



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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- More than 1,000 kids participate in fall sports, Page 10

Calendar

Dec. 8 – "Eyewitness to the Movement: Georgetown and the Civil Rights Movement," 6-8 p.m., Howard Auditorium. See page 3.

Dec. 9 – Screening of "After Sherman," 6:30 p.m., Howard Auditorium. See page 3.

Nov. 11 – Dedication and re-opening of Choppee Auditorium, 3-5 p.m. See page 10.

Dec. 12 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St. (Council only meets once this month).

Dec. 13 – Two workshops to provide an update on the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Details on Page 5.

Dec. 21 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

Dec. 25-26 – County offices and facilities are closed for the Christmas holiday.

Jan. 1 – County offices and facilities are closed for New Year's Day.

Volume 12, Issue 3

December 2023

Library auditorium named in honor of Cross

The auditorium at the Waccamaw Library is now the DeBordieu-Cross Auditorium, named in honor of Jean Cross, a former president of the library's friends group and co-chair of the fundraising committee for construction of the library. She passed away in August after an illness.



At left, Jean Cross is pictured during the ribbon cutting for the Waccamaw Library in 2015. At right is the new sign over the DeBordieu-Cross Auditorium.

A dedication ceremony took place at the auditorium on Nov. 21, in conjunction with the opening of a portrait exhibit on display in the auditorium that includes a painting of Cross. The portrait, painted by John Charles, will have a permanent home in the library. Cross' family, including her husband of 57 years, John Harry Cross Jr., were in attendance.

"Jean Cross can take lead credit for this room, for the solicitation of the original DeBordieu donors – and really for this entire new library," said Linda Ketron, the main speaker at the dedication ceremony. The library was initially named in honor of DeBordieu Colo-

ny, which made the donation to sponsor its construction at Cross' request. "As chair of the fundraising committee, she lost no time in pursuing her friends and neighbors and family in DeBordieu to foster their support and bring them on board."

"In order to change the name of the auditorium, the Friends of the Waccamaw Library, the Georgetown County Library Board, the DeBordieu donors as represented by their HOA board, and the Georgetown County Council all had to vote in favor," Ketron added.

"There was not one holdout. All recognized the huge

See "Auditorium," Page 9

'Journey to Freedom' sculptor to make piece for library HQ

Wesley Wofford, the artist behind the Harriet Tubman sculpture that recently drew droves of visitors to Georgetown's Rainey Park, is making a new Tubman sculpture that will be on permanent display at the Georgetown Library.

The Friends of the Georgetown Library have commissioned a piece that will be called "Whispers of My Ancestor," and are raising money to help pay for the piece. It will feature Tubman and her great-nephew James A. Bowley.

They hope to raise \$40,000. If they reach their goal, the bronze sculpture will be installed — with appropriate stand and lighting — in the newly renovated library near the entrance to the children's reading area. The sculpture will be anchored so that it can be touched and enjoyed by young readers.

In addition to the sculpture, there will be an etched-on-bronze copy of a letter written in 1868 by Bowley to his Aunt Harriet in which he writes "... I with my parents were one of your first passengers from the house of bondage."

Bowley was born into enslavement in Maryland in 1844 and at the age of 6 was among the first Tubman helped to emancipate along the Underground Railroad, along with his mother and sister. While the rest of his family continued on to safety in Canada, Tubman kept Bowley with her in Philadelphia for three years so that he could gain an education. He would go on to serve in the Union Navy, move to Georgetown in 1867



A model of the sculpture commissioned for the Georgetown Library.

See "Sculpture," Page 8

Woodrow Carter inducted into state Hall of Fame

The late Woodrow C. Carter, a former Sheriff of Georgetown County, was inducted into the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame on Nov. 15. Current Sheriff Carter Weaver was deeply honored to represent the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office at the ceremony, he said.

Weaver was joined by a large contingent of the Carter family at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy as seven statewide law enforcement leaders were honored for their outstanding records of service. In addition to an excellent record of service in law enforcement, nominees must also have a minimum of 25 years on the job.

