



A publication for our residents and visitors AUGUST 2025

Sea turtle season brings excitement to county beaches

It's one of the most magical times of year along the Georgetown County coastline — sea turtle season. From May through October, our beaches host some of nature's most awe-inspiring visitors: nesting female sea turtles and the hatchlings that later emerge from their nests.

While the peak nesting months of June and July are behind us, the season is far from over. Late-season nests are still being laid, including a rare green sea turtle nest laid just last weekend. Green sea turtle nests are uncommon in South Carolina — most nests here belong to loggerheads — making this an especially exciting and important find for conservationists.

At the same time, the earliest nests of the summer are hatching, sending tiny hatchlings on their first and most dangerous journey: the crawl from their nest to the Atlantic Ocean. Some of these nests will soon be the focus of public "inventories," conducted by certified volunteers with S.C. United Turtle Enthusiasts (SCUTE). These inventories, held about three days after a nest hatches, involve counting hatched shells, assessing unhatched eggs, and sometimes helping "straggler" hatchlings reach the ocean. All the information volunteers obtain is reported back to the S.C. Department of Natural Resources.

Nest inventories offer a unique opportunity for the public to learn about sea turtle conservation firsthand.

→] Continued on Page 9



Top: A pair of children watch in fascination during a nest inventory as a Loggerhead sea turtle hatchling crosses the beach. Above: Closeup of a hatchling making its way to the ocean.



Highway to be renamed in honor of late chairman

Exodus Drive in the Plantersville community will soon be known as Johnny Morant Highway.

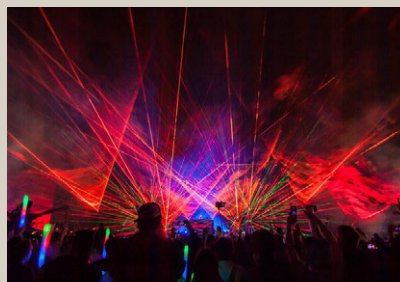
The Georgetown County Transportation Committee voted Aug. 11 to approve funding for new street signs, following the S.C. Department of Transportation's approval of the name change. The change was requested by S.C. House Reps. Carl Anderson and Lee Hewitt, and approved by the General Assembly.

The late Mr. Morant served Georgetown County with distinction for 25 years, including a decade as chairman of County Council, before retiring at the end of 2018. A respected and devoted community leader, he was admired for his quiet, steady guidance and unshakable calm in every situation. A lifelong resident of Plantersville, he died in 2020.

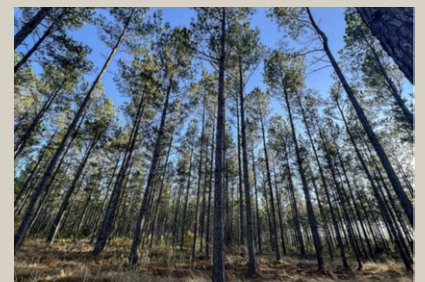
Inside this issue:



County works with SCDNR to remove abandoned boats from Georgetown Harbor.



Wave That Flag family festival and laser-light show scheduled for Aug. 31 in Litchfield.



Carvers Bay forest to be preserved thanks to purchase by conservation group.

Groups invited to apply for accommodations tax grants

Georgetown County is accepting applications for accommodations tax grants until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30. Grants are available for projects and events occurring in the 2026 calendar year.

Proceeds from the county's share of the state tax on hotel rooms and other vacation rentals – also known as A-tax – are distributed to organizations through grants for eligible tourism-related events and activities. Recommendations on grant awards are made by an advisory committee comprised of representatives from the county's tourism industry. County Council will make final award determinations in December.

The grant program is administered by the Georgetown County Finance Department in accordance with program guidelines. For more information about accommodations tax grants, visit www.gtcounty.org/atax. Potential applicants may also contact Glenda Long in the Finance Department at (843) 545-3251 for more information.



GEORGETOWN COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, August 26 at 3:45 p.m.

Regular meeting follows at 5:30 p.m.
View agendas at gtcounty.org/council

Sierra named Clerk to Council

Alma D. Sierra has been appointed the new Clerk to Georgetown County Council. She replaces Theresa Floyd, who retired last month after serving in that role for nearly 30 years.



