

APRIL 2021

# CHARLESTON

## Home & Living

**WEEKEND TRAVELER**  
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AT KANAWHA STATE FOREST  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
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**REAL ESTATE**  
Resource Centre

Presented by Mara Ellis  
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Cover photo by Michael Bell

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# BACK COVER

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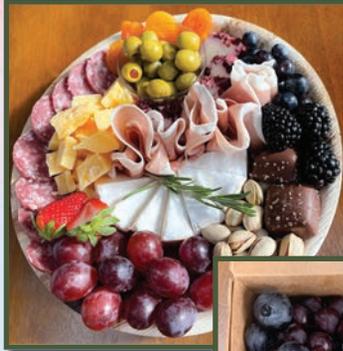


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# Looking Back

By: M. Lynne Squires

## ...AT THE KANAWHA STATE FOREST HISTORIC DISTRICT



The great outdoors, complete with fresh air, wildflowers, trees, birds, streams, and hiking trails, has always been a welcome respite from the bustle of city life. Nothing revives the spirit like nature. Within 7 miles of downtown Charleston is Kanawha State Forest which offers visitors a rich outdoor experience, whether for a day visit or a camping getaway.

Designated as a National Historic District in 1993, the park has a rich history beginning in 1937 when it was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). With unemployment numbers staggeringly high, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to approve a program that provided work for young men between 18 and 25. Thus the CCC was created through the Emergency Conservation Work Act. Initially, 250,000 young men were recruited to work at one of the 4500 camps established in every state and Alaska.

The CCC purchased an initial 6,705 acres of land that had been heavily mined and logged. In 1941, a coal mine on the property was sealed off. Before sealing it, 28 mash barrels were found deep in the mine, long abandoned by local bootleggers.

Kanawha State Forest brought to the area recreational activities that were unavailable before. The pond created behind the dam provided swimming and ice skating for several years. Miles of trails provided hiking. Picnic shelters provided a shaded area to eat and relax. In more recent years, a swimming pool was built and was a popular attraction until it was closed due to maintenance concerns.

The style in which buildings and shelters were constructed reflected FDR's "one with nature" philosophy. Materials used were sourced from the park's vast acreage. Felled chestnut trees were used for structures. Stonework for foundations, chimneys, shelter floors, and porch railings was made from locally sourced and quarried sandstone. The buildings were designed with low silhouettes and proportioned to blend with their natural surroundings. The original park design had four picnic shelters, some with fireplaces. The rustic architecture exhibited fine craftsmanship. The young men employed by the CCC learned building and related trades creating a park that remains a valued asset to the Davis Creek Valley and surrounding area.



There was a Forest Administration Building which later became the park superintendent's residence for many years. It was constructed with chestnut logs with chink and daub infill. Front and rear porches had sandstone porch railing walls. There was also a Powder House that was built entirely out of stone. It was used during the years the CCC was working on the park. The building housed black powder and dynamite. It had only one wood door and two wooden windows that were covered with vertical iron bars.

The park was constructed during the Great Depression years. Through the CCC, jobs were provided to young men, and in turn, the young men provided the area with a park that exists and flourishes to this day.

Today, Kanawha State Forest has grown to include 46 campsites, with more than half having electricity and water hookups. All of the sites have a fireplace and picnic table. Two bathhouses and a laundry facility are available to campers. The campground is open from April through December.

The Kanawha State Forest Foundation, found at [ksff.org](http://ksff.org), is a volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, promote, and preserve Kanawha State Forest.

Another not-for-profit organization active at Kanawha State Forest is the Kanawha Valley Trail Alliance, info found at [kvtrails.com](http://kvtrails.com). Their mission is to foster healthy lifestyles through improved access, development, and expansion of trails in the Greater Kanawha Valley, establishing a premier mountain biking, hiking and trail running destination for our community and state.

Email your responses about the Kanawha State Forest Historic District or requests for locations you'd like Looking Back to visit to [thewriter@mlynne.com](mailto:thewriter@mlynne.com).

Squires' book Looking Back at Charleston is a compilation of 24 essays and color photos from her column and is available on Amazon. Visit [www.mlynne.com](http://www.mlynne.com).

