

The Roaring Eagle



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF CLOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Clover School District impact fee passes at \$8,000

BY EVAN FRINTER, CHS JUNIOR AND KELLY CLARK, ROARING EAGLE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

YORK COUNTY - York County Council approved an impact fee for Clover School District on Dec. 15, setting the amount at \$8,000 for single-family homes, with multi-family dwellings and manufactured homes assessed pro rata. The vote passed 6-1, though the amount fell short of the district's requested \$15,035.

The ordinance applies to the entire district after the Urban Service Boundary limitation was dropped due to legal concerns. The decision followed an executive session for legal advice and floor discussion that revealed deep divisions among council members.

How the Vote Unfolded

District 2 representative Andy Litten initially moved to approve the full \$15,035 amount for the entire district, with a second from District 6 representative Watts Huckabee. However, District 4 representative William "Bump" Roddey proposed an amendment to reduce the fee to \$8,000, which District 7 representative Deb Cloninger seconded.

Litten acknowledged the difficult position, stating he truly believes the district has done its due diligence and should receive the full

amount. However, he recognized the support wasn't there and that a reduced fee was better than nothing.

District 1 representative Tom Audette moved to defer the vote until Jan. 20, hoping to revive the Urban Service Boundary solution, but that motion failed. District 3 representative Tommy Adkins said he would support \$8,000 even though he disagrees with impact fees in principle, citing concerns about families paying for schools they won't attend.

Huckabee argued the district met all legal requirements and deserved the full amount, stating the criteria were clearly spelled out in state law. Chairwoman Christi Cox cast the lone dissenting vote, expressing disappointment that the district and the council could not work together to find a better solution.

Arguments That Shaped the Debate

Leading up to the vote, Litten and Huckabee emphasized that growth should pay for growth. Litten explained: "If my family expands and I need a couple of additional rooms, I don't go to all my neighbors and ask them, 'Hey, give me money so that I can add them to my house.' I have to fund the whole thing."

Both representatives argued that existing homes are already accounted for in the school system's capacity, so current residents shouldn't pay for infrastructure necessitated by new growth. Huckabee stated, "I don't think it's our job as council members to make that determination," regarding specific district expenditures. "I think we're in the weeds a little too much, quite frankly."

Litten reported receiving 90% positive community feedback supporting the fee. During the public hearing, many citizens and school officials argued the full fee was necessary to adequately fund school facilities.

Opposition Concerns

Roddey maintained his opposition throughout, arguing it's unfair for people to pay impact fees for schools their children won't attend. He also cited concerns about median income differences between Clover and Fort Mill, and accused the school district of providing unclear or contradictory information.

Several council members raised concerns about housing affordability, worrying that adding thousands of dollars to new home costs makes housing less accessible for working families.

Some also voiced concerns about long-standing residents paying fees when building on family land.

Regarding alternative funding through increased taxes, Litten explained: "If we raise taxes, we push people that live here and may not be able to move, may not have the means to move, or may not want to move. We're going to force them out of their houses by raising taxes. People that are moving in, they can make a choice."

What This Means

The \$8,000 impact fee will help fund growth-related infrastructure for Clover School District over the next five years, though it falls significantly short of what planning studies recommended and what the district requested.

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Setting the standard: Clover's fall programs finish a breakout season

BY RYAN SCONZO, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C.- Cross Country

This year was historic for Clover cross country, with the girls winning the 5A State Championship and the boys earning their second-highest finish ever at 7th. The team's greatest growth came in overcoming adversity, from weather to injuries to being underestimated.

Standout postseason performances included Alex Bohlen and Aidan Miller on the boys' side, and Ella Nighbor leading the way and Scarlett Verdino-Jenkins stepping up as the girls' crucial fifth runner at State. The biggest challenge all season was proving doubters wrong, but the team's belief and work ethic guided them through.

Seniors across both squads set the tone with leadership and commitment. Looking ahead, the boys aim to continue chasing a championship title, while the girls plan to defend their crown.

When Coach Clark was asked for a final word on the season, he wanted this to be heard. "To our athletes, I am so unbelievably proud of all of you. You have worked so hard and have put this program on the map. For our future athletes, look to these incredible kids as role models and follow in their footsteps. To everyone else, take notice, we're here."

Cheer

Clover Cheer wrapped up an impressive season, highlighted by two first-place finishes, perfect routines at both State Qualifiers and State, and a strong 5th-place statewide finish. The team's biggest growth came in

seamlessly and helped keep the group moving forward. The season revealed a team that refused to quit and embraced the motto "never give up," setting a strong example for future athletes and raising the bar for future Clover Cheer Squads.

most improvement, allowing them to elevate their level of play. Their biggest highlight came at the Byrnes Spikefest tournament, where they battled back multiple times to win both the semifinal and championship matches.

All-region standouts Jantzen Swann, Alejandro Gutierrez, and Ben Dolby led the way, while players like Kaden Odoms and newcomer Asher Reiss made major strides. Early communication issues were a challenge, but trust and clarity improved steadily. With goals reached—including hosting and winning a playoff game—the program now looks ahead to chasing a region title and competing for a state championship.

Swimming

Coming off one of the most successful seasons in program history, the Clover swim team continued to build momentum this year. The girls finished second in the state, and the boys earned sixth, marking a historic run that set a new standard for the program. Led by Region 3 5-A Coach of the Year

Olivia May and her staff, the team carried that energy into the final stretch of the season. With strong performances in the water and a culture shaped by teamwork and enthusiasm, Clover Swim once again showed why it remains one of the school's most consistent and competitive programs.



their perseverance, pushing through every challenge and showing up ready to work each day. Captains Luke Friend and Sloan Hardwick were key leaders, stepping up with positivity and dependability throughout the season. Despite dealing with multiple injuries, the team relied on alternates who filled roles

Boys' Volleyball

Coach William Plyler led the Boys' Volleyball team, and despite having one of its most successful campaigns in organization history, he saw more success in the building of the program and growth in participation rather than on-court performance. The team's serve receive saw the

Setting the standard: Clover's fall programs finish a breakout season cont.

