

# Kiawah Island

## DIGEST

The Official Publication of the Kiawah Island Community Association

### Looking Back, Forging Ahead: New Security Director Tony Elder Settling Into His Role on Kiawah



Tony Elder has been KICA Director of Security for barely nine months, but already he has weathered a tropical storm and related flooding; managed a direct hit from a hurricane, the worst storm to affect Kiawah in 27 years; impressed KICA members with his openness and responsiveness; and begun to put his stamp on the community with a variety of security enhancements (*see sidebar on page 2*).

Tony came to Kiawah with 31 years' experience in law enforcement, seeking a more family-oriented lifestyle than his management role with the Charleston Police Department (CPD) afforded him. From high school dropout to a master's degree in Criminal Justice, from patrolling the Virginia Beach beachfront on bike to Deputy Chief of the CPD, and now as KICA security director, Tony's upward climb in the world of police work has been steady and remarkable.

After dropping out of high school in 10th grade, Tony earned his GED and then entered the military at age 17. He spent four years in the Navy and later served seven more in the Army reserves. "I dropped out because my parents and older sister had done the same and no one had any expectation of me finishing high school. I missed so much of 10th grade that I would have had to repeat it, so I went to work in construction. But the military changed my life," he says. His years in the service taught him discipline, the need for structure in one's life, and the importance of having goals and objectives.

After his Navy career, Tony followed his uncle into the Virginia Beach police force, where he met his current wife of 25 years. "She had a two-year college degree and we did some classes together, and I just kept going," he says. He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice with honors, then a master's in criminal justice. He has never left the world of education behind, beginning work on a doctorate in business with a concentration in criminal justice, graduating from a senior management institute for police, and teaching online criminal justice courses at several institutions. "I need to teach online rather than in person because it's challenging to commit to a certain day and time. I have to be available at all times should emergencies arise. Online teaching fits better with my job responsibilities because I can teach when I am available," he explains.

Police work suited Tony from the beginning, and through a series of promotions he moved steadily up the ranks. "I liked the excitement of the work and I was willing to do risky jobs," he says. A particular attraction of the law enforcement profession is that throughout his career, Tony has been able to "switch around and try many different types of jobs. My niche became special investigations," he says. Early in his law enforcement career, Tony patrolled the beachfront in Virginia Beach on bike, responding quickly in places patrol cars could not go. "It was fun. I got paid to ride a bike," he grins. He then moved into narcotics work, which he describes as, "the best part of my career. I was making a huge difference in the community, and I liked the work."

Charleston Police Chief Mullen, who also came to Charleston from Virginia Beach, was one of Tony's training officers. Tony worked for him in narcotics, intelligence, and special investigations, and eventually became his executive assistant. Twenty-two years after Tony joined the Virginia Beach police force, Chief Mullen recruited him to Charleston. "I asked him what I would be doing, and Chief Mullen replied, 'Does it matter?' I said, 'no.'"

Chief Mullen shepherded Tony into the management arena, which Tony describes as another "life changing decision." He elaborates, "I learned more about servant leadership, that you are there to serve others - the people you lead, the organization, the community. Chief Mullen stressed that the Charleston police department is not there to give you a job; it's there for you to provide a service. Treat others as you would want to be treated and would want your family treated. He gave me a phenomenal example of great leadership."

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## Looking Back, Forging Ahead *(Continued From Previous Page)*

Police work has its downside. "There is so much sadness," Tony laments, describing several gruesome cases. However, he calls the Emanuel AME Church mass shooting in June 2015 as "the most horrific tragedy I was ever involved in. I can't imagine that level of evil." After the church shooting, he began to think more about a calmer life with more time for his family. "The things that make police work challenging - diverse community concerns, and the prevention and investigation of homicides, rapes and traffic fatalities - are also stressful," he notes. "That affects the quality of family time, and I live for my kids." He regretted when he could not commit to time with his children, now 11 and 32. And so he has come to direct security for KICA, where he has more predictable hours, fewer incidents that require the director's intervention, a low crime rate, the support of the county sheriff's office for serious problems, and 32 rather than 360 reportees. "My family is more happy than they have been in a long time, and I am excited about coming to work every day," he remarks.

