

## **HUGHES INVESTMENTS ANNOUNCES NEW DINING CONCEPT BY STELLA'S RESTAURANT GROUP COMING TO BRIDGEWAY STATION**

**January 26, 2023** – Hughes Investments, Inc. is thrilled to welcome a new dining concept by Stella's Restaurant Group to BridgeWay Station.

From the Owners of Stella's Bistro and Stella's Southern Brasserie comes the newest concept by Jason and Scholz and their culinary director & partner, Anthony Gray. This new venture will honor the Scholzs' established, longtime commitment and mission in sourcing products locally and regionally first, and always striving to support the community that supports them.

Julia Scholz has managed a wide variety of restaurants for many years, and met her husband and business partner, Jason Scholz, in Charleston, where he was an executive chef at High Cotton. Together, they moved to Greenville and opened Stella's Bistro, the product of Julia's imagination and Jason's passion and revered precision in the kitchen. Stella's Bistro has won favor with regulars and visiting diners alike since it opened in 2008.

Julia and Jason Scholz opened their second restaurant, Stella's Southern Brasserie, Parkside Provisions, and Café, to great success in Verdae in 2017. Chef Gray, their long-time associate, joined Stella's Brasserie as partner in 2020. Their BridgeWay Station location will be the third restaurant venture for Jason and Julia, and first new venture with Chef Anthony Gray.

Chef Gray was born in Southern Georgia, where he learned early on to connect land to plate, merging the rustic cooking style of his family's Northern Italian heritage with the fish and wild game he caught near his childhood home. Anthony's culinary skills were honed over 13 years working in the kitchens of Chef Frank Lee's family of restaurants – Slightly North of Broad, Slightly Up the Creek, and High Cotton in Charleston and Greenville – where he worked alongside Jason and Julia Scholz. After opening Southern Art and Bourbon Bar in Atlanta, GA with Chef Art Smith in 2011 – earning him a spot on Bravo's "Top Chef: Seattle" and the title of "Atlanta Rising Star Chef" – and after opening Bacon Bros. Public House in Greenville, SC in 2013, Gray joined the Scholzs' in 2020 to lead the kitchen at Stella's Southern Brasserie. Gray currently oversees Stella's Southern Bistro, Stella's Southern Brasserie, and future concepts from the group as Executive Chef and Culinary Director.

The interior design of the approximately 3,000 square foot restaurant will complement the unique European architectural elements that define the exterior of the project by incorporating archways, special brickwork, and unique stone features. The twelve-seat bar will be tucked away under a mezzanine of arches and low lighting, creating an intimate and cozy atmosphere. Combining the classics with contemporary components, the bar will also feature a house-made bitters program to complement an ample bourbon selection, as well as hand crafted cocktails with a modern twist on nostalgic favorites: Mint Juleps, rum punches, and more.

The full-service restaurant and bar will serve elevated, seasonal, and sustainable Southern comfort food with a distinct flair. The menu will focus on small plates, shareables, and handpicked ingredients, designed for diners to create their own meal among dining groups of any size. The menu will feature three primary sections: a "Raw" section, allowing for seasonal oysters, crudo, ceviche, carpaccio, and tartare; a "Proteins" section, featuring meats and seafood cooked to order, with a particular focus on slow-roasted items such as chicken, duck, and lamb, all offered in a variety of portion sizes designed for sharing for any group size; and finally, a "Sides & Vegetables" section, where the chef will carefully curate a seasonal rotation of locally sourced produce, sides, and favorites.

The restaurant's name will be announced at a later date.

“What got us interested in Bridgeway Station is the level of quality dedicated to this project and the Hughes Investments team's remarkable approach to development,” said Julia Scholz. “We love the inclusion of various outdoor elements throughout the development, and the much awaited pedestrian connection to the southern portion of 'Greater Greenville' via the Swamp Rabbit Trail Bridge! Jason and I, along with Chef Gray, are looking forward to expanding the Stella's family of restaurants to this area of town with the unique opportunity of being a part of Bridgeway Station. The third restaurant in our group will be nestled right between our Greenville and Simpsonville locations. This area is where we personally call home, and we recognize how much capacity there still is for locally owned, high-quality restaurants and retail to serve the growing Mauldin, Simpsonville, and Five Forks area.”

As the first New Town Center development in the Upstate whose mission is to create a highly desirable, walkable, and attractive civic destination, BridgeWay Station is thrilled to partner with a local business with a similar mission to create a warm and welcoming environment for all.

“We are thrilled to have a local favorite join the ‘Dining District’ at BridgeWay,” said Phil Hughes, Owner and President of Hughes Investments, Inc. He continued, “Their versatility and distinct ability to deliver high quality food in a welcoming setting is sure to be an attraction for residents, community members, and visitors alike. We feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with their leadership team and start this new chapter at BridgeWay Station.”

Stella’s Restaurant Group joins Cohesive Coffee, Belladina’s Italian Market, The Junkyard, Plum: A Lifestyle Boutique, Yogi’s Cups and Cones, Cocobowlz, City Market at BridgeWay Station, Poogan’s Southern Kitchen, and Old Europe Desserts as other Phase One retail tenants, along with a few others that will be shared publicly soon. These retailers will be incorporated into the project alongside previously announced office and institutional users, including Dodge® Bearings and Power Transmission, GREEN Charter Upstate High School, Jackson Marketing, Motorsports & Events, and Spectrum.

BridgeWay Station broke ground in April 2021 and is currently under construction as the first New Town Center development in the Upstate, featuring 69,939 SF of retail, 210,824 SF of residential, 81,000 SF of institutional development (GREEN Charter Upstate High School), 75,000 SF of office, 24,691 SF of plaza and pavilion public space, and 5+ acres of parks connected to the Swamp Rabbit Trail via the new pedestrian bridge spanning I-385 that is also currently under construction. The pedestrian bridge is slated to open early this year, and BridgeWay Station’s Grand Opening is slated to open Spring 2023.

#### **ABOUT HUGHES INVESTMENTS, INC.**

Hughes Investments, Inc. was founded in 1991 by Phil Hughes to create places of lasting value for quality tenants. Phil and his team have served the Upstate of South Carolina for over 30 years by providing smart, quality growth in ways that serve the local community. Phil and his team have been integral to the successful development of downtown Greenville and its sustainable growth. Hughes Investments develops office, retail, industrial, multifamily, medical, and mixed-use properties, specializing in high quality design, development, leasing, and property management. For more information, please visit [www.hughesinvestments.com](http://www.hughesinvestments.com).