

Upstate Forever plans 'Dinner of the Decade'

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The demise of my computer at home started slowly. By that I mean it was humming along at breakneck speed as usual and then gradually began to take longer and longer to do even the simplest thing before finally grinding to a screeching halt.

At first we assumed the poor machine was so bogged down with irrelevant things that it just needed to be cleared out, but after much deleting we broke down and took it to the computer store and started the wait for a diagnosis.

It was late in the afternoon when we finally got the dreaded call. They used some type of language too technical to repeat here, but the bottom line is that the computer is



KIM HASSOLD

BEHIND THE SCENES

dead and is not coming back. What did arrive promptly was an unexpected feeling of extreme isolation and panic.

I am not sure when I became computer dependent, but it soon became very clear that there was a problem when e-mails could no longer be monitored every time I walked by.

Some would say a person who is fortunate enough to

have a loving family at home should welcome the removal of anything that might distract from them. I would have to agree, except that trying to get a bunch of people staring at the sports channel to chat can be somewhat dissatisfying. It leaves the person who is not so interested in sports time to spend reviewing sales at all of her favorite online shopping sites.

So in the end, I stared at the dark screen one time too many and had to face the fact that I am hooked on e-mail.

The only good news about the whole thing is they say the first step to fixing a problem is to recognize you have one.

So that is what I am doing until they deliver my new computer.

And then I won't have a problem anymore.

'Dinner of the Decade'

We are fortunate to have an organization dedicated to making us all aware of the benefits of leading more environmentally friendly lifestyles. Upstate Forever will celebrate 10 years of promoting sensitive growth and protecting special places in Upstate South Carolina with a special event later this month.

The "Dinner of the Decade: 10 Years, 10 Courses" will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the home of Anne and Bill Masters. The 10-course dinner will feature "green cuisine" grown at local farms. Upstate chefs are donating their time and talent to create a mouth-watering menu that highlights the

bounty of local produce grown here in the Upstate.

Upstate Forever Executive Director Brad Wyche said the dinner is an opportunity for Upstate residents to experience firsthand the benefits of locally produced food.

"Buying and eating locally produced foods is actually good for the environment. It saves on fuel and transportation costs, and thus cuts down on pollution," he said. "Farmers that use sustainable and organic methods are doing their part to help the environment, and we're supporting their efforts."

Wyche also pointed to the added benefit of freshness and taste.

33 Liberty's Amy and John Malik are coordinating the menu with help from Larkin's on the River

chef Alex Castro, Latitude restaurant chef Don Hiers and renowned caterer and chef Don Rizer.

The first few courses will be passed on the patio for guests to enjoy while listening to jazz music. Guests will then move to the tables under the tent to enjoy the next several courses. For the final course, guests will adjourn to the house.

Tickets for "Dinner of the Decade" are \$125; space is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, contact LinningsSmoakCrawford Public Relations at 235-8330 or at kerry@linningsmoak-crawford.com.

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