reach Public Works by calling 864-967-9531 between 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. or public safety dispatch at 864-967-9536 after hours.

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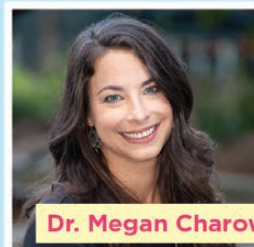
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Ava and her brother Kaidon stand in their driveway, where neighbors left birthday wishes to Ava.  
Photo submitted by Don McNair

## SIDEWALK CHALK MESSAGES LIFT AND ENCOURAGE

BY LAINEY VELTRI

During a time when social distancing is keeping family and friends apart, some people are picking up chalk to leave messages of hope and good cheer in some Simpsonville neighborhoods.

Don and Theresa McNair of the Heritage Creek subdivision in Simpsonville refused to let their daughter's 14th birthday go unacknowledged. Don came up with an idea to leave chalk at the end of his driveway so that neighbors could leave birthday messages for Ava.

"We were most saddened that we wouldn't be able to do anything for her birthday," said Don. "I thought it would be nice to give people a chance to come by and write a message to make her day a little bit better."

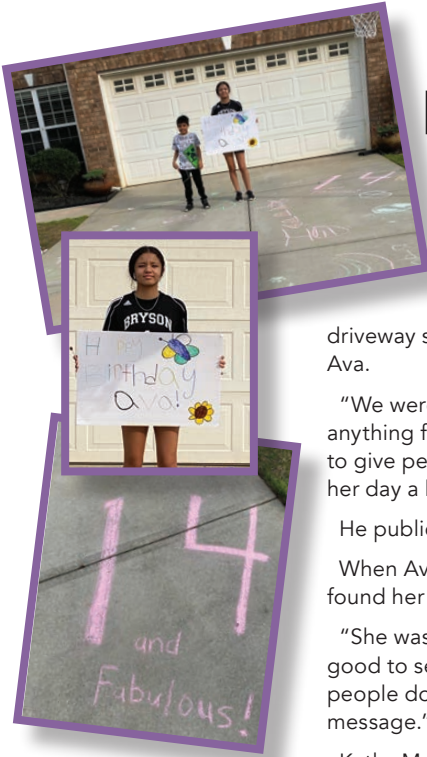
He publicized it on social media and invited people to stop by.

When Ava woke the morning of her birthday on March 27, she found her driveway awash in colorful messages.

"She was so surprised and caught off guard," Don said. "It was good to see there are some nice people out there. Most of these people don't even know who I am and they came out to leave a message."

Kathy Murphy of the Powderhorn community also found inspiring and thoughtful messages written in chalk on the sidewalk in front of her and her husband's home. She wrote: "We've been chalked! Had no idea this was happening right outside. We have the best neighbors!"

Neighbors wish Ava McNair a happy birthday in chalk on her driveway.  
Photos submitted by Don McNair



Messages from neighbors in front of Kathy Murphy's Powderhorn home. / Photos submitted by Kathy Murphy



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Congratulations Hillcrest High Wrestling!



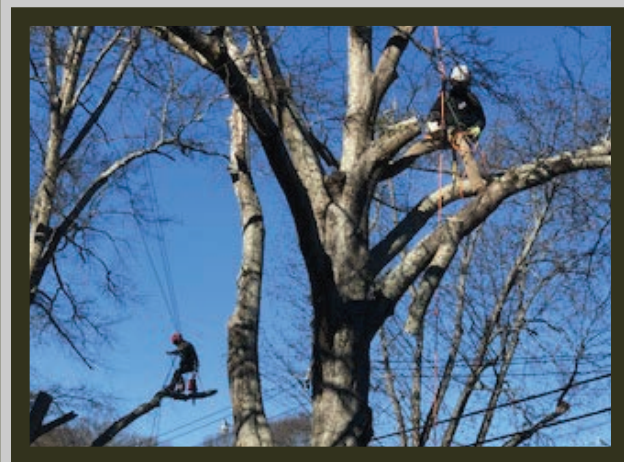
Hillcrest High School's wrestling team, under the leadership of Robby Bell and Anthony Esposito, won the dual state title in the SC State Wrestling Championship, 5A division.



### CONGRATS TO OUR STATE CHAMPIONS AND QUALIFIERS!

Standing left to right: Tyler Kilgore,  
Grantt Hopkins, Darren O'Keefe,  
Dylan O'Keefe

State Champs Kneeling left to right:  
Ian McKnight, Thomas Snipes,  
Walker Stephenson



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# GREER HIGH ALUMNI HOST "CHAMPIONS FOR A CAUSE"

BY SUSAN GENTRY



2019 Champions for a Cause Team Photo



Helmets high for the GHS Yellow Jackets



Marie Paris, Chris Fowler, and Susan Gentry working on the project.