BY RYAN SCONZO, CHS SENIOR

Football

The Clover Blue Eagles' football season was defined by ongoing themes of effort and growth all season long. Despite finishing with a record of 6-6 in the regular season and a first-round exit, the team showed steady improvement each week and proved they could compete with anyone on their schedule. The Blue Eagles had 3 losses by a combined 3 points, showing how competitive they were all season long.

While losing key seniors this off-season is never something to look forward to in a locker room, the Blue Eagles have a promising future of returners for the 2026 season, such as Aaron Shealy, Najee Potts, Grady Stone, and Jack-

son Hill. The 2025 season didn't end the way the Blue Eagles hoped, but the future is clearly soaring upward.

Girls' Golf

Clover girls' golf had a season to remember, as the team competed at a higher level and grew in confidence every week. Their progress showed in key moments, including shooting under 200 twice.

Seniors Clara Dover and Ada Fronczkiewicz set the tone with strong leadership, while junior Meli Reinhold delivered important scores in the second half of the year.

Sophomores Reagan Lincoln, Ava Schmaldinst, and Stephanie Graves helped strengthen the core group, and freshman Eden Simonds stood out as an individual

state qualifier. Contributions from every athlete, the team's work ethic, chemistry, and genuine love for one another defined the season.

Girls' Tennis

The Clover girls' tennis team wrapped up the season with major growth in confidence, skill, and teamwork. Coach Allison Gainey said the girls "improved a lot on skill level but also learned how to work together as a team," explaining that they learned to balance their strengths and support each other on the court. A big focus this year was mentality, and Gainey said she saw "a big improvement from them emotionally."

Their physical play also developed as the season went

on, with Gainey adding that their shots now have "more power behind them." Despite facing stronger opponents, the girls stayed positive and earned their spot at regionals through determination and teamwork.

Girls' Volleyball

The Clover girls' volleyball team battled through a competitive schedule, finishing 12-20 overall and 6-6 in region play.

The Blue Eagles earned a place in the 5A Division I State Championships and put together a strong run before being swept 3-0 by Boiling Springs. Despite the tough ending, the team showed resilience and a drive to compete at a high level all season.

Laying the foundation: Clover winter athletics look ahead to a big season

BY RYAN SCONZO, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. -

Girls' Basketball

The Clover girls' basketball team isn't off to as fast a start as they had hoped, but is looking to climb back and keep improving over the course of this season while playing in a rough division.

With 7 returning seniors, something this team doesn't lack is experience, and head coach Shakkia Walker knows that and has belief in her squad. "We're looking for them to be great leaders and be impactful", Walker said while referring to her returning seniors. To turn things around, the team will need to stick to the way they pride themselves in playing, a hard-nosed defensive play style.

"Defense. Defense turns into offense. If we can execute our defense correctly, we can turn that into points. And also just talking, communicating. That's a big thing for us on the court." Walker knows her team's identity, and the team knows they need to follow it to win key region games this season.

Boys' Basketball

Preseason preparation has been strong for the Clover boys' basketball team, with the men working hard and competing well in practice. The expectation this year is simple: "focus on being the best version of themselves each day." Key returners such as Jayden Parks, Ashtin Feemster, Rico Hickman,

Mason Nighbor, and Carson Pinti are stepping into larger roles, while several newcomers are already showing they can contribute.

When asked about a team identity, Coach Darris Jackson stated, "We spend a lot of time working on defense. We want to take pride in getting stops this season." This mentality is looking to lead to a promising season for fans to experience. Jackson and his team noted that not one match means more than another, showing that all the team is looking forward to is stacking wins.

Wrestling

The Clover wrestling team is building early-season momentum, backed by

a deep roster and strong offseason preparation. With experienced senior leaders and many returning state qualifiers, the group has high expectations for itself as the schedule intensifies in a tough division.

Coach Michael Fitzgerald believes the team's mindset is what will push them forward, saying, "At the end of the day, we want our guys to be better than they were the day before." Built on constant improvement, Clover is focused on sharpening technique, finishing matches, and staying prepared for the late-season push as they chase an even further postseason run.

Clover, Lake Wylie businesses dominate Best of York County 2025 awards

BY KAYA SPENCER, CHS SENIOR
PHOTOS FROM BUSINESS WEBSITES

CLOVER AND LAKE WYLIE, S.C. - The Best of York County is an annual event run by the Post and Courier where awards are given to businesses, people and places that stand out in the community. Winners are chosen through public voting, giving local residents the chance to recognize restaurants, stores and services they believe are doing exceptional work. It's a way to highlight local success and celebrate the hard work happening throughout York County.

Voters from across the county cast their ballots in dozens of categories, and in the Clover and Lake Wylie communities, several local businesses and individuals stood out as winners. These area winners represented the diversity of what makes this part of York County special.

Dominating Multiple Categories

Two restaurants emerged as standout winners across multiple categories. The Cattle Car took home an impressive 13 awards, including Best Bloody Mary, Best Cocktail Program, Best French Fries, Best Fried Chicken, Best Gluten Free Restaurant, Best Hamburger, Best Veggie Burger, Best Kid-Friendly Restaurant, Best New Restaurant, Best Salad, Best Service, Best Take Out Food and Best Wings.

Clover Harvest also had a strong showing with six wins: Best Brunch, Best Charcuterie Board, Best Farm-to-Table



The Cattle Car took home 13 awards this year.

Restaurant, Best Grits, Best Place to Dine Outdoors, Best Shrimp and Grits and Best Vegetarian.

Food and Drink Scene

The Clover and Lake Wylie area's diverse dining scene was well represented. Cherry

to See Live Music, and also earned recognition for Best Ribs.

For breakfast lovers, Crossroads Cafe at McGill's won Best Breakfast. Rey Azteca took home awards for Best Burrito and Best

Soul Food Restaurant and Best Southern Restaurant. Eagle's Nest earned recognition for Best Hot Dog and Best Sweet Tea.

In the bakery and specialty categories, KB Cakes Bakery won Best Dessert and Best Bakery. It's Worth It by Lynsey Comlander took Best Catering and Best Chef. Parkin' Latte won Best Coffee, and barista Brianna Harris was named Best Barista.



Lake Wylie Brewing had two wins.

Entertainment and Nightlife

Lake Wylie Brewing Company won Best Bar Trivia and shared the Best Craft Beer Selection award with The Vault. Lake Wylie Pins N' Wins, formerly Lake Wylie Bowl N' Bounce, earned two awards: Best Place to Celebrate a Birthday and Best Recording Studio.