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**Next month, we are Looking Back at the Elk City Historic District.**

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**MONTGOMERY.** Well maintained 4-stall car wash. Also includes building with 3 bays. Situated on 2 corner lots. Building would be perfect for detailing business, mechanic's garage or storage. Only car wash in the Upper Kanawha Valley! **\$125,000**



**SMITHERS.** 4 BR, 4 BA brick home w/a 45' x 28' family/media room. Has det gar + carport & original HW under carpet. Also on the property is a home that can be purchased separately. Brand new roofs installed in December. Must see. **\$120,000**



**SMITHERS.** Lovely 3 BD brick rancher with full bsmt. Updated kitchen. Nice pool for entertaining. Property has large garage apartment with tons of storage, parking for your car and potential rental income to help make the mortgage payments. **\$119,900**



**MONTGOMERY.** This stately home has beautiful woodwork, a parlor with stained glass entrance, marble fireplaces, large rooms, high ceilings and a 20 x 24 detached garage. **\$94,500**

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One of Charleston's most beautiful and prestigious homes. Everything in perfection in this custom built classic overlooking the capital dome. Private swimming pool with his and her's locker rooms, bonus kitchen in the basement with the family room, multiple garages all setting on over 3 acres and too many amenities to list



Looking for a Kanawha City Home? Here you go! This beautiful home comes w/ many amazing updates such as a custom designed Darin Fisher kitchen w/ a Breakfast area, some new appliances, granite countertops, new wall to wall custom Family room cabinetry, Generac whole house generator, completely rebuilt chimney for the wood burning fireplace inside. The large private patio area comes with a Gas fireplace, covered pergola and tons of room for entertaining!



Elegance in the forest best describes this magnificent home located South Hills. This home sits on 17+ private and gated acres with 100+ acres available for pleasure or development. 6 Bedrooms 4.5 Baths. The indoor pool offers year around pleasure in its own detached 2200 sq ft pool house with a kitchen and full bath. Built in 2004, this amazing home is quality throughout with beautiful trim and hardwoods, 10ft main level ceilings and 9ft upper level ceilings.



Immaculate custom built home in a country setting, situated on a large 2 acre lot! Exuding quality throughout, this home offers 3 Bedrooms 2.5 Baths, large open rooms, gorgeous hardwood floors and woodwork all through out the home. With it's huge wrap-around porch, this home boasts spectacular views of the wooded area that surrounds this beautiful home! Need more space? This home has a full unfinished basement which could add an additional 1400+ Sq. Ft. of living space if desired!



This amazing large family home located in one of Charleston's most prestigious neighborhoods, this home boasts ample sq. footage & bedroom space in which to accommodate families of any size! This home has top quality construction from the main level to the third level. Outside, you can lounge by the pool, and for guests, there is a 900+ Sq Ft 1 bd/1 ba pool house. Inside boasts a gourmet kitchen w/breakfast area & large formal dining. Master suite is overly spacious. 3rd floor is fully finished.



Charming East End home in excellent condition. Beautiful original woodwork and hardwood floors throughout. Large rooms with lots of natural lighting. Updated kitchen with breakfast area and formal separate dining. Large open family room and formal living off entry. 4 bedroom 2 baths on second floor. Finished 3rd floor with 5th bedroom and half bath. Fenced in backyard with secured gated access off street.



Incredible, all brick home with stately features. Crown molding, wainscoting, refinished HW & new double glazed insulated windows throughout. Tons of storage in every room including wall to wall closets in master bedroom. 4 season (heated/cooled) sunroom overlooking large in ground pool & flat yard. 2 new furnaces & slate roof w/copper gutters maintained regularly. Den & family room feature beautiful butternut woodwork. 2 car garage, U shaped, brick driveway & professional landscaping.



Front of the hill with classic styling best describes this lovely 3 bed 3 bath home with over 2300 sq. Ft. Of living space. This coveted neighborhood is just minutes from downtown charleston, south charleston, and is located in the south hills school district. This home boasts one-of-a-kind stone patios and walkways, original hardwoods, elegant woodwork, updated kitchen and baths, 2 wood burning fireplaces with a cozy den/office and so much more! First american home warranty provided!!



A charming 3 bedroom house in the front of South Hills. Short walk to Bridge Road restaurants and shops. Updated throughout, including finished basement, new paint inside/outside, new HVAC, new front door/garage door - plus more! Excellent school district.



Very nice 2 story home in the heart of South Charleston! Within walking distance to Joplin Park, Schools, and minutes to Restaurants, Shopping, and downtown Charleston. This lovely home boasts 4 bedrooms and 2 and 1/2 baths, beautiful hardwoods on the main level with a full unfinished basement with tons of storage space! The huge, level, back yard will lend itself to many hours of enjoyment for the Children and pets!



More than just a downtown condo! Open concept 3 bedrooms/3 baths centrally located downtown. Panoramic city views, 2 parking spaces and storage area. Residents enjoy hotel amenities such as access to pool and 24 hour fitness center, shuttle service to airport and room service.



This spectacular home in Elk Hills Community a short distance to downtown Charleston and its many amenities. With 5 BR, 4.4 BA, along with over 8,400 SF of open living space, this home provides plenty of breadth to stretch it out. Rich w/elegance, custom finishes include numerous porches and patios, & 4 FPs. An attached 3-car garage, 3-car detached guest carriage house, gourmet kitchen and lower level recreation space.