Sierra

A Georgetown native, Sierra attended Georgetown County public schools and holds an Associate's Degree from Horry-Georgetown Technical College as well as a certificate in business. She is currently enrolled in courses for clerks to council offered through the College of Charleston's Riley Center for Livable Communities.

Sierra joined the county staff in July 2023 as Deputy Clerk to Council and interned with Floyd for about six months prior. She was previously employed as a dance instructor, teaching students ages 2 through high school. She is a daughter of Josue and Alma Acosta Sierra. She is also an active member of Primera Asamblea de Dios Emmanuel.

The Clerk to Council supports the council in its legislative functions. This includes preparing meeting agendas, recording council proceedings and maintaining official records. Sierra said she is excited to take over the role of Clerk to Council.

"I feel like civic engagement is really important. I'm glad to be able to help facilitate more communication between the community and its leaders," she said.



2025 Musicians Series!

>Thursday, September 25 @6PM:

The Rich Johnson Duo

"Beatles Hits"



The Rich Johnson Band plays over 200 gigs a year up and down the SC coast! Come sing along to your favorite hits from the Fab Four, plus song stories & Beatles trivia!!

Free & Open to All!

Waccamaw Library / 41 St. Paul Place / Pawleys Island, SC

About this publication

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 Georgetown County Monthly.

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 our newsletter on our website at www.gtcounty.org/newsroom 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.

Partnership clears derelict boats from Harbor

Eleven derelict vessels were removed from Georgetown Harbor this month through a major collaborative effort between Georgetown County, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), and the nonprofit Wounded Nature–Working Veterans.

The operation was critical to improving safety and environmental conditions in the harbor and comes ahead of a dredging project planned for next year by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Several of the removed boats had become long-standing hazards, including one sunken near the River Room restaurant that posed a serious risk to boaters.

SCDNR provided staff, including a dive team to identify and recover vessels, while Georgetown County funded crane services, and will transport the boats from the harbor to the landfill and waive disposal fees. Coastal Crane Services contributed a generous discount for the project, and a barge was donated by community member Sandy Tiller to support the operation.

"It was a real community effort," said Region 4 Officer Jason Dozier of SCDNR. "We couldn't have done it without everyone working together."

Wounded Nature–Working Veterans, a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit, played a key role. The organization mobilizes volunteer boaters and veterans to remove debris from challenging coastal environments, helping improve marine ecosystems and fish stocks.

Of the 11 boats removed, eight had legible registration tags—and five of those were from out of state. Three had been so damaged by the elements that their tags were unreadable.

Derelict boats have become a growing concern in South Carolina, harming water quality, posing

navigational hazards, and degrading the beauty of our natural spaces. Current state law does not require boaters to carry liability insurance, making cleanup efforts difficult to fund.

"Until there is more legislation and funding in place, the burden falls on state agencies and the public," said Rudy Socha, a licensed boat captain and

CEO of Wounded Nature. "If your boat sinks or damages property, and you don't have insurance, someone else has to clean up the mess."

Proposed state legislation would require insurance for boaters, while another proposed bill would collect an annual \$3 fee to help fund derelict vessel removals.

For now, thanks to the commitment of local agencies and community partners, Georgetown Harbor is a safer and cleaner place for all.



SCDNR staff helps haul boats out of the Georgetown Harbor to a staging area at the port where they will be crushed and transported to the landfill.

FOWL Presents: 2025 Fall Luncheon



PAGES &
PLATES

SAVE the DATE & DONATE

PAWLEYS PLANTATION CONFERENCE CENTER

October 21st

This luncheon helps us continue our support of our Waccamaw Neck Branch Library by funding the following:

- ~ Children's & Adult Programming
- ~ New Books, DVDs, Supplies, Technology & Furniture
- ~ Special Projects like the Backyard Patio & Accessible Entry Doors

WE NEED DONATIONS

Trendy accessories for the home and stylish woman...
Clothing, Jewelry, Scarves, Purses,

Home Decor including items for the Holidays


Donation deadline Friday, September 26th

Donations may be dropped off at the Friends Center


For pick up, call Diane Stern: 908-310-2953



Friends of the Waccamaw Library is a non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code (c) (3), ID #57-0855359. Your donation may be tax deductible.