Until he somewhat inelegantly herniated his back, Tony did karate with his wife and son; injured, he watched them earn their black belts. His wife retired from the police force when their son was young so she could home school him, and when they wanted him to be able to do archery, which was unavailable for home-schooled students, he and his wife became certified archery instructors and started a team, which now numbers about 30 home-schooled children and advanced to the regional and state championships in its first full year last year. He has also introduced archery to children attending summer camps for students in underprivileged communities.

From his first month on the job, Tony sought to improve both KICA security and security operations among the Kiawah entities (KICA, the resort, the town and the developer). A skilled communicator who promotes collaboration and earned praise for his work with the people most affected by the church shooting, he began in Kiawah by asking people, "what can I do for you?" "No one, including [resort president] Roger Warren, asked for anything," he says. "I have taken over a team that is already doing a wonderful job, and mostly, I just need to tweak things."

In his first few weeks, Tony targeted technology upgrades to improve security operations. He was involved in implementing all the technology projects the city of Charleston put in place during his eight years with the CPD, including placing cameras in cars and on officers and deploying automatic license plate readers throughout the city. He has already begun implementing some technological improvements for KICA.

One of Tony's first moves was to post a to-do list on a white board in his office and encourage staff to add to it. Some of the initial list items have already been budgeted. In his first month, he presciently listed storm management, not just for hurricanes but looking at options for traffic management during heavy rains and flood tides, as a high priority. His early list also included bike safety,

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### Security Enhancements

When Tony Elder joined KICA, one of his first tasks was to analyze KICA's existing security operations from top to bottom. His report resulted in a number of recommendations, funding for which was supported by the KICA Board of Directors. Many of these enhancements have already been put into place, including:

- **Adding new camera systems** capturing entry and exit views at the main gate and Vanderhorst gate, and all entrances at the Sandcastle. Cameras are a "force-multiplier." They are linked to the main gate by video monitor, and feed information to the security community advisors.
- **Enhancing radio communications** in partnership with the Kiawah Island Golf Resort. Operations currently use cell communication, which is often spotty, particularly in bad weather. The new system provides a radio system based out of The Sanctuary, the highest point on the island. Both KICA and resort security divisions are linked by radio. If there is a large-scale issue, such as a storm, information can be transmitted to KICA and resort security teams immediately. Because KICA is adding onto the resort's existing system, there are also some cost savings.
- **Increasing patrol personnel in 2017.** Reformulating shifts to 10 hours provides more overlap and staffing, allowing increased KICA security patrols.

### Community Provides Valuable Feedback

On Jan. 6, a community meeting was held at the Sandcastle where members provided feedback on a variety of security issues. KICA Security Director Tony Elder fielded questions about community access, safety and security roles for various entities - including the Town of Kiawah Island, Charleston County Sheriffs Office (CCSO) and the Kiawah Island Golf Resort - among other topics. KICA would like to thank member Denise Baker for coordinating the meeting, and summarizing the issues in a comprehensive report. The association is in the process of outlining an action plan to respond to the issues raised in this report.

A topic of particular concern at the meeting involved recent thefts of lawn furniture on the island. Increased community vigilance due to a tip from an alert member, along with KICA's new camera system (*see Security Enhancements above for more information*), aided in the identification of a suspect. One arrest has been made. Another suspect is still at large, but has been identified. CCSO is handling the investigation and more information will be provided as its available.

## Looking Back, Forging Ahead *(Continued From Previous Page)*

including examining how other resorts handle it, traffic speed, a re-alignment of management within the security department, and changing staff uniforms, which he described as an easy fix: “No one likes them, they are easy to change because we have a contract with a company that has other uniforms, and small things like that can make people a lot happier.”

One of Tony’s current goals is a review of the gate pass process and budgeting for a change in technology to enhance it. He likes the bar code system for property owners but wants a better entry management process for employees, contractors and visitors, none of whom have bar codes. “I have been looking at this for eight months already,” he says. Another is a personnel change. He is in the process of hiring an assistant director and is seeking someone with an extensive emergency management background who can share in the management of Kiawah’s mitigation, response and recovery to any emergency situation, including major weather events.

Tony stresses the importance of working with the other island entities as well as Freshfields and the St. Johns Fire Department in emergency situations. “During Hurricane Matthew, I got a chance to look at how we operate and realized there are significant opportunities for us to enhance our capabilities,” he says. He would like to see a “unified command structure” with representatives of all the organizations for making decisions or managing communications, and he says KICA will contribute more effectively to the joint effort with an additional emergency management expert on staff (Tony also has this expertise).

