



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Inside this Issue

- Re-entry program adds welding lessons, Page 2
- Federal funds secured for harbor dredging, Page 3
- Parks & Rec. introduces compass navigation trails, Page 4
- Anthuan Maybank returns for weekend of activities, Page 5
- Update on economic development throughout county, Page 10

Calendar

April 18 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic Courthouse, 129 Screven St.

April 18 – Capital Project Sales Tax Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., Southern Georgetown Library, 4187 Powell Rd.

April 20 – Anthuan Maybank Day, 10 a.m., Beck Recreation Center. See Page 5.

April 20 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Paper Shredding event, 9 a.m. to noon. See Page 4.

April 23 – Capital Project Sales Tax Commission meeting, 11 a.m. Virtual. Watch at youtube.com/gtcountysc.

April 23 – County Council budget workshop, 4:15 p.m., Historic Courthouse, 129 Screven St. Regular council meeting follows at 5:30 p.m.

See more meetings and events on the calendar at gtcounty.org.

Volume 12, Issue 6

April 2024

Rare B-29 will be showcased at Airport Open House

One of the last two B-29 Superfortress airplanes still flying will be on site at the Georgetown Airport this month. The four-engine, propeller-driven heavy bomber, designed by Boeing and flown during World War II, will land in Georgetown on April 25 and remain through an Airport open house event on Saturday, April 27. The open house will also feature a static aircraft display and will be the first public event hosted by the airport since before the pandemic. It is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The open house will also feature a variety of other historic and otherwise interesting aircraft, including a P-51 Mustang, a Pilatus P-3 painted in Swiss military colors, an L-18 Piper Cub, a Focke-Wulf P-149 and Sherpa Air's current Dash 8-300ER.

"We're still receiving confirmations on planes that are coming," said Jim Taylor, Georgetown County



A restored 1945 Boeing Superfortress will be a highlight at the Airport open house. The plane is 141 feet wide and three stories tall.

Airport Manager. "But potentially we have a T-28, which is a monstrous single-engine Korean War aircraft, two T-34s and possibly a special treat from our friends in Charleston. There might be either a flyover at noon or a massive, massive airplane landing on our runway. We're still putting the finishing touches on."

The B-29 is still likely to be the main attraction, due to both its size

and rarity. At 141 feet wide and three stories tall, the Superfortress was one of the largest aircraft flown during World War II and was designed for high-altitude strategic bombing. It is the only aircraft ever to drop nuclear weapons in combat. The one that will be on display at the Georgetown Airport is named Doc and features a painted image of the

See "Airport," Page 9

Free new service helps protect residents from real estate fraud

Imagine returning to a property you've owned for decades and planned to build a home on only to discover a stranger has already built there without your knowledge. It can and does happen, and with increasing frequency as scams targeting real estate become more common nationwide.

Georgetown County has recently taken action to help protect property owners from this type of fraud. The county contracted with software solutions company i3 Verticals to offer property fraud alerts through the Georgetown County Register of Deeds office. Property owners can sign up for free to receive alerts via email when documents are recorded that match information they enter. This can help property owners catch and report fraudulent activity early.



According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, property and mortgage fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S. [A report issued earlier this year](#) found that 1 in 20 Americans who bought or sold a home within the past three years have been victims of some type of real estate fraud, with the median amount in consum-

er losses exceeding \$70,000. How could this happen?

Scammers use public records to mine information and pose as someone else. They could pose as someone involved in a legitimate real estate transaction to redirect and steal money. Or they could pose as the owner of a property and negotiate the sale of property they don't actually own.

See "Fraud Alerts," Page 8

IN MEMORIAM:

County mourns retired fire marshal

Harry Junior Avant, a retired longtime fire marshal with Georgetown County Fire and EMS, died on April 12. He was 72.

Born on March 8, 1952, in Conway, he was a man whose life was marked by an unwavering dedication to his family, his community, and his faith.

