



The Georgetown County Chronicle



A monthly e-newsletter produced by Georgetown County, S.C., for its residents and visitors.

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Calendar

Oct. 24 – Last day of the Georgetown Farmers Market and book sale on Screven St. for the season. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Oct. 24 – Last day to request an absentee ballot for the Nov. 3 General Election.

Oct. 27 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Howard Auditorium.

Nov. 3 – Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nov. 10 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Howard Auditorium. Council only meets once this month.

Nov. 11 – County offices and facilities are closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Nov. 19 – Georgetown County Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Howard Auditorium.

Volume 9, Issue 1

October 2020

Voter turnout already breaking records for general election

When doors opened Oct. 5 for the first day of in-person absentee voting, there was already a line of people wrapped around the front of the Georgetown County Elections Office, eager to cast their ballot. It hasn't let up since.

In the first two weeks of absentee voting, Georgetown County elections officials have seen more than 6,500 ballots cast in person. That doesn't count nearly 10,000 mail-in ballots requested. The county has about 45,000 registered voters. The cutoff to request an absentee ballot set for Oct. 24.

Based on trends, the S.C. Election

Commission estimates more than 1 million South Carolinians will vote before Election Day this year.

It's all a strong indicator that voters should be prepared for very heavy turnout and long lines on Election Day, Nov. 3. If you haven't yet cast your ballot, here's what you need to know.

Absentee voting

The Georgetown County Elections Office at 303 N. Hazard St., Georgetown, is open for in-person absentee voting Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. With in-



person absentee voting, voters cast ballots on voting machines and feed their marked ballots into a scanner, just as they would on Election Day. Voters should make sure to bring an accepted form of picture ID with them to vote. Find a

See "Election," Page 3

Planning Director Boyd Johnson retires after 15 years

After a lifetime spent in public service, Boyd Johnson is looking forward to retirement, more time spent fishing with friends and seeing more of his grandson. And this time, he said, he's going to make retirement stick.

"I think a lot of these people were probably at my first retirement party too," Johnson said at a small gathering at Howard gymnasium. "I promise y'all there's not going to be another one!"

Johnson retired on Sept. 16 as Georgetown County's Planning Director, a position he held since 2005. Prior to that, he was City Administrator for the City of Georgetown.

"My entire adult life pretty much has been spent here in the Georgetown area, working for government. I think it's been 43 years," Johnson said. He graduated from the University of South Carolina and Coastal Carolina in 1977 and went to work for the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments for almost a decade. He then spent 20 years working for the City, first in its planning department, then as administrator, before coming to work in the County planning department. He wasn't expecting to head the department, but just six months after he started, the planning director at the time, Carol Coleman, stepped down and Johnson was called to lead again.



Boyd Johnson, center, talks with colleagues during a small retirement gathering while holding a new fishing rod he received as a retirement gift. He is an avid fisherman.

It has been an interesting ride, he said.

"When I first came here, things were red hot. That was before the recession – the Great Recession – and I mean every month it seemed like you would get a 500-lot subdivision or something like that," Johnson said. "To show you how hot things were and how development was, we had 24 employees in our department at the time. Then the recession hit and everything tanked. We of course had to cut staff because of the lack of development. We went to 13 and that's where we are today."

See "Retirement," Page 4

PARD grant will allow addition of new amenities at Andrew Rec. Center

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has received a grant from the S.C. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department for exciting improvements at the Andrews Regional Recreation Center campus. The new facility opened this summer. This is the first time in more than a decade Georgetown County received PARD funding for a project in the Andrews area.

The \$42,000 grant will allow the county to build a new playground on the campus and install a large electronic scoreboard at the multipurpose field complex on the grounds. The county was able to use previous investments at the property to fulfil match requirements for the grant.

The recreation center sits on the former Andrews High School campus and was deeded to Georgetown County by the school district some time ago for construction of regional recreation amenities. The campus, centrally located within the Town of Andrews, provides easy access for walkers, bikers and vehicles from across the region.

Since 2012, Georgetown County has invested more than \$7.4 million into improving the site through the county's Capital Improvement program. This includes construction of the new 24,000-square-foot Andrews Regional Recreation Center, two multi-purpose sports fields with lighting and irrigation, and six tennis courts.

