



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Inside this Issue

- DigiBridge lecture series returns to library system, Page 4.
- The Beatles tribute concert comes to Waccamaw Library, Page 5.
- Work on Brick Chimney Road project to wrap up this summer, Page 6.
- Local groups sought to entertain during Anthuan Maybank Day festivities in April, Page 6.
- Sunday open play gym hours return to Georgetown, Page 8.
- Our Marsh Counts initiative has successful kickoff, Page 10.

Calendar

Feb. 28 – Blood Drive at Waccamaw Library, noon to 5 p.m. See page 5.

March 7 – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Howard Center.

March 8 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St., Georgetown.

March 9 – Board of Elections meeting, 5 p.m., Elections Office, 303 N. Hazard St.

March 11 – Living Succulent Terrarium Workshop at the Waccamaw Library, 10 a.m. See page 8.

March 17 – Tea and Poetry Series at the Waccamaw Library features an open mic session and reading by J. Drew Lanham. See page 6.

March 17 – Georgetown County Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., historic county courthouse.

March 19 – Friends of the Georgetown Library Community Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to noon. See page 7.

March 22 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St., Georgetown.

View more events at gtcounty.org

Volume 10, Issue 5

February 2022

County adopts redistricting plan with public support

Georgetown County Council gave third and final reading to a redistricting plan at its regular meeting on Feb. 8. It ultimately adopted “Map 650,” the fifth and final redistricting map presented to them over the last three months.

Council requested a fifth map following a public input meeting on Feb. 2, during which residents said they were still not happy with the map presented there. Primarily, they wanted to see more of the City of Georgetown kept together.

“We have worked on moving things to reflect the desires and concerns of Council and the community,” said Angela Christian, Georgetown County Administrator. “We have worked just a little bit harder, and we have come to the point where I think we have a map that accomplishes what Council and many of the residents we heard from were looking for. Certainly I wish we could make everybody happy. I think this map is the one that comes closest to that.”

Map 650 was unveiled at a redistricting workshop

immediately prior to the Feb 8 Council meeting. County Council adopted Map 650 unanimously. The map, along with its four predecessors, is available for public review at gtcounty.org/redistricting.

Map 650 gets its name from its deviation range: 6.50%. This is the range in which the map deviates from its goal of having exactly 9,058 people in each of the seven County Council Districts. While the range is slightly higher than that of the previous map, it is still well under the maximum deviation allowed by law.

Now that it has Council approval, the map moves on to the Georgetown County Board of Elections and Voter Registration, which is responsible for notifying voters of any changes to their voting precinct and or to which council district they will vote in.

Redistricting takes place after every census to help ensure every voter has equal representation, so the new map will be in place for the next decade. Anyone who would like to view a recording of the council meeting may do so at youtube.com/gtcountysc.

Susan Edwards celebrates 50 years as County Employee

When Susan Edwards started her career with Georgetown County, Highway 17 was still two lanes, the City of Georgetown Police Department was located at the old Clock Tower, and the annual county budget was \$1.2 million.

Nationally, people across America were singing about a bullfrog named Jeremiah and women everywhere wanted to look like Goldie Hawn. You could buy a gallon of gas for 36 cents and a gallon of milk for \$1.18.

Edwards was 24 years old and pregnant with her second child. She worked in a real estate office downtown and was manning the office one Saturday morning when Sonny Sieu walked in and offered her a job. It came with benefits, a good starting salary of \$4,200 a year, and she wouldn't have to work weekends anymore. County employees at the time also got an hour and a half for lunch every day.

“I thought I had died and gone to heaven,” Edwards recalled.

Even so, she never expected she'd one day be celebrating a half century of employment with Georgetown County. It is believed she is only the second Georgetown County employee to have ever reached



Susan Edwards stands in front of the Assessor's Office in the historic Courthouse on Screven Street.

such a milestone — the only other the county can find record of was Betty Williams, a former Clerk of Court, who worked for the county for 51 years before retiring in 1996. Edwards is well on the road to beating her record. With no plans of retiring any time soon.