Predeceased by his parents, George Avant Sr. and Lethia Young Avant, as well as his brother Billy Avant and sister-in-law Sallie Avant, Harry's legacy lives on through his cherished family. He is survived by his loving wife, Tina Thompson Avant, and children: Charlette McGaha (Steve), David Avant (Pam), Sarah Petty (Richard), Richard Avant, and Michael Small (Katie).

Harry took great joy in the company of his grandchildren: Tessa Gambrell (Cody), Cortney McGaha (Everett Ivey), Sam Brown (Hayden), Laine Avant (Blake Altman), Jordan Avant, Brianna Cox (Channing), Melinda Martin, Marshall Martin, Emaleigh Avant, Anderson Avant, and Bethany Avant. He was also brought great joy by his great-grandchildren: JP and Charlie Gambrell, Cameron Small, Madison Small, Callie Small, Cayden Small, Braleigh Altman, Braxton Altman, Roman Cox, Atlas Cox, and Weston Jasper. Harry's family circle extended to his sister Dena Keese (Doug), brothers George Avant Jr. and Donnie Avant (Debbie), numerous nieces and nephews, and his beloved granddog Rilee Beth.

Harry's commitment to service was evident in his 27 years with Georgetown County Fire Department and EMS. His courage and passion for helping others were not only professional traits, but also personal ones, as he was always the first to offer a helping hand to those in need. Harry's thoughtful nature made him a pillar in his community and a cherished friend, especially to his close companion, Richard "Buddy" Bourne.

A devout member of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Harry served as a deacon and found great joy in lifting his voice in song during worship. His faith was a beacon that guided him throughout his life and inspired those around him.

Harry's interests extended beyond his work and church activities. He was a familiar face at local dining spots, such as W.T. Owens and Sons and The Ball and Que Restaurant, where he enjoyed his weekly dining trips. A man who took pride in his home, Harry liked to keep his yard meticulously cut and clean, a testament to his careful and precise nature.

Courageous in his service, passionate about his community, and thoughtful in his every action, Harry Junior Avant's life was a living example of these virtues. He will be remembered as a man who not only lived life fully but also enriched the lives of everyone he encountered. His warm smile, generous spirit, and unwavering integrity have left an indelible mark on the hearts of his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Burial was at the Mt. Tabor Baptist Church Cemetery.
Online condolences may be left at www.young-fh.com



Harry Avant
1952-2024

Sheriff's Re-entry program helps participants get welding certification



This month, the Georgetown County Sheriff's Re-entry Program launched a new welding certification program made possible by a partnership between Amazing Journey Inc. (a nonprofit that supports the Re-entry Program) and Carolina Welding Training Institute. Participants in the program now have a chance to earn their certification in structural welding from an accredited training center, equipping them for in-demand jobs with sustainable wages. Last month, the Re-entry program received the generous donation of a refurbished Power MIG 140 MP Multi-Process Welder from Lincoln Electric. Launched in 2007, the Re-entry Program is a recidivism prevention initiative that gives qualifying inmates the skills they'll need to make a fresh start once their sentences have been served and avoid the pitfalls that lead so many back to jail.

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

Georgetown celebrates National County Government Month

Georgetown County is celebrating National County Government Month (NCGM) during the month of April to showcase how the county achieves healthy, safe and vibrant communities.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Forward Together," inspired by the signature focus of National Association of Counties (NACo) President Mary Jo McGuire. The theme highlights the powerful role of counties as intergovernmental partners that:

- Connect, building bridges to advance excellence and networks in county government;
- Inspire, driving community engagement and residents' trust in county government; and
- Lead, spearheading local, state and federal intergovernmental partnerships and common-sense policy solutions.

This year, Georgetown County celebrates NCGM with a range of events and initiatives including: the return of its Taxpayer Academy for a second year, highlighting county employees who serve the public, and more.