These newest additions will essentially complete redevelopment of the campus.

IN MEMORIAM: Traci Hessler

Traci Alexandria Barbati Hessler, 60, of Pawleys Island, passed away on Sept. 3 after a sudden and intense battle with cancer. She was the daughter of the late Lt. Col. Patrick Barbati and Jani Barbati.

Survivors include her daughter, Cathryn "Calee" Evans and her husband Scott of Georgetown; brothers, Robert Barbati and his wife, Joyce of Mt. Pleasant, and Michael Barbati of Lenoir, NC; granddaughter, Charlotte "Cece" Evans; nieces, Danielle Stoltz and Brianna Barbati; nephews, Patrick Barbati and Anthony Barbati; and her significant other of 17 years, Russ Flack of Georgetown.

Traci was a supporter of Georgetown County Fire and EMS, where she worked in the administration department for the last 17 years. She was a doting grandmother, music lover, and accomplished actor, having appeared in many local productions, including the most recent production of *Silvia* at the Strand Theater in Georgetown.

She is mourned and dearly missed by colleagues and friends in the fire service and throughout Georgetown County government.

A private celebration of life will be held at a future date.



Traci Hessler

GEORGETOWN COUNTY FIRE-EMS

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Firefighters will collect items Nov. 14 & 15, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. outside Walmart in Georgetown

Please consider donating new, unwrapped toys to this cause. Donations may also be dropped off at the Georgetown County Fire/EMS Headquarters Station, 3605 Highmarket St., Georgetown.

Get the Chronicle

At Georgetown County, we want our residents and property owners kept abreast of what's going on inside their local government. That's why we created the Georgetown County Chronicle. It's a vehicle for information about county services and events, important messages from county officials and behind-the-scenes glimpses at how government works.

You can find the Chronicle on our website at www.gtcounty.org or through our social media accounts. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail jbroach@gtcounty.org with the subject line "send me the Chronicle."

That's also the place to send questions and comments about this newsletter and its content. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

www.gtcounty.org

Elections

Continued from Front Page

list of accepted forms of ID at scvotes.gov

Voters can also request mail-in ballots until Oct. 24, either by contacting the Elections Office (843-545-3339) or at scvotes.org. Phones may not be immediately answered due to the volume of calls and in-person requests at this time. Please be patient with our staff.

Mail-in ballots **must have a witness signature** and must be received by county elections officials by 7 p.m. Nov. 3. These ballots can be mailed in, or hand delivered to the Elections Office. For those mailing their absentee ballots, it is recommended you mail your ballot as soon as possible and at least a week before Election Day to allow time for delivery before the deadline.

Remember: this year every registered voter in S.C. qualifies to vote absentee!

Getting Ready

To make sure you're prepared when you go to the polls, it's a good idea to review your voter registration information and review a sample ballot ahead of time. This will help ensure there are no surprises or snags when you sign in to vote — such as finding out you're still registered under an old address or name. Reviewing an absentee ballot will help you familiarize yourself with the races and candidates you will be voting on, so you know what to expect when your ballot loads. Both these actions and more can be achieved at scvotes.gov.

Getting Ready

COVID-19 has unfortunately necessitated a few precinct changes:

- **Black River Precinct.** If you normally vote at the Georgetown YMCA, you will vote this time at Kensington Elementary School.
- **Myersville Precinct.** If you normally vote at Myersville, you will vote this time at Plantersville Church.
- **Murrells Inlet No. 2.** If you normally vote at New Greater Gordon Chapel AME Church, you will vote this time at the Belin Memorial UMC Fellowship Hall.

Election Day

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. Due to anticipated high turnout, voters should be prepared to wait in line. Please remember to bring a photo ID to the polls. Find what forms of ID are accepted at scvotes.gov. If you are in line at 7 p.m., you will be allowed to vote. Please remember that no campaign materials are allowed at the polls. This includes shirts, hats, buttons etc. that advertise for a candidate, contain a candidate slogan or can be identified as associated with a candidate, party or platform. If you wear any of these to the polls, you will be asked to remove them or leave.

Find more voter information at scvotes.gov.

Public Services Director Ray Funnye receives international leadership award

In a surprise presentation, Georgetown County Public Services Director Ray C. Funnye recently received the Presidential Leadership Award from the American Public Works Association. Chosen by the outgoing APWA President, the Presidential Leadership Award is presented to an APWA member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their community.