See “Susan Edwards,” Page 9

IN MEMORIAM:**Ann Puckett, Purchasing Office**

Ann Puckett of Georgetown passed away on Jan. 12 in Southern Pines, N.C. She was 68 and worked in Georgetown County's Purchasing Office from 2013 until Nov. 30 of this past year.

She fought for as long as she deemed it worthwhile. She rested when she determined it was time. She left us on her own terms and at her own time, which is only fitting.

Ann was born on Feb. 27, 1953, in Columbia, and was raised in the Upstate of South Carolina. She graduated from Cheraw High School in 1970. She met and married her husband, Herb, who was a longtime employee of Georgetown County's Facilities Services Division, in 1981. She was a founding member of the 2nd South Carolina Regiment living history organization and was the treasurer for the Georgetown NRA.

Her interests included sewing, family and her beloved pups. She devoted much of her time and energy as a caregiver to family members. She and Herb opened their home, hearth, campsite and fire-side to many throughout the years. Though there were only three children in her immediate family, she proudly had a hand in raising or directing so many others in her life. Though small in stature, she was colossal in love and affection for those many souls she held dear.

Ann is survived by her brother, Robert Gardner; two sons, Bert and Bryan Puckett; and two grandsons, Max and Hunter Puckett. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Betsy Puckett.

In lieu of flowers or memorial, donations can be made in memory of Ann Puckett to the Airedale Rescue Society.



Ann Puckett
1953-2022

IN MEMORIAM:**Herb Puckett, Facilities Services**

Herbert Lipe Puckett III of Georgetown passed away on Feb. 2 in Carthage, N.C. He was 79.

Herb was born Jan. 22, 1943, in Charlotte. He graduated from North Mecklenburg High School in 1961 and The Citadel in 1965. A veteran, he was an Army officer with service in the Armor branch. He met and married his wife, Ann, in 1981.

He most recently worked as a Maintenance Manager for Georgetown County. He was a founding member of the 2nd S.C. Regiment living history organization and was an active member of the NRA. His interests included a lifelong passion for the outdoors. He enjoyed training young men and hunting dogs. An avid historian, Herb Ann enjoyed many days with friends and family sharing their home, hearth, campsite and fireside. Though there were only three children in their immediate family, he proudly had a hand in raising or directing so many others in his life.

Herb is survived by his sister, Patricia Bleyntat; two sons, Bert and Bryan Puckett; and two grandsons, Max and Hunter. Herb was preceded in death by his daughter, Betsy Puckett Hooker, and just three weeks ago by his wife, Ann. She went ahead to make sure the campfire was burning bright when he arrived.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Herb Puckett to the American Diabetes Association.



Herb Puckett
1943-2022

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, sign up at gtcounty.org by clicking the "News & Alerts" icon on the home page.

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact Jackie Broach at (843) 545-3164 or jbroach@gtcounty.org. We welcome your feedback.

www.gtcounty.org

Nominations of Georgetown
County veterans sought for

**QUILTS
OF VALOR**

Nominations due by March 1, 2022

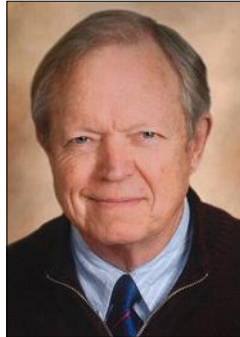
Details at gtcounty.org.



IN MEMORIAM:

Brian Shult, Former Auditor

Brian Douglas Shult, former Auditor of Georgetown County, died Jan. 18 at the age of 74. He was born in El Campo, Texas, on April 11, 1947, to two wondrous parents, Milton and Rose Shult, who taught him the basics of life: trust and faith in Jesus Christ, to work hard, be nice and respectful, and laugh at yourself. He is a graduate of Texas Lutheran College, where his major was business Administration. He was a member of Sigma Lambda Chi fraternity.