"Georgetown County is proud of the programs and services we provide to our residents, and the employees who work for our community as part of Team Georgetown," said County Administrator Angela Christian. "This month we celebrate the ways our government connects, inspires and leads every day."



\$6.5 million in federal funds secured for inner harbor dredging

A request from Georgetown County and the City of Georgetown for federal funds to deepen the inner harbor has been granted. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham has announced the project will receive \$6.5 million as part of the first Fiscal Year 2024 spending package.

The funds will allow the harbor in Georgetown to be deepened for the first time since before the Army Corps of Engineers announced in 2008 that it would no longer dredge that channel. Since that time, major silting has occurred, leaving some areas of the harbor with no more than 3 feet of depth at low tide. This is a hazard for recreational boats and threatens the area's future as a working waterfront, as shrimp boats and small to mid-size recreational boats require at least a 7-foot depth of mean low water to operate.

Georgetown County and the City of Georgetown have been working together for several years to find funds for dredging and look for long term solution to the silting problem. In 2018, they engaged Coastal Carolina University to complete a feasibility study to identify potential engineering solutions to prevent silting from occurring in the future, or at least from occurring at such a fast rate.

The university issued a report that identified 13 potential solutions and recommended an engineering firm be engaged to give further study to the four most feasible recommendations. GEL Engineering was engaged in late 2021. Among its findings, GEL said initial dredging of the inner harbor would be required under any scenario to maintain present uses. For more information, visit <https://www.gtcounty.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=410>.

Save The Date

APRIL 27, 2024
11 AM - 2 PM

3 Years Celebration

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

4187 POWELL RD. GEORGETOWN, SC 29440

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US AT
843-545-3389 OR FSGCL2021@GMAIL.COM




GTCPARK'S G.O.A.T. HERD PRESENTS

HIKE & SEEK

RULES:

- TEAMS OF 2-4 PEOPLE
- 90-MINUTE TIME LIMIT
- 25 CHECKPOINTS LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE 8 OAKS PARK TRAIL SYSTEM
- CHECKPOINTS ARE WORTH 3, 4, OR 5 POINTS DEPENDING ON THE DIFFICULTY OF LOCATING
- SCORE BASED ON 100 POSSIBLE POINTS
- TIE SCORES WILL BE BROKEN BY THE FASTEST TIME.
- TEAMS MUST REMAIN ON TRAILS AND OPEN SPACES.
- TAKE A TEAM PICTURE AT EACH CHECKPOINT TO DOCUMENT COMPLETION

8 OAKS PARK
6610 HIGHMARKET ST
SAT. APRIL 27TH
11AM



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





#GTC Parks

Newest G.O.A.T. program will teach a valuable survival skill

The Georgetown Outdoor Adventure Trails Program introduced two new Compass Navigation Courses earlier this month. The courses are designed help both adults and kids learn or enhance navigation skills, as well as enjoy the outdoors.

The trails are located at 8 Oaks Park on Highway 521 in Georgetown and Stables Park off Petigru Drive in the Pawleys Island area. G.O.A.T. is a program introduced this year by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation with the goal of getting people to “join the herd” and get moving and exploring outdoors.

The goal of the Compass Courses is to have hikers use a compass for navigation and determination of distance. The courses are approximately .6 miles in length and are beginner level courses. Hikers will need to use their compasses to locate waypoints installed along the courses. The waypoints are metal squirrels with a letter on them. Once a waypoint is located, it provides details on the



direction and distance to the next waypoint. Participants can use a traditional compass or the compass on their smart phone to navigate the courses.

Course instructions and a list of waypoints are located in a map box at the beginning of each navigation course.

“This is a great outdoor activity for the entire family,” said T.L. Staub, trail coordinator for Georgetown County Parks and Recreation. “Compass navigation is a helpful skill for people of every age to learn for exploring the outdoors.”

If you haven’t already signed up for the G.O.A.T. program, membership is free. The program encourages residents to walk, bike or run a group of designated trails.