Adagio School of Dance was named Best Dance Studio or Company, and John C Riley won Best Local Band.

Health, Wellness and Personal Services

In the health and wellness categories, CSD Community



Clover Harvest earned a total of 6 awards this year.

won Best Asian Restaurant and Best Japanese Restaurant. Courtney's BBQ claimed Best Barbecue and Best Bar

Mexican Restaurant. Chinese Kitchen of Clover was named Best Chinese Restaurant, while Clover Station won Best

cont. on Best of York, pg. 5

Clover community honors local heroes at annual luncheon

BY EVAN FRINTNER, CHS JUNIOR, AND LILY WALLACE, CHS SENIOR, MANAGING EDITOR
PHOTOS FROM LILY WALLACE AND LILY BRODBECK

CLOVER, S.C. - On Nov. 6, the Clover community gathered to honor veterans and first responders at the annual Heroes Luncheon, hosted by the Clover Rotary Club and Clover High School Interact Club. The event brought together more than 100 attendees, including veterans, first responders, and community members, in a shared show of gratitude and respect.

Clover High School played a key role in the ceremony.

The CHS Interact Club were hosts, and the culinary program provided food for the luncheon, while the Clover Choraliers delivered a moving performance of the National Anthem. During the Anthem, veterans in attendance stood to salute, creating a powerful and emotional moment. The CHS AFJROTC also presented the flags, adding to the ceremony's sense of honor and tradition.



Local Clover first responders took part in the luncheon.

Guest speakers and community members shared heartfelt speeches, expressing appreciation for the service and sacrifices of local veterans and first responders. The luncheon served as a meaningful reminder of Clover's strong support for those who have dedicated themselves to protecting and serving others. A more in-depth article

featuring interviews with local veterans and first responders, sharing their personal stories and experiences, will be published soon.



Veterans from all branches were present.



Veterans who are no longer with us were honored with posters.

Best of York Cont.

cont. from pg. 4

YMCA won Best Gym and Best After-School Program. Dance2Fit Remix took Best Fitness Studio, while Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy was named Best Physical Therapy Practice. Stepping Stones was voted Best Counselor or Therapist.

The Local Tattoo had a strong showing with Tyler Hall winning Best Tattoo Artist and the studio itself earning Best Tattoo Studio.

Shopping and Services

High Cotton Antiques of Clover won Best Antique Store, preserving history

and offering unique finds to collectors. Boyd's took home two awards: Best Appliance Store and Best Tire Dealer. Saltwater Markets won Best Butcher Shop.

In services, Holly Pursley Photography was named Best Photographer, and Family Trust Federal Credit Union won Best Mortgage Lender or Broker.

Media and Community

Local media personality Lucas McFadden had an impressive showing, winning both Best Anchorperson and Best Radio Personality. CN2 won Best Local TV News,

WRHI was named Best Radio Station and Chris Miller took Best Sportscaster.

Places to Live

The Lodges at Lake Wylie was named Best Apartment Community, offering quality housing options for area residents.

Community Impact

There were also plenty of finalists from the area who did a great job, but these winners really stood out to voters. People recognized their hard work, creativity and the positive impact they have on the community. Whether it's serving a great meal, provid-

ing essential services, creating entertainment or making the area more beautiful, each winner contributes to making Clover and Lake Wylie better places.

The Best of York County 2025 once again celebrated local talent, showing residents just how many outstanding places and people make the Clover and Lake Wylie communities great places to live, work and visit.

Clover High School receives Holocaust book donation

BY SCOTT AUSPELMYER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON THE HOLOCAUST, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

PHOTOS BY LILY WALLACE, CHS SENIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - Clover High School was chosen by the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust to receive \$500 worth of books related to the Holocaust for their school library. It is one of a select number of schools across the state that are chosen to participate in the SC Council on the Holocaust's Library Book Donation Initiative.

This initiative was created in 2024 to honor the 35th year of the existence of the South Carolina Council on the



Mrs. Brakefield, CHS Librarian and donation recipient, shows the collection's location.

books to schools across the state as part of this initiative.

Scott Auspelmyer, the Executive Director of the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, states, "Our council felt that one valuable way we could contribute to Holocaust education in

mandate. It operates in collaborative partnership with the state legislature and the SC Department of Education to promote awareness about the Holocaust and to honor the survivors and concentration camp liberators who call South Carolina home. To this end, the Council supports teacher training programs, special events that discuss Holocaust history, human rights, and genocide, and annual Holocaust commemorations around the state.



Brakefield and Auspelmyer discuss the new collection.

Holocaust (SCCH) by awarding select schools across the state to receive a \$500 donation of books on the Holocaust. Each school chosen to participate in this program has demonstrated an interest in providing resources for their students to learn more about the Holocaust. Since 2024, the SCCH has awarded over \$20,000 in

our state is to get more books into the hands of the students at the schools that they attend. We have received great interest in this program and we are excited to work with school librarians throughout South Carolina to provide them with quality nonfiction texts to add to their holdings."

The South Carolina Council on the Holocaust was established in 1989 through a state legislative



A close-up view of part of the new collection.



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An 18th-Century Christmas comes to life

BY MACKENZIE GORBY, CHS SOPHOMORE

PHOTOS FROM ELISE WHITE, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

VALE, N.C. — In the quiet countryside of Vale, NC, Hart Square Village is preparing to welcome visitors into the largest collection of historic log cabins in the United States. The non-profit open-air museum, home to 103 restored cabins, transforms each December into a celebration of early American

immersive walk-through of life in the early 1800s and 1900s. Guests can explore cabins and observe artisans demonstrating seasonal crafts such as candle making, block printing, and stocking sewing.

“We really want people to ask questions and learn about these traditions,” said Elise White, the event’s guest



People joining hands, dancing to traditional music.



Volunteer preparing food in traditional log cabin

Christmas traditions.

This year’s holiday event took place on December 6 from 3 to 8 p.m., rain or shine, at 5055 Hope Road, about an hour from Clover High School.

