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'Violence is not the answer'

Calls for peace, calm, open dialogue in the midst of Ferguson decision

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
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The Rev. Paul Bush, the president of the Concerned Ministers Fellowship group, urged residents to remain peaceful and calm in the wake of the Ferguson, Missouri, grand jury announcement.

"That is our position, the position we have been trying to take for the

last three years," Bush said. "Regardless of what's going on around the world, even in Aiken, whether it's not right, or unjust and whatever the case might be, there are more diplomatic ways to protest; violence is not the answer."

Late Monday, St. Louis Prosecutor

Bob McCulloch announced the grand jury would not indict police officer Darren Wilson in the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

In several communities across the United States, people of every race and age stood in protest, either supporting or distancing themselves from the grand jury decision.

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AP PHOTO/DAVID GOLDMAN

Demonstrators block a busy intersection while marching through the streets to protest the August shooting of Michael Brown on Sunday in St. Louis.

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

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Special section inside

Shop local on Small Business Saturday

Special section inside



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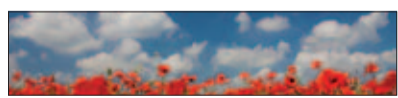
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Bringing touch of big city to Aiken

New York-style lofts coming to downtown

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Det and Lyanne Haislip are bringing a little bit of the big city way of life to downtown Aiken.

Their renovation effort that is creating four New York-style loft apartments above their family business, True Value Hardware and Appliances, is nearing completion.

"It's been quite a financial commitment, but we're glad that we've done it," Lyanne said. "The building needed some attention anyway, and we've increased its property value. We're also optimistic that this project will pay for itself within a few years, so it's a win-win situation."

The two-story brick structure on



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Det Haislip, left, and Lyanne Haislip check on the progress of the work being done to divide the second floor of the building they own in downtown Aiken into four New York-style loft apartments. Their True Value Hardware and Appliances store is on the first floor.

Laurens Street was built in 1888. Lyanne's parents, Bill and Dody Franklin, bought it in 1974, and the Haislips now own building, which has 7,500 square feet of space on each of its floors.

Last year, Det and Lyanne won a Preservation Award from the His-

toric Aiken Foundation after giving the structure's facade a major facelift. They added two wrought-iron balconies with kiln-dried hardwood floors and made other improvements.

Then, this past June, the work began in earnest on dividing the build-

ing's top story into apartments.

"Once there was a 'Toyland' upstairs, but that was taken away by the big box stores that came in, so we were using it for storage," Lyanne said.

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Officials urge safety with holiday cooking

MORE INSIDE

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Thanksgiving travel woes? There's an app for that, 10A

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Many people will be firing up their stoves, ovens and fryers today to start cooking their Thanksgiving dinners, but the Aiken Department of Public Safety has a few things to keep in mind to keep dinner – and your home – from going up in flames.

"Thanksgiving is when we have more kitchen fires than anything," said Capt. Brian Brazier, a spokesman for Aiken Public Safety. "Most of it is unattended cooking.

They put something on and get involved with family or doing other things and forget what they have in the kitchen."

While cooking in the kitchen, Brazier said the most important thing to remember is to not leave cooking items unattended. This includes turning the handles of pots on the stove around so small children can't reach them.

If children will be around, make sure they stay at least 3 feet away from the oven and stove, and keep knives, matches and lighters out of reach of children.

State Farm Insurance urges cooks to keep a lid nearby when cooking, to smother small grease fires. If you have a fire, get everyone out and call 911. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.

Brazier said incidents involving turkey fryers and hot grease typically spike around the country on Thanksgiving, and that one of the biggest hazards with fryers is the risk of burns from hot grease, especially from placing a frozen turkey into hot grease.

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FERGUSON

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In Ferguson, car windows were shattered, some cars and businesses engulfed in flames, gunshots could be heard and others taunted police. Police responded by releasing smoke and pepper spray to disperse the crowd, according to The Associated Press.

Moments before the grand jury decision, Bush released a statement through the Aiken Department of Public Safety.

"... We recognize that our communities are on edge, that we feel disenfranchised and even marginalized," the press release stated. "We recognize that all too often the lives of young black men seem to be devalued. We recognize that there are a disproportionate number of black men that are incarcerated. All of these facts are painful to our community. Nevertheless, violence is not the answer! For any community to confront law enforcement with violence can only expect the

same response in return. And for that we would certainly be on the losing end. The Concerned Ministers Fellowship prays that our community will remain peaceful and prayerful for the Brown family, the Ferguson community and our nation ..."

Before and after the grand jury announcement, Public Safety Chief Charles Barranco remained in close contact with Bush even as he attended the regular Aiken City Council meeting under way at the time. Barranco and some City Council members scrolled through Twitter, waiting for any kind of announcement as they took part in the Monday meeting.

Even South Carolina U.S. Sen. Tim Scott tweeted.

"All concerned abt Michael Brown's death&events in Ferguson must channel frustration, hurt&anger into productive ways to build our communities," Scott's tweet reads in the shorthand of Twitter.

After the meeting, Barranco and others watched a live stream of McCulloch's announcement on a laptop.

"I spent time reaching out to Paul Bush, the ladies at Boc and Associates, I'm waiting to hear back from the NAACP and I called other organizations, but I just wanted to put out there that we do have an open line of communication," Barranco said. "Although the numbers people read in the article in the *Aiken Standard* the other day, you look at those numbers and it could be shocking. We're here and open to talk about it, talk about it beyond the numbers."