Article from the Greer Citizen, last year.

The Greer community is reuniting once again to offer support to Travis Perry and the Greer Soup Kitchen. On May 30, 2020, former Greer High School football players, cheerleaders, coaches, band members, and community members will come together at Dooley Field for the second annual Champions for a Cause alumni flag football game. This game will be followed by the Greer High School Spring Game. It will be an event to pass the torch from the alumni to the current Greer High School players and to benefit the community.

The benefit will raise money through sponsorships, donations, ticket sales, merchandise, and concessions.

Chris Fowler, 1994 GHS graduate, and Marie Paris founded the Champions for a Cause last year. It was their philanthropic spirit and commitment to the community that drove them to give back through this remarkable event. This year, Susan Gentry, 1991 GHS graduate, joined forces with Fowler and Paris to promote this annual event.

"Greer is an amazing community. When you have an idea, you can actually implement it because the entire city stands with you," says Fowler.

Paris has high hopes for this game. She has promised that it will be bigger and better every year. "We're working on adding a tailgating event/reunion before the alumni game," she says. Gentry is overwhelmed by the amount of commitment she has received from the cheerleaders. "The cheerleaders are working hard to spread the word in the community. The amount of support that we have received has been absolutely heartwarming," Gentry says.

Travis Perry was diagnosed with bile duct cancer two years ago. Perry played football for GHS and has been the head coach and athletic director for years. He's been a positive role model for most young people in Greer. His wife Jennie Perry is a middle school teacher and has tirelessly continued to work as she's cared for her husband during his illness. They are both the essence of the Greer Community.

Fowler, Paris, and Gentry wanted to contribute to the entire community and believed the Greer Soup Kitchen was the best place to start. Over

150 meals are served by the Soup Kitchen each day. "It is heartbreaking that some children go hungry and if we can do anything to feed a hungry child, then we will," said Fowler.

For more information about Champions for a Cause, please like the Champions for a Cause Facebook page or follow them on Instagram at championsforacause. The city of Greer looks forward to seeing you on May 30, 2020.

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Autumn Trace	507 Adeline Court	4	3	0.2	\$270,000	2,900	\$93.10	3/23/20	236
Bridgewater	347 Bridge Crossing Drive	6	4	0.18	\$340,000	3,501	\$97.12	3/12/20	205
Bridgewater	343 Bridge Crossing Drive	5	4	0.18	\$320,000	3,127	\$102.33	3/6/20	3
Cameron Creek	608 Powdermill Drive	4	3	0.16	\$285,000	2,920	\$97.60	3/25/20	2
Coventry	1000 Anglian Place	4	4	0.19	\$362,500	3,469	\$104.50	3/11/20	296
Hamptons Grant	6 Alender Way	2	2	1.7	\$270,000	3,000	\$90.00	3/18/20	364
Heritage Point	129 Heritage Point Drive	4	2	0.23	\$267,450	2,905	\$92.07	3/2/20	206
Holly Trace	229 Holly Crest Circle	4	2	0.4	\$290,000	2,608	\$111.20	3/4/20	148
Holly Trace	143 Circle Slope Drive	4	2	0.37	\$305,000	2,583	\$118.08	3/6/20	111
Holly Tree	512 Lancelot Drive	4	2	0.46	\$295,000	2,611	\$112.98	3/31/20	17
Holly Tree Plantation	1209 Plantation Drive	3	2	0.43	\$290,000	2,232	\$129.93	3/16/20	10
Holly Tree Plantation	1206 Plantation Drive	4	2	0.31	\$290,000	2,654	\$109.27	3/30/20	141
Kings Crossing	604 ROSE ARBOR Lane	4	3	0.28	\$375,000	3,396	\$110.42	3/30/20	77
Neely Farm	503 Worchester Place	4	2	0.25	\$275,000	2,665	\$103.19	3/23/20	8
Neely Farm	3 Gelding Way	4	2	0.35	\$225,000	2,094	\$107.45	3/19/20	187
Neely Farm	502 Wild Horse Creek Drive	3	2	0.3	\$205,000	1,960	\$104.59	3/25/20	0
Steeplechase Run	209 Timber Fence Trail	4	2	0.15	\$287,000	2,436	\$117.82	3/6/20	1
Sycamore Ridge	211 Doonbeg Court	4	3	1.05	\$525,000	4,076	\$128.80	3/13/20	244
Verdmont	205 Fremont Drive	3	3	0.2	\$320,000	2,768	\$115.61	3/27/20	13
Verdmont	108 Clairhill Court	4	2	0.2	\$330,000	2,881	\$114.54	3/30/20	31
Verdmont	113 Fremont Drive	4	3	0.15	\$344,900	3,030	\$113.83	3/27/20	2

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