



Volume 4, Issue 1

105 Sumter Ave. Summerville, SC 29483

January, 2026



**Next Meeting:**  
**Wednesday, January 7,**  
**6:30 pm.**

**Come Early and have a  
bite to eat with us!**

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*The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.*

# Summerville Post 21



Position	Officer
Commander	Ken Thompson
First Vice Commander	Kim Shultz
Second Vice Commander	Bill Schmitz
Finance Officer	Brian Ponder
Chaplain	Karl Naugle
Sergeant at Arms	Bill Dutour
Historian	Dave Corvino
Post Adjutant	Bob Ticknor
Judge Advocate	Steve Smith
Webmaster	Ken Thompson



**Post Website:** <https://summervillepost21.org/>

## American Legion Post 21 - Clarence A. Dunning - Summerville, SC

Empowering heroes through community  
and resources.

JOIN US

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS





## ***January Events in Charleston***

As we bid farewell to the holiday season, January unfolds with a variety of exciting events and cultural delights in this historic Southern city. From lively festivals to spectacular shows, Charleston emerges as a hub of activity, inviting locals and visitors alike to immerse themselves in the unique charm and rich heritage of this coastal gem. Join us as we explore the diversity of experiences that await in Charleston this January, promising a month filled with unforgettable moments and the warm hospitality that defines this captivating city.



### **Charleston Museum—Museum Mile Month**

**When:** January 1-31, 2026

**Where:** A one-mile section of Meeting Street

During January, you can enjoy access to participating Museum Mile sites with the purchase of one low ticket price! Museum Mile is a one-mile section of Meeting Street where you will find six museums, four parks, a Revolutionary War powder magazine, and an array of historic churches and public buildings. Adult tickets are \$35 and children's are \$10 for 13 different sites. This is an affordable way to learn about Charleston's rich history and culture! Check out our Museum Mile Blog Post for more details. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)



### **Patriots Point—Pay What you Can Day**

**When:** January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026

**Where:** Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

On January 3, 10, 17, and 24, visitors to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum can pay any amount they choose for standard admission, making the museum accessible to all. Admission includes access to the USS Yorktown, USS Laffey, and the Vietnam Experience. Tickets for "Pay What You Can" must be purchased at the ticket booth.

***Continued on next page.....***

# ***January Events in Charleston***



## ***2nd Sunday on King Street***

When: Sunday, January 11, 2026 | 12-5 pm

Where: King Street from Queen to Calhoun Street

Every second Sunday of the month from noon until 5 pm, the City of Charleston shuts down King Street from Queen to Calhoun to through traffic. In addition, no cars are allowed to park, giving pedestrians the ability to stroll through the street and visit businesses they might not have known about. There are also artists displaying their work on the street and unique food vendors tempting guests with their fare.



## ***Taste of Folly***

When: January 24, 2026

Where: Folly Beach | Center Street, Folly Beach

Center Street comes alive for “Savory Saturday,” featuring Folly’s top dishes, live chef demos, and fun competitions like the Hot Dog Eating Contest, Oyster Shucking, and the “One Pot Showdown.” Enjoy live music, 50+ vendors, and a kid-friendly area for a day packed with food, fun, and local flavor.



## ***Garden Lights at Middleton Place***

When: January 29–February 26, 2026

Where: Middleton Place | 4300 Ashley River Rd., Charleston

On select evenings from January 29–February 16, explore the gardens after dark as colorful light installations illuminate America’s Oldest Landscaped Gardens—perfectly timed with peak camellia season. Stroll glowing pathways, wander through creatively lit garden rooms, and take in highlights like the Camellia Allée and the Sundial Garden overlooking the Ashley River. It’s a rare chance to experience Middleton Place’s history, beauty, and Lowcountry landscape in a completely new way.

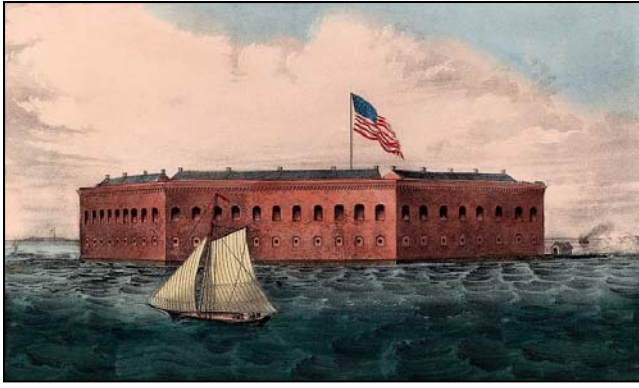


## ***Synthetic Skating on the Point***

When: Through January 19

Where: Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina, Mt. Pleasant

Head over to the Charleston Harbor Resort & Marina for one of the coolest events of the winter season—outdoor ice skating in Charleston! Along with the outdoor ice rink, you can rent igloos and fire pit experiences for \$25/hour. There are also s’mores, hot cocoa, and beer. The kids will enjoy the jump castles and games. \$12 for a 50-minute skate. Reservations are required