Brian Shult
1947-2022

Brian served two years in the US Army, serving with the 23rd Support Group at Camp Humphreys, Korea, where he met his wife, Viki. They were married in 1975. At 26, Brian became President and CEO of Shult Implement Company, one of the largest farm machinery dealerships on the Texas East Coast. He had multiple careers in several states including real estate broker, Director of the Virginia Nature Conservancy, hotel management and president of a chimney business in Vermont. He moved to Pawleys Island in 2009 and ran for two consecutive terms as Georgetown County Auditor, retiring in June 2021.

Brian was a faithful member of the Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church, where he served on both the Finance Committee and the Session.

He was also Vice Chairman for the Republican Party in Georgetown and President of the S.C. Association of Auditors.

Brian is survived by his wife of 47 years, Viki; two children, Arla Burnley Newton and Andrew Brian Christian Shult; four grandsons, Cameron Burnley Schneider Shult, Christopher Burnley Newton, Graham Covington Schneider Shult, and Jack Holderness Newton; and one brother, Milton Donald Shult, Jr.

He was beloved by all.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church, 9967 Ocean Hwy, Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

IN MEMORIAM:

Edsel Hemingway, County Council

Henry Edsel Hemingway Sr., widower of Margaret Anne Rhem Hemingway, died Jan. 20, at his residence. He was 91. Mr. Hemingway was born in Andrews on July 27, 1930, a son of the late William Lewis Hemingway and Basil Eaddy Hemingway. Mr. Hemingway grew up in Andrews and graduated from Andrews High School, attended the Citadel and graduated from Kings Business School in Charlotte. He was a faithful member of Trinity United Methodist Church.



Edsel Hemingway
1930-2022

Mr. Hemingway was an accomplished business man, and was synonymous with Hemingway Motor Co., H&S Oil Co., Big 4 Tobacco Warehouse, Allied Credit Service, Mingo Esso, the D. D. Rhem Store and the Farm Equipment Company. He loved farming and hunting and fishing in the Rhems Community along Mingo Creek where he founded the Back Woods Quail Club. He was a volunteer Firefighter for the Town of Andrews; and served on the Andrews Town Council. He served as a Georgetown County Councilman for 34 years. Mr. Hemingway loved Clemson and was one of their most dedicated fans. One of the most interesting facts about Edsel was "He has never been in a Walmart."

In addition to his parents and wife, Mr. Hemingway is predeceased by a brother, Lorin Hemingway, and two grandsons, Rod and Andy Chandler. Surviving are: his five children, Sel Hemingway (Kathy), Melanie Chandler (Barry), Ellen Morris (Michael), Bill Hemingway, and Rick Hemingway (Lindsay); 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Bert Hemingway Bunch and Patricia Hemingway Campbell.

Memorials are suggested to: Trinity United Methodist Church, 205 South Rosemary Ave., Andrews, SC 29510 and Union United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, PO Box 580, Hemingway, SC 29554.

The Friends of the Georgetown Library present...

THE GEORGETOWN GATORS OF WINYAH HIGH SCHOOL

Book Launch

\$25.00

Available to purchase at the Georgetown Library @405 Cleland Street Check or Cash Only

call 843-545-3316 for more information

Take a Kid Fishing Day

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation will host another great family fishing day this spring at 8 Oaks Park!

Save the Date

May 14

Free to Participate | Sponsors welcome Fun Prizes for Kids

More information coming soon. Call (843) 545-3550 or visit gtparks.org.

Local experts showcase county history and culture in 'DigiBridge 2.0' lecture series

Beginning March 9, the Georgetown County Library will showcase a series of 12 humanities lectures by local specialists on fascinating elements of Georgetown County's deep, diverse history and culture. The DigiBridge 2.0 lecture series will be free and open to the public, and will take place on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. in March, April and May.

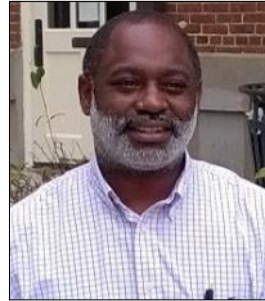
March presentations will occur at the Southern Georgetown Library, April presentations at the Carvers Bay Library, and May presentations at the Andrews Library. If you miss a presentation, all 12 will be made available for viewing afterward on the [Georgetown County Library YouTube page](#).