The annual event began in 2019, founded by Dr. Bob and Mrs. Becky Hart; who invited 50 of their closest friends for a Christmas service in the historic chapel which soon became an event full of yuletide traditions. The founder Dr. Bod Hart owned Hart Square until his passing in 2020, Harts Square is now centered on spreading awareness of itself.

The event includes an

services coordinator. White, who joined the staff after volunteering in college and watching her friends’ perform at Hart Square, now holds the position that spreads awareness through flyers, press releases, and word-of-mouth.

Because the celebration is staffed largely by volunteers, each with unique interests and skills, the experience changes from year to year. There are volunteers of all ages, their passion being to maintain the peaceful place to celebrate Christmas.

As visitors enter the village, they are greeted with music, dance, and food

vendors before following lighted trails deeper into the historic settlement. Roughly one-third of the village is decorated with Christmas lights, which reflect off small lakes scattered throughout the property. You can join in on craftspeople’s demonstrations and experiences or join in on dancing to Appalachian music.

One highlight of the event is the Chapel of Peace, where guests can enjoy traditional Christmas hymns accompanied by an 1800s pump organ. The

combination of music, candlelight, and historic surroundings creates a step back into Christmas of the past.

Hart Square’s holiday event sells out at around 1,000 tickets, a goal organizers hope to reach again this year. With its blend of history, craftsmanship, and festive charm, the event continues to draw families eager to learn the history of Christmas in this region and reconnect with the beauty of early American Christmas traditions.



Smiling blacksmith working at coal forge

COMMUNITY

Meet York County's lesser-known animal rescue organizations

BY CLOEY HARRIS, CHS SENIOR

PHOTOS FROM ANIMAL SHELTER WEBSITES

YORK, S.C. -While the Humane Society of York County often receives much-deserved attention for its work, several other local organizations also play vital roles in rescuing and re-homing animals. Here's a closer look at three shelters making a difference in our community:

Operation CARE (Carolina Animal Rescue Effort)

Located in Rock Hill, SC, Operation CARE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer organization that has been rescuing and re-homing animals in the Carolinas since 1990. Their mission is to reduce pet overpopulation and promote responsible pet ownership.

The organization provides

shelter, veterinary care, and rehabilitation for animals in need, ensuring that all rescued pets are spayed or neutered before adoption.

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Rescue



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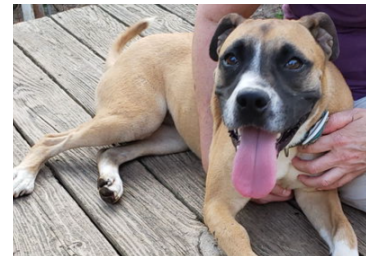
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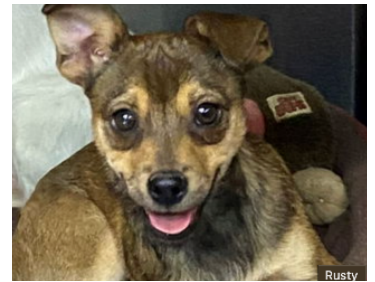
Based in York, SC, Richardson Rescue is a non-profit adoption agency dedicated to preserving the sanctity of animal life. They focus on

rescuing larger dogs, abused pets, and animals from puppy mills, giving them the time, space, and love needed to recover.

The organization also offers low-cost spay and neuter programs to help prevent pet overpopulation.



These four pups are at Recycled Pets, Inc.



rescued animals are spayed or neutered before adoption.

These organizations, alongside the Humane Society of York County, play an essential role in improving the welfare of animals in our community. They all currently have pets available. By supporting them through donations, volunteering, or adoption, we can all help ensure that more animals find safe, loving forever homes.

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Lake Wylie welcomes a new dining option

BBY SERENITY SIMPSON, CHS FRESHMAN

PHOTO FROM THE CHIPOTLE WEBSITE

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. - The Chipotle Mexican Grill opened up in Lake Wylie on Thursday, December 4th. Located at 5001 Charlotte Hwy, Lake Wylie, Chipotle is open every day 10:45 am - 10 pm.

Lake Wylie guests can try the brand's newest protein Carne Asada. Chipotle also is offering a new sauce, Red Chimichurri for a limited time.

Another new option is the "Build-Your-Own-Chipotle" customizable meal kit designed for 4-6 people, letting groups build their own bowls, burritos, or tacos at home with proteins, bases, toppings, dips, and sides, ordered digitally via the app or website for pickup or delivery. Lake Wylie guests can order this fast, easy, stress-free option to bring the

customizable Chipotle experience to their homes. This basically gives the customer an option to have it brought

"Build-Your-Own-Chipotle" order with code TRYBYOC* through the end of the year. Another cost saving

earn 20% more points on every purchase, resulting in free Chipotle more quickly. College students can enroll in Chipotle Rewards starting today at chipotle.com/chipotle-u-rewards.

Chipotle is also hiring at the Lake Wylie location and across the U.S. There are approximately 30 jobs per location, with competitive benefits, including:

- A crew bonus with the opportunity to earn an extra month's worth of pay each year
- A debt-free college degree program; and English as a second language
- Access to mental health-care for employees and their families

Find more at www.chipotle.com/careers.



This large sign and balloons welcomed customers to the Chipotle in Lake Wylie.

to them without having to drive in this cold weather.

Guests can enjoy \$10 off their first

measure is for college students, who can get 1,000 bonus points by enrolling in Chipotle U rewards and

Scooter's brings smiles to Clover

BY SERENITY SIMPSON, CHS FRESHMAN

PHOTOS FROM LILY BRODBECK, CHS JUNIOR

CLOVER, S.C. - Scooter's Coffee in Clover, SC, located at 1499 Highway 55-E is a new drive-thru coffee shop. Scooter's recently celebrated its grand opening on December 5th. They also held their ribbon cutting on December 10th.

If you want to visit, their hours are Monday-Saturday, 5am-8:30pm. Sunday 6am-8pm.

Scooters is currently not hiring.

Scooter's offers espresso drinks, smoothies, pastries,

and more.

Run by local owners Rob & Brene Hegler, this couple is passionate about bringing quality coffee and community to the area. They focus on quick service with a smile, and are known for the smiley face on

every cup, aiming to bring customers joy.



Scooter's Ribbon Cutting ceremony

Scooter's has strong local involvement, with support from the Clover Chamber and town officials.