Woodrow Carter was in law enforcement from 1942-1979. During his time as Sheriff, he oversaw the investigation of the churchyard murder that led to the confession of Arthur "Fat Eye" Waitus and a triple murder in 1976 on Gapway Road. Carter was also the Sheriff who ordered the closure of the notorious Sunset Lodge. He passed away in 1992.



Top: Woodrow C. Carter. Above: Sheriff Carter Weaver, far right, at the ceremony.

GCSO shows results in Andrews



Sheriff Carter Weaver talks to residents during a recent community listening session in Andrews.

After a listening session with Andrews residents on Oct. 30, Georgetown County Sheriff Carter Weaver committed GCSO Crime Suppression, K-9, and Traffic units to address mounting concerns in the Town.

In the month of November, those efforts resulted in the issuance of: 61 citations, 133 warnings, 12 narcotics cases, and two firearms seized. And the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office is not done. Weaver is unwavering in his vow to protect and serve the Town of Andrews and all of Georgetown County.

"We thank all the Andrews residents who came to the last listening session, because you know the needs of your community, and where there are problems," Weaver said. "You talked, we listened."

The Sheriff and GCSO hold listening sessions around the county, letting residents know what the agency is doing in that area and getting insight from residents into local challenges to personal and property safety.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Carter Weaver

NOW

RECRUITING

POLICE EXPLORERS

POST #333

Open To:
Georgetown County
10th, 11th and 12th graders

Why Join:
In-depth, hands-on experience in law enforcement. You even get an Explorers uniform.

Come Experience:
Ride alongs, actual police training, practice with equipment, serve at local events

For more information and an application, please call or email

Corporal Tiffany Kinloch
tkinloch@gtcounty.org

or

Corporal Gene Wilson
gwilson@gtcounty.org

843-546-5102

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

Three civil rights history events in December close out 'Justice For All' exhibit

The great-granddaughter of the first Reconstruction House member will join two civil rights groundbreakers in a Dec. 8 program, "Eyewitnesses to the Movement: Georgetown and the Civil Rights Movement."



Lorna Rainey

Lorna Rainey and photojournalist Cecil Williams will speak at the Howard Center auditorium, 1610 Hawkins Street, Georgetown, at 6 p.m. Dec. 8, with a reception following. The event is co-sponsored by Georgetown Parks and Recreation and the Georgetown County Library.



Cecil J. Williams

"We are honored to host Lorna Rainey for this event in Georgetown," said Bobby Donaldson, Ph.D., executive director of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research. "We connected while researching her grandfather's extraordinary life and career and became friends. She will be joined by one of my longtime colleagues and teachers, the legendary photographer Cecil J. Williams of Orangeburg. We look forward to an informative and enriching conversation."



Bobby Donaldson

The event is one of three in Georgetown County to celebrate "Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement," the traveling exhibition that is on public display at the Southern Georgetown Library until Dec. 15.

On Dec. 7 at 3 p.m., Donaldson will deliver a talk, "And Justice for All...", at the Southern Georgetown Library. His talk will connect listeners with historical photographs and other items in the exhibition and highlight the remarkable work by individuals from Georgetown from the 1860s to the 1970s. Donaldson's presentation is supported by South Carolina Humanities, whose

mission is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of all South Carolinians. The Southern Georgetown Library is located at 4187 Powell Road, Georgetown, SC 29440.

The exhibit and the accompanying events are all free and open to the public.

For the Dec. 8 event, the special guests are:

- Lorna Rainey, the great-granddaughter of Congressman Joseph H. Rainey, the first African American seated in the United States House of Representatives. He was enslaved in Georgetown, worked as a barber in Charleston, escaped to Bermuda in 1861, and returned to serve in S.C.'s constitutional convention. He served in the state legislature before his election to Congress.

- Cecil J. Williams, South Carolina's foremost civil rights photojournalist. He captured images of iconic figures and events of the Civil Rights Movement, including Thurgood Marshall, Harvey Gantt, Dr. Henrie Monteith Treadwell, and others, across the state. He was the South Carolina photojournalist for Jet magazine, the Pittsburgh Courier, the Baltimore Afro-American, and other publications. He recently established the South Carolina Civil Rights Museum in Orangeburg.

On Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Howard Center auditorium, the Center will host a screening of "After Sherman," a documentary directed by Jon-Sesrie Goff. The documentary follows Goff to ancestral land in Georgetown that his family purchased after emancipation. A reception at 5:45 p.m. at the Howard Center will precede the event. The event is co-sponsored by Georgetown Parks and Recreation and the Georgetown County Library.

Justice for All: South Carolina and the American Civil Rights Movement

On display at the Southern Georgetown library through Dec. 15, this traveling exhibit is organized by the University of South Carolina's Center for Civil Rights History and Research. It uses oral history recordings, news film footage, photographs, postcards, newspapers and letters to highlight overlooked



"After Sherman," a documentary directed by Jon-Sesrie Goff, will be shown at the Howard Auditorium on Dec. 9. Told through personal narratives, it is a story of a community that endures in the S.C. Lowcountry, despite the effects of systematic racism.

chapters in the history of the American Civil Rights Movement. The Southern Georgetown Library (4187 Powell Road, Georgetown, SC 29440) is open Monday-Thursday, 9-6; and Saturday 10-2. The library is closed on Friday and Sunday, except as noted. Admission to the exhibition and the programs are free.

"With the support of generous institutions across South Carolina, we have been able to take 'Justice for All' on a tour of the state," Donaldson said. "Helping students and others to learn the remarkable history of our state has been rewarding. We've also helped civil rights veterans revisit their past through the exhibited items and through programs. These programs at Georgetown promise to make a fitting capstone to our tour."

Traveling trunks with materials and lesson plans for students are available on request. Community groups and school groups are welcome. For information about traveling trunks or our other initiatives such as oral history interviews, email the Center: scivilrights@sc.edu.

Georgetown is the final visit in the two-year tour of the state. The "Justice for All" traveling exhibition has visited Columbia, Sumter, Orangeburg, Hartsville, Spartanburg, and Beaufort.

The traveling exhibition is based on the 2019 archival exhibition "Justice for All" that the Center created collaboratively with South Carolina Humanities, University of South Carolina Libraries and the College of Arts and Sciences. The traveling version is supported with funding from the Williams Companies as part of a \$1.5 million gift, and by South Carolina Humanities and Central Carolina Community Foundation.

Wreaths Across America ceremony is Dec. 16

A ceremony honoring local veterans will take place in Georgetown on National Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, Dec. 16. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at the Georgetown County War Memorial, 705 Church Street.

Wreaths for each military branch will be placed by veterans of their respective branch of service. The ceremony is open to the public and will last about one hour.

More than 2 million volunteers and supporters will gather to "Remember, Honor and Teach" at more than 4,000 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

For more information about the local ceremony, contact Ron Gilbert at 509-290-2405 or Jerry Lee at 843-995-0917.



Giving Back



Georgetown County employees collected more than 1,000 pounds of food for Helping Hands of Georgetown during the county's annual holiday food drive. Employees from county departments donated shelf stable foods for needy families during the months of October and November. Employees Brandon Ellis, left, Maya Morant Moody and Randy Akers are pictured delivering the food to Helping Hands last month. Thanks to all our employees who donated!

Porkchop Production Presents...

HOLLY AND THE CHRISTMAS GIFT



Wednesday, December 6, 2023
4:00 PM

Georgetown County Library
@ Howard Center, Event Room
1610 Hawkins Street, Georgetown

ALL AGES WELCOME!



FOGL

Made Possible By



LIBRARY YOGA
WEDNESDAY @ 5:45PM
NO CLASS Nov. 22nd or Dec. 27th

ALL WELCOME ~ DONATION CLASS
LIMITED MATS AVAILABLE

WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY
41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island
843.545.3623

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).

Classic Film Series returns in January

Beginning Jan. 5, the Waccamaw Library will resume its popular screenings of vintage movies with the return of the Classic Film Series. The films will be introduced by local movie buff Bill Harvey, with audience discussion to follow.

Screenings will take place on Friday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. at the Library, located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island. The Classic Film Series is sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and all screenings are free and open to the public.