GEORGETOWN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
RETURNING THIS FALL:




TACKLE FOOTBALL

COACHES & OFFICIALS NEEDED

****LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE****

**2025 SEASON
TACKLE FOOTBALL
\$50
REGISTRATION ENDS SEPT. 26, 2025**

REGISTER AT GTC Parks.org
OR AT REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER



Elections office launches new comprehensive guide for voters

Georgetown County's Office of Voter Registration and Elections has taken a major step toward making the voting process easier to understand for residents. The department has created its first-ever Comprehensive Voter Education Guide. Director Aphra McCrea said she believes it's the first of its kind in South Carolina.

The new guide compiles essential information from six separate pamphlets produced by the S.C. State Election Commission (SEC) into a single, easy-to-read resource. Until now, voters visiting the county elections office might receive different pamphlets depending on their questions — such as how to register, how absentee voting works or what to expect on Election Day. While helpful, that approach had one drawback: voters might miss important information they didn't know to ask about.

"This new guide solves that problem," McCrea said. "It brings together the most important points from all six pamphlets so every voter gets the full picture of how elections work in South Carolina."

The guide covers:

- The types of elections held in South Carolina and what events trigger them
- How and when elections occur
- Ways to register to vote
- How absentee and early voting work
- What forms of photo ID to bring to the polls
- How to verify your ballot, including checking your district information
- Information for military and overseas voters
- Georgetown County's political makeup, including three municipalities, seven County Council districts,

State Senate and House Districts, and more

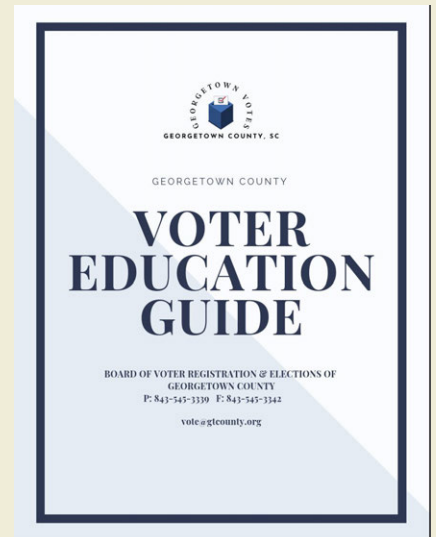
- How to become a poll worker — including pay details and a QR code to apply

McCrea noted that the guide is not a "get out the vote" tool, but rather a clear, factual explanation of the voting process.

"We wanted to make sure new voters, established voters, and those moving here from other states have a reliable, quick snapshot of how South Carolina elections work. Election laws can vary a lot from state to state, so this helps ensure everyone understands the process here," she said.

The guide is available online at gtcounty.org/vote and in print at the Georgetown County Office of Voter Registration and Elections on Hazard Street. It will also be included with voter registration cards and shared throughout the year.

McCrea credited the county's Board of Voter Registration and Elections members with playing a major role in developing the guide. "They were extremely helpful in putting this together. We're proud to be the first in South Carolina to offer something like this to our voters," she said.



GUITAR LESSONS

JOIN US ON THE
FIRST WEDNESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
AT 1:00 FOR A
LESSON LED BY
SPECIAL GUEST
DAN SACHS.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY
MAIN LIBRARY
405 CLELAND STREET
843-545-3300



Andrews Branch Library

What to plant in Fall

AUGUST 26TH
10:30 AM

Join us with Brad Fowler
Clemson
Urban Horticulture
Extension Agent

Please Register at Andrews
Library

105 N. Morgan Ave
Andrews SC, 29510
843-545-3621

County provides update on Andrews drainage project

Georgetown County, in partnership with the Town of Andrews, is making steady progress on a major drainage improvement project aimed at enhancing stormwater management and reducing flooding in Andrews.

Crews have completed vegetation clearing in the outfall corridor and are now focused on grading, trench excavation, and installation of upgraded storm drainage infrastructure. Outdated ditches are being decommissioned and replaced with modern piping and junction structures to improve system capacity and ensure long-term performance.