Lily Brodbeck, current employee and Clover High School junior,

explained that Scooters runs very smoothly and has job-aids to ensure everyone has what they need. She shared a challenge she faces is that not everyone has been trained yet to do all of the different jobs, so it gets difficult for her when they are in a rush. Brodbeck loves making coffee and talking to people at the window, as well as when taking orders. When she is at Scooters, everyone is always so happy and has smiles on their faces. Make sure to try this new spot!

FCCLA students collect 400 cans during government shutdown

BY PIPER HAYCOCK, CHS SOPHMORE

CLOVER, S.C. - Clover High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) club hosted a food drive to assist those in our community who needed support during the government shutdown.

America's most recent and longest government shutdown—which began on October 1st and ended after 43 days—caused the government's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to be unable to provide food benefits to low income families. In York County, which includes Lake Wylie and Clover, around 19% of households rely on food assistance.

Concerns in the community arose and CHS's FCCLA officer team didn't sit back and do nothing. Instead, their Vice President of Community Service, Kingsley Cook, led a food drive alongside the rest of the chapter. All the cans collected went to the Clover High School

Backpack program that helps students of low income households fill their bags so they never have to go hungry. Students and members

successful and collected about 400 cans!

Matthew Kieslor, FCCLA president, said "Our only worry was engagement. That

iness, and life skills and FACS education is based upon 16 core standards, one of which inspired the entire drive.

Standard 1.3 states "Evaluate the reciprocal effects of individual and family participation in community and civic activities". The officer team used these standards and skills to push through their struggles and made this food drive happen.

By being active members of the community, everyone who participated has helped someone in our community who is struggling.

The government and SNAP is back up and families are receiving food benefits. Although, due to the shutdown lasting over a month, recovery won't be quick and easy. Every last bit of food that was donated will help these families recuperate and get back on their feet.

Our community is strong and gives great thanks to all involved in the FCCLA food drive!



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Club Officers

of Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classes and its correlating intra-curricular program, FCCLA, were encouraged to bring as many cans as possible. They were even more motivated by having a competition between FACS classes. The drive was

worry was quickly squashed as the Clover High School Community banded together in the drive".

This donation really resembles what FCCLA and FACS stands for. FCCLA helps students develop their leadership skills, career read-



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Clover Chamber launches updated website

BY KARA QUAIFE, CHS JUNIOR

PHOTO FROM THE CLOVER CHAMBER WEBSITE

CLOVER, S.C. - The Clover Chamber of Commerce has undergone a website refresh thanks to local volunteers. With this updated look, information about and for local businesses is even easier to access.

The Clover Chamber of Commerce covers the greater Clover Area. They help local businesses by providing them with the resources they need to succeed, such as networking opportunities, discounts, educational opportunities, and a business directory. Members can market their products and services and expand their reach in Clover.

Some options that they are

currently offering are business profiles, discounts, and workshops.

The Clover Chamber of Commerce stands for the business community in Clover, SC. It also provides members with benefits such as leadership opportunities and connections to business leaders. They create an environment of growth and success so that businesses can thrive.



The Clover Chamber on Bethel St.

Its mission is to “serve our members and enhance our community by building business success.” They help develop and nurture relationships with the community to help local

needs and interest.

Additionally, the Clover Chamber of Commerce provides resources for non-business members in the community, from those just moving in to lifelong residents. Those resources include a listing of

churches in the area, as well as non-profits so residents can get involved. For those who are just moving to the area, there is a handy page to all service providers in the area to meet any need a new resident may have.

To quote Olympia Caswell, “The greater Clover Chamber of Commerce serves as a vital hub of information for newcomers, businesses, and locals alike, fostering a connected and informed community.”

The Chamber is a great way for businesses to connect with those around them and learn of new opportunities to grow.

Donations matched dollar-for-dollar in Lions Foundation holiday campaign

EDITED BY KYLEE LOWE, CHS SENIOR

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. - The River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Community Foundation announced that their Holiday Fund Drive has begun and will run through January 2026. “We are excited to announce

that we have a matching fund in place, which means every contribution will be doubled,” said Foundation Trustee, Linda Worrell, “making each donation twice as sweet!”

The Foundation aims to raise \$220,000 during the fund drive. “A group of contributors has authorized us to match donations, up to



RIVER HILLS | LAKE WYLIE LIONS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
For Good. For Others. For Ever.

\$110,000,” explained Worrell, “so we hope to reach or surpass our goal this year, when every charity and program we support truly needs our help.” The Foundation supports 30 charities and programs annually.

Here are some benefits of giving to the Foundation:

- Deliver life-saving emer-

- gency care
- Feed and clothe struggling families
- Empower students with scholarships
- Protect our beautiful Catawba River
- Helping kids see and read better

And so much more!

There are many ways

individuals may choose to donate, but the easiest is securely online at the Foundation website: <https://rhlwlionscommunityfoundation.org/donate-now/>. “To learn more about how the Foundation works,

we encourage watching our short video on the website,” said Worrell.

For more details, go to <https://rhlwlionscommunityfoundation.org/>

CSD hosts first community partners appreciation event

BY KYLEE LOWE, CHS SENIOR

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNOTT, CSD PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

CLOVER S.C. - Clover School District recognized its community partners for the first time on November 18th with an event planned to celebrate corporate sponsors

hors d'oeuvres, desserts and drinks. Later in the program the CHS Choraliers Honors Chorale sang for entertainment. A slide show of pictures showing the highlights of

their education, athletics, and music programs. Alumni Caleb Robinson talked about the impact these partners and sponsors have had on alumni as well as how they have continued to help him even after graduation.

Courtney Jones, the CSD Attendance officer, spoke next

This unity is positive for the community and has helped it grow.

After the remarks there guests continued to mingle and network. In addition to the great food and entertainment provided, each partner received a bag of Clover School District items as a



Community members enjoying the event.

and community partners who have supported Clover School District in the past year.

Board members, Clover LEAF, PTO members and many other organizations and individuals were invited to

what each organization has helped CSD with as well as the accomplishments from the year played as people mingled.

Dr. Sheila Quinn welcomed everyone to the



CHS Brass Quintet performing.

attend. The event took place in the Clover High School commons area where there was plenty of space for everyone invited.