The program incorporates trails and routes in a variety of environments to make the program more broadly appealing. There are wooded trails in forested areas, paved trails and beach routes. For those looking for something more urban, there are routes in the Georgetown Historic District, along the MarshWalk and down roadways.

Participants can earn prizes for various milestones including completion of all the trails.

Residents can sign up to be part of the herd online at gtcparks.org, and receive information about the program, including when new trails are added and when special outdoor activities and events are scheduled.

For questions or more information, contact Georgetown County Parks and Recreation at 843-545-3275 or email tlstaub@gtcounty.org.

SAFE DISPOSAL EVENT



Household Hazardous Waste Collection



Paper Shredding Truck



Medication Take-Back



Saturday, April 20, 2024
9 a.m. to noon
at Waccamaw High School,
2412 Kings River Road.

Details at gtcounty.org



Anthuan Maybank will return for weekend of activities April 20

Olympic Gold medalist and Georgetown native Anthuan Maybank will be back in his hometown this weekend for the third annual Anthuan Maybank Day celebration.

Hosted by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, the event takes place at the Anthuan Maybank Track Field at Beck Recreation Center. The field was dedicated in Maybank's honor in 2022. As part of the celebration, Maybank was guest of honor at a number of events and participated in programs with local youth, talking to them about hard work and success. Thus an annual tradition was born.

Anthuan Maybank Day festivities will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, with a motivational program for kids and teens. Maybank will talk with young people about discipline, goals and making smart choices. A family relay race will follow, along with other activities. Maybank is also expected to have a rematch with the Parks and Recreation Department's Mascot, Forest the Squirrel. Maybank has won his race with Forest every year, but he said Forest seemed a little younger and faster last year than the year prior.

There will also be food at the event. Food and all activities will be free.

In addition to being the guest of honor on Saturday, Maybank will be a special guest at this year's Waccamaw Senior Sports Classic at Beck on Friday, April 19. The annual event has people ages 55 and up in Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties compete in activities from races to hurling. Maybank was a guest speaker at last year's Sports Classic and enjoyed it so much, he wanted to come back, he said.

"I love seeing the smiles on the faces of the kids, but there is something special about seeing the 55-90-year-old group competing," he said.

He was inspired by the older individuals in last year's competition who were striving to stay active, he said.

Maybank now resides in Delaware and owns his own business, Champion BODY (which stands for Building Outgoing Dynamic Youthfulness). He works largely with college and professional athletes to help them achieve their goals. But he also devotes a lot of time working as a youth mentor.

Working with children, he said, is one of the most important and enjoyable things he gets to do.

"I love working with kids, because kids, they are extremely attentive. They sit there, they wait and they ask a lot of questions," Maybank said. "As we get older, we feel like we can't ask questions. But the kids, they ask the most pertinent questions that you don't expect, and you really have to think of a response to give them. You can't just say something, it has to make an impact, because they're going to use that information later on themselves."

A product of Georgetown County public schools, Maybank's dedication to track and field elevated him to the world stage in 1995, when he won gold at the World University Games in the 200 meter dash and the 4x400 meter relay. A year later, he took home gold again at the 1996 Olympic Games in the 4x400 meter relay. He transitioned from professional sports to a career in public relations in Paris, yet still maintained ties to the Georgetown community.

When he returned to the U.S. in 2007, he continued a fast-paced multi-tasking career, while still consulting for the City of Georgetown to improve community health.



At top, Anthuan Maybank leads kids through a series of exercises during last year's Anthuan Maybank Day festivities. Above, Maybank is pictured with some of the seniors who participated in the 2023 Waccamaw Senior Sports Classic.

"One of the most important things for me right now is being able to talk to people – particularly young people – about my experiences from where I started to where I am and the choices that went into it," Maybank said. "I want to share my experiences and help people make better choices."

Save The Date!