DigiBridge 2.0 is an expansion of the popular 2020 DigiBridge lecture series and will provide engaging educational content for library patrons and community members, followed by audience Q&A sessions. Scheduled presenters feature a host of respected names, including educators and performance artists Ron and Natalie Daise, Waccamaw Indian Council Chief Buster Hatcher, and historian Lee Brockington. Presenters will speak to a range of topics, including Georgetown County's rich Gullah heritage, the significance of Indigenous people's presence in the region, and the growing influence of Hispanic culture.

Presentation locations were selected to better engage residents



Dennzon Winley



Dedric Bonds



Marlanda DeKine

in the county's rural areas. DigiBridge 2.0 is sponsored by a Growth Grant from S.C. Humanities, with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the American Rescue plan Act of 2021.

"The original DigiBridge Series was a big hit and enabled us to continue our public humanities programming at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person gatherings were limited," said Library Director Dwight McInvaill. "We are truly excited to expand on the initial DigiBridge Series, which was fully virtual. DigiBridge 2.0 will foster unique, in-person presentations by talented independent scholars, who will reach out to all areas of Georgetown County, which is mainly rural, diverse, and small town."

The full schedule of presentations is as follows:

At the Southern Georgetown Library — 4187 Powell Road:

- **March 9:** Dennzon Winley (political scientist and educator), "The Birth of Two Peoples: The Shared History of the Gullah-Geechee and the Sierra Leoneans."
- **March 16:** Dedric Bonds (historian and educator), "Picked Out to be Picked On: The Life of Rev. M. M. Dentley, a Humanitarian."
- **March 23:** J. Guadalupe Garcia (restauranteur), "Celebrating Mexican Foodways in Georgetown County."
- **March 30:** Deon "DK" Turner (photographic artist), "Going Home to Sierra Leone."

At the Carvers Bay Library — 13048 Choppee Road:

- **April 6:** Ron Daise (performance artist, writer and cultural interpreter), "Gullah Geechee Skrent (Strength)."
- **April 13:** Natalie Daise (performance artist and community educator), "Gullah Heritage: Deep Roots, Wide Branches."
- **April 20:** Marlanda Dekine (poet and educator), "Our Ancestors Were Filled to the Brim with Poetry."
- **April 27:** Alma Sierra (victim advocate), "Cultural Awareness: Victim Advocacy in Georgetown County."

At the Andrews Library — 105 North Morgan Avenue:

- **May 4:** Chief Buster Hatcher (Waccamaw Indian Council Chief), "Waccamaw Indian Cultural Heritage."
- **May 11:** Valdema Lawrence (author), "The Person Behind the Mask: Writing to Heal the Trauma of Domestic Abuse."
- **May 18:** Leona Joy Bonds (historian and educator), "Living Legacy: An Interview with a Descendant of James Bowley."
- **May 25:** Lee Brockington (historian and author), "The Five Rivers of Georgetown County: How the Environment Influences the Culture."

For more information, contact Dan Turner, head of programming and outreach at the library, at dturner@gtcounty.org.

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation wants you to mark your calendars for something big!

SAVE THE DATE

TRACK & FIELD NAMING CEREMONY

Saturday, April 23, 2022
at Beck Recreation Center

With special guest:
Olympic Gold Medalist & Georgetown native Anthuan Maybank!

Beatles tribute concert comes to Waccamaw Library in March

Music fans can relive one of the best parts of the 1960s on March 10 at the Waccamaw Library, when Yesterdaze performs some of the top hits of The Beatles during a long-awaited Tribute concert.

Yesterdaze, accompanied by guest pianist Tom Santopietro was originally scheduled to perform the tribute show in January, but the event was postponed to March 10. The free show starts at 6 p.m. and is part of the "LIVE at the LI-brary" music series, sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library.

The series includes an array of live music, including big band sound, acoustic Americana, and swing and pop tunes, in addition to the tribute to The Beatles.