Ray Funnye, center, is pictured with County Council Chairman John Thomas and County Administrator Angela Christian.

"Ray is not only an outstanding Public Services Director, but he has also fostered a culture within his community that values the giving of one's time, talent and treasure," said APWA Immediate Past-President William E. (Bill) Spearman III, P.E. "Ray is dedicated to developing the next generation of public works professionals who will confront the challenges of tomorrow effectively and sustainably. We are incredibly fortunate to have Ray as a member and leader of APWA, and we all look forward to his accomplishments and work to come."

Spearman added that Funnye's "boundless energy and enthusiasm for serving the public" makes him a larger-than-life figure in Georgetown County. Funnye is the executive director and founder of The Village Group, an organization dedicated to youth development; a member of the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation Board of Directors, dedicated to providing for the underserved in Georgetown County; and the trustee board treasurer of Bethel AME Church. He has inspired thousands of students at local career days and actively seeks interns from under-resourced locales and graduates of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Re-entry Program for employment opportunities. He is considered Georgetown's go-to person on a myriad of levels in both a professional and personal context.

As the county's director of Public Services, Funnye is fiscally, operationally, and managerially responsible for seven major divisions, including Public Works, Engineering/Capital Projects, Stormwater, Environmental Services, GIS, Fleet Services and Facilities Services. During his more than 18 years in this role, he has earned a master's degree in management, received numerous national and local awards, and secured a valuable accreditation for the County from the American Public Works Association.

Funnye was attending a virtual APWA conference, where he thought he was scheduled to give a brief speech, when the group surprised him with the award, which had been previously been mailed to Georgetown. County Administrator Angela Christian and County Council Chairman John Thomas were waiting in the wings outside Funnye's office to present the award as the announcement was made. Colleagues and Funnye's wife, Queen, were waiting in a nearby conference room for a small celebration after the presentation. A video of the presentation is available on the county's YouTube channel at youtube.com/gtcountysc.

"It is such an incredible honor and surprise to receive this award," Funnye said. "I would like to thank my wife, staff, friends and colleagues for their support throughout my time here in Georgetown County and with APWA. This award is recognition of the amazing programs that I am proud to be a part of, and I look forward to seeing where our efforts take us."

A member of APWA's Government Affairs Committee, Funnye has been active for years in advocating for public works, and consistently shares his public works expertise with policymakers in order to support his community and the profession.

Retirement

Continued from Front Page

Of his 40-plus-year career, he said the recession was one of the most difficult periods.

"When I first got here we had positions that we couldn't fill because we couldn't find enough people to hire. It was a struggle to fill the slots. And then, all of a sudden, boom! You had to go the opposite direction and get rid of people. That was very challenging, because you had to not only get rid of people, you had to reorganize. There was still work that had to be done, there just weren't as many plans being reviewed or inspections being done."

Since then, the work load has steadily increased, but not returned to where it was.

"Of course now, we have this pandemic to deal with," Johnson said. "But interestingly enough, we've got a lot of people building houses and renovating houses right now. We're doing residential permits like crazy. The big thing we're lacking right now is commercial. There's not many people doing that right now, I guess because of the virus."

In his years with the county, Johnson counts his biggest accomplishment as countywide zoning. When he joined the Planning Department, the county only zoned heavily developed areas, such as the Waccamaw Neck and established communities surrounding the City of Georgetown.

"The county had been wanting to do it for a long time," he recalled. "We pushed it and we got it done. It was about a year-long process. We had community meetings in every neighborhood we could find. Finally, we ended up getting it done. Now every part of the county is zoned. There's a lot of counties in South Carolina that still haven't done that. We were kind of leading the way on that."

Johnson had been mulling over retirement for some time. He hadn't planned on taking the leap this year, but the timing just seemed right.

"I just turned 65 in July and that was kind of an eye opener," he said. "I started getting the letters saying 'guess what, whether you like it or not, you're on Medicare. That's when I really started thinking about it real hard. Then also, I have a lot of friends who are retired and they're always asking me, 'hey, wanna go fishing Monday or Wednesday or whatever,' because retired people like to do those things during the week when places aren't crowded. I would have to say no, I'm working. Now, I can go do those things and I'm looking forward to getting with my buddies and doing things."

