



# The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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## Calendar

**Aug. 1** – Candidate filing opens for Pawleys Island, Andrews elections at noon. See page 6.

**Aug. 1** – “Bring Harriet Home: Journey to Freedom” sculpture arrives in Georgetown County for temporary display. See page 6.

**Aug. 9** – Board of Elections and Voter Registration meeting, 5:30 p.m., 303 N. Hazard St.

**Aug. 14** – Georgetown Library begins temporary operations at the Howard Center. See page 5.

**Aug. 17** – Last day to register for fall youth sports. See page 3.

**Aug. 20** – County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

**Aug. 22** – County Council workshop on tree ordinance, 4:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St. Regular meeting follows at 5:30 p.m. (Council only meets once this month.)

Volume 11, Issue 6

July 2023

## County takes ownership of Georgetown Port

Georgetown County took ownership of the Georgetown Port on June 30. On July 24, local officials and members of the public were invited to a special presentation on plans for the Port. Attended by about 75 people, the event took place at Howard Auditorium and was followed by a brief guided tour of the Port.

“Georgetown County sits as the last undeveloped coastal community in South Carolina,” said Tiffany Harrison, the county’s Director of Economic Development. “I would say to you, while that presents challenges, that also presents opportunities for us. We have the opportunity to define the narrative. We have the opportunity to plan for future growth. We have the opportunity to take an underutilized asset — 40 acres sitting on prime waterfront property, sitting right



County Administrator Angela Christian and County Council Chairman Louis Morant walk along a concrete dock at Georgetown Port during a site visit July 24.

on the edge of our historic tourist district — and to redevelop that into something that will help this com-

See “Georgetown Port,” Page 7

## Trailblazer: Retired deputy finds new purpose in forest

After 35 years working in public safety, T.L. Staub is enjoying a much more relaxed pace.

That’s not to say his new job is easy. He has to deal with heat, bugs and all kinds of other critters. But he gets to spend entire days by himself enjoying the calm of the woods. It’s a huge transition from the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office, where he spent most of his career.

Since March, Staub has been working part-time in the Parks and Recreation Department. He helps with several different programs. This summer, he’s leading a series of kayak tours all across the county. But his main focus is to maintain existing trails and cut new ones — mostly at Rocky Point Community Forest, though he has worked on trails in other areas as well, including at Stables and Eight Oaks parks. He does a lot of the work by hand, armed with a machete, a walking stick (good for clearing the multitude of spider webs), a hammer for posting trail markers on trees, and lot of water to help him handle the scorching heat of summer.

“When I retired, I needed something to do, and this is something I was really interested in,” Staub said. “I



T.L. Staub hammers a trail marker into a tree at Rocky Point Forest.

was always talking to Parks and Rec. and Beth (Goodale) about developing some more outdoor activities for the county. There’s so much potential. They just didn’t have anybody to do it.”

Goodale, the department director, made Staub an offer and he took on the challenge. He said he was

See “Trails,” Page 8

## Opioid settlement funds to expand prevention, recovery programs

Opioid settlement funds are headed to Georgetown County to expand an innovative peer recovery program at Tideland Health, create assistance for patients starting their recovery and fund additional efforts to help battle the opioid crisis.

Georgetown County has received a \$449,000 grant from the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board, which is administering the settlement funds collected through opioid cases against pharmacies, distributors and others whose actions have contributed to the country's opioid crisis. More than \$360 million will be coming to South Carolina over the next 18 years and will be administered to entities statewide for opioid abatement strategies.

"Opioid addiction is truly an epidemic in this country and right here in Georgetown County," said Georgetown County Administrator Angela Christian. "This impacts people in every segment of our community – young and old, rich and poor. It's destroying families. This is truly a community-wide problem, and we are going to have to address it as a community. That is why I am so glad to be partnering with Tideland Health and others to put these funds to work. This effort is community collaboration in every sense."

More than half the grant money received by the county, about \$292,500, will be used to expand an innovative and successful peer recovery program at Tideland's Georgetown Memorial Hospital and Tideland's Waccamaw Community Hospital in Murrells Inlet. After being screened through a series of questions, patients determined to potentially have a substance use disorder are connected with certified peer recovery coaches on site, who often draw on their own long-term recovery to successfully encourage patients to accept treatment and seek recovery.