# History Lives Here

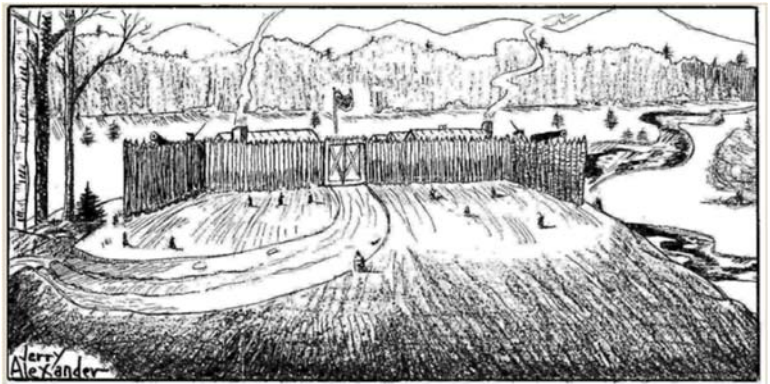
## Fort Rutledge

Fort Rutledge was located on present day Clemson University and overlooked the Seneca River-now Lake Hartwell. The fort was erected in 1776 by Patriot troops under the command of General Andrew Williamson. He was battling Cherokee allied with the British. Esseneca Town, located along the Seneca River, was a Cherokee "Lower Town." On August 1, 1776, Major Andrew Williamson's South Carolina militia, on a raid against these towns, was ambushed by



Loyalists and Cherokees. In that fateful conflict, Francis Salvador became the first Jewish American to be killed in the Revolution. In September 1776, soon after the Battle of Tamasee in present day Oconee County, Williamson returned to build a log fort. Williamson at Esseneca encamped with a force of 2,300 and left 300 men garrisoned at Fort Rutledge during his three month campaign against the Cherokee nation. In 1780, Fort Rutledge and its 300 men surrendered to Loyalists. The exact location of the Fort is unknown. Some say it is under the waters of

Lake Hartwell. Others argue that it is where Tillman Hall now stands. The drive to the fort is especially beautiful. The road crosses a dyke over



Erected in 1776 by Patriot Troops, Fort Rutledge was named for John Rutledge, President of the colony of South Carolina.

the lake and features a clear view of the waters and shoreline of Oconee County in the distance. It was this fort that provided John C. Calhoun the



The above diorama depicts the Battle of Esseneca Town where then Captain, future General, Andrew Pickens was among the soldiers.

inspiration to name his nearby plantation Fort Hill. It was named after John Rutledge, a