Tony practices an open door policy and encourages you to come to him with questions, concerns, ideas or just to chat. Maybe think twice, though, about coming with something to hide. Tony says his children would say that it can be unsettling growing up with someone whose job it is to get people to confess.

*Article contributed by Digest Feature Reporter Sue Schaffer.*

## KICA Annual Meeting Packets in the Mail

### **KICA Annual Meeting - Friday, March 3, 2 p.m. at the Sandcastle**

Watch your mail for your Annual Meeting packet. These packets include ballots, information on online voting, and the KICA Annual Report. For questions regarding the Annual Meeting materials, contact KICA at 843-768-9194 or [memberservices@kica.us](mailto:memberservices@kica.us).

### **Save Time and Vote Online - [kica.us/vote](http://kica.us/vote)**

Instructions for online voting can be found in your annual meeting packet. To vote, visit [kica.us/vote](http://kica.us/vote). As long as your online vote is submitted by the **Feb. 24** deadline, you are still eligible for the \$500 assessment refund drawing.



## Utility Presentation Highlights Informative Board Meeting

Representatives from Kiawah Island Utility (KIU) gave a detailed and informational presentation on the utility’s rate adjustment application at the Jan. 9 KICA Board meeting. The Public Service Commission will also hold a hearing on the request Tuesday, Feb. 2 at the Turtle Point Clubhouse, which will allow concerned parties to speak.

To view the KIU rate presentation, visit [kica.us/kiupresentation](http://kica.us/kiupresentation).

Also during the meeting, the board approved a new policy for named storms such as Hurricane Matthew that impacted the island last year. According to the policy, in the event that a named storm creates a financial impact to KICA, the association will fund clean-up and repairs as follows:

1. KICA will absorb up to \$500,000 in clean up and repair expenses from its available resources.
2. If the annual assessment and any supplemental assessments are less than the maximum annual assessment, the board will assess up to the maximum annual assessment, or \$1 million, whichever is less.
3. Any additional expenses shall be subject to a vote of the membership for a special assessment.

The next regular meeting of the KICA board will take place on March 6 at 1 p.m. at the Sandcastle. The KICA Annual Meeting is being held on Friday, March 3 at 2 p.m. at the Sandcastle. For more information on the board, visit [kica.us/board](http://kica.us/board).

### **DIGEST CONTRIBUTORS**

FRANCES BOYD - MEMBER VOLUNTEER  
VIRGINIA CHAPEL - MEMBER VOLUNTEER  
BILL HINDMAN - MEMBER VOLUNTEER  
SHAUNEEN HUTCHINSON - MEMBER VOLUNTEER  
SUE SCHAFFER - FEATURE REPORTER  
DEB STEWART - MEMBER VOLUNTEER

### **STAFF PRODUCTION TEAM**

DOUG REYNOLDS - COMMUNICATIONS/EDITOR  
TAMMY McADORY - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **DIGEST MISSION STATEMENT**

KIAWAH ISLAND DIGEST IS AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TOOL OF THE KIAWAH ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION. ITS MISSION IS TO

ACCURATELY AND EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE INFORMATION TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN A BALANCED AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.

### **STATEMENT OF EDITORIAL POLICY**

KICA WILL ENDEAVOR TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT ISLAND NEWS AS WELL AS INFORMATIONAL TOPICS, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST TO ITS MEMBERS. KICA MAY FROM TIME TO TIME PUBLISH EDITORIALS IN SUPPORT OF ITS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES. MEMBER SUGGESTIONS ON CONTENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL TO COMMUNICATIONS@KICA.US