The grant will expand the program by hiring five additional certified peer recovery coaches, which will allow the service to be offered around the clock in both hospital emergency departments. In addition, screening of patients will expand to include those 13 and up. The program expansion will be administered through a partnership between the Georgetown County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Tideland Health and Shoreline Behavioral Health.

"Because many patients with substance use disorders arrive at our hospitals, this is a crucial point to identify their struggle and help them seek recovery," said Monica Grey, vice president of care continuum and digital health at Tideland Health. "Many lives have been turned around because of the connection patients made with relatable peer recovery coaches available through this unique program in our hospitals. We are grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of even more patients through our partnership with Georgetown County and Shoreline Behavioral Health thanks to these settlement funds."

The grant will also help break down barriers many face as they begin recovery. About \$81,600 will be used to create a scholarship program to assist patients with costs for housing or transportation to treatment. Peer recovery coaches in the hospitals will help eligible patients apply for scholarship funds.

"Housing and transportation are two big barriers for people beginning a recovery journey," said Cynthia Dominick, director of behavioral health operations at Tideland Health. "The first few weeks can be a stumbling block for patients who don't have the means to cover those costs. Creating a program to help will remove that barrier so patients can focus on recovery."

County grant funds also are earmarked for development of an opioid response committee, a training program for first responders, an annual opioid summit and a media campaign focused on prevention.

"There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the ongoing opioid crisis," said Christian. "We are putting the settlement funds to use in creative ways to combat this crisis from multiple directions. Thanks to our county Drug and Alcohol Commission and committed partners like Tideland Health and Shoreline Behavioral Health, we are determined to make a difference."

### Get the Chronicle

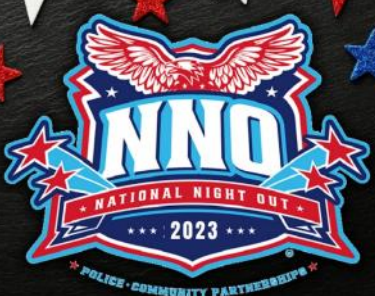
At Georgetown County, we want our residents and property owners kept abreast of what's going on inside their local government. That's why we created the Georgetown County Chronicle.

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](http://www.gtcounty.org) or through our social media accounts. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, sign up at [gtcounty.org](http://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](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org). We welcome your feedback.

[www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org)



**The 38th Annual National Night Out!**

**Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 6 - 8 pm**  
**Andrews Recreation Center**  
**209 S. Maple Avenue**

Georgetown County Sheriff's Office  
 Sheriff Carter Weaver

# New medication disposal sites installed at Tideland's Hospitals

Community members now have another safe, convenient way to properly dispose of expired or unused medications.

New, secure kiosks for medication disposal are available at Tideland's Georgetown Memorial Hospital, 606 Black River Road, and Tideland's Waccamaw Community Hospital, 4070 U.S. 17 in Murrells Inlet. Simply drop off expired and unused medications in the MedDrop collection containers near the hospital entrances for proper disposal by Stericycle, a medical waste management company.

After medications expire or are no longer needed, it's important to dispose of them responsibly to eliminate the risk of abuse by others. Too often, drug misuse starts with medications prescribed for others obtained from family and friends – even from the home's medicine cabinet.

"Medications are prescribed when needed to treat illnesses or maintain good health, but we don't want them being used by anyone other than the prescribed patient," said David Foxworth, pharmacy manager at Tide-



lands Health. "Providing secure and convenient drop-off points for responsible medication disposal helps make sure medications don't fall into the wrong hands and end up

being abused."

Proper disposal also helps protect the environment by mitigating the contamination of waterways and drinking water systems as a result of medications being flushed or poured down the drain.

After experiencing tremendous demand for safe medication disposal at special take-back events with local law enforcement agencies, Tideland's Health installed the kiosks to provide another convenient, secure way for community members to responsibly dispose of unused and expired medications any day of the year.

Community members can drop off prescription and over-the-counter medications for free using the MedDrop kiosks at Tideland's Waccamaw and Tideland's Georgetown. All medications should be contained in a sealed bottle or jar, especially liquids, creams and ointments. Remove or obscure any personally identifiable information. For safety reasons, the kiosks cannot accommodate medications with any needles, sharps, aerosols or batteries.