The Brass Quintet from Clover High School's band welcomed the community into the event as they picked up their name tags for networking. The CHS Culinary Arts Program provided heavy

celebration to start off the program. Jay Forrest, Director of Choraliers, Rick Langdale, Director of Bands and Ella Nighbor, a Class of 26' student athlete and current Cross Country State Champion, spoke about the impact sponsors and partners have had on them.

They recognized the community for its help in



CHS Culinary Arts Program serving community members.

on family impact, then Elizabeth Gibson, the assistant principal of the Ninth Grade Campus and Clover High School graduate, remarked about faculty impact. The closing remarks were given by Kyle Eller, the president of Clover LEAF. All of these speakers illustrated that the partnership CSD has with its community is impacting not only the schools but also families and students in the area.

small token of appreciation for all of their support.

This event showed Clover School District's appreciation for its partners and sponsors who have assisted in the schools programs and learning experiences for students. It highlighted not only the achievements of the past year but also the strong relationship CSD has with its community.



CHS Choraliers performing.

Clover High shines at annual Miss CHS Pageant

BY CLOEY HARRIS, CHS SENIOR

PHOTOS BY DELANEY JACKSON, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

CLOVER, S.C. - The Clover High School auditorium was filled with excitement, applause, and Blue Eagle pride as students, families, and staff gathered for the annual Ms. CHS Pageant, a long-standing

Before the crowning of Miss CHS, the pageant recognized winners in individual categories, each representing an important quality of leadership within the Clover High community.



Current contestants got tips and training on pageant etiquette from a former pageant contestant.

tradition celebrating leadership, poise, service, and talent among CHS students.

This year's event featured an accomplished group of contestants: Tori Klein, Mackenzie Decuir, Sydney Kok, Cami Landers, Emileigh Montgomery, Shivani Prakash, Hana McCarter, and Hannah Guerrier. Each participant brought her own strengths to the stage and demonstrated her dedication to representing Clover High with excellence.

Throughout the evening, contestants competed in several judged categories, including talent, formal wear, interview, and school-spirit-based awards. Each segment highlighted the unique personalities and abilities of the participants, making the judges' decisions both challenging and memorable.

Category Winners

Miss Congeniality – Cami Landers

Chosen by her fellow contestants, Cami was celebrated for her positivity, encouragement, and supportive presence backstage. She was described as someone who always lifted others up and contributed to a welcoming and upbeat environment.

Miss Community – Tori Klein

Tori earned this honor through her outstanding community support. Family, friends, and local businesses rallied around her, demonstrating the strong connections she has built beyond the school walls.

Overall Talent Winner – Mackenzie Decuir

Mackenzie captivated both the audience and judges with her dance performance. Her

technique, emotion, and stage presence earned her the top score in the talent portion of the evening.

Overall Formal Wear – Cami Landers

Cami's elegance and confidence shone during the formal wear category. Judges praised her poise and her ability to command the stage with grace and personality.

People's Choice – Cami Landers

After receiving the most support from audience members through the People's Choice donation bins, Cami secured her third award of the night—proof of her impact on and connection with the crowd.

Miss Blue & Grey – Sydney Kok

Sydney earned this award for embodying Clover spirit. Her enthusiasm, pride, and leadership made her a stand-out example of what it means to be a Blue Eagle.

Jr. Miss CHS – Hannah Guerrier

Hannah impressed the judges with her confidence and her stunning vocal

performance. Her award highlights the rising talent and leadership within Clover High's underclassmen.

Miss CHS 2025 – Mackenzie Decuir

The evening concluded with the crowning of Mackenzie Decuir as Miss CHS 2025. Her strong interviews, exceptional talent performance, and consistent poise across every category made her the clear and deserving winner. Mackenzie accepted the title with gratitude and excitement as she stepped into her new role representing Clover High throughout the year.

A Night to Remember

The 2025 Ms. CHS Pageant was more than a competition—it was a celebration of hard work, friendship, leadership, and the many strengths of CHS students. Each participant played a role in creating a night full of pride and unforgettable moments. With the new titleholders now representing the school, Clover High looks forward to another year of excellence, service, and tradition.



Miss CHS, Mackenzie Decuir (center) flanked by

SCHOOLS

Clover High School Hosts Annual Christmas Craft Show

BY CLOEY HARRIS, CHS SENIOR

PHOTOS FROM LOCAL VENDOR FACEBOOK PAGES

CLOVER, S.C. — Clover High School held its annual Christmas Craft Show on Dec. 6 at the Ninth Grade Campus. The event drew large crowds of holiday shoppers.

The Clover Student Council organized the event. More than two dozen vendors sold handmade items like Christmas ornaments, candles, jewelry, home décor and baked goods. The senior student

council ran a bake sale during the show. All money raised will go toward the senior gift and senior trip.

Local crafter Chad Clark sold laser engraved products at the show. His sports-themed slate serving platters were his best sellers. “We sold out of them very quickly,” Clark said.

Clark started laser engraving about a year ago. He also sold charcuterie boards, ornaments and coasters. “We try to make things you just cannot find in a retail shop,” he said.

Vendors said more people came this year than in past years. Shoppers moved through the gym and hallways all evening. Holiday music played as families browsed the tables.

Clark said customers were



The Kindred Kitchen brought delicious baked goods to sell.

friendly and welcoming. “This is why we love the area we live in,” he said.

Clark explained that he and his family have “a continuous need to make things.” Social media inspired him to create his own art with a local touch.

His favorite part was “knowing that something we made was going to end up as a unique gift for someone’s Christmas.”

Teachers, volunteers and school staff helped run the event. The craft show has become a holiday tradition for Clover. It gives local artists a chance to sell their work. It also helps people support small businesses during the holidays.

The show ended with happy shoppers carrying bags of gifts and vendors grateful for community support.



One vendor had a blanket bar set up to customize gifts.

Local students win SC Jr. Chef

BY KYLEE LOWE, CHS SENIOR

PHOTO FROM CHEF SCOTT MICHAW, CHS CULINARY ARTS TEACHER

CLOVER - Clover High School students Ryan Jones, Abigail Thompson, and Conner Malloy won the South Carolina Jr. Chef Competition. According to Jones “It was Clover’s first year at this competition so to show up not really knowing how everything would flow and coming home with the 1st place prize was definitely something to be proud of.”