Our Annual **BLOSSOM FOR BOOKS Garden Tour** is scheduled for **May 18th!** Tickets go on sale **April 1st!** on-line at TheFOWL.org OR our Friends Center at The Library.

\$35 for Friends Members. \$40 for Non-member and Day fo Tour.



New tennis/pickleball courts open at North Santee center



Residents and county officials celebrated the opening of new tennis and pickleball courts at the North Santee Community Center on March 30. The center is located at 1484 Mount Zion Road. District 3 County Council Member Everett Carolina said he hopes the addition will grow the sport in the area and attract avid players who have been utilizing other facilities in the county. For more information about recreational facilities and amenities in Georgetown County, visit gtcparks.org.

State park introduces reserved parking

Huntington Beach State Park is introducing a reserved parking option to make parking easier during the busy summer season. Reserved parking will be available for 20% of all parking spots between May 16 and Sept. 2 for \$5 per parking spot, per day. All other parking spots will remain available for visitors on a first-come, first-served basis.

“It is so tough to close the gates on a busy weekend when a park is completely at capacity and to hear from folks still stuck in the line to get in that their family or friends are already inside the park for a cookout or beach day,” said South Carolina State Parks Director, Paul McCormack. “Thanks to the new reserved parking option, if a group will be traveling in more than one car for their beach day, they can all reserve a parking spot in advance to guarantee their entry, worry-free. Locals and visitors from all over will benefit from this ability to plan ahead and enjoy the park.”

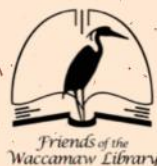
The \$5 parking fee does not include park admission and is required for all reservations, even if the visitor has a Park Passport. Reservations can be made up to one month in advance and must be made a minimum of three days before the desired reservation date.

Reservations will be available online using the S.C. State Parks online reservation tool at <https://reserve.southcarolinaparks.com/> beginning April 16. Parking reservations can only be made online. Anyone with a reserved parking spot must arrive at the park by noon on the day of their reservation. They will be allowed entry even if the rest of the park has reached capacity.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

SAVE A LIFE, GIVE YOUR BLOOD.

MAY 6TH NOON-4PM



1-800-RED CROSS

or

www.redcross.org

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

First Friday

with Georgetown County



New episodes on the first Friday of every month. Join us as we discuss topics important to residents of our county. Listen on YouTube or anywhere you normally stream and download podcasts.

Holmes recognized for 50 years of service



Mary Joyce Holmes was recently recognized for 50 years of service facilitating elections in Georgetown County. A member of the Georgetown County Board of Elections and Voter Registration, Holmes is a retired employee of the county's Office of Elections and Voter Registration. She was hired as a clerk in 1973 by Bill Doar, who was a state senator at the time. The Voting Rights Act was just 8 years old, having been passed by Congress in 1965 to help curtail voter suppression. Holmes was a fierce advocate for voter registration in Georgetown County. She along with many other black community activists were dedicated to encouraging and inspiring minority voters to register and participate in elections. Holmes went on to become the first director of Georgetown County Elections and Voter Registration in 1996, when the Office of Elections and the Office of Voter Registration merged. She advocated for larger space for the newly combined department and initiated the move into the current building on N. Hazard St. She led the office until her retirement in 2006, then continued her work as a member of the board, on which she has served since 2008. Bill Doar was present for Holmes' recent recognition, along with S.C. Rep. Carl Anderson, County Council Chairman Louis Morant and Aphra McCrea, the current Director of Elections and Voter Registration. Pictured from left are Anderson, Holmes and Morant.

Candidate slate set for partisan elections

Primary elections will take place in three local races on June 11, including one County Council seat, a U.S. House seat and a state Senate seat. All the local candidates competing in primary elections are Democrats.

In County Council District 3, Incumbent Everett Carolina will compete in the primary with Ernie Cooper Sr. and Aundry Evans. The winner will join Republican candidate Craig Cumbie on the general election ballot on Nov. 5.