## REGISTER NOW GTC PARKS 2023 FALL SPORTS

**FALL TACKLE FOOTBALL**  
Ages 9-12  
**\$45**

**NFL Flag Football**  
Ages 5-8 and 9-12  
**\$40**

**CHEERLEADING**  
Ages 5-12  
**\$35**



Registration ends 8/17/23  
Practice begins 8/21/23

Register at [GTCParks.org](http://GTCParks.org) or at your local recreation center.

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation  
2030 Church St. Georgetown, SC 29440  
(843) 545-3320 | [www.GTCParks.org](http://www.GTCParks.org)



## County to suspend new environmentally friendly mosquito control methods

Georgetown County temporarily suspended use of more environmentally friendly mosquito control applications beginning July 26. Mosquito Control staff continues to operate utilizing a permethrin and Piperonyl butoxide (PBO) pesticide traditionally used for Mosquito Control. Mosquito spraying services have not and will not be interrupted.

The county had ditched the old chemicals and replaced them with a new organic product that is advertised to be safe for wildlife, pollinators and people. This product is on the Environmental Protection Agency's Minimum Risk Pesticides list and uses natural ingredients including lemongrass, cedarwood, garlic and rosemary. Effects from application can last up to two weeks.

The county was notified July 25 by the Clemson Pesticide Regulatory Division that it cannot continue to use the new product until ULV spraying is covered on its label to allow the use for Public Mosquito Control. Georgetown County is working with the product manufacturer to have these updates completed and hope to resume using more environmentally safe practices soon, as we still believe this is the better and safer solution for our community.



## County nets 6 national awards for public information efforts

Georgetown County Public Information Officer Jackie Broach won six awards in this year's National Association of County Information Officers Awards of Excellence competition. The winners were announced July 26.

The competition recognizes information projects that exhibit expertise in communications. It is open to all counties in the U.S., and there are no divisions separating counties by population, so Georgetown competed against much larger and better funded counties including Mecklenburg County, N.C.; Broward County, Fla.; and Maricopa County, Ariz.



**Broach**

Broach won the following:

- Best in Category, General Information Campaign for the county's campaign informing the public about redistricting efforts.
- Superior Work (2nd place), Photo or Photo Series for capturing the county's Quilt's of Valor ceremony.
- Excellent Work (3rd place), Photo or Photo Series for capturing the inaugural Anthuan Maybank Day celebration.
- Three Meritorious Work (4th place) awards for: Multi-platform Social Media Campaign for her Black History Month series; Newsletter; and Photo or Photo Series for capturing the Bassmaster Collegiate tournament last fall.

Officials with the National Association of County Information Officers said this year's program was very competitive.

## County introduces new online portal for Freedom of Information Act requests

In mid-July, Georgetown County launched a new online portal to help residents file and track Freedom of Information Act requests. The portal is available at [georgetowncountysc.nextrequest.com](http://georgetowncountysc.nextrequest.com) or via the FOIA page on the county's website at [gtcounty.org](http://gtcounty.org).

Powered by NextRequest, this software solution will provide greater transparency for residents, while also cutting down on duplicate requests and automating some of the processes related to FOIA requests, thus freeing up staff to perform other duties.

Residents were already able to submit FOIA requests online via the county's website. But now they can also get notifications when work has been performed on their request, so they can see how it is progressing. The system is also in the process of being set up to accept online payments, which will expedite fulfillment of requests.

Additionally, the portal allows users to search requests previously filed to see if the information they are looking for has already been made available. It can also detect if users may be searching for information that is already available online, such as meeting minutes or financial documents, and directs them on how to locate the information on the county website. It has a similar feature to redirect users if they appear to be searching for records not maintained by the county, such as municipal records or those that would belong to state agencies.

"Our hope is that this portal will make it easier and faster for residents to find the information they are looking for, while also streamlining the response process for staff, allowing them to perform more efficiently," said Jackie Broach, Georgetown County Public Information Officer. "Transparency is of the utmost importance to Georgetown County and we are excited to have a new tool to assist us in helping residents find the information they need."



Due to our ongoing construction, the book drop at the Georgetown Library is now closed.

Patrons may return their items to our other branches, or to the Howard Center, after August 14th.

