FIRST HISTORIC TOWN PARTY HELD ON COMMON GROUND!

Common Ground at the Heyward House was rocking on February 16th, when we hosted the ribbon-cutting and dedication of the HEART Pavilion to the Reeves family and RSI, who have supported the BHPS and Heyward House over the years in so many ways. Over 250 people gathered to help celebrate the event and over 160 toured the Heyward House that evening. A surprising 25% of those who signed the guest register were from out of town. As our new gathering spot for visitors and locals of all ages to share in the history, education, and arts right in the heart of our town, Common Ground functions as an outdoor classroom for educational workshops, social gatherings, and BHPS special events. Entertainment from the Praise Dancers and Gullah prayers and songs from Jim Gadsden opened the evening with a strong local element. Jared Jester brought his SC Boiled Peanuts to sample and sell on behalf of the Society. So many locals showed up and enjoyed the evening, including Mayor Sulka, Manager Orlando, and 2 of 4 Bluffton Councilmen. Southern Gratitude brought their special brand of Americana music for an evening of fun under the lights and by a cozy fire.

WHAT’S NEW AT THE HEYWARD HOUSE

Outside: Landscaping, Lighting, and Benches
- New spring plantings in the herb garden and planters by our Gardening Committee.
- New irrigation, azaleas, pineapples, and Bahamian coral at Common Ground.
- 6 new red cedar benches (by D.H. Mason), with Brazilian Rosewood oil (by Sergio Reyna).
- New lighting in the back of the Heyward House, by Bluffton Electric.

- Caldwell Archive Relocation to Town Hall We have begun moving the Caldwell Archives to our new space at Town Hall, where ongoing archival work will continue with weekly volunteers meeting to eventually digitize the collection. Open House on May 25th at Town Hall will be the first chance to see our new space.

- Town’s plans progress for Green Street Park The town’s upcoming construction on the parking and streetscape are to be completed by this fall. Parking on Bridge Street during construction. New parking lot, sidewalks, and visitor access aligning with our new entrances on Green Street are part of the coming additions.

Inside the Heyward House:
- Margaret’s Organ, Margaret Heyward’s parlor pump organ returns to the house, through a lucky conservation and an owner who was willing to part with it for a bargain, and it is now a prominent part of our ballroom.

- Welcome Center Relocation, and integration into our store, with magazines moved to the back porch, opens the hallway flaps to visitor and tour traffic. A video monitor is also planned for the welcome center, with looped town and Heyward House programming.

Our Volunteer Gardeners keep the Heyward House and grounds looking great with inspired plantings; they are led by Master Gardener, Alice Fraser.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Hold these dates and plan to be here to help celebrate!

June 4th  
Burning of Bluffton Open House  
at the Heyward House Museum & Welcome Center, 11-3pm

June 8th  
Junecenth hosted by Bluffton MLK Observance Committee  
on Common Ground, 4-9pm

June 22nd  
Boiled Peanut Festival hosted by the SC Boiled Peanut Company  
on Common Ground, 4-8pm

July 20th  
Campbell Chapel AME Cookout & BHPS Membership Meeting  
on Common Ground, 6-8pm

August 22nd  
Arts & Cultural Council of Hilton Head Membership Open House  
on Common Ground, 6-8pm

October 17th  
Historic Bluffton Cocktail Party  
on Common Ground, 6-9pm

October 18th  
Bluffton Self Help’s Red Apron Sips and Seafood Event  
on Common Ground, 6-9pm

November 23  
BHPS Oyster Roast  
on Common Ground, 6-9pm

NEW KIDS’ PROGRAMS, PHOTOS AND BROCHURE

Check out our new lineup of 7 educational programs for children’s groups, schools and daycares for this summer. We now provide these programs for only $1 per child in order to include all children and groups who wish to participate in our programs.

Below is a preview of our new Heyward House brochure, which is in production for this spring. This 4x9, tri-fold is the main piece that we distribute at welcome centers throughout the state and region. The brochure features several new photos that were taken during our spring shoot, when we utilized a drone to get some interesting new angles of our 178-year-old house and Common Ground, featuring the new Reeves Family Pavilion.

Welcome to Historic Bluffton, a unique and wonderful area of the Lowcountry, known as the oldest town in South Carolina. The Heyward House Museum & Welcome Center is located at 1814 Main Street, Bluffton, SC 29910. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-4pm, and is closed on Sundays. Visitors can enjoy a variety of exhibits, that showcase the history of Bluffton and the Lowcountry. The museum also offers guided tours of the historic Heyward House, which dates back to the late 18th century. The Heyward House is one of the oldest homes in the state of South Carolina and is a great place to learn about the history of Bluffton. The museum is open to the public and is free of charge. Visitors can also enjoy a variety of programs, that are offered throughout the year, such as workshops, lectures, and family events. The museum is located at 1814 Main Street, Bluffton, SC 29910.