He also has a one-year-old grandchild – his first – to spoil.

He's not too worried about the work he'll leave behind, he said, because he knows he's leaving the county in capable hands. His deputy, Holly Richardson, is serving as interim director and has applied to fill the position permanently. The county is interviewing candidates this month.

Johnson hired Richardson right out of college and she has worked with him her entire career, beginning at the City of Georgetown. When he moved to county government and had an opening, he recruited her there.

"I'm absolutely confident in all my staff," Johnson said. "And Holly... I know Holly will do a better job than I did. If there's a step in any direction, it will be a step forward."

Johnson said his wife asked him several times leading up to retirement how he would spend all his days now. "I said I don't know. But I can't wait to find out."

Palmetto Storytelling Festival goes virtual for fall 2020

Just in time for cozy fall gatherings, the Georgetown County Library is offering the Palmetto Storytelling Festival, a celebration of Gullah-inspired tales, amazing animal yarns, and even some spooky stories. A different Georgetown County storyteller will appear each day on the [library's Facebook](#) page at 4 p.m., from Oct. 19 – 29. The videos will be archived, so those who can't watch the live broadcasts can catch up later.

Natalie Daise, Gloria Barr Ford, Zenobia Harper, Elizabeth Huntsinger, and Jolla Powell

each have side-splitting, hair-raising, and touching tales that will appeal to all ages featured in the festival. There are also kid-friendly crafts featured on some of the broadcasts, and free supplies for the crafts are available at all four library branches. (Monday-Friday at Georgetown and Waccamaw, and Monday-Thursday at Andrews and Carvers Bay.)

"We're so excited to be able to offer this to Georgetown County families," said Children's Head Librarian Shelia Sullivan. "These stories have been passed down right here in the Low-country for generations, and they give us an entertaining glimpse into our history and the things that make us unique."



Natalie Daise



IT'S TIME TO CAST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT!

The 2020 General Election is Nov. 3, but all registered voters in S.C. are qualified to vote by absentee ballot this year – either by mail or by voting early in person. For information, visit gtcounty.org/elections.



Every vote counts!

#gtcounty #Election2020

Akers named Employee of the Quarter

Randy Akers, a community specialist with Georgetown County's Parks and Recreation Department for the last four years, was recently named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter. He was transferred to the county's IT department in September, where he now serves as Media Technology specialist.

When Georgetown County reopened its offices and facilities following COVID-19 closures, it was with an altered way of doing things for many departments. One of the most significant changes was that public meetings – including those of County Council, the Planning Commission and other important government bodies – moved from County Council Chambers to Howard Auditorium. This change of venue better allowed for social distancing, protecting the health and safety of county officials, staff and members of the public. But it also came with some serious challenges. The auditorium didn't have Internet or a lot of the audio equipment needed to properly host this type of meeting. There was also demand from the public to begin livestreaming meetings, as many individuals were not ready yet to return to crowded spaces and had gotten used to being able to watch meetings online during the months when all meetings were conducted virtually.

Randy was asked to take on the effort of making the auditorium ready to host public meetings and setting up a way to livestream those meetings for the public. He was given a very short time frame, but was able to make it happen, despite multiple challenges including unreliable Internet connectivity. In addition to managing the county's adult sports leagues, Randy generally handles technology for the Parks and Recreation Department, but this task went beyond his normal job description.

He selected and installed most of the required equipment, and controls all of it with great attention to detail during these meetings. Not only did he achieve the goal of functionality he was tasked with, but he set a high bar for professionalism, ensuring the county's meetings and livestreams had an impressive look from the very first virtual meeting to the more recent in-person meetings.

Each week, he has continued to improve on the livestream without being asked. He has gone well above the task that was set for him in an effort to ensure the county, staff and council look professional and reflect well in the public eye. This is something he has invested significant time and energy into, and it is unlikely these tasks would have been achieved at this level without him and his attention to detail and high standards.

Randy was also given the task of recording and producing videos for the Virtual Recreation Series following the closure of recreation facilities in March. This series allowed Parks and Recreation staff to continue public outreach during the closure, and the series continues today. Randy has produced more than 60 videos for the series.