Erosion control measures are also in place, including the use of seed, sod, and matting to stabilize exposed soils and protect local water quality.

In the coming weeks, residents can expect to see survey control markers and selective vegetation clearing in areas between South Hazel Avenue, Hemlock Road, and West Pine Street. Temporary removal and replacement of fencing within the easement areas will also occur as part of the work.

The intersection of W. Myrtle Avenue and the drainage easement is currently an active construction zone. Intermittent truck traffic and heavy machinery operations are expected. Residents are urged to obey all safety signage and flaggers.

The County thanks residents for their patience and cooperation as it works to improve Andrews' stormwater infrastructure and overall community resilience.

Walker graduates from APWA Emerging Leaders Academy



Harley Walker, center, an operations coordinator with the Georgetown County Stormwater Division graduated Aug. 18 from the American Public Works Association's Emerging Leaders Academy. The year-long national program provides intensive leadership and management training within the context of the public works field. It encourages professional growth through a strong network of peers and offers an in-depth introduction to APWA at the national, chapter and branch levels.

Walker joined the Georgetown County team in late 2022 and was promoted less than a year later. She received the Georgetown County Public Services Department's Employee of the Year award in 2023, and is one of the department's rising stars. Public Services Director Ray Funnye said Harley "embodies the very essence" of an emerging leader in public works.

"In her tenure, Harley has demonstrated a profound commitment to our field, coupled with a natural ability to lead and inspire those around her," Funnye said. "Her dedication to advancing her career is evident in her pursuit of new challenges and her passion for continuous learning. She has shown the capacity to adapt quickly, take initiative, and make sound decisions under pressure."



<https://www.thefow.org/>

1st Thursday Schedule

Fall 2025

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All programs free & open to the public!

*Videos online after at Georgetown County Library YouTube

Thursday, September 4 at 10AM

Robin Snell & Steven Zambriczki, Egyptologists, "Secrets of Ancient Egyptian Medicine & Magic"

Thursday, October 2 at 10AM

Dr. Jodi A. Barnes, South Carolina Heritage Trust Archaeologist, "Coming Home: Community-Centered Research at White Marsh Plantation"

**Part of the Library's Lowcountry Gullah Heritage Celebration*

Thursday, November 6 at 10AM

Dr. Elizabeth Chew, CEO of the South Carolina Historical Society, "South Carolina History Is American History"

Thursday, December 4 at 10AM

Dr. Ashley Oliphant, Author, "*Shell-abration Time: Best Strategies & Locations for Finding Shells & Sharks Teeth on the Carolina Coast*"

🎵 Arrive early for live music! 🎵

For more info: Dr. Daniel Cross Turner at 843.545.3363 / dturner@gtcounty.org



Waccamaw Library / 41 St. Paul Place / Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Need assistance with high food costs?

Sign up for SNAP!

Epworth

Serving Children & Families



If you are 60+ or disabled, join us at the Andrews Library for assistance in applying for SNAP!

September 4th 11:00am to 3:00pm

Andrews Branch Library
105 N. Morgan Ave Andrews, SC 29510

Small business event will address supply chain shifts

Georgetown County Economic Development is encouraging small business owners to take advantage of an upcoming free event focused on navigating economic and supply chain shifts.

Adaptability and local sourcing are key to small business success, especially in today's changing economy. To support S.C. entrepreneurs, the S.C. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration will host "Ready, Set, Supply! — Navigating Economic and Supply Chain Shifts" on Tuesday, Sept. 23, at the Horry-Georgetown Technical College campus in Conway.

This interactive event will help small business owners prepare for economic changes and adjust to supply chain realignments. Attendees will gain insights, resources, and strategies to stay competitive and resilient in a shifting marketplace.

Learn more and register at <https://lnkd.in/eDUGijj5>.

Partnership encourages youth digital literacy



This summer, the Georgetown County Library's Carvers Bay branch and HTC teamed up to bring an exciting digital literacy series to local youth. Over June and July, 42 sessions introduced participants ages 4–18 to essential tech skills while connecting them to important health topics including mental wellness, bullying prevention, physical activity and hygiene — all as part of the Summer Reading Program. Thanks to HTC's generous \$10,000 grant, the program provided technology, equipment, incentives and expert speakers. At the end, 25 kids celebrated their success by taking home an Android 14 tablet and gift cards.