In the 7th Congressional District, Democrats Mal Hyman and Daryl W. Scott will compete to face Republican Incumbent Russell Fry in

November. S.C. Senate District 32 incumbent Ronnie A. Sabb will face Prinscillia Sumpter in the primary. There is no Republican candidate.

It originally looked like there would be a crowded field in the County Council District 4 race, but after three candidates (Democrats Theodore "Ted" Brown and Travis T. Jones, and Republican Jonathan Angner) withdrew, the race will be decided in November between Republican Ron Charlton and Democrat Hobson Henry Milton. There is no incumbent.

Sheriff Carter Weaver, a Republican, will also face a challenger in November: Democrat Birt Adams.

County named Fire Safe Community

Georgetown County has once again been named a Fire Safe Community, thanks to the efforts of both Georgetown County Fire-EMS and Midway Fire-Rescue. The departments were recognized this month by Fire Safe South Carolina for community risk reduction efforts in 2023.

Just 154 departments across the state received the Fire Safe designation this year. The communities designated under this program continuously work to reduce fire related injuries, thereby decreasing the risks for residents and firefighters. They also promote consistent fire safety messaging and stress the importance of providing all relative data collected at fire scenes.

"The enthusiasm for obtaining this designation continues to grow," said Josh Fulbright, the program's Community Risk Reduction Chief. "Many departments have received this recognition for the first time, some seek it again with new purpose, and others receiving since the 2017 inception continue to build depth within their organization."

Midway has received the designation annually since it was introduced and County Fire since 2019.

To earn the "Fire Safe South Carolina" designation, fire departments completed courses to improve data quality, trained community partners to deliver in-home safety visits, and further developed their skills through online National Fire Academy courses in risk reduction and assessment.

Last year, because of their efforts, across South Carolina 250 community partners were identified, nearly 500 fire service members were educated on risk reduction-related topics, and more than 650,000 citizens were educated on fire and life safety topics.



Waccamaw Neck
Branch Library



Crafternoon

Wednesdays

2:30 - 4:00

Children's Corner



For any questions, contact
jlewis@gtcounty.org or call 843-545-3349.

Applicants sought for public boards

The Georgetown County Legislative Delegation is seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions that have vacancies, expired terms or terms that expire in the near future:

- Georgetown County First Steps
- Georgetown County Board of Voter Registration and Elections
- Horry/Georgetown Commission on Technical Education

Applications may be downloaded at gtcounty.org/delegation and will be accepted through Friday, April 26. Hard copies of applications may be picked up at the Delegation Clerk's Office, located at 716 Prince St., Georgetown.

Email completed applications to adsierra@gtcounty.org, or mail to: Georgetown County Legislative Delegation, P.O. Drawer 421270, Georgetown, SC 29440.

City introduces safe exchange zone

Online Buy/Sell/Trade groups and websites like Craigslist have become an extremely common way to connect local buyers and sellers. But there's often some very justified concern about arranging a meeting with a stranger for the exchange.

The City of Georgetown Police Department recently took a step toward solving that problem by setting up a Safe Exchange Zone at its Law Enforcement Complex on Highmarket Street. It's the first of its kind in Georgetown County and creates a secure spot for people to meet up to conduct business or for parents to meet for child custody transfers.

Parking spots for safe exchanges are designated with signage and have additional lighting as well as 24-hour surveillance. Members of the public may also make exchanges inside the center lobby as an extra safety measure during regular business hours.

Officials meet with SCAC president



Georgetown County Administrator Angela Christian and County Council Chairman Louis Morant were pleased to host S.C. Association of Counties president Roy Costner III on April 16. Since being elected president last summer, Costner (center in photo) has been traveling to counties across the state to listen to what leaders have to say and learn more about the challenges and opportunities in each county. He has been to 31 counties so far and said he had found many similarities. He said he's looking for opportunities for counties across the state to learn from each other and work together to solve problems for counties and the people they serve.