This year's lineup showcases an excellent mix that offers something for everyone—comedy, romance, musical, thriller, Western, and drama—and all these classic flicks are well worth seeing on the Library's large screen. The films collectively feature some of the brightest stars in Hollywood history, including James Stewart, John Wayne, Gene Kelly,



Gene Kelly in "Singin' in the Rain."

Debbie Reynolds, Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft, Jack Nicholson, Katharine Hepburn, Henry Fonda and Jane Fonda.

The schedule is as follows:

- Jan. 5, "Vertigo" (1958)
- Jan. 12, "Singin' in the Rain" (1952)
- Jan. 19, "Stagecoach" (1939)
- Feb. 9, "The Graduate" (1967)
- Feb. 16, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" (1975)
- Feb. 23, "Amadeus" (1984)
- March 1, "On Golden Pond" (1981)

Cabaret comes to the library

The "LIVE at the Library" music series will return with a cabaret concert in January, when the talented Pam Purvis Ackerman is the featured performer. Sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library, the show will take place in the DeBordieu-Cross Auditorium at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18. All shows in the series are free and open to the public.



Ackerman

Hailing from Louisiana and Texas, Ackerman received training at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and for nearly three decades she gave jazz performances and made recordings alongside her devoted husband, the late Bob Ackerman, as they toured the U.S., Europe, Mexico and Brazil.

The series continues through April and this season will feature an exciting variety of live music, including a choral ensemble, a multi-instrumentalist duo, a Beatles tribute, and a classic Americana band. Visit the library calendar at gtcounty.org for more information about performances in the series and other library events.

UPDATE ON LAND USE ELEMENT

Two public workshops are scheduled to present the latest information

Join the Georgetown County Planning Department as it shares findings and presents preliminary recommendations on the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive plan. The same information will be presented at both meetings. There will be an opportunity for public participation. This element will guide development in Georgetown County for the next 10 years, so make sure you attend and take part in the future of Georgetown County!

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

1-2:30 P.M.
Waccamaw Library Auditorium,
41 St. Pauls Place,
Pawleys Island

5:30-7 P.M.
Howard Auditorium
1610 Hawkins St.,
Georgetown

For More Information visit gtcounty.org/complan

(843) 545-3158

In partnership with TOYS FOR TOTS, we're collecting NEW unwrapped toys. Drop by Southern Georgetown Library during regular hours to donate and help us bring joy to a child this season.

TOY DRIVE

Until Dec 7th

SOUTHERN GEORGETOWN LIBRARY

4187 POWELL RD.

Library Giving Tree



The Friends of the Waccamaw Library have made it easy to play Santa this year. They put up a Giving Tree in the friends store, where patrons can grab a tag, take it to the checkout and buy the library something on its wish list.

Golf Trail rebrands to match County's tourism moniker

In a brand merger that's sure to enhance the economic driver of tourism in Georgetown County, the Waccamaw Golf Trail is officially taking advantage of the surging popularity of South Carolina's Hammock Coast – the county's official tourism moniker – by renaming itself the Hammock Coast Golf Trail.



Between the two entities, the Hammock Coast and the Waccamaw Golf Trail were instrumental in generating more than \$7.57 million in Accommodations and Admission tax revenues in Georgetown County for the last fiscal year.

Tourist spending in Georgetown County annually exceeds more than \$380 million and accounts for an overall \$39 million in combined state and local taxes. Tourism also produces more than \$66 million per year in worker income and paychecks – and accounts for more than 3,300 local jobs, according to state statistics. Since 2010, the Hammock Coast has seen a number of record-breaking years in local and state Accommodations Taxes. State A-Tax collections on the Hammock Coast for the 2022-2023 fiscal year came in at more than \$3.16 million. Likewise, the Waccamaw Golf Trail, a collection of 12 award-winning golf courses in Georgetown County, has generated record-setting years of state Admission Taxes. In 2022-23 Admission Taxes added up to \$1.06 million, up 10.3 percent from the previous year and a staggering 115 percent from just four years ago.

A merger of the marketing efforts of the Hammock Coast and Waccamaw Golf Trail is a match made in tourism heaven.