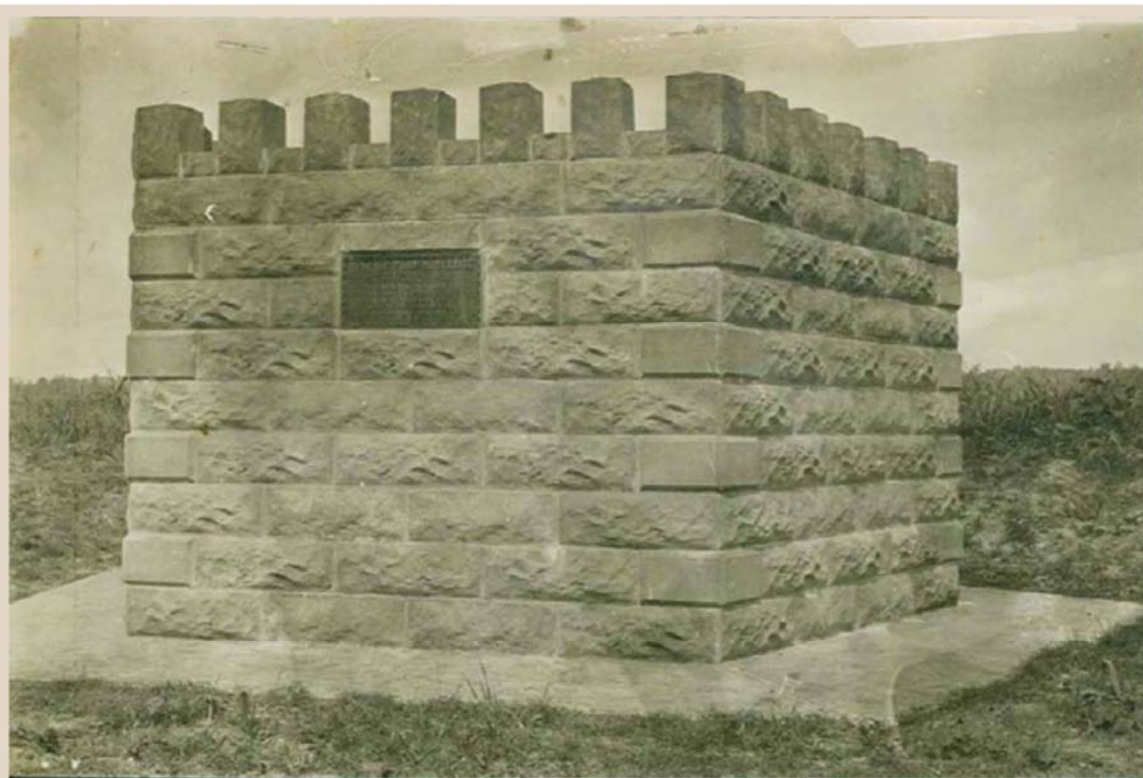
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statesman from South Carolina. He served as the state's president (governor) from 1776 to 1778 and again from 1779 to 1782, and was a signer of the U.S. Constitution. He was also one of the first Associate Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court under George Washington.



The replication of the fort and the placement of the marker by the Daughters of the American Revolution established this site as a destination for military enthusiasts.



The marker, placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1908, is maintained today by Clemson Historic Properties and looks similar to a rook on a chess set.

# Around Town in Summerville





# Did You Know?

## Balloon Bombs Aimed to be the Silent Assassins of World War II

During World War II, Japan launched over 9,000 hydrogen-filled balloon bombs, known as “Fu-Go,” across the Pacific, aiming to reach North America. These balloons carried incendiary devices intended to start forest fires and cause panic. While some reached the U.S., their impact was minimal, and they failed to alter the war’s course. The only fatalities occurred on May 5, 1945, near Bly, Oregon, when six civilians were killed by one of the bombs.



Hitching a ride on a jet stream, these weapons from Japan could float soundlessly across the Pacific Ocean to their marks in North America. Still largely unknown, these armaments were a byproduct of an atmospheric experiment by the Axis power. In the 1940s, the Japanese were

mapping out air currents by launching balloons attached with measuring instruments from the western side of Japan and picking them up on the eastern side. The researchers noticed that a strong air current traveled across the Pacific at about 30,000 feet. Using that knowledge, in 1944 the Japanese military made what many experts consider the first intercontinental weapon system: explosive devices attached to paper balloons that were buoyed across the ocean by a jet stream. Experts estimate it took between 30 and 60 hours for a balloon bomb to reach North America's West Coast. Atmospheric uncertainty made for an uncontrolled attack. "An awful lot of this was just 'put them up there and see what happens,' " said Dave Tewksbury, a member of the geosciences department at Hamilton College, New York. But the lack of a governed outcome was tempered by the fact that no Japanese troops were at risk. When the balloons made landfall, there were no obvious clues as to where they originated. But forensic geology, then in its infancy, was able to pinpoint Japan as the point of launch. When Col. Sigmund Poole, head of the U.S. Geological Survey military geology unit at the time, was given sand from one of the balloon's ballast bags, he is alleged to have asked, "Where'd the damn sand come from?" His team of geologists knew it wasn't a type of sand found in North America or Hawaii. "Japan was a logical guess," said Tewksbury. The sand was unique enough to