The task of this competition was to make a recipe that follows the nutrition facts in the school guidelines. Jones states “This limited what we could make, but we came up with a terrific dish that fol-

lowed all the guidelines.”

They made a South-west Quinoa bowl with Blackened Chicken, avocado ranch, and a pickled onion garnish. This dish appealed to the judges greatly because of its taste and colors.



Clover Jr. Chef Winners Ryan Jones, Abigail Thompson, and Conner Malloy.

Jones says that working with his peers Thompson and Malloy was very easy.

He goes on to say “It was

our first competition together, but it felt like we had done this numerous times. We had amazing team work and communication that made us

work so well together.” Part of their success came from the multiple times the group had practiced the dish under the guidance of Chef Scott Michaw, a CHS Culinary Arts teacher. This group is living proof that practice really does make perfect.

Thanks to Michaw, who told his students about this competition, Clover High School won. The group was happy they were able to compete and hopefully they will continue winning and competing in the future.

Silfab Solar safety concerns persist despite distance from schools, homes

BY EVAN FRITNER, CHS JUNIOR

FORT MILL, S.C. - The Silfab Solar construction has been a popular discussion topic during the public forum for the many of the County Council meetings.

Opposition to the facility that got approval in mid 2022 has stayed strong. Safety for the residents of the nearby Beckett Farms apartment complex and the Flint Hill Elementary and middle school is the concern.

The largest risk involved with solar plants are to the employees working at the facility. A majority of the afflictions faced by employees are falls, electrocutions, or burns. Rarely ever are there chemical injuries.

When determining a safe distance from solar fields to live, work, or to send your

children to their schools, U.S. Light Energy claims that "It's largely a matter of preference."

Public Concerns

Public outrage is directed toward the use of silane gas and hydrofluoric acid. Silfab has already pledged to conduct frequent air testing in order to stop and contain any leaking of the chemicals.

If a spill of the hydrofluoric acid occurs, the immediate precautionary measure as instructed by the NOAA is to isolate an area of 50 meters around the site of the spill.

When measuring the closest two points between the Fort Mill School District land area and the Silfab facility, the distance measures 130 meters. The distance between Silfab and the apartment

buildings is 315 meters. Both are considered to be very safe distances.

Silane Gas

Silane gas is a considerable source of concern for the residents of the area. This gas is an irritant, is flammable and explodes if heated under confinement. However, in America, silane gas has not caused a fatality since 1988 or an injury in over 20 years. Storing and transportation has also been made a lot safer. The main cause of silane gas mishaps are from operator error, most commonly when an operator attempts to remove the cylinder of silane that is currently in use rather than an empty one. This is easily by careful operation and extensive training.

Mitigating Concerns

Silfab remains committed to becoming "one of the most advanced and safest solar assembly facilities in the country."

Proper planning by the school district and frequent air monitoring of HAPs and TAPs, which Silfab has pledged to do, should make the facility no less safe than a gas station, with more jobs, less traffic and more money for the local economy.

While safety measures are in place, community concerns about proximity to schools and homes remain valid. Transparency and monitoring will be essential to maintaining public trust as the facility moves forward.

KINDNESS CORNER

Hailey Bolen fills River Hills blessing box

BY PIPER HAYCOCK, CHS SOPHMORE

PHOTOS BY HAILEY BOLEN, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. - An 18-year-old has taken it upon herself to fill the River Hills blessing box with nonperishable foods for others to take. Her name is Hailey Bolen, a Lake Wylie resident who has done an honorable act of kindness.



Hailey Bolen

A blessing box is a community-supported outside pantry for those who are in need. Bolen's act of kindness was fueled by the empathy for those who were struggling due to the SNAP food stamp crisis.

She hopes for this to inspire others to contribute to the cause. This wasn't just a one time thing because the last time she checked the box needed a refill. She plans to continue keeping the box functioning and its message alive. She spent about eighty dollars to completely fill the blessing box, but others don't have to spend that much to help.

Anything is appreciat-

ed, you don't have to spend money to contribute. Anyone can add something that was in the back of the pantry, but if you are willing to spend money, Food Lion, and other grocery stores have a plethora of deals.

Bolen says the blessing box shows "the world isn't always harsh" and "it's okay to need help". Through empathy and selflessness, the Clover community can support one another during times of need. She hopes that she inspires others to help their neighbors, whether it is a big or small donation. This community is strong and even stronger when people, like Bolen, work to bring each other up.

Thankfully, the government and the SNAP program is back up. Families started to receive donations again on November 14th. The community's recovery will not be immediate, meaning helping others, like how Hailey Bolen has and is continuing to do, brings Clover together as a whole.

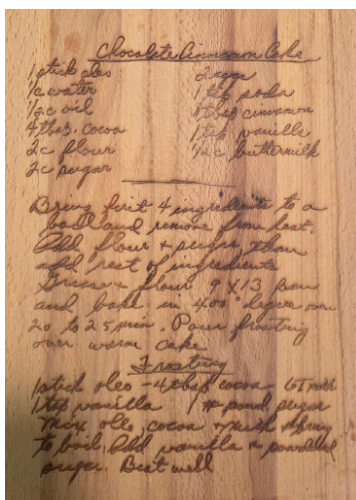


A full blessing box.

Generational chocolate cinnamon cake

BY LILY BRODBECK, CHS JUNIOR

CLOVER S.C.- If you want a warm, chocolatey dessert with a hint of spice, then you will love this homemade chocolate cinnamon cake. This recipe was created in the 50s by Donna Jean Fraley. It has been passed down to her children, then my mother, and now me. This cake is more than just a dessert. It's a memory of love and a reminder of how important family is. Make sure to bake this with your own parents, children, or grandparents. From my family to yours... here's to cherishing the memories we've made, creating new ones, and sharing the



love that comes from making a recipe together.

The frosting recipe will follow the cake recipe!