What you need to know about the proposed

LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX



This November, Georgetown County voters will be asked to decide whether a Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) should be implemented in Georgetown County. Here's what you need to know before you go to the polls:

- The state allows counties to pass a LOST for the specific purpose of reducing the property tax burden on residents.
- 71% of money collected goes DIRECTLY to property tax rollbacks.
- Residents receive rollbacks on not just real property taxes, but also cars, boats and even airplanes taxed in Georgetown County.
- Learn more and see how much you could save at gtcounty.org/LOST



www.gtcounty.org/LOST

Fraud Alerts

Continued from Front Page

By signing up for free alerts through the Georgetown County Register of Deeds, property owners can be immediately notified by email if a document is filed to the office under a name or business they have requested to receive alerts on. The automatic system empowers property owners to flag any fraudulent transactions immediately and protect their funds. Property owners can sign up at gtcounty.org/178/Register-of-Deeds. "It only takes a few seconds to sign up," said Walt Ackerman, Georgetown County's Director of Administrative Services. "This is one more tool we offer to help keep our residents and property owners safe. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this service, and also to encourage their friends and family to sign up."

Library friends group will collect book donations

The Friends of the Georgetown Library will collect donated books during the farmers market on May 4. The market is located on the empty lot on Fraser Street between Prince and Front streets and will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Books should be new or gently used. Rare, signed or out-of-print books in good condition are also accepted. NOT accepted are books with mold or water damage, and encyclopedias, textbooks and other reference materials that are no longer current.

In addition to hardback and paperback books, the Friends are seeking donations of records, CDs, DVDs, board games, puzzles and audio books in good condition. Magazines, Readers Digest condensed books and brochures are not needed.

Throughout the summer, the Friends of the Library have a table at the farmers market to sell donated books to raise money for children’s programming at the Georgetown Library. The Friends will resume their Saturday sales on June 1.

In the event of inclement weather on May 4, the collection will be postponed to May 11.

The Georgetown Library has been closed for renovations since last summer. Plans are to have the library reopen this spring.

Airport Open House

Continued from Front Page

character from Disney’s “Snow White” by the same name.

Doc rolled off the Boeing assembly line in 1945 and after World War II was part of a non-combat squadron known as the Seven Dwarves. It later was used as a target for bomb training in California and sat in the Mojave Desert for 42 years before being removed in 1998 and painstakingly restored by volunteers. It started flying again in 2016.

Members of the public can view Doc April 25 and 26. For those interested in a closer look, tours are \$10 per person or \$20 per family. On April 27, flight experiences with Doc will be offered starting at \$600. The experience lasts about 90 minutes and includes a 30-minute ride. The proceeds all go toward keeping Doc flying and on the public circuit.

“Each one of those engines is 2,200 horsepower, consuming about 100 gallons of fuel per hour per engine – and there’s four of them, so just the fuel bill alone is incredible,” Taylor said. “It’s a once in a lifetime experience. When else are you ever going to get a chance to jump in a 1945 B-29 and fly over the coastline.”

There will be no other fees for anything at the open house. Taylor said the event is family friendly and will appeal to people of all ages.

“I want to attract the young and the young at heart,” he said. “I want to see kids coming into the airport and getting all excited about airplanes instead of playing video games. Then maybe at a young age they start thinking about the future. Aviation is an incredible career path. And I want to see the young at heart. People who are 50, 60, 70, 80 years old and who have a love for aviation so that when an airplane flies by, they always have to look up at the sky to see what kind it is. That’s the audience I really want to come out and be a part of this event.”

The open house will be part of the celebration of both S.C. Aviation Week and National County Government Month. Aviation week is April 21-27 and is dedicated to promoting airports and the state’s aviation industry by highlighting the impacts of our airports across the state and related businesses. National County Government Month takes place each April and recognizes and celebrates the many services that counties provide to residents.