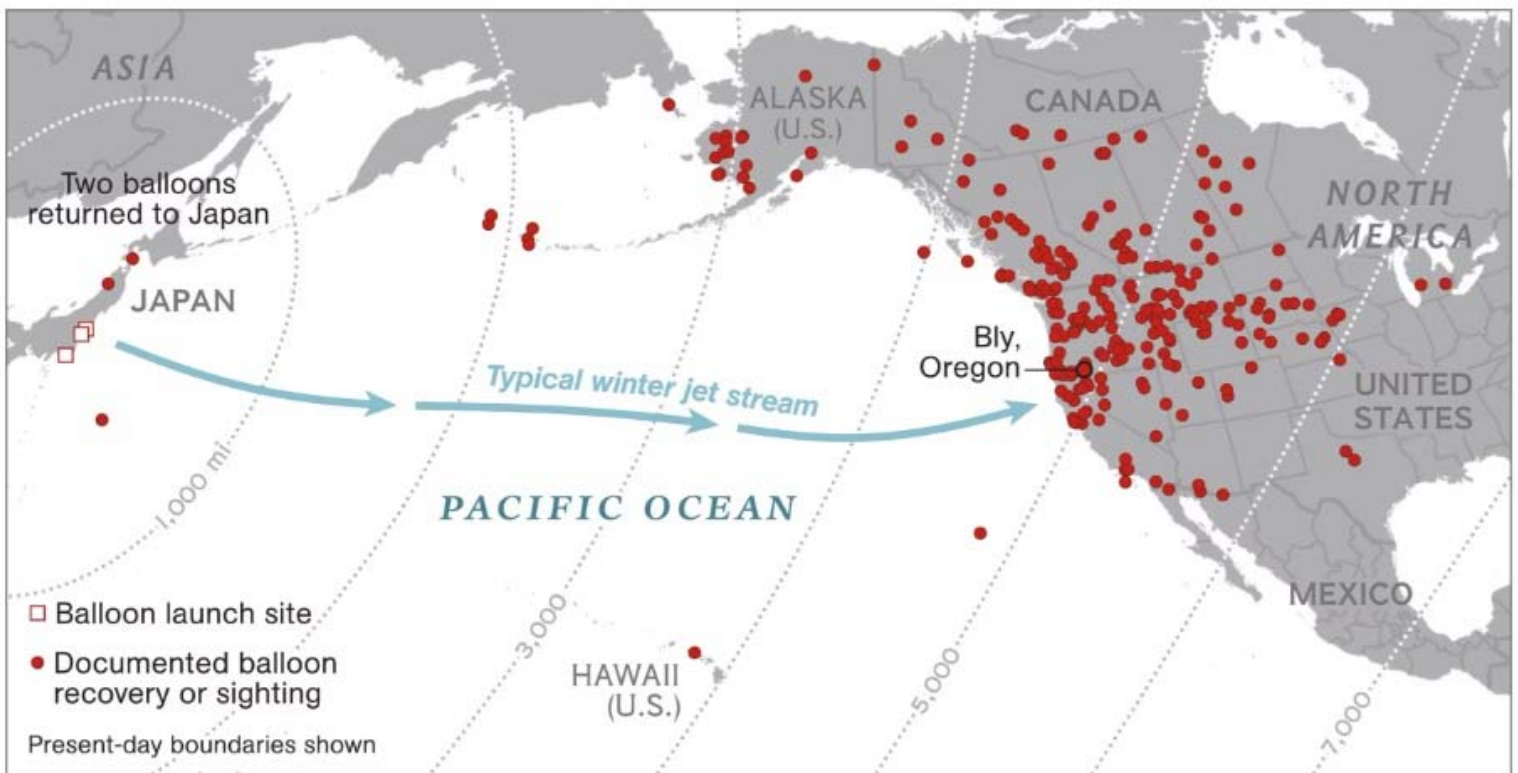
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# Japan's Secret WWII Weapon: Balloon Bombs

The Japanese harnessed air currents to create the first intercontinental weapons—balloons.

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narrow the source down to two areas on the island of Honshu. "Most likely it had been coming from a small chunk of beach east of Tokyo," he added. The first balloon was launched on November 3, 1944. Between then and April 1945, experts estimate about 1,000 of them reached North America; 284 are documented as sighted or found, many as fragments. Records uncovered in Japan after the war indicate that about 9,000 were launched. The Japanese government withdrew funding for the program around the same time that Allied forces blew up Japanese hydrogen plants, making the commodity needed to fill the balloons scarcer than ever. Plus it was unclear whether the weapons were working; security was so good on the U.S. side that news of the balloon bombs' arrival never got back to Japan. The downside to such secrecy was that American citizens didn't know what these weapons were. As a result, a single one achieved its goal. On May 5, 1945, five children and local pastor Archie Mitchell's pregnant wife Elsie were killed as they played with the large paper balloon they'd spotted during a Sunday outing in the woods near Bly, Oregon—the only enemy-inflicted casualties on the U.S. mainland in the whole of World War II.