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.

Hurricanes win championship



Stables Park in Pawleys Island is home to some of the finest athletic fields in Georgetown County. In the summer months, though, it gets hot — but the only thing hotter than the temperature is the competition on the field. Seven adult soccer teams with players from all over Georgetown County and the Grand Strand sweated it out in this year's Georgetown County Parks and Recreation Adult Soccer League. The league wrapped up its annual summer season with a series of playoff games in late July and early August.

On July 26, the #2 seeded Pawleys Island Hurricanes eliminated #7 Internazionale Atlas, 6-4. #6 South Strand Fútbol Group pulled an upset over #3 M.A.P.S. FC, 3-1. The #4 Legends were unable to participate, giving #5 Georgetown United a 3-0 win by forfeit.

On Aug. 9, South Strand Fútbol Group fought valiantly, but fell to the Pawleys Island Hurricanes, 6-2, advancing the Hurricanes to the league championship game.

In what was probably the standout game of the season, Georgetown United took on the #1 Pitbulls, who were undefeated heading into the game. Georgetown and the Pitbulls battled throughout the game, ending regulation in a 3-3 tie. For overtime, the league utilizes the "Golden Goal" overtime rule, which is a form of "Sudden Death" overtime. No goals were scored in either of the five-minute "Golden Goal" periods, so the game was decided on penalty kicks. The Pitbulls won the penalty shootout 4-3, giving them the win and the chance to play for a championship.

In the league's championship game, the Pawleys Island Hurricanes pulled away from the Pitbulls early, cruising to an 8-3 win and their first ever league championship.



JOIN GEORGETOWN 250

Be a part of history!

VOLUNTEER TODAY

SC250GEORGETOWN.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/

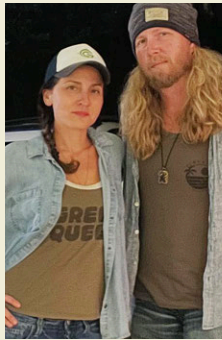
Celebrate Labor Day weekend with free family festival and light show

It was meant to be part of the Fourth of July events on the Hammock Coast, but a tropical storm moved in and now Wave That Flag, a laser-light show and family-fun event, has moved to the eve of Labor Day. The free event is scheduled for 6-10 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 31, at Retreat Park, 633 Wildcat Way in the Litchfield community.

Now in its third year, the festival will feature a bocce ball tournament, live music, vendors and food trucks, culminating in the spectacular laser-light show produced by Stone Entertainment and sponsored by the county's tourism brand, South Carolina's Hammock Coast® and the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce. The festival is hosted by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation and coordinated by VibeTime.

"We invite the community to come out to enjoy a free evening that is family friendly and won't break the bank," said VibeTime's Blaine Harvey, who has organized the event every year. "This will be an affordable event with a wow factor for local families and tourists visiting the Hammock Coast from all over the United States."

Bocce Ball games start at 6 p.m. Face painters and other artists will also be set up for the public to enjoy. Live music will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the light show will take place at around 9 p.m. The Bocce Ball tournament will feature pre-registered teams and last-minute signups during the festival. Kickball games will also be held for children to enjoy. To pre-register for Bocce Ball, go to the [Wave That Flag Facebook page](#) for details.



Whiskey Neat



The laser-light show will begin at 9 p.m., accompanied by music from local duo Whiskey Neat.

HeadStrings, a band from Charleston, will start off the music, blending traditional instruments with a non-traditional style of play that's sure to please. They'll be followed by a local favorite, Whiskey Neat, which will play two sets. The second set starts at sunset with the laser-light show.

The laser show will beam over the heads of festival-goers, creating a dazzling display featuring music and multiple fog machines that will create the appearance of a roof overhead, enhancing the visual experience for attendees.

When the laser show concludes, DJ Traycation will finish up the evening with a dance party not to be missed.