Georgetown Main Branch,  
405 Cleland Street, Georgetown

THE GEORGETOWN MAIN LIBRARY'S....

TEMPORARY FACILITY AT

**HOWARD CENTER**

@1610 HAWKINS STREET, GEORGETOWN

Opening August 14th, 2023

Monday-Friday

8:30-3:30 PM

For more information: 843-545-3309



We will be offering very limited library services until we reopen our Cleland Street branch in the Spring of 2024.

## Moving day set for Aug. 1 at Georgetown Library

After a lot of hard work by staff, the Georgetown Library is packed up and ready to be emptied so renovations can begin. Moving of all the boxes and furniture remaining in the library is scheduled for Aug. 1-4. The Library will set up a temporary home at the Howard Center, located at 1610 Hawkins Street, so it can continue to offer services in Georgetown.

“The general contractor is currently about four weeks ahead,” said Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County Library Director. “It’s just amazing; the staff has done this in a matter of weeks with some volunteer help.”

Some items have already been stored away in parts of the library that won’t be renovated, including the Heritage Center and a garage in the back. Plans are to begin offering services at Howard on Aug. 14. Hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The interior of the facility on Cleland Street will essentially be gutted. It will get new flooring, wallpaper, lighting, furniture and more. The renovation also includes construction of a new addition that will house an auditorium. Walls are up inside the addition and exterior walls have been painted.

“It’s going to be like a completely new library,” McInvaill said. The Georgetown branch is scheduled to reopen in the spring.



Top: Georgetown Library staff have worked tirelessly to get the library packed up and ready. Above: The view of the new addition from Cleland Street.

## Don’t leave holes on the beach!



Lots of people seem to enjoy digging holes on the beach. That’s fine as long as the holes are filled back in before the diggers leave. Holes like this one — recently discovered on one of our beaches in the early morning hours by volunteers looking for sea turtle activity — pose a serious threat to people and animals when left overnight. It’s easy for people walking after dark to fall in and injure themselves. Holes are also a hazard for animals, including nesting sea turtles and sea turtle hatchlings. These animals can become trapped in the holes and die. Just this month, four sea turtle hatchlings became trapped in a hole on a Florida beach. Luckily they were rescued and safely released, but that is not always the case. If you choose to dig on the beach, please fill in all holes before you leave. Not only is it common courtesy, it’s the law in Georgetown County. Regulations state that holes on the beach should not be dug more than two feet deep and must be filled in, regardless of diameter or depth before leaving the beach. Additionally, only children’s toys or small gardening hand tools no more than 12 inches in length should be used to assist in digging or altering the beach surface. Violations may result in a fine.

3rd ANNUAL



GEORGETOWN, SC | 2023  
Nov 4-Dec 9, 2023



[www.healingfield.org/georgetownsc23](http://www.healingfield.org/georgetownsc23)



**Did you know  
you can watch  
Georgetown County  
Council meetings  
online?**

We livestream every council meeting to make it easier for you to stay up to date with what’s happening. Watch at [YouTube.com/GtCountySC](https://www.youtube.com/GtCountySC).

## Winley receives MPA from Clemson

Dennzon Winley, the Recycling and Collections Supervisor for the Georgetown County Environmental Services Division, has earned his Masters of Public Administration from Clemson University. The degree will be officially conferred during a ceremony on Aug. 11 at Clemson.



**Winley**

A Georgetown native, Winley joined the county team in February of last year as a Project Coordinator under an AmeriCorps grant. He was promoted to his current role just a few months later and has become a valued member of our team. Please join us in congratulating him on this outstanding achievement.

## More than 2K voters may be marked inactive

2,228 Georgetown County Voters may be marked as inactive if they don't act soon.

The S.C. Elections Commission has begun sending out confirmation cards to voters who have not voted since November 2018. Voters who receive this card will have 90 days to respond in order to remain on the active list.

While voters who don't respond will still be able to vote on Elections Day with proper identification, it will take longer if a voter has been marked inactive. As such, it is definitely to a voter's benefit to return the confirmation card and remain on the active list!

## Filing for Andrews, Pawleys elections runs Aug. 1-15

Both the Town of Andrews and the Town of Pawleys Island will have elections for Mayor and Town Council on Nov. 7. Town residents who would like to file to run for office can do so beginning at noon on Tuesday, Aug. 1. Filing will close at noon on Aug. 15.