# February 2017

## Community Calendar

WINTER HOURS - Sandcastle: Monday-Friday - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Saturday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sunday - 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>01</b> 4 p.m. The Authoritarian Personality in the Modern World	<b>02</b> 10 a.m. A Beginning Painting Journey 2:30 p.m. Tai-Chi 3 p.m. Our World: <i>Angela Mack, Renovations to the Gibbes Museum</i> 4 p.m. KICA Meet the Board Candidates	<b>03</b> 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Liquid Pleasure Supershow ( <i>East Beach Conference Center</i> )	<b>04</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>06</b> 9 a.m. Photography Club 1 p.m. Sandcastle Book Club 3 p.m. Opera Lite 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Judy Carmichael's Jazz Inspired ( <i>East Beach Conference Center</i> )	<b>07</b> 9 a.m. Art Guild Workshop 1 p.m. Mahjong Lessons 2 p.m. Town Council 6 p.m. PSC - KIU Rate Increase Hearing 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Judy Carmichael's Jazz Inspired ( <i>East Beach Conference Center</i> )	<b>08</b> 9 a.m. Art Guild Workshop 10 a.m. Kiawah Residents Art Guild 4 p.m. Our World Course: <i>The Beatles and Transformation of Modern Music</i> 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Judy Carmichael's Jazz Inspired ( <i>East Beach Conference Center</i> )	<b>09</b> 9 a.m. Art Guild Workshop 10 a.m. A Beginning Painting Journey 2:30 p.m. Tai-Chi 3 p.m. Our World: <i>Brian Hicks (Post and Courier), A Charleston Perspective</i>	<b>10</b> 10 a.m. Fleece Fridays "Made With Love" 3 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Art Film Series ( <i>Sandcastle</i> )	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9 a.m. Photography Club 9:30 a.m. Kiawah Island Garden Club 3 p.m. Opera Lite ( <i>Town Hall</i> ) 6 p.m. Book of Love: Chapter 1 - Music for the Mind	<b>14</b> 1 p.m. Mahjong Lessons 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Moranz Entertainment Sinatra's Come Fly With Me ( <i>Seabrook Island House</i> )	<b>15</b> 4 p.m. Our World Course: <i>The Beatles and Transformation of Modern Music</i>	<b>16</b> 10:30 a.m. Conservation Matters: Striving to be the Greatest Port in the Southeast 10 a.m. A Beginning Painting Journey 2:30 p.m. Tai-Chi 2:30 p.m. Sea Islands Parkinson's Support Group ( <i>Church of Our Saviour</i> )	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m. Sweetgrass Basket Weaving Class	<b>18</b> 9 a.m. Cars and Coffee 9:30 a.m. Sweetgrass Basket Weaving Class
<b>19</b> 4 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Charleston Southern University Young Artist Contest ( <i>Church of Our Saviour</i> )	<b>20</b> 9 a.m. Photography Club 3 p.m. Opera Lite 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Quentin Baxter Presents...Regina Carter, Violinist ( <i>Turtle Point Clubhouse</i> )	<b>21</b> 10 a.m. Charleston County Bookmobile 2 p.m. Kiawah Women's Group - Spa Day at the Sandcastle	<b>22</b> 4 p.m. Our World Course: <i>The Beatles and Transformation of Modern Music</i>	<b>23</b> 10 a.m. A Beginning Painting Journey 10 a.m. Made With Love Fleece Fridays (on a Thursday) 2:30 p.m. Tai-Chi 3 p.m. Our World: <i>Roger Warren, Kiawah Island Golf Resort</i>	<b>24</b> 3 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Art Film Series ( <i>Sandcastle</i> )	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 4 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Seraph Brass Quintet ( <i>Church of Our Saviour</i> ) 6 p.m. POPS Progressive Dinner	<b>27</b> 9 a.m. Photography Club 3 p.m. Opera Lite	<b>28</b>	<p><i>Planning a romantic night out with your sweetheart? Take the Kiawah Shuttle Service and travel in luxury! Book today at 843-768-5566.</i></p>			

### Recurring Events at the Sandcastle

- Sandcastle Bible Study - Mondays at 8:30 a.m.
- Women's Community Bible Study - Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
- Sandcastle Bridge - Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- Weight Watchers - Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
- Ladies Mahjong - Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

### Association Fitness Classes Offered

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Yoga                 | Water Aerobics          |
| Zumba                | Body Sculpt             |
| Strength and Stretch | Assorted Cardio Classes |

\*\*View class times and descriptions at [kica.us](http://kica.us) (Facilities/Fitness Center).  
Please note that all fitness classes are complimentary to members.