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**DESCRIPTION: STUNNING VIEW OF THE CITY.** Gorgeous, front of the hill location with views of the city and river! Located in award-winning school district and convenient to downtown and area hospitals! This lovely home was built in 1876 and is full of historic charm. Features include open concept kitchen and living area, as well as a private backyard that gives the feeling of being in the country. This home is a must see! Dual HVAC-1 unit less than a year old.

\$369,000



**LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF EDGEWOOD.** Nestled off cobblestone road with a beautiful view of Charleston. This home offers unique details throughout. Meticulously cared for and updated, some features w/new windows, powder room on the first floor, refinished HW floors, quartz countertops and pine tongue and groove ceiling in kitchen, gas stove in living room-remote controlled, security cameras w/system, new bathroom off master. Truly a stunning find

\$649,900



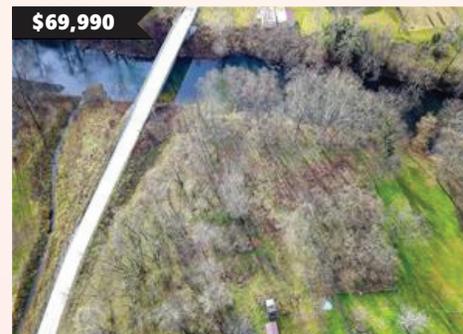
**NESTLED IN SOUTH HILLS.** Close to shops & downtown Charleston, the 1896 Whitney Farm House & Carriage House, w/ an additional 780 sq ft, convenient while secluded in a privat setting. This classic gem offers heart-pine floors, glass cabinetry from original windows, gorgeous stonework, gardens, expansive yard, & wrap-around porches. Recently renovated kitchen, BA, & laundry rm feat Winchester English & French Tile, high-end appliances, & marble counters.

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**108 Fieldcrest Rd**

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**209 Ashby Ave**

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**316 Monroe Street**

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**REDUCED**

**1313 Lee St #103A**

\$255,000 - Gorgeous and completely updated 3-story condo located on the Historical East End of Charleston!



**LAND**

**2511 Lincoln Avenue**

\$20,000 - Lot is priced to sell and is located in the convenient City of Saint Albans!



**8310 MacCorkle Avenue**

\$63,500 - 3BR. 2BA. Lovely 3 bedroom home, walking distance to park and ball field, located in a very convenient area of Charleston, MUST SEE!!!



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**MAGNIFICENT KANAWHA CITY HOME** Situated on a corner lot, this home features quality updates thru out. Oversized master suite addition including large bath with walk-in shower and cedar lined closet. There are 2 possibly 3 additional bedrooms with two custom marble baths on the upper level. Other updates include kitchen, architectural design roof, and gorgeous hardwood floors thru out. Outside features include professional landscaped level backyard with access to attached two-car garage. **\$649,900** MLS 245699



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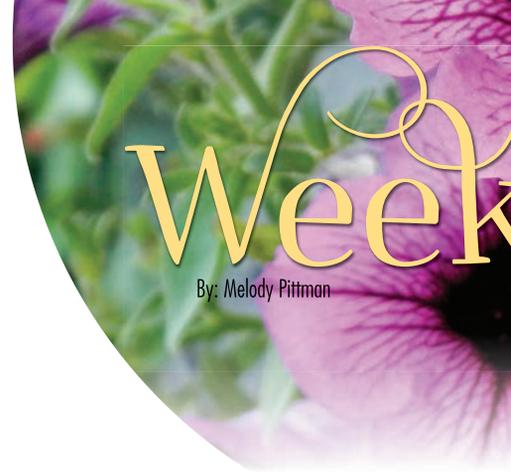
Keeping these facts in mind, ask yourself, "Is my REALTOR® positioned to win in 2021?" Be prepared for this busy housing market by contacting one of our expert salespersons. Our agents stay on top of the real estate trends and utilize the most modern marketing strategies. Be a winner with BHGREC.



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We're continually on the hunt for experiences that add richness to our lives. In the spirit of the revival of road trips, we are proud to feature a monthly section featuring destinations within driving distance of Charleston. We feel that our smart and savvy readers will find these trips interesting and entertaining.



# FORT WAYNE, IN



Hampton inn and suites downtown Fort Wayne. Photo by Melody Pittman.

Driving a little over five hours northwest of Charleston brings you to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Indiana's second-largest city is a treasure trove of attractions and events that will surprise and astonish you. From housing the annual Vera Bradley sale to museums and outdoor attractions galore, you're going to love this Midwestern city.

## WHAT TO SEE & DO

Fort Wayne is a powerhouse of attractions, including the ACPL Genealogy Center. You'll find the world's largest database of public records and collection of family heritage resources on the second floor of the Allen County Public Library. Professional staff can help you trace your family history. You can also admire the hundreds of books, artifacts, statues, and artwork related to Abraham Lincoln.