Barranco is referring to an article published in Sunday's edition of *Aiken Standard*, titled "Aiken Standard examines local arrest rates."

A *USA Today* investigation looked at more than 3,500 police agencies in the country and found at least 1,500 of them – including the Aiken Department of Public Safety – arrest African-Americans at rates "even more skewed" than in Ferguson, where three times more blacks are arrested than whites.

Aiken Public Safety in 2012 arrested blacks at a rate of 184.3

per 1,000 residents, compared to 52.9 whites per 1,000 residents, according to the database compiled by *USA Today*. That statistic is fairly close to the rate of arrests reported in Ferguson – 186.1 African-Americans arrested per 1,000 residents, compared to 66 white arrests.

The *USA Today* story, in addition to the database, can be viewed at <http://usat.ly/1AxEmqL>.

Despite Ferguson's location in relation to Aiken, Barranco said, it can be easy to look at one segment and think what happened there can't happen in Aiken.

"But there is always that possibility that Ferguson could happen in Aiken," Barranco said. "Before August, who heard of Ferguson? Here, and historically in the City of Aiken and Public Safety, we've always tried to have a dialogue with the community. Not a one-way dialogue, but both ways. We are open to meet and address concerns; that's just who we are."

In the coming days, Bush said, he plans to issue a press release

calling for a march for justice.

"We want to have another march just to keep things peaceful," Bush said. "... The biggest thing to do wherever we find injustice is to go about the right way in fighting for justice. It's an old cliché, but two wrongs don't make a right. We must meet on a middle ground."

Barranco was supportive of the march Bush suggests.

"In the past, his stand for justice rallies, we've helped promote and put that on; we're happy to do that," Barranco said. "That's what we do. If there's a segment of the population that wants to have a conversation, we're happy to talk."

Maayan Schechter is the local government reporter with *Aiken Standard*.

LOFTS

CONTINUED from 1A

The Haislips, however, weren't happy with that situation, so they thought long and hard about how to turn the area back into an income producer.

Lyanne's late parents provided the inspiration.

"The Franklins had put an apartment in each of the properties that they owned on either side of the hardware store, so we had that road map to follow," Det said. "It allowed us to visualize what we would like upstairs."

The four apartments each will cover approximately 1,500 square feet. All will have two bedrooms, one-and-a-half baths and new, state-of-the-art appliances.

"There will be a lot of exposed brick, and we're refinishing the ash and heart-pine floors," Lyanne said. "We are making the kitchen islands from brick that came out of windows that were bricked up after a fire in the 1950s."

The Haislips plan to charge \$2,250 a month for rent, and that will include water, a parking space in a gated area behind the building and trash pickup.

"The price could go down if someone signed a lease for five years," Det said.

The target date for finishing the two apartments at the front of the building is Jan. 10. For the back two, it is Feb 10.

"There have been some trying times," Det said. "Getting the permits we needed was the biggest hurdle. It was a lengthy ordeal. But we've been really pleased with the wonderful and talented tradesmen and craftsmen who have been involved with us in this."

Det praised J.D. Cooper, of JDC Construction Management, architect Martin Buckley and the Delta Engineering Group for their contributions. He also had kind words for the plumbers, electricians and other laborers.

"They came in here whistling, singing and happy even when it was 100 degrees up there," Det said.

For Lyanne, the project is satisfying because it represents an approach to business recommended by her father and helps carry on his legacy.

"Daddy believed that if you increased the population density of downtown, you kept the downtown strong and true," she said. "He was a visionary, and he loved progress."

For more information about the apartments, call 803-443-9851 or 803-648-8542.

Dede Biles is a general assignment reporter for the *Aiken Standard*.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Lyanne Haislip, left, and Det Haislip check on the progress of the work being done to divide the second floor of the building they own in downtown Aiken into four New York-style loft apartments.

SAFETY

CONTINUED from 1A

The National Fire Protection Association urges people not to use fryers to cook turkeys, but instead seek out professional establishments.

Brazier said it's a good idea to double-check smoke detec-

tors in the home and kitchen, in addition to the stove's hood system.

"If you think you have a problem with your hood system, if you smell just the least bit of smoke and think there's a problem, call us early," he said.

Teddy Kulmala covers the crime and courts beat for the *Aiken Standard*.

Stores open on Thanksgiving Day

BY TEDDY KULMALA tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Forget that can of cranberry sauce or need an extra pumpkin pie? The following Aiken County stores will be open Thanksgiving Day:

- BI-LO on Pine Log Road, 5 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- BI-LO on York Street, 5 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- BI-LO on Jefferson Davis Highway in Warrenville, 5 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- BI-LO on Jefferson Davis Highway in Clearwater, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Kroger on Whiskey Road, 24 hours
- Wal-Mart on Whiskey Road, 24 hours
- Wal-Mart on Richland Avenue, 24 hours

- Food Lion on Silver Bluff Road, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Food Lion on Richland Avenue, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Walgreen's on Richland Avenue, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (pharmacy will be closed)
- Walgreen's on Whiskey Road, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (pharmacy will be closed)
- CVS on Whiskey Road, 24 hours
- CVS on Richland Avenue, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (pharmacy, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
- CVS on York Street, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (pharmacy, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- CVS on Belvedere Road in Beech Island, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (pharmacy, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- Target on Whiskey Road, 6 p.m. Thursday to 11 p.m. Friday

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