Read the full article on our website at <https://www.gtcounty.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=364>

Economic Development at the Airport



Georgetown County Administrator Angela Christian was recently able to visit Sherpa Air to see how their operations are going. Sherpa Six, a service-disabled veteran-owned technology company, has completed their first hanger at the Georgetown County Airport. They are making considerable investments and are creating many good-paying job opportunities. This company helps the effort to create a new Aviation Economic Development Area at the airport. They plan to partner with Horry-Georgetown Technical College to have an apprenticeship program for students. Sherpa Six is looking forward to expanding on the airport campus as their business continues to grow.

The Friends of the Georgetown Library's

YULETIDE HOME TOUR

Tour of historic homes, places of worship, and museums

December 9th, 2023
1:00 - 5:00 PM

\$20 per person (member of any Georgetown Library Friends group)
\$25 per person (non-member)

For more info, visit
www.myfogl.org/projects

Walker is Employee of the Quarter



Harrison Walker of the Georgetown County Public Works Division has been selected as our Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of this year. Harrison is a heavy equipment operator who has been with the county for 18 years. His primary role is motor grader operator. He has taken on extra duties lately due to a staffing shortage. He has done this without hesitation or complaint. He is a team player who does whatever it takes to get the job done, said his department director, Ray Funnye.

Public Services Dept. recognizes outstanding employees with awards

The Georgetown County Department of Public Services presented awards to three employees this week. Halie Lowry received the Professional Achievement Award, Zackary Parsons received the Customer Service Award, and Harley Walker received the Employee of the Year Award.

Lowry and Parsons both work in the Stormwater and Mosquito Control Divisions. Lowry was determined to learn the ins and outs of both Divisions, supervisors said. She is now a Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector, obtained her Certified Pesticide Applicator license and earned her drone operation certificate. She makes sure all construction sites are compliant with their permits and is not hesitant to write correction notices and stop work orders when necessary. She makes sure all mosquito control issues are documented and is always willing to meet with residents to help with their concerns.

Parsons joined Mosquito Control and Stormwater two years ago. He works tirelessly to help residents understand the Mosquito Control processes and procedures, along with explaining what they can do to help reduce mosquito populations on their property. He frequently stops to ask residents about mosquito issues in their neighborhoods, and provides larvacide to residents to add to their ditches, ponds and other places where mosquito larvae may be present. He truly enjoys public outreach.

Walker effectively oversaw the Stormwater Division with very little supervision for more than a year, while new leadership staff was sought and hired. While she had neither the title nor pay of a department manager, she acted as such and was the glue that held the department together. She has also been instrumental in helping the newly-hired chief engineer during his transitional period. She is a fierce advocate for the environment and exemplifies public service.



Lowry



Parsons



Walker

**Holiday
CARDMAKING**

AGES 18+

**WACCAMAW NECK
BRANCH LIBRARY**

DECEMBER 8TH | 10AM-12PM

Get in the holiday spirit by making fun and easy holiday cards.

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Questions? Call or email Kendra Corey
@ 843-545-3351 Or kcorey@gtcounty.org

JOIN OUR TEAM

View and apply for open county positions at gtcounty.org/jobs. We offer terrific benefits, government holidays, and a no-wait, no-copay health clinic for employees and family members covered under their insurance.

Georgetown tournament viewed by more than 1 million nationwide



Over the course of three days in late October, viewers on Fox Sports 1 learned all about Georgetown County and everything it has to offer as a tourist destination. The county hosted the 2023 Yamaha Bassmaster Redfish Cup Championship Oct. 27-29, which was carried on the channel, as well as bassmaster.com. All day each day of the tournament viewers were treated to views of Georgetown and its waterways. "It's the kind of advertising you can't buy," said Beth Goodale, director of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation. The tournament attracted more than 1 million views on FS1 alone. The publicity value of that coverage is estimated at \$52,882. Numbers from bassmaster.com haven't been received yet.

The Winyah Auditorium Presents
THE PARRIS ISLAND
Marine Band

Anyone who brings unwrapped toy to donate will be entered into a drawing for a prize.