Additionally, Randy serves as the county's Deputy Public Information Officer, assisting in putting out important information during disasters such as hurricanes, and he was recently appointed to serve on the county's website redevelopment committee.



Randy Akers

Journalist Issac Bailey to discuss new book about racial equality

In his latest book, journalist and author Issac J. Bailey has taken on some tough topics. He'll discuss these and participate in an online Q&A session on Friday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. during a livestreamed presentation for the Georgetown County Library System.

Bailey's new book, 'Why Didn't We Riot?: A Black Man in Trumpland,' was released this month by Other Press. In it, Bailey, a South Carolina-based journalist and author, explores important, timely questions of racial division and equality in ways that combine the personal with the political. He is a native of Horry County who worked for years as a columnist and senior writer for *The Sun News* in Myrtle Beach. In 2011, he was awarded a Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism for stories about a child protection case in South Carolina; consequently, the state altered the way it manages such cases.

Bailey is James K. Batten Professor of Public Policy at Davidson College, his alma mater. He has served as a Neiman Fellow at Harvard University, a frequent commentator for CNN, a columnist for *The Charlotte Observer*, and a contributor to *Politico*, *Time*, *CNN.com*, and *The Washington Post*. He is also author of "My Brother Moochie: Regaining Dignity in the Face of Crime, Poverty, and Racism in the American South" (Other Press, 2018).

Because of COVID-19 concerns, library meeting rooms are currently closed to public gatherings; as a result, the Library will feature virtual presentations, while enabling folks to contribute to real-time Q&A sessions following each presentation by commenting on Facebook Live. All presentations are free and openly available to the public online. To view the presentations live, go to facebook.com/gtlibrary at the scheduled time. You do not have to have a Facebook account to watch the presentations.



Issac Bailey

Georgetown County Library presents the online:

PALMETTO STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Your favorite Georgetown County storytellers!
Each weekday at 4 pm, October 19 -29
FACEBOOK > Georgetown County Library

Natalie Daise... Gloria Barr Ford... Zenobia Harper
Elizabeth Huntsinger... Jolla Powell

News from our Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

Hello Veterans! It's hard to believe it's already fall, but here we are with Veterans Day just around the corner. Obviously, COVID-19 will mean some changes to Veterans Day activities this year, but there are several events I want you to be aware of.

At 11 a.m. on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, VFW Post 6444 will have a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Georgetown, located at 715 Church St. All are welcome.

American Legion Post 178 will also host a ceremony in Murrells Inlet at 11 a.m. on Veterans Day. Guest speaker will be Larry Truax, S.C. State Coordinator for the Missing in America Project. The ceremony will take place at the group's headquarters. The group will also host a craft fair on Halloween from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. As we continue to see rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in our area, please remember to practice social distancing and to wear your face mask.

Also, please make sure you make a plan to get to the polls for the Nov. 3 general election. The last day to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 24. Find more information on Page 1 of this newsletter.

We'll be back next month with more information for veterans. In the meantime, if you need assistance, please contact my office at (843) 545-3330.



Murphy

Proud to Serve,
David Murphy, Manager,
Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs

Branche named Training Officer of the Year

Sgt. Richard Branche of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office was presented the Training Officer of the Year Award by the S.C. Training Officer's Association this month at the group's annual meeting in Myrtle Beach.



Branche

Branche was hired as training officer at the Georgetown County Detention Center in 2017, after retiring from the East Brunswick, N.J., Police Department, where he was a motorcycle officer. After attending the S.C. Law Enforcement Academy and receiving his Class 2 certification, he created a three-week pre-academy for newly hired detention center employees. In addition, they receive training and certification in all areas needed to perform their duties. Since the pre-academy began, 49 officers from Georgetown County have received their Class 2 certification from the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy with only one failure.

Current detention center employees' annual elective training has increased from 52 hours last year to over 100 hours this year. Branche has a system in place that allows officers to receive most of their training without increasing overtime. He has certified all officers in the use and deployment of special weapons. He has maintained instructor certifications in a variety of disciplines and skills, and now other agencies send employees to his certification training sessions.

"Rich has worked very hard to ensure professional and safe practices at the detention center and beyond," Georgetown County Sheriff Carter Weaver said. "His dedication and desire to serve is an example to us all."