Ingredients:

- 1 Stick oleo (butter)
- 1 Cup water
- 1/2 Cup oil
- 4 Tbs cocoa
- 2 Cups flour
- 2 Cups sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 1 tsp Soda
- 1 Tbs cinnamon
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 1/2 Cup buttermilk

Method of Preparation:

1. Bring first four ingredients to a boil and remove from heat.
2. Add flour and sugar, then add rest of ingredients.
3. Grease and flour a 9x13

pan, and bake in 400° oven for 20 to 25 minutes.

Ingredients:

- 1 Stick oleo (butter)
- 1 tsp Vanilla
- 4 Tbs cocoa
- 6 Tbs milk
- 4 Cups powdered sugar

Method of Preparation:

1. Mix oleo, cocoa, and milk and bring to a boil.
2. Add vanilla and powdered sugar.
3. Beat well.
4. Pour over warm cake.

PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Arbys: A Gentle Giant Looking for His Forever Home – Again

BY CLOEY HARRIS, CHS SENIOR

YORK, S.C. - At just over a year old, Arbys may look like a big boy, but he's still very much a puppy at heart. This lovable large-breed dog has been waiting at the Humane Society of York County (HSYC) for six months too long. This is Arbys' second time being featured in the paper, and we're hoping that this time his future family finally finds him. He truly deserves his chance.

A Diamond in the Rough

Arbys arrived at HSYC as a stray, but his gentle demeanor and eagerness to please suggest a dog with incredible resilience. His playful nature and loving personality shine through in every interaction, making him an instant favorite among staff and volunteers who describe him as simply "the best."

Ready for His Next Chapter

What makes Arbys such an attractive adoption candidate is how well-prepared he is for his new life. He comes fully vetted – neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and health tested. His new family can focus on bonding and training rather than worrying about initial medical needs.

His intelligence and active nature make him an ideal candidate for training programs. Whether his family wants basic obedience or advanced commands, Arbys has the mental capacity and drive to excel. He'll thrive with owners who enjoy outdoor activities, long walks, or backyard play sessions.

A Social Butterfly

One of Arbys' standout qualities is his ability to get along well with other dogs. He genuinely enjoys playtime

with his friends at the shelter, demonstrating social skills that make multi-pet households possible. This trait suggests he'd do well at dog parks or during neighborhood walks.

The Perfect Match

The ideal home for Arbys would appreciate his size and energy level. Large-breed dogs require families who understand their space needs and exercise requirements. However, for the right family, these considerations pale in comparison to the loyalty and companionship he can provide.

His perfect family would include active individuals who enjoy outdoor activities, experienced dog owners who appreciate intelligent breeds, or anyone looking for a loyal companion ready to grow with their family.

Time is of the Essence

At six months in the shelter system, Arbys has waited far longer than any young dog should. He's already spent one feature in the newspaper with no adoption – something no dog with this much heart should experience twice.

Nothing can replace the love, attention, and stability of a permanent home. We truly want to see Arbys find the home he deserves. If you've ever considered adopting, let this be the sign you're looking for.

For families interested in meeting this amazing boy, contact HSYC at 803-802-0902.

Please don't let Arbys grow up in the rescue – he's ready for his forever home today.

Did You Know?

12.20.25 | 10am-3pm

GOOD LOCAL CHRISTMAS MARKET

139 E Main St., Rock Hill, SC



2026 Town of Clover Special Events Calendar



January

Happy New Year!

February

28: Love to Luck 5k

March

13: Friday Night Kick Off
14: St. Patrick's Day Festival

April

2: Easter Egg Hunt
9: Food Truck Thursday

May

2: Farmers Market
14: Food Truck Thursday
29: Kick-Off to Summer

June

6: Farmers Market
11: Food Truck Thursday

July

4: Farmers Market
4: Freedom Run & Roll
9: Food Truck Thursday

August

1: Farmers Market
13: Food Truck Thursday

September

5: Farmers Market
10: Food Truck Thursday
12: All Nashville Roadshow Concert

October

3: Farmers Market
10: Fall Fest & Classic Car Show
31: Halloween Truck-or-Treat
TBD: Movie in the Park

November

14: Highland Games

December

5: Holiday on Main
TBD: Christmas Parade

DECEMBER

CURATED BY
MACKENZIE GORBY,
CHS SOPHOMORE



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	<p>¹ 6PM Veterans Comittee Meeting 120 Bethel St</p>	<p>² 5:30PM Steering Committee Meeting 120 Bethel St 6:30PM Night Pickleball Tournament & Toy Drive 1101 Field Day Lane</p>	<p>³ 9AM Architectual Review Board Meeting 120 Bethel St 6:30PM Night Pickleball Tournament & Toy Drive 1101 Field Day Lane</p>
<p>⁷ 3PM Clover Christmas Parade Downtown Clover 5:30PM Community Golf Cart Parade 1101 Field Day Lane</p>	<p>⁸ 6:30PM Town Council Regular Meeting 120 Bethel St</p>	<p>⁹</p>	<p>¹⁰</p>
<p>¹⁴</p>	<p>¹⁵ Hanukkah (1st Day)</p>	<p>¹⁶</p>	<p>¹⁷</p>
<p>²¹</p>	<p>²² Winter Break</p>	<p>²³ Winter Break</p>	<p>²⁴ Christmas Eve Winter Break</p>
<p>²⁸</p>	<p>²⁹ Winter Break</p>	<p>³⁰ Winter Break</p>	<p>³¹ New Year's Eve Winter Break</p>



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5 5:30PM Christmas Movie in the Park 1101 Field Day Lane 7PM Daniel Stowe Botanical gardens Holiday Celebration 9090 Craver Road, Charlotte	6 9AM Craft Show CHS Ninth Grade Campus 10AM Holiday on Main N. Main St. 10AM Naked Goat Market 3972 Hands Mill Hwy
11	12	13 8:30AM Lions Pancake Breakfast Camp Thunderbird 10AM Christmas at Wildwood 5000 Whitewater Center Pkwy
18 6PM Planning Commission Meeting 120 Bethel St	19 CSD Half Day	20
25 Christmas Day Winter Break	26 Kwanzaa Winter Break	27

Links to Full Calendars

[Clover High School Athletics](#)

[Clover School District](#)

[Clover School District Auditorium](#)

[Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce](#)

[River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Club](#)

[Town of Clover](#)

[York County](#)

[York County Museum](#)

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From there, you can email, provide story ideas, or give us feedback.

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