December 16 4 p.m. **TOYS FOR TOYS**

1200 Highmarket Street, Georgetown SC 29440

FREE CONCERT
www.winyahauditorium.org

Sculpture

Continued from Front Page

to work with the Freedmen's Bureau as a teacher educating freed blacks, become the Georgetown School Commissioner, serve in the S.C. House of Representatives, serve on the Board of Trustees for the University of South Carolina, and start a local newspaper.

Bowley's remarkable story and achievements are a direct result of the influence and gift of education that he received from his Great Aunt Harriet.

The sculpture depicts Tubman helping a young Bowley up a set of stairs, gesturing upward, toward a promising future. Speaking of his vision for the sculpture, Wofford said "It speaks of the power of building on the foundations of those that came before us and the long-term effects of nurturing education to uplift the next generation."



Wofford at work in his studio.

Friends of the Georgetown Library President Bob Willey said the group is "exciting about bringing Harriet and James back to Georgetown." But with just under \$1,000 raised as of Dec. 1, they have a long way to go before the sculpture is fully funded.

Donations of any amount can be made online at myfogl.org/whispersponsorship, or checks payable to the Friends of the Georgetown Library can be sent to the Library, P.O. Box 421270, Georgetown, SC 20442-4200. The Friends group is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so contributions are tax-deductible.

Let's Skate
at Maritime Park

December 9

11:00-3:00 & 5:00-9:00

MUSIC HOT CHOCOLATE S'MORES SNOW CONES & MORE

ALL SKATERS MUST SIGN A WAIVER.
 ANYONE UNDER 18 MUST HAVE PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGN WAIVER.
 ICE IS SYNTHETIC SURFACE DESIGNED TO MIMIC REAL ICE.

dress in your favorite elf costume for a prize

agru The Plastics Experts
GKCU Georgetown-Kirkland Council Union PEOPLE SERVING WITH PURPOSE.
HTC This is life. Connect with it.
GBA
EPK GREAT PRIZES & FUNGUS!
Monkee's
My Earthly Tastes Saladas & Salsas

Auditorium

Continued from Front Page

contribution that Jean Cross had made.”

Ketron read quotes about Cross from others who worked with her. “She knew how to motivate all of us to get busy and make it happen,” said Roz Breit, another former Friends chairperson. “Jean’s hard work is on display with the naming of the DeBordieu-Cross Auditorium tonight... I will always remember her courage and grace under life’s challenges.”

“She was a quiet force,” said Kim Fox, marketing director for the Friends of the Waccamaw Library.

“I don’t think she really wanted to be in the forefront because she operated so elegantly behind the scenes. This room we are standing in simply would not have been possible without her commitment and tenacity... I’m so honored to have known Jean Cross, and I look forward to our reunion. I know she’s up there planning it all for us.”

Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County Library Director, recounted how determined Cross was in her fundraising efforts.

“She was relentlessly optimistic in her belief in an eventual positive outcome, even though the headwinds faced were sometimes rather rough,” McInvaill said. “In her thoughtful, diplomatic, gracious and thorough manner, she garnered much goodwill for this effort and in particular for this auditorium.”

Charles hadn’t met Cross before he asked to feature her in his portrait series. He paints people from the area who “are doing wonderful things in the community,” he said. The portraits are then sold and the proceeds donated to the library. Cross was recommended as a subject by a number of residents for her contributions to the community.

“She was almost like an obvious, unanimous choice to be part of this,” he said. “I loved meeting her. She was such a positive, peaceful, wonderful woman. I was shocked to learn that she is no longer with us. She never indicated anything was wrong. She was just sort of a beam of sunlight in our home when she was there.”

Born in Arkansas, Cross was 1965 graduate of Agnes Scott College, earning her bachelor’s in sociology. She furthered her education at Fordham University, where she received her master’s in social work in 1991. She worked as a private therapist and counselor in Fairfield County, Conn., before moving to South Carolina in 2004. While residing in Connecticut, she was instrumental in the founding and early management of the Weston Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program.