Yesterdaze is a high-energy 1960s show band that promises to deliver "a blast from the past you'll never forget" with songs that topped the charts and impacted society. The show promises to give audience members the chance to "get back" to Beatlemania and revel again in some of the greatest rock 'n' roll songs ever made. Yesterdaze will be joined by piano man Tom Santopietro, who spent his early years in the music industry in the New York area as a sound technician with bands such as The Beach Boys.

Other upcoming shows

On Thursday, **March 31**, at 6 p.m., the musicians series welcomes the down-home sound of renowned singer and songwriter



1960s show band Yesterdaze will perform hits by The Beatles March 10.


David Bankston. Bankston will play his special brand of Americana and Southern roots music, with a bit of rock and blues mixed in.

His storied musical career includes fronting a 1970s folk rock band with a major label deal, collaborating with legendary guitarists Sam Broussard and Sonny Landreth, and singing lead roles in opera and musical theater productions.

Bankston is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Music at Coastal Carolina University. His musical performance will

follow an exciting multimedia presentation on "Rock Music and Poetry" by Dr. Ernest Suarez, Distinguished Professor at Catholic University of America, starting at 4 p.m. On Thursday, **April 7** at 6 p.m., a dynamic musi-

cal duo, New York Connection, will take the Library stage to offer an excellent selection of swing, pop and rock tunes, from Frank Sinatra to Billy Joel. While Trevor tickles the ivories and supplies the vocals, Barry smoothly blends in a mix of horns and woodwinds. New York Connection provides a whole ensemble's worth of sound in each song.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

**WACCMAN
NECK BRANCH
LIBRARY**

41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island, SC

Feb. 28 | noon-5pm
1.800.REDCROSS.

Schedule online at redcrossblood.org

THE FRIENDS OF THE GEORGETOWN LIBRARY PRESENT


TUESDAYS WITH...

**FRANCES
BENJAMIN
JOHNSTON'S
CAROLINA**

with
**BUD HILL
and
BILLY BALDWIN**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 15th, 2022
10:00AM**

**Georgetown Library
405 Cleland St.
Georgetown, SC. 29440**



Community center offers ASL class for beginners

For anyone who has ever wanted to learn American sign language, the Murrells Inlet Community Center has an upcoming class you'll want to check out. Students can sign up to participate in classes on one of two days: either the first four Thursdays in March from 6-7:30 p.m. or every Friday in March from 10-11:30 a.m. Each session is limited to 15 students. The course is for beginners and all materials are provided.

Cost to participate is \$40 for the four-class series. Payment is due at the first class. The Murrells Inlet Community Center is located at 4462 Murrells Inlet Road. Pre-registration is required. Contact aweige13@gmail.com.

Progress on Brick Chimney Road work



The first phase of extensive repair work to Brick Chimney Road is about 60 percent complete this month. The contractor anticipates the project will wrap up this summer, hopefully by early August. Phase I focuses on paving 2.5 miles of Brick Chimney Road, which will connect Highways 521 and 51. The work includes a bridge across the IP Canal, which is about 98% finished. At a cost of about \$5 million, this project is one of the Georgetown County Public Works Dept.'s largest ever road projects and will allow vehicular traffic to bypass the City of Georgetown, hopefully improving traffic conditions on Fraser Street.

The Waccamaw Library and the Poetry Society of S.C. are pleased to announce



The 2021 Litchfield Tea and Poetry Series



Monthly presentations through April, each featuring thought-provoking poets with S.C. connections.



Programs are free, open to the public and start at 10 a.m. at the Waccamaw Library.

March 17



J. Drew Lanham is an Edgefield native and a celebrated, widely published author and wildlife biologist. His books include the award-winning memoir "The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature" and the poetry-prose collection "Sparrow Envy: Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts." He is Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Clemson University. An open mic event follows. Poets in attendance will be invited to recite one poem of one page in length.

April 21



Award-winning poet Libby Bernardin is author of the book-length collection "Stones Ripe for Sowing," as well as two chap books "The Book of Myth" and "Layers of Song." Her new collection, "House in Need of Mooring," is forthcoming this year. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee, a Life Member of the S.C. Academy of Authors Board, and former director of the Litchfield Tea & Poetry Series.