Enjoy baseball and basketball in Fort Wayne. The Tincaps, a Class A minor league affiliate of the San Diego Padres, play at Parkview Field. Fort



Fort Wayne mad ants basketball. Photo by Melody Pittman.

Wayne's Mad Ants, the Indiana Pacers farm team, play at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Tickets are affordable, and the games are fun and family-friendly



Fort Wayne museum of art. Photo by Melody Pittman.

Explore Fort Wayne's artistic side through museums, gardens, and street art. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art has thought-provoking exhibits and a glass collection that is interesting and priceless. The museum's Early Learning Center has plenty of hands-on activities for kids. Another great indoor place to explore is the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory. Indoor gardens range from carefully labeled tropical flowers to desert succulents and a beautiful cascading



Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Photo by Melody Pittman.

waterfall. You'll see vibrant murals around town, but my favorites are the panda (124 W Berry St) and buffalo (126 W Columbia St).



Panda mural Fort Wayne, Photo by Melody Pittman.

There are several unique local boutiques downtown, but the best-known shopping is the annual Vera Bradley Outlet Sale. This five-day event in April brings in thousands of shoppers from all over. Markdowns range in the 40-75% range, including accessories, handbags, luggage, and blankets, to name a few. Plan early; this event sells out quickly.



Vera Bradley annual sale, Photo by Melody Pittman.

Kids will love the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, where the habitats are in the eyesight for little ones in strollers. The zoo's programming and



Fort Wayne Chins Zoo, Photo by Melody Pittman.

concepts are brilliant, plus you can see meerkats, Colobus monkeys, red pandas, Tasmanian devils, and a sea lion. Don't miss walking through the Australian Adventure, where you are up close and personal with marsupials. Another place with kids in mind is the Fort Wayne Science Central, a whimsical and educational museum with hands-on exhibits and experiments, cutting-edge technology, and Science on a Sphere.



Fort Wayne's riverfront park, Photo by Melody Pittman.

Riverfront Fort Wayne's Promenade Park offers a spectacular place to walk around, be outdoors, and launch kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes, which can be rented steps away from Fort Wayne Outfitters. This unique riverfront property is where three rivers converge. Kids will love Allen County's ten splash pads and three public pools. All in all, Fort Wayne has 120 miles of trails and 87 parks, so outdoors is a way of life there.

## WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

Fort Wayne is chock full of excellent restaurants. The Massaman Curries are flavorful and rich at Nawa, as are the Italian favorites (especially the Polpetta- house-made meatballs) at Casa Ristoranti and creative pizza combinations (the Greeen Slice is fantastic!) at 816 Pint & Slice.



Rise 'n' Roll sausage roll, Photo by Melody Pittman.

Breakfast is delightful at Dash In, where the Avocado Toast is fresh and yummy, or Rise 'N Roll for the unique sausage roll or mouth-watering doughnuts. Proximo is top-notch where the Carnita Benedict, Chilaquiles, and French Toast with macerated berries all tie for over-the-top breakfast plates.

Two of Fort Wayne's most impressive restaurants

are Tolon (those duck-fat fries!) and The Hoppy Gnome (Kimchi Chicken Fingers are supreme). Both feature farm-to-table and local ingredients along with chef-inspired culinary delights. Save room for dessert; they are worth splurging on. Other dessert suggestions in Fort Wayne include dipped cones at Zesto Ice Cream and handmade truffles, cookies, and chocolates at DeBrand Fine



Short rib gnocchi junk Ditch Brewing company, Photo by Melody Pittman.

Chocolates.

Drop by one of Fort Wayne's impressive breweries for great craft beer and delicious food, including the Chuck Roast Gnocchi from Junk Ditch



Hop River Brewing, Photo by Melody Pittman.

Brewing Company and Caramelized Onion Dip with Veggies from Hop River Brewing Company.

## WHERE TO STAY

There are hotels to fit every budget and location in Fort Wayne. The Hampton Inn & Suites FW Downtown affords ballpark views and is within walking distance to downtown. A complimentary breakfast is included, and they have a rooftop bar. The Hilton Fort Wayne, also a conference center, is my pick for a luxury hotel, even within walking distance to downtown. They feature a hotel shuttle with a reservation and have a Starbucks on the property.

Opening this month is The Bradley, Fort Wayne's premier accommodations and brainchild of Barbara Baekgaard, co-founder of the iconic Vera Bradley brand. This 124-room boutique property is sure to be a sell-out due to its popularity and location near the riverfront.

## UNCOVERING AN INDIANA GEM

Fort Wayne is an exceptional city that will be a

Article by Melody Pittman of [www.wheneverimayroamblog.com](http://www.wheneverimayroamblog.com)



# ATTENTION

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