In Georgetown County, served on the Georgetown County Library Board of Trustees from June 2010 until March 2019, serving as chairperson for the last two years of her final term. With Ted Hiley, she co-captained the fundraising committee for the construction of the new Waccamaw Neck Branch Library from September 2009 to March 2015 – work which led to hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations for a dynamically innovative, busy and beautiful facility. She also served as a board member for the Friends of the Waccamaw Library for much of this time and beyond – until just shortly before her death.

Charles’ portrait of Cross will be on display in the library auditorium as part of his latest exhibit through Dec. 14. Among the 19 other subjects featured are Sheriff Carter Weaver, Midway Fire-Rescue volunteer Gene Turner, former Waccamaw Library Branch Manager Carlethia Rudolph, and Friends of the Georgetown Library president Bob Willey.



Clockwise from top: A visitor to the auditorium examines the portrait display; Sheriff Carter Weaver is pictured with his portrait; portraits on display of Carlethia Rudolph, Bob Willey and Gene Turner.



COMMUNITY
PORTRAIT EXHIBIT

Local Artist:
JOHN CHARLES

**NOV. 22ND-DEC. 14TH
2023**

WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY
41 ST. PAUL PLACE
PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC



Artwork by John Charles will be on display from November 22nd thru December 14th. The current project on display includes portraits of 20 local individuals who are making a positive difference to our area and to our world. John creates artwork that includes a mixture of coastal and nature subjects as well as portraits.

A native of Florence, SC, John earned his BS at Furman University and his MBA at Wake Forest. John has studied art at Coastal Carolina and has been mentored by the amazing coastal Daniel Island artist, Betsy McDonald and incredible young artist in Charleston, Kyle Stuckey.

**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 StreetPhone: (843) 545-3063
Fax: (843) 545-3292

Firefighter toy drive



Despite cold, rainy weather and a slow start, 2023 proved to be the best year yet for the Georgetown County Fire-EMS annual toy drive. Firefighters collected toys for Toys for Tots outside of Walmart in Georgetown over the weekend of Nov. 11. When all was said and done, they had collected 1,264 toys for children in need — surpassing last year's total by just over 100 toys. The men and women of Georgetown County Fire and EMS would like to thank all who came out and donated! For anyone who missed their chance to give, the Southern Georgetown Library's is collecting for Toys for Tots until Dec. 7. (See ad at the bottom of page 5.)

Choppee Auditorium reopens



An enthusiastic crowd turned out to celebrate the reopening of Choppee Auditorium on Nov. 11. It was the first opportunity for residents to see the newly renovated auditorium, which was once part of Choppee High School. The auditorium has new seating, carpeting, lighting and curtains. The stage floor has been refinished and the bathrooms modernized. It will be a wonderful, flexible space for the community to use for a variety of events, said Beth Goodale, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation director.

Seniors paint the town in Charleston



28 seniors from Georgetown County senior centers had a wonderful time in Charleston on a recent overnight trip. The group visited the International African American Museum on the first day, with several members attending a genealogy workshop while there. They had free time to explore, dine and shop on their own in the evening. On Day 2, they visited Patriots Point, exploring all the areas of the ship. "By the end of the day we ALL got our steps in and were ready to head home to rest," said Angie Weaver, the county's senior program coordinator. Another trip is already being planned. Georgetown County senior centers are open to all residents ages 60 and up. For more information about programs and activities for seniors, call (843) 545-3196 or email aweaver@gtcounty.org.

More than 1,000 kids participated in fall sports this year

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation had a fantastic finish to its 2023 Youth Football season, with a youth Super Bowl at Beck Recreation Center on Nov. 20. Congratulations to the Andrews Rams (5-8 Flag League), Waccamaw Packers (9-12 Flag League), the Georgetown 9-10 tackle team, and Georgetown A Team (11-12 Tackle League) on their championship wins. Staff would like to thank all the parents, coaches, and officials for helping us make this season possible for the participants. The department is proud to report that more than 1,000 children participated in youth football and cheerleading this fall, with NFL youth flag football leading participation rates county-wide. We're looking forward to our upcoming youth basketball season, and gearing up to register for youth track and field! Look for more information at gtcparks.org and make sure to follow us at facebook.com/gtcparks.