"We want to really celebrate another great summer on South Carolina's Hammock Coast," Harvey said. "We will have a lot of local and regional vendors, allowing people to enjoy dinner and local craft beers. People will really enjoy the line up of musicians, too. The bands will be great and lead us up to the laser light show that Stone Entertainment does so well."

Fandom Fest

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

11 am

Oct 11th

- Get ready for a Fandom-filled day at the library!
- Come dressed as your favorite character and let's celebrate our favorite fandoms together.

Costume Contest

Photo Booth

Trivia Games

Artist Alley

Crafts

Escape Room & more!

No weapons of any kind are allowed on library premises!

4187 Powell Rd, Georgetown, SC
(843) 545-3389

KIDS!

Wednesday
August 27th
3:30-4:30PM

Pond Life

with the North Inlet - Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve!

@ the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library

Join us for a hands-on exploration of the tiny creatures living in our library's outdoor retention pond! We'll collect water samples and examine invertebrates up close under microscopes. Fun and fascinating for all ages!

Zilmet opens new plant in Andrews



Georgetown County was delighted to take part in a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 25 for Zilmet USA's new 150,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in the Business Industrial Park in Andrews. County Administrator Angela Christian, County Council Vice Chair Stella Mercado, Council Member Louis Morant, and Economic Development Director Kelly Robertson-Slagle joined Lt. Governor Pamela Evette and other local leaders in celebrating this exciting investment in our community. Founded in Italy in 1955, Zilmet is a global leader in expansion vessels and heat exchangers. With U.S. demand booming, this new plant marks a major milestone for the company—and for Georgetown County's growing industrial sector. Counter clockwise from top: County and Zilmet officials pose with the Lt. Governor in front of the new facility; Robertson-slagle and Maya Morant of Georgetown County Economic Development smile for a photo during a plant tour; Zilmet officials cut the ribbon as Evette watches. Zilmet is one of several new businesses that are popping up in the Andrews Industrial Business Park. Several are either under construction or preparing to hire, including Diatom, which is currently hiring.

Next at the Library

'Flash Fiction' workshop

Learn the art of "flash fiction" — an extremely short form of fictional storytelling— with a free workshop at the Waccamaw Library. The event takes place Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. and features author Debra A. Daniel, winner of the Bath Novella in-Flash Award for "In the Dark Eyes of the Rabbit." Space is limited. Register by calling 843-545-3363.

Coding, robotics for teens

A class in the Teen Room at the Georgetown library will teach participants to code and build robots. The class is free and takes place from 3-5 p.m. Aug. 26-28. For information, call 843-545-3311.

Free law talks

A partnership between libraries and the S.C. Bar will bring free law talks to the Andrews Library. On Sept. 9 an attorney will discuss paternity, custody and child support. On Oct 21, the topic will be heirs property and wills. Both programs are from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Georgetown County Main Library

BILINGUAL STORYTIME
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

TUESDAYS
Ages: 0-5
Storytime Room
10:30am-11am

For more information call (843)545-3311

GEORGETOWN COUNTY COMMUNITY SENIOR CITIZEN'S
60 and older

CHRISTMAS bucket list

- HOT COCO PACKS
- WORD SEARCH BOOK
- NON-SLIP SHOES
- SMALL FIRST AID KIT
- HAND LOTION
- FINGERNAIL CLIPPERS
- SANITIZER
- BAR SOAP
- VASELINE
- NOTE CARD
- CHAPSTICK
- FACIAL TISSUE
- GIFT BAGS
- NAIL FILE
- MINTS
- BODY WASH
- SNACKS
- ALCOHOL PADS
- SOCKS
- GLOVES
- PILL ORGANIZER

DONATIONS NEEDED BY DEC. 5, 2025

DROP OFF LOCATION: HOWARD GYM
1610 HAWKINS STREET, GEORGETOWN SC 29440
Georgetown County
Bureau of Aging Services
Vanessa Brown: 843-545-3197
vmbrown@gtcounty.org

→] Sea Turtles



An adult loggerhead making her way back to the ocean after a rare daytime nesting.

Nesting female turtles usually arrive in the dark, leaving behind distinctive tracks in the sand.

"It looks as though a tractor came out of the ocean. Once you've seen it, you won't forget it," the late Jeff McClary, SCUTE cofounder, always said.