Elections in both municipalities are nonpartisan. There are three Town Council seats up for election in the Town of Andrews and four in the Town of Pawleys Island in addition to the mayoral seat. There is no filing fee to run for any office in the Town of Pawleys Island. The filing fee is \$200 to run for mayor in the town of Andrews and \$150 to run for Town Council.

To file, candidates should visit the Georgetown County Office of Elections and Voter registration at 303 N. Hazard St., Georgetown. Residents must live within the town limits in order to file to run for office. For more information, call (843) 545-3339.

Now is also an excellent time for voters to check their voter registration information to ensure there are no issues on Election Day. To check your information, visit [scvotes.gov](http://scvotes.gov).



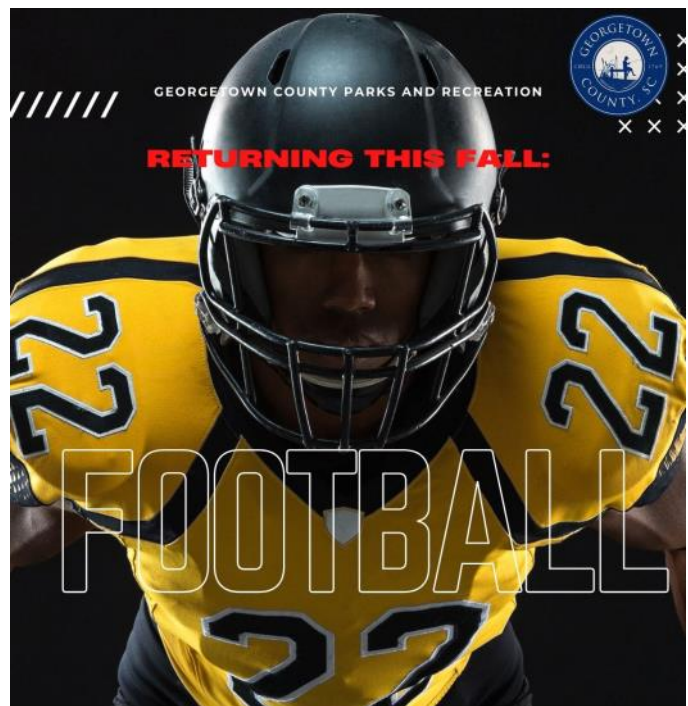
**Tuesday, August 1, 2023 Arrival**

**PICTURES ENCOURAGED!**

- 11:30am Southern Georgetown Library, 4187 Powell Road, Georgetown
- 12:10pm Town of Andrews Park, 8 East Main Street, Andrews
- 1:00pm Plantersville Cultural Arts Center, 7 Plantersville Road, Georgetown
- 2:15pm Waccamaw Library, 41 St. Paul's Place, Pawleys Island
- 3:05pm Joseph Hayne Rainey Park, 929 Front Street, Georgetown

**Note: Arrival times may be impacted by weather and traffic.**

Thank you to our sponsors!



REGISTRATION ENDS

**AUGUST 17TH**

**2023 SEASON**

**FLAG & TACKLE**

**NFL FLAG : \$40**

**TACKLE : \$45**

**COACHES NEEDED**

REGISTER AT [GTC Parks.org](http://GTC Parks.org) OR AT REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER



# Georgetown Port

Continued from Front Page

munity thrive and set the stage for future growth and prosperity for everyone that lives in Georgetown, that calls Georgetown home and loves Georgetown. We have a great opportunity to work together to do some amazing things."

Residents shouldn't expect redevelopment of the port to happen anytime soon, however. There is significant work that has to be done first, including environmental studies and demolition or repair of existing buildings and surfacing. As those who participated in the tour saw firsthand, the port's current condition could be described as rough at best. The last time a cargo ship came in or out of the port was 2016.

In the last year since the idea of transferring ownership of the port to the county was raised at the state level, the county has had a full structural assessment completed for the property. That revealed about \$13.6 million in structural deficiencies at the port. The county is working on a plan to find funds to address those deficiencies. Environmental studies will also be conducted, which is certain to reveal more issues that will have to be corrected before anything of significance can be done with the site. A phase 1 environmental study has already been completed and the county is working with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control to receive protections for liability for any existing environmental conditions before cleanup initiatives begin. Work on gathering baseline environmental information continues.