Brett Schauf Visual Media Group

Educational, Fun & Creative Indoor and Outdoor Activities For kids Age 4-10

Spanish KIDS summer CAMPS

Inlet Language Center

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Week 1 July 8-12 Lego Week ✓ Week 2 July 15-19 Christmas in July ✓ Week 3 July 22-26 Dr. Seuss Week ✓ Week 4 July 29- Aug 2 Treasure Hunts 	<p>Full Week Camp \$ 150 9:00am-1:00pm (M-F)</p> <p>Single Day Camp \$35 9:00am-1:00pm</p>
---	--

Location: Murrells Inlet Community Center
4462 Murrells Inlet Road, M.I. SC 29576

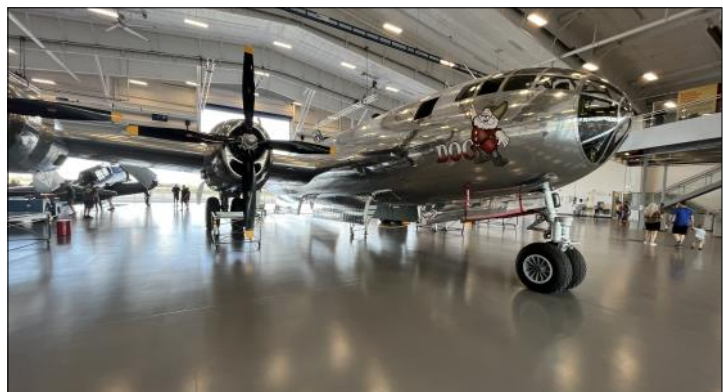
Register Online

facebook

instagram

www.inletlanguagecenter.com

inletlanguagecenter@gmail.com



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



County industrial park nears full capacity



A sign at the Georgetown County Business Center proclaims Craftmade Foods is in the process of building there.

The Georgetown County Economic Development Department has had its hands full lately, and a drive through the county's industrial park in Andrews offers a good idea of what department staff has been up to. Companies are not just building structures at the park; they are laying the groundwork for economic prosperity.

Entering the industrial park, officially known as the Georgetown County Business Center, new construction is in progress everywhere you look. To the left, a sign in front of a partially constructed building proclaims the site is the future home of Spry. To the right, a similar sign says Craftmade Foods is building a facility on that site. Straight ahead and down the road, manufacturer Diatom is beginning construction.

On the park's other side, Zilmet USA is taking their construction vertical. The shell of the company is now complete and they are starting work on the inside of the building.

That leaves the industrial park nearing full capacity. Santee Electric is gearing up to add another building to the landscape, aiming to offer more space for potential users. Construction will begin in late 2024 on a 100,000-square-foot building with expansion ability. Requests for information have

been submitted by companies interested in considering that

site for future development.

The department hopes it will also soon see ground moving at the Pennyroyal Industrial Park, where negotiations are currently under way with an undisclosed company known as "Project Current."

Thomas & Hutton have been engaged to provide infrastructure updates to the property, including widening the Sampit channel to facilitate barge access for Project Current or other potential users. The work was made possible by a \$1.3 million grant from the S.C. Department of Commerce.



A new building under construction by Zilmet USA.

Just down Highway 17, the Georgetown County Airport remains poised for expansion. The airport is in the works of welcoming a completed master plan and is being evaluated for potential improvements to ensure the plan outlines "the highest and best use of the aviation park."

Sherpa Air, a transportation company located on the airport property, is thriving and currently hiring. They are in the process of promoting aviation programs provided by Horry-Georgetown Technical College to attract future employees. With these efforts, an expansion for Sherpa is anticipated in late 2024 to mid-2025.

The county also continues work at the Georgetown Port, having recently cleared away several dilapidated buildings that were on the site.

All of the Voluntary Cleanup Contracts for Phase I of the environmental site assessment have been completed. Georgetown County is now engaging GEL Engineering to move forward with the second phase of the assessment.



Construction will start later this year on a new spec building at the industrial park in Andrews.