- KICA Paddlesports Program - [www.tidaltrailskiawah.com](http://www.tidaltrailskiawah.com) -

KICA (Sandcastle)  
843-768-3875  
[kica.us](http://kica.us) (Events)

Kiawah Cares  
843-768-9194  
[kiawahcares.org](http://kiawahcares.org)

Kiawah Island Golf Resort  
843-768-2121  
[kiawahresort.com](http://kiawahresort.com)

Freshfields Village  
843-768-6491  
[freshfieldsvillage.com](http://freshfieldsvillage.com)

Town of Kiawah Island  
843-768-9166  
[kiawahisland.org](http://kiawahisland.org)

# March 2017

## Community Calendar

Sandcastle: Monday-Friday - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Saturday - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sunday - 12 to 5 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>01</b> 4 p.m. Our World Course: The Beatles and Transformation of Modern Music	<b>02</b> 10 a.m. A Beginning Painting Journey	<b>03</b> 2 p.m. KICA Annual Meeting	<b>04</b>
<b>05</b> 4 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Shai Wosner, Pianist ( <i>Church of our Saviour</i> )	<b>06</b> 9 a.m. Photography Club 1 p.m. Sandcastle Book Club 1 p.m. KICA Board Meeting 3 p.m. Opera Lite	<b>07</b> 10 a.m. Kiawah Women's Group Newcomer's Coffee ( <i>Java Java</i> ) 10 a.m. Charleston County Bookmobile 2 p.m. Town Council	<b>08</b> 10 a.m. Kiawah Residents Art Guild 3 p.m. Conservation Matters: Dolphins of the Lowcountry 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Annie Sellick, Vocalist ( <i>Turtle Point Clubhouse</i> )	<b>09</b> 3 p.m. Our World: <i>Wayne McFee: Micropastics</i>	<b>10</b> 10 a.m. Made With Love Fleece Fridays	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 4 p.m. Arts Council Presents: CSO Strings and Charlton Singleton ( <i>Holy Spirit Catholic Church</i> )	<b>13</b> 9 a.m. Photography Club	<b>14</b> 9 a.m. Art Guild Workshop 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Columbia City Ballet Presents Swan Lake ( <i>East Beach Conference Center</i> )	<b>15</b> 9 a.m. Art Guild Workshop 5 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Piano Bar Series ( <i>Sandcastle</i> )	<b>16</b> 9 a.m. Art Guild Workshop 2:30 p.m. Sea Islands Parkinson's Support Group ( <i>Church of Our Saviour</i> )	<b>17</b> 9 a.m. Art Guild Workshop	<b>18</b> 9 a.m. Cars and Coffee
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9 a.m. Photography Club	<b>21</b> 10 a.m. Charleston County Bookmobile	<b>22</b> 7:30 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Wesla Whitfield, Jazz Vocalist ( <i>Turtle Point Clubhouse</i> )	<b>23</b> 3 p.m. Our World: <i>Guy Caruso - Energy Update</i> 7:30 p.m. Kiawah Women's Group - The Miracle Worker	<b>24</b> 10 a.m. Made With Love Fleece Fridays	<b>25</b>  11:30 - 4 p.m. Kiawah Cup Beach Race ( <i>Sandcastle Beach</i> ) 
<b>26</b> 4 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Duo Pianists Carles and Sofia ( <i>Church of our Saviour</i> )	<b>27</b> 9 a.m. Photography Club 12 p.m. 10th Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament ( <i>River Course</i> )	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5 p.m. Arts Council Presents: Piano Bar Series ( <i>Sandcastle</i> )	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

### Recurring Events at the Sandcastle

- Sandcastle Bible Study - Mondays at 8:30 a.m.
- Women's Community Bible Study - Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
- Sandcastle Bridge - Tuesdays at 1 p.m.
- Weight Watchers - Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
- Ladies Mahjong - Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

### Association Fitness Classes Offered

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Yoga                 | Water Aerobics          |
| Zumba                | Body Sculpt             |
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\*\*View class times and descriptions at [kica.us](http://kica.us) (Facilities/Fitness Center).  
Please note that all fitness classes are complimentary to members.

- KICA Paddlesports Program - [www.tidaltrailskiawah.com](http://www.tidaltrailskiawah.com) -

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[freshfieldsvillage.com](http://freshfieldsvillage.com)

Town of Kiawah Island  
843-768-9166  
[kiawahisland.org](http://kiawahisland.org)



## Tickets Now On Sale for the Kiawah Cup

Come celebrate a unique aspect of our state's heritage and enjoy a party on the pool deck, all while supporting the work of the Kiawah Cares Foundation (KCF) on the Sea Islands, at the 2017 Kiawah Cup!