"Understanding the existing environmental conditions will tell us what we can or cannot do as we move forward," Harrison said.

As activities move forward at the port, the county will be seeking public input. Anyone who would like to be part of that and learn about future meetings and public input sessions regarding the port should sign up for notifications under the "Calendar" heading at <https://www.gtcounty.org/list.aspx>.



View of the port including areas currently under lease by companies including Holcim and International Paper.



Beth Goodale acts as a tour guide during the July 24 site visit.



Bill Doar is pictured with a historical photo that was on display during the event. Taken in 1988, the photo shows Doar (far left), a state senator at the time, with John Rogers, Don Welch (S.C. Ports Authority President at the time), Gov. Dick Riley and Jimmy Moore during the dedication of the International Salt Company storage facility at the port.



An overgrown sign at the Port entrance is dedicated in honor of James B. Moore, who worked tirelessly for years for the port as a member of the State Ports Authority. The sign will be uncovered and remain on display.

*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

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



One of the trails at Rocky Point Community Forest.

## Trails

Continued from Front Page

partly inspired by his son, Matt, who worked part-time for Georgetown County Parks and Recreation a few summers ago while home from college. The younger Staub started the project of marking some of the existing trails at Rocky Point. This was shortly after the property had become public again and the department was trying to build interest in hiking there.

"I would come out here with him on a day off or something," Staub recalled. He's always had a passion for the outdoors and is excited to build on that initial work.

When he came out with Matt in those days, there were two land trails: the Red and the Green. The White trail was later added, and a Blue Trail on the river. Staub is also working on a Black trail and an Orange trail, and he's having fun naming all of them. The Green is now the Coachman Trail, named for the Coachman family cemetery it runs past. The red is the Choppee Creek Trail, the white is the White-tailed Deer Trail and the Black will be the Black Bear trail. He hasn't settled on a name for the Orange trail yet. At Eight Oaks, he has dubbed two of the trails: the Red Coyote Trail and Railroad Spur Trail.

Some of the trails at Rocky Point were previously old timber roads that had grown over. Others were animal paths. And some he makes up, searching out the areas of least resistance.

"You just kind of go through and see where there's the least amount of trees; where you can create the least amount of disturbance," he said. "You don't want to disturb a lot, so you weave and avoid the big trees in certain areas."

He said carving the trails is the most challenging part of his work. Depending on the length of the trail, it can take him 70-80 hours to create a single track. But making sure the trails stay passable after they are created and mapped is a never-ending task, especially in the summer.

"There's a lot of potential out here, a lot of

room for trails. But you have to have a balance. You build the trails, but then you've got to maintain them because they grow up again fast. It's a process," he said.

He does a lot of the work by hand, cutting limbs and branches, and raking and weed-eating the paths. But sometimes he uses a trail cutter, which makes the work considerably faster and easier. He describes it as "basically a Bush Hog" that is towed behind a small off-road vehicle.

"After being in law enforcement, running 911 and everything, it's very peaceful here," he said. "There's not a lot of stress. Plus, it keeps you active."

While Staub's work is labor-intensive, he also spends a lot of time mapping, so eventually there can be a trail guide available for hikers. He's working on routes that will allow hikers to combine trails for longer hikes and a different experience from one visit to the next.

He believes the trails will be easier to maintain as more people start using them. He said he's definitely seeing an uptick in the number of people who are taking advantage of all Rocky Point has to offer. The days where he doesn't run into another person while working in the woods are becoming fewer all the time.

There's a lot coming up at Rocky Point, including an outdoor festival in September, and he hopes it will encourage even more people to get out and explore the community forest.

"A lot of people still don't know about this place," Staub said. Georgetown County has a lot of outdoor adventure opportunities. It's not the mountains or the cliffs or the vistas, but there's a lot of unique Lowcountry-style adventures that you can do between the rivers and the ocean, and gravel riding, which is becoming big. There's just a lot to do and I want to make it more accessible."

To learn more about upcoming outdoor adventure opportunities offered by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, visit [gtcparks.org](http://gtcparks.org).