Renowned poet Glenis Redmond explores the living histories of her Afro-Carolinian roots. Her work has appeared on NPR and PBS and in "Orion," "Obsidian" and "StorySouth." Her poetry collections include "The Three Harriets and Others," and "The Listening Skin." A Cave Canem poet, Redmond entered the Governor's Award for the Arts in 2020 and will be inducted into the S.C. Academy of Authors in 2022.

CALLING ALL TALENT GROUPS!



GEORGETOWN COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR BANDS, DANCERS, DRUMLINES & MORE TO PERFORM AT THE NAMING CEREMONY OF THE BECK RECREATION CENTER TRACK FIELD!



Come celebrate with special guest Olympic Gold Medalist and Georgetown Native: Anthuan Maybank



WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022
WHERE: BECK RECREATION CENTER
CONTACT: BETH GOODALE
(843) 545-3550 OR BGOODALE@GTCOUNTY.ORG

Library to screen Black River documentary

The Waccamaw Library will feature a new documentary film next month exploring the Black River, which courses through Georgetown County. Filmmaker Robert Marsh Deane will screen and discuss scenes from his documentary "The Black River Paddle" (MLNL Media, 2022) on Tuesday, March 22 at 10 a.m. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the audience.



Deane's presentation is free and open to all, and is sponsored by The Friends of the Waccamaw Library as part of the Library's Eco-South Series of programs focusing on issues of ecological sustainability and stewardship in our region. The Waccamaw Library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

"The Black River Paddle" covers a 90-mile kayak trek from Kingstree to Georgetown along this age-old, natural "highway."

A native of Georgetown County, Deane hopes his film will inspire viewers to connect with the ecological diversity and deep history fostered by the Black River and aid efforts to preserve its wild beauty for future generations.

Sheriff's Polar Plunge raises more than \$74K in 2nd year



Sheriff Carter Weaver and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office want to thank the hundreds of residents, businesses and organizations that helped raise over \$74,000 for SC Special Olympics at the second annual Polar Plunge. The event, which took place Feb. 5 at the Litchfield Inn, was truly a giant party with more than 150 participants, a live DJ, dancing, colorful costumes, freezing cold water, and unlimited hot cocoa. If you missed it this year, go ahead and make plans to join in the fun next February!

Friends of the Georgetown Library

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

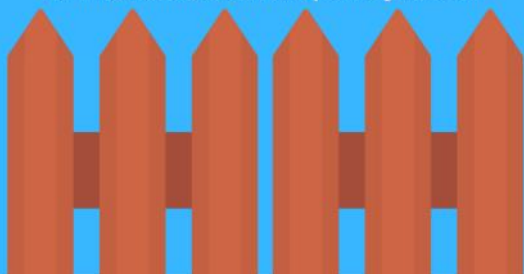
Saturday, March 19 | 8 am to noon

405 Cleland St., Georgetown

Sellers: \$15 single space, \$20 double

Registration forms available
at the Georgetown Library.
(Rain Date is April 2.)

For information, email rwilley1019@gmail.com



No registration required

Come meditate with us to reenergize and destress!

MARCH 7TH @ 1PM
AT THE WACCAMAW NECK
BRANCH LIBRARY

Waccamaw Neck Branch Library
41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island, SC
843.545.3351

Class lead by certified
yoga therapist
Maribeth MacKenzie from
Inlet Yoga



Sunday open play hours returning to Beck

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is excited to announce that Sunday open play gym hours will return to the Georgetown region on March 6. This is something community members have been asking for, but staffing issues combined with the pandemic have hampered efforts.

Sunday open play hours will be scheduled at Beck Recreation Center, based on requests from players who are currently utilize basketball facilities in the Georgetown Region. The county offered to make Sunday gym time available at either Beck or the Howard Center. The variety of other opportunities available on the campus at Beck made the site more appealing for weekend play.

Look for a schedule and more information soon at gtcparks.org.

Register Now for Youth Track & Field

Kids ages 5-12 are eligible to sign up for Georgetown County Parks and Recreation's Youth Track and Field Program. Registration is open through March 21. The fee is \$15 per child. Programs are available in Georgetown, Pawleys Island, Choppee and Andrews. For more information, visit gtcparks.org or call 843-545-3464.