! Balloon bombs launched from Japan were intended for the United States—many hit their mark.

MAP BY JEROME N. COOKSON, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC; SOURCE: DAVE TEWKSBURY, HAMILTON COLLEGE

Information courtesy of National Geographic, Johnna Rizzo.



# Arcade Theater

"The Arcade Theatre" was Summerville's first movie theater built around 1925 when motion pictures were viewed without sound tracks. At that time, live piano and violin music in the theater added to the drama of the moment. Sydney Legendre, an entrepreneur from New Orleans, purchased and renovated the theater in 1935. His wife was Gertrude Legendre of Aiken and New York. She was a world traveler and big-game hunter. The two had purchased and often resided at Medway Plantation in Berkeley County. The stuffed heads of Gertie's safari trophies graced the walls of the theater as the talkies entertained the locals into the 1970s.



The triple-arched facade housed a long, arcade walkway that led to a 250-seat capacity building where silent films complete with violin and piano accompaniment were viewed.

The Arcade is no longer with us, but we do have the James F. Dean Theater, also located across from Town Square.





# Backpack Buddies

We supply Summerville Elementary with food for children that might not otherwise have food over each weekend. This program feeds 36 children from Summerville Elementary. Please bring the following items to the Post meeting each month, or bring cash to donate.

**Breakfast:** Packages of instant grits  
Packages of instant oatmeal  
Mini-muffins (Little Bites)  
Small individual boxes of cereal  
Breakfast bars (such as NutriGrain bars)

**Drinks:**  
Sunny D (individual bottles)  
Orange juice (individual bottles)  
Horizon Organic Milk (not refrigerated, individual servings of plain, vanilla or chocolate)  
Capri Sun juices  
Juice boxes of any flavor  
Yahoo chocolate milk in boxes or cans  
Nesquik Chocolate drink (individual bottles)

**Entrees:**  
Beanie Weanies (small cans that can be microwaved)  
Chef Boyardee meals in cans (with pop tops)  
Individual boxes of tuna and crackers or chicken and crackers  
Vienna sausages  
Hormel Compleat meals (individual meals, available in packages of 3 at Walmart)  
Macaroni and cheese (individual servings that you can microwave)

**Snacks:**  
Applesauce in individual cans/plastic containers  
Cheez-its (individual bags)  
Rice Krispie treats  
Pirate booty (individual bags)  
Cheese or peanut butter crackers  
Boxes of raisins  
Popcorn (individual servings)  
Chocolate pudding cups  
Buddy Fruits (these look like drinks but they are fruit snacks)  
Little Debbie oatmeal cakes  
Pringles chips in individual containers

We try to put an apple or orange in the bags at least once a month, so a bag of fruit is also welcomed.