Loggerhead tracks are about a yard wide, with flipper marks moving in opposite directions. Green sea turtles, which are larger, move both flippers in the same direction — like a butterfly stroke — and tend to toss more sand while digging deeper nests.

Hatchling tracks are much smaller and lead (hopefully) from a nest toward the water, often in a delicate zigzag pattern. Hatchlings naturally crawl toward the light of the moon reflected on the ocean, but can be led astray by artificial lights, such as those from beach houses. That's why it's against the law in Georgetown County to leave on lights visible from the beach at night from May 1 through Oct. 31. It's also against county ordinance to leave items on the beach overnight, including chairs, tents, umbrellas and coolers.

How You Can Help Sea Turtles

Whether you live here year-round or are just visiting, you can make a big difference in the survival of our local sea turtles by following these guidelines:

- Turn off beachfront lights and close curtains at night from May through October. Artificial light can disorient hatchlings, leading them away from the water.
- Remove beach gear each night, including cabanas, tents, chairs and umbrellas. These can block or trap nesting turtles and hatchlings.
- Fill in sand holes and flatten sandcastles before leaving the beach — both can trap hatchlings.
- Pick up litter and avoid leaving plastic on the beach. Sea turtles can mistake plastic bags washed into the ocean for jellyfish, with often fatal results.
- Stay back and keep your distance from nesting turtles and hatchlings. Never touch or handle them.
- Observe only with red lights — bright white flashlights and camera flashes can frighten turtles and disorient hatchlings.

Learn more and get involved

If you'd like to attend a public nest inventory, keep an eye on [SCUTE's Facebook page](#) for announcements.

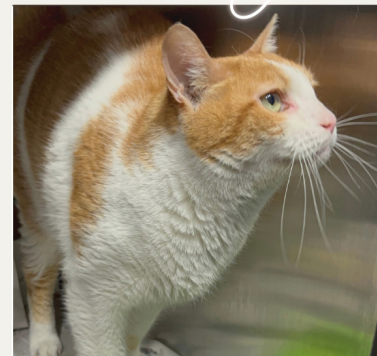
Sea turtle season is a reminder of the incredible natural treasures we share here in Georgetown County — and of the role each of us can play in protecting them. Whether you're here for a week or a lifetime, your actions on the beach can help ensure these ancient mariners return to our shores for generations to come.

Safer Shores



The Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce had a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 30 for the new Safer Shores signs posted at county public beach accesses. The signs were installed last month as a public service project by Leadership Georgetown County Class 32, which included Georgetown County Parks & Recreation Manager Jason Walters. The signs feature bright, family-friendly beach designs that are easily recognizable for children, parents, and visitors alike. These colorful signs help beach-goers find their way and stay safe—making "the Hammock Coast" a more welcoming destination for everyone.

SHELTER spotlight



PAW PHOENIX PAW

ADOPT ME

- DESCRIPTION: MALE, 7 YEARS AND 4 MONTHS
- CURRENTLY: HIDING UNDER MY BED, WORKING UP THE COURAGE TO MEET YOU.
- SEEKING: A GENTLE SOUL WILLING TO GIVE ME TIME AND WHO UNDERSTANDS MY LOVE IS WORTH THE WAIT.
- BIO: I'M AN OLDER BOY WITH NO TEETH AND A BIG HEART. I LIKE TO STAY TUCKED AWAY AT FIRST... BUT WHEN I WARM UP, YOU'LL HAVE THE SWEETEST, MOST GRATEFUL FRIEND YOU'VE EVER MET. I JUST NEED A CHANCE.
- FUN FACT: I DON'T NEED TEETH TO STEAL TREATS ... OR HEARTS.
- IDEAL DATE: SOFT BLANKETS, QUIET CONVERSATIONS, AND LOTS OF PURRING.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO MEET ME:

To meet Phoenix or learn more about him, call St. Frances Animal Center at 843-546-0780 or visit sfanimals.org.



<< Numbers >>
TO KNOW

(All begin with area code 843)

Directory, 545-3063

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

Public Works, 545-3438

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Recycling/Solid Waste
 545-3463