Living Succulent Terrarium Workshop

Each participant will have the opportunity to create a living succulent terrarium in a mini 3 inch globe.

- Included in the workshop:
- Live demo by Nicole Saenz from Rock n' Roots Plant Co.
 - All supplies provided at no cost.



March 11th @ 10am
at The Waccamaw Neck
Branch Library



***Space is limited.
Registration required***
Contact Kendra Corey at
kcorey@gtcounty.org
or call
843-545-3351 to register.

41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Fly-in event draws a crowd to airport



Nearly 100 people and 50 aircraft were at the Georgetown Airport on Sunday, Feb. 20. The occasion was the annual visit of the S.C. Breakfast Club — the oldest flying club in the country. The club travels to a different airport in the state for breakfast every Sunday. After taking a year off last year due to the pandemic, the club was excited to get back to Georgetown. "Bringing them back to Georgetown creates awareness here about the airport and people get to see all that we have to offer," said Jim Taylor, airport manager. Find more photos and videos on the airport's [Facebook page](#).

Stay Connected

**WITH YOUR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**



@GtCounty



Susan Edwards

Continued from Front Page

"It just doesn't seem like it's been 50 years. It really doesn't," said Edwards, who worked her way up the ranks to County Assessor, a position she has held since May 2003.

When she joined the county staff, the functions of property assessment were handled by the Auditor's Office. Edwards worked as a clerk.

"I did the real estate, back when we handwrote the books," she said. "We had all the tax information come in from Columbia in bags, and we had to do all that manually with the vehicles and everything. Then, once we got the books written, we had to type up the tax notices to send out."

It would be quite a while still before computers came to county offices.

Edwards had been on the job about five years when the Assessor's Office was created in 1976 and those duties moved away from the Auditor's Office — the result of a change in state law. She was given the option to stay with the Auditor's Office or go over to the new Assessor's Office. She chose to go, continuing as a clerk. She remembers Tommy Lane was the county's first Assessor. The office was located on the first floor of the historic courthouse, across from the current location of the Auditor's Office. The area is walled off now, housing electrical equipment.

A decade later, the county's second Assessor, Mike Obenshain, encouraged Edwards to get her license to become an appraiser. She took the exam and was licensed in 1985.

"I just gradually kept going," she said. "I stayed an appraiser for a good while."

Then, when Rick Dolan was Assessor and decided to step down, he appointed Edwards as his interim replacement. The next Assessor, Pat Antley, was hired and eventually left, and Edwards was once again named the interim replacement.

The county conducted an exhaustive search and interviewed a number of people for the position. Though she had applied, Edwards wasn't among them. The County was having a budget retreat when the Administrator asked for a hiring update. There wasn't much progress on finding a new Assessor. That's when Edwards was told Ray Funnye spoke up. He was and is still the county's Public Services Director.

"He said 'well, you've got the one you need. She's right there' (referring to Edwards)." Leslie Thomas, the MIS director at

the time chimed in her agreement and Edwards was made an offer. That was 20 years ago. She had a lot of learning to do in the early days. "There was a lot of trial and error along the way and I was never afraid to ask for help when I needed it," she said.

Over five decades, Edwards has seen plenty of changes, including technology and people. She has worked for five County Administrators and seen more County Council members come and go than she can recall. She has seen new programs and facilities created — some more than once. As the county prepares to build a new jail, Edwards recalls when the current one on Browns Ferry Road opened in 1996.

"We all went out there to see it," she said, referring to county staff and officials. "We went on a tour and they took us all through it and everything one weekend. They said before they opened they would let any county employee go out there and spend the weekend. I said 'Oh, that would be fun.' I wanted to." But when she pitched it to her husband, Eddie, he was less than thrilled at the idea of camping out in a jail cell — even a brand new one. In the end, they didn't go.

