



June 12, 2023

Reflections from our new communications director, Rickey Dennis

Greetings! I'm Rickey Dennis, the new communications director at CAJM. I begin this newsletter offering thanks all of you for your warm words of welcome. Secondly, as I wrap up my first week at CAJM and begin another, one word rests upon my heart: joy. I believe that joy - a lasting sense of inner contentment - is not discovered in the absence of struggle. Rather, joy can be found within the difficulties of life. I've found joy in seeing CAJM's successes, such as our latest housing victory. I believe joy can be found in the effort to tackle other ongoing problems, such as the work to save Gadsden Creek. My hope is that we might all find joy as we work together in the struggle towards justice. Have a wonderful week!

Upcoming Research Visits

We encourage all CAJM members to join us for research visits and full committee meetings! Email dorightcajm@gmail.com to be connected with our research committees, and/or use the links below to sign up to attend.



CAJM meeting with Charleston Mayoral Candidate Peter Shahid

When: Tuesday, June 13

Pre-Meeting: 11 a.m.

Meeting: 12 p.m.

Where: Church of the Holy Communion, 218
Ashley Ave.

Want to attend?: Sign up [HERE](#)



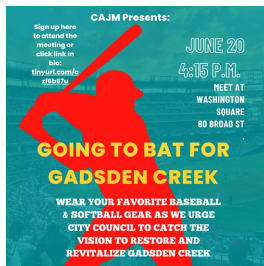
Friends of Gadsden Creek & Gadsden Green Juneteenth Celebration

What: CAJM will be joining Gadsden Green residents and Friends of Gadsden Creek for a Juneteenth Celebration! Stop in anytime to meet your neighbors!

When: Sunday, June 18 | 2:00pm-5:00pm

Where: Gadsden Green

Want to volunteer?: [Click here to sign up](#)



Turn out to Charleston City Council to save Gadsden Creek!

What: CAJM is heading to Charleston City Council to present our 1000 signatures to Council to Restore and Revitalize Gadsden Creek! Our theme for the night is BATTING 1000: It's time for City Council to CATCH the Vision! We want you to come out decked out in your baseball and softball uniforms or favorite team t-shirts including with your gloves! We want to pack out the chambers so please let us know if you can attend and if you can bring someone with you!

When: Tuesday, June 20

Pre-Meeting: 4:15pm in the park next to City Hall

Meeting: 5:00pm

Where: Charleston City Hall (80 Broad Street)

RSVP: [Click here to sign up](#)

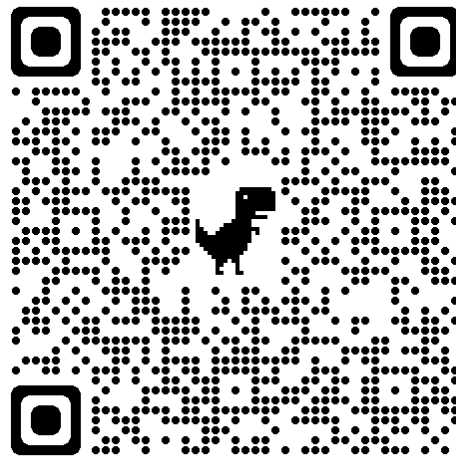
Pay your 2023 CAJM investment!

[Click here to invest!](#)

New to CAJM and want more information?

We are so glad you are here, and we'd love to connect you with a CAJM Team Leader!

Use the QR code to the right, or follow [this link](#), to fill out a short survey so that we can match you with the Team Leader who best fits your needs.



Community Board

RiverBend Recovery Rally

Hosted by the local nonprofit [Quest](#), the RiverBend Recovery Rally is Charleston's first [community awareness event](#) of this kind for mental health and recovery awareness, and they have some incredible speakers and performers involved!

[Here is a video about the](#)



event.

This also happens to be on the 8th anniversary of the AME tragedy, and Chris Singleton will be there to share his testimony.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)



UPDATE: CAJM is a member of the SC Fair Lending Alliance, a statewide coalition advocating to pass legislation to cap interest rates on consumer loans in our state at 36%. Currently, there is no limit, which has allowed some supervised lenders to charge as much as 950% APR.

In January, a bill was introduced in the Senate by SC Sen. Katrina Frye-Shealy (District 23) legislation (S.518) to cap interest rates at 36%. Thank you to everyone who wrote, emailed, or called your SC senators to make them aware of bill S.518. This bill had four readings and discussion in subcommittee before the legislature adjourned. It was hoped that the bill would have moved to the full committee by now but that places us only a half step behind our plan. This bill is not dead!

It will be January 2024 before we expect the bill to move to the full committee and then come up for a vote. Stay tuned for more updates and for what you can do to help. For now, you can follow along on the SC Fair Lending alliance web site capratesc.com or contact Susan Fender with Circular Church: 864-905-5466.