In addition to Weaver, Neil Johnson, director of the county detention center, was there to celebrate Branche's accomplishment with him. Georgetown County would like to congratulate Sgt. Branche on this significant achievement.

DEA NATIONAL ^{Rx} TAKEBACK Saturday October 24th 10 am – 12 n

The Georgetown County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission is partnering with the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office to participate in the DEA National Prescription Take Back Day.

Where: Georgetown County Sheriff Annex
Located at the Litchfield Exchange Mall behind
Applewoods House of Pancakes
14363 Ocean Highway
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Time: 10 am – 12 noon

If you have unwanted and expired medications at home, with an emphasis on Opioids, please bring them to the event to safely dispose of them. For safety and convenience due to Covid-19 the Officers and Prevention staff will be wearing Personal Protection Equipment i.e. Masks and Gloves along with bringing the disposal container to your vehicle for easy drop off.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 37% of Georgetown County HS students surveyed admitted, it was very easy or sort of easy obtaining prescription pain relievers.

By disposing of unwanted and expired medication, we can help prevent accidental overdoses and the start of a Substance Use Disorder.

JUST PLAIN KILLERS.COM

Stay Connected
WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

@GtCounty

Georgetown County, South Carolina County Government

Numbers to know

(All begin with area code 843)

Animal Control, 546-5101

Assessor, 545-3014

Auditor, 545-3021

Clerk of Court, 545-3004

County Council, 545-3058

Coroner, 546-3056

Elections, 545-3339

Finance, 545-3002

Planning and Zoning, 545-3116

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven Street
Georgetown, S.C. 29440-4200

Phone: (843) 545-3063
Fax: (843) 545-3292



Flight training school opens at Georgetown airport

The Georgetown County Airport is proud to welcome CHS Flight School as its new flight training operation.

CHS Flight School operates at four airports across the Lowcountry. This exciting addition will bring potential and advancing pilots from all over the region, said Airport Manager Jim Taylor. The school will initially have two planes for instruction and access to flight sims, with room— and plans — to grow.

This will also attract people to the area and will increase the economic impact of our airport, Taylor said.

CHS Flight School prides itself on creating pilots.

"We know that flying a plane is your dream and we are here to make that dream come true," said CHS owner Mike McCurdy. In addition to private pilot training, CHS offers accelerated instrument pilot and commercial pilot training. The holiday season is right around the corner. Consider giving the "gift of flight" to a loved one for the holidays, Taylor suggested. Gift certificates will be available soon.

For more information, to arrange a lesson, or simply to discuss your dreams, call Bettina at (781) 444-7931. Additional information is available at www.chsflightschool.com.

"You can be at the controls in no time, and start a brand new career or a lifelong hobby," McCurdy said.

For other opportunities available at your Georgetown County Airport, visit GeorgetownCountyAirport.com or call (843) 545-3638.

Pond Rd. project is first of its kind for county – but won't be the last

Georgetown County Public Works recently completed a project on Pond Road in Murrells Inlet that was the first of its kind for the agency.

After about two years of recurring sinkholes on one area of the road, it became clear that patching wasn't going to cut it and a more permanent solution was needed. The answer was a process called cured-in-place piping. After running a camera into the pipe, staff was able to see that joints in the existing pipe had become separated due to infiltration of sediment from the high groundwater table. The traditional fix would have been to rip out the road and likely the some of the yards of residents on the road.

Cured in place piping is generally used in water and sewer projects rather than for storm drainage. But the Public Works Department saw an opportunity to utilize it on Pond Road, allowing pipe replacement to be completed more quickly, more cost efficiently and more safely.

Essentially this method has workers create a new pipe within the existing, damaged pipe by pouring in a polyurethane lining. The lining is then heated for 12 hours and allowed to cure for an additional 12 hours. Once the liner is cooled, the ends are cut, the pipe is flushed and the outside is grouted. The end result is that a new pipe is now in place without the cost and effort of having to dig out the old pipe and residents are inconvenienced for a shorter period of time.

It's a technology Georgetown County is likely to utilize often going forward thanks to the many benefits and the success of this initial project.



GEORGETOWN COUNTY FIRE-EMS

WE'RE HIRING!

www.gtcounty.org/jobs