Eddie did, however, join her when she was part of the damage assessment team that went out immediately after Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

"That was a bad one," she said. I was an appraiser then. Mike Obenshain was the Assessor and he was in Columbia. Eddie Caraway was the Emergency Manager and the Emergency Operations Center was upstairs (in the historic courthouse). We kept waiting for Mike to get here, but eventually they said 'y'all have to go on out there.'"

As part of the damage assessment team, Edwards was escorted in a Humvee by the National Guard onto the Waccamaw Neck. She and Eddie took video footage as they survey the destruction on Pawleys Island.

"It was horrible," she said. "We hadn't expected it to be that bad. I remember they told us to get everything in our offices up off the floor and we went home early because a storm was coming. We were like 'yeah, sure,' because we'd all had threats from hurricanes before and, for all these years, nothing happened."

She remembers getting breakfast at Shoney's with coworkers. "We were just all laughing and cutting up, and we said, 'well, see you tomorrow.'"

"Well, I got home and I bet it wasn't 30 minutes later and here come the deputies



Susan Edwards is pictured early in her career with the County. Note the ashtray and glass Coke bottle on the desk.

saying we were under a mandatory evacuation and had to get out... and they kept coming back."

That, she said, was when she realized this storm might be trouble. She called her husband at work and told him to come home. They evacuated to Pleasant Hill, and it took an hour and a half to get back to the courthouse the following day, navigating downed trees and flooded roadways.

The most memorable moment of her career, though, was helping a family in the Plantersville area who had been defrauded out of their property. She worked with them and found they were among many victims across the state of the same scam, and was eventually able to help them use the court system to get their home back.

"I really like to do things for other people and see them be happy," she said. "I like working with the public."

That's a big part of why she has stayed in the job for so long. She thought about retiring for a while several years back, but lost interest after her husband passed away. The two had been together since they were practically fresh out of school, having both grown up in Georgetown and graduated from Winyah High School.

"I needed something to get up and do," she said. "And I really do enjoy the job. I enjoy the work, I enjoy the people, and I have a wonderful staff."

Edwards also has two children and two grandchildren to keep her busy. "They are wonderful to me," she said. She is also lucky to have a sister nearby that she is very close to, she added. She considers herself blessed that her life is very full and happy.

But her work is a big part of that.

"It makes me happy, and I'm going to keep doing it."

**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

Parks & Rec., 545-3320

Planning/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

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



'Our Marsh Counts' kickoff event is a success



A new community clean up initiative in Murrells Inlet is off to a terrific start. The initiative, Our Marsh Counts, had its first event, a litter pick-up, on Feb. 12, resulting in nearly 8,000 pieces of trash being removed by 85 community volunteers.

The initiative is a partnership between several groups, including Murrells Inlet 2020, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, the S.C. Aquarium, the Chirping Birds Society, SUP Group, Sustain Coastal and Soulfish. Volunteers were asked to not only clean up marine litter, but identify and record it. In addition to being a cleanup initiative, Our Marsh Counts also incorporates citizen science.

"This is more than just a garbage cleanup. We're looking forward to getting the community engaged with citizen science by giving them the opportunity to not only collect data, but identify and document it themselves" said Kelly Thorvalson, Conservation Programs Manager at the South Carolina Aquarium.

Citizen scientists reported nearly 80% of litter collected was plastic, while cigarette filters were consistently the most-littered item in all areas,

comprising 20-50% of all litter collected. Marsh areas directly adjacent to restaurants had the highest numbers of cigarettes, plastic straws, food wrappers and plastic cups and utensils.

The initiative will look at ideas, such as cigarette butt receptacles along the MarshWalk to hopefully cut back on litter in the future.

Beth Goodale, director of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation said she was excited about the turnout and enthusiasm for the kickoff event.

"Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is always happy to join together with others interested in helping to protect our natural resources," Goodale said. "It's through community partnerships and working together to support our communities that we can make Georgetown County an even better place to live, work and play."

Our Marsh Counts is an ongoing initiative. One of the next events it will support is the Spring Tide cleanup of the inlet, which is celebrating its 30th year. Spring Tide will take place May 1.

For more information, check out the Our Marsh Counts page at Facebook.com/ourmarshcounts.