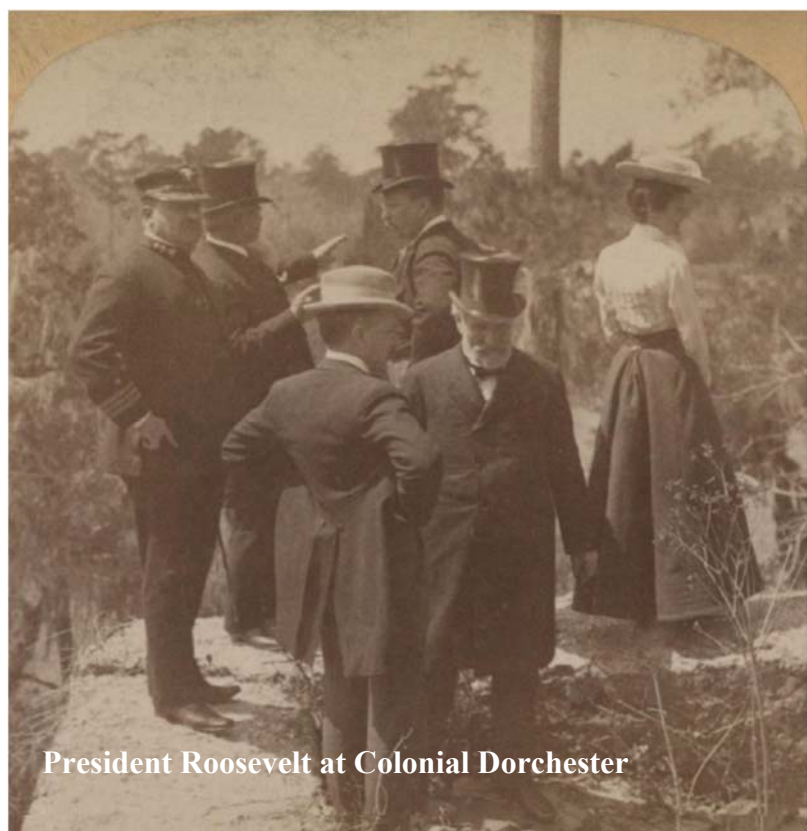
Dorchester Village



Dorchester County Hospital, Summerville, South Carolina



Cottage at Pinehurst Tea Farm, Summerville, S. C.



President Roosevelt at Colonial Dorchester



Pinehurst Tea Farm School



The Old White Meeting House

# THIRD THURSDAYS

 5:30p-8:30p (unless otherwise listed)

EVERY Third Thursday of the Month

 Hutchinson Square, W. Richardson &  
Short Central



- EVERY Third Thursday of the month
- 5:30 PM-8:30 PM – Rain or shine (unless otherwise listed)
- Hutchinson Square, W. Richardson & Short Central

On the third Thursday of each month, Historic Downtown Summerville transforms into a special marketplace featuring local entertainment, craft vendors and artisans, to complement the extended hours of our eclectic shops, boutiques and restaurants.

Third Thursday traffic is rerouted from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM from the following streets; Little Main Street, W Richardson to Central (closed for traffic). There is plenty of FREE parking throughout the downtown including the town garage behind Town Hall.



# ***Dorchester County Veterans Affairs***



## **Summerville**

500 N. Main St.  
Summerville, SC 29483

Please use the Main St.  
Entrance.

### **Office Hours:**

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Monday - Friday

Phone: (843) 832-0050

The Dorchester County Veterans Affairs Office assists veterans and their families who reside in Dorchester County in all matters that pertain to veterans and Veteran Benefits. You can contact the Veterans Affairs office at (843) 832-0050 to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment.

The Veterans Affairs office assists all ex-service personnel with financial compensation claims including but not limited to:

- Hospitalization
- Training
- Insurance Benefits

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of ex-service personnel.

If you need support for a specific mental health problem - or if you're having problems sleeping, controlling your anger, or readjusting to civilian life - you are not alone. You don't need to be enrolled in VA health care to get care. To access free VA mental health services right away:

- Call or walk-in to any VA Medical Center - anytime, day or night
- Call or walk-in to any Vet Center during clinic hours

If you have questions about enrolling in VA health care, please contact the VA via phone at 1-877-222-VETS (1-877-222-8387) Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST. Veterans with hearing loss are asked to use the TTY phone number 1-800-877-8339.

Newly separated service members can expect three calls from qualified VA Solid Start representatives over the first year of separation. VA will attempt to contact you several times around 90, 180 and 365 days post-separation, so make sure your contact information is up to date in eBenefits.

VA Solid Start representatives will not ask you for financial information and will only discuss topics you are comfortable with. Remember that phone scammers often target Veterans, so always be vigilant and protect your financial information when talking to someone you don't know over the phone.

For questions about VA Solid Start, call 1-800-827-0611, Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST.

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## **St. George**

201 Johnston Street  
St. George, SC 29477

The St. George office is  
located on the Raysor St.  
side of the building, behind  
DSS.

### **Office Hours:**

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Tuesday

Phone: (843) 563-0116

## **VA Clinics**

### **Trident VA Clinic**

9237 University Boulevard  
North Charleston, SC 29406-8908  
Phone: 843-574-1010

### **North Charleston VA Clinic**

6450 Rivers Avenue  
North Charleston, SC 29406-4882  
Phone: 843-818-5100

### **Charleston VA Clinic**

2424 City Hall Lane  
Community Resource & Referral Center  
Suite B  
North Charleston, SC 29406-6538  
Phone: 843-789-6804  
Mental health: 843-577-5011

### **Goose Creek VA Clinic**

2418 NNPTC Circle  
Goose Creek, SC 29445-6314  
Phone: 843-818-6999, ext. 343100  
Mental health: 843-577-5011

### **Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

109 Bee Street  
Charleston, SC 29401-5799  
Phone: 843-577-5011

### **Beaufort VA Clinic**

1 Pinckney Boulevard  
Beaufort, SC 29902-6122  
Phone: 843-770-0444