The event, which is a partnership between the KCF and the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association (CMTA), takes place on Saturday, March 25 from 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and features a thrilling Marsh Tacky horse race down Kiawah's beach.

"Horse races on Kiawah's beach are an important part of the area's history, and are a thrilling, one-of-a-kind experience," said KCF Board Chair Jimmy Bailey. "We're excited to bring this unique event to Kiawah. In addition to supporting KCF's work on Johns and Wadmalaw islands, the event will showcase the rare and endangered Marsh Tacky breed, the official state heritage horse."

The day begins at 11:30 a.m. with the pre-race VIP Horsin' Around Cocktail Hour (limit 120 VIP ticket holders only) in the Sandcastle Community Center ballroom, overlooking the race field. At 1 p.m. opening ceremonies featuring the flag run and rider introductions will usher in the start of the race. Spectators can cheer on their favorite horse and rider as they take off in a flash down Kiawah's pristine beach, racing towards victory!

After the race, select ticket holders will enjoy poolside fare and cocktails at the Heritage Reception. The always-popular East Coast Party Band will have guests on their feet. Local personality Tom Crawford will host an exciting live auction for chances to bid on a variety of exclusive items, as well as a Paddles Up segment to sponsor local school children.

**Tickets are now on sale** for the event, and four different ticket options allow you to tailor your entertainment experience. To purchase tickets, or for other information including details on sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, visit [kiawahcup.org](http://kiawahcup.org). Are you on Facebook? Be sure to "Like" the Kiawah Cup ([facebook.com/kiawahcup](https://facebook.com/kiawahcup)) for updates as the race draws near!

The Kiawah Cup is KCF's primary fundraiser during the year, supporting programs for Sea Island seniors, students and the underprivileged, with a feature focus on education and the involvement of Communities In Schools in our five public schools.

"We wanted to host an exciting event for our guests," said Bailey, "while doing something that would benefit the greater community. This event will both entertain and positively impact our Sea Island neighbors."

### About the Marsh Tacky Horse and the CMTA

South Carolina designated the marsh tacky (*Equus caballus*) as the official state heritage horse in 2010. The marsh tacky is a rare colonial Spanish horse breed unique to South Carolina. These tough horses have played a pivotal role in the development and defense of the state, and were an integral part of life in early Lowcountry communities.

They were once plentiful in the Lowcountry, but these horses are now endangered. The CMTA works to preserve and promote this breed of horse throughout the state. For more information on the CMTA and their work, visit [marshtacky.info](http://marshtacky.info).

Thank you to our sponsors and island partners for the 2017 Kiawah Cup! Please visit these generous organizations, who are supporting the Kiawah Cares Foundation's mission to aid the under-served of the Sea Islands. Limited sponsorships are still available for this exciting event, visit [kiawahcup.org](http://kiawahcup.org) for more info.



## Kiawah Cares Foundation Receives Record Donations to Fund Literacy Programs, Community Efforts

This holiday season, the spirit of giving was in full force as the Kiawah Cares Foundation (KCF) received donations from Kiawah homeowners totaling over \$80,000. These generous contributions will help KCF continue its goal of improving the overall quality of life on the Sea Islands (Johns and Wadmalaw islands).

The donations came from a mix of individuals, groups and foundations, and ranged from small contributions to large grants. These funds are being used to support a variety of efforts and programs, including:

- Literacy programs on the Sea Islands such as the Reading Partners Program, Communities In Schools, Begin With Books and the Barden Angel Literacy Initiative at Angel Oak Elementary.

- Repairs to the Wadmalaw Island Boy Scout camp that sustained substantial damage during Hurricane Matthew.
- Support to Back Pack Buddies, a program of the Kiawah Women's Group, which will fund the program for a month, providing over 1,000 packs to Sea Island students.
- Significant structural repairs to sub-standard homes, including some damaged by floods and storms, most of which are home to the elderly.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our donors," said KCF Chair Jimmy Bailey. "Without these gifts, many of these programs and efforts would simply not have been possible."

For more information on KCF, the programs it supports, and how to make a gift to the foundation, visit [kiawahcares.org](http://kiawahcares.org) or contact KCF at 843-768-9194/[kiawahcares@kica.us](mailto:kiawahcares@kica.us).

## Experience an Inspirational Night of Music and Celebration at Book of Love

On Monday, Feb. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m., enjoy a beautiful evening with your valentine at the Book of Love - Chapter 1: Music for the Mind fundraiser at the Sandcastle. Music will fill the air, set to the sound of ocean waves.

The event, hosted by Kiawah Cares, Communities In Schools (CIS) and the Companion Foundation, will feature live musical performances by several groups of Haut Gap Middle School students who participate in Music for Life - a privately-funded music program. These students will be joined by the Haut Gap Steel Drum Band and various local musicians. During interludes, a student will narrate a journey through musical history spanning nearly 50 years.

Guests will dine on delicious catered cuisine and cocktails. You can even participate in a raffle to win a Darius Rucker autographed guitar for your special someone!

The Book of Love supports programs that aide students in achieving academic success through the gift of music.

Tickets are \$100 a person (limit 100) and may be purchased online at [cischarleston.org](http://cischarleston.org) (located under the Events tab). Requested attire for the event is Lowcountry casual.

Don't miss this celebration of music- get your tickets today!

## Learn a New Skill or Expand Your Cultural Horizons at The Sandcastle This Winter

### Our World Lecture Series

*Thursdays at 3 p.m.*

Our World is a complimentary educational lecture series produced by KICA that provides members with presentations by local experts on a wide variety of subjects. A light selection of wine and cheese will be provided and members are encouraged to interact with speakers following their discussions.

- **Feb. 9** - Brian Hicks (*Post and Courier*), *A Charleston Perspective*
- **Feb. 23** - Roger Warren, *Kiawah Island Golf Resort*
- **March 9** - Wayne McFee, *Microplastics*
- **March 23** - Guy Caruso, *Energy Update*

### Sweetgrass Basket Making Class

*Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

Come explore the art of weaving your own Charleston Sweetgrass Basket, one of the oldest art forms of African origin in the United States. These beautiful coiled baskets will be made with fragrant sweetgrass, pine needles for accent and palmetto strips to secure the basket. Instructor Sarah Edwards-Hammond has many years of experience and supplies all materials. All levels are welcome. Patience is a plus! Cost for a class is \$45 and the deadline to register is Feb. 13. RSVP to the Sandcastle at [sandcastle@kica.us](mailto:sandcastle@kica.us) or 843-768-3875.

c/o Kiawah Island Community Association  
23 Beachwalker Drive  
Kiawah Island, SC 29455

Address Service Requested

## Kiawah Real Estate Trends: Year End 2016

Property Type	Sales Price - Year End 2016				Sales Price - Year End 2015				Yearly Change	
	#	High	Low	Average	#	High	Low	Average	#	Price
<b>Homes</b>										
\$1 million and below	39	1,000,000	520,000	802,460	39	1,000,000	275,000	708,864	0%	13%
\$1 - 2.5 million	53	2,495,000	1,020,000	1,549,201	66	2,500,000	1,020,000	1,576,298	-20%	-2%
\$2.5 million and above	19	17,150,000	2,500,000	5,242,368	27	20,250,000	2,590,000	4,895,852	-30%	7%
<b>Lots</b>										
\$1 million and below	48	925,000	120,000	395,977	51	1,000,000	166,000	436,867	-6%	-9%
\$1 - 2 million	13	2,100,000	1,050,000	1,692,885	17	1,835,000	1,092,500	1,280,000	-24%	32%
\$2 million and above	2	2,850,000	2,800,000	2,825,000	4	4,800,000	3,850,000	4,287,500	-50%	-34%
<b>Cottages/Villas</b>										
1 bedroom	26	585,000	180,000	270,538	24	450,000	125,000	260,071	8%	4%
2 bedroom	38	830,000	293,000	461,612	29	799,500	289,500	449,979	31%	1%
3 bedroom and above	37	1,995,000	415,000	755,773	30	1,820,000	410,000	639,715	23%	18%

Note: This report is a summary of all sales transactions on Kiawah Island from all sources. This information was compiled by Kiawah Island Real Estate for the exclusive non-commercial use of Kiawah Island Digest. While it is believed to be accurate, a lag in reporting recent sales closings may occur due to the nature of obtaining this data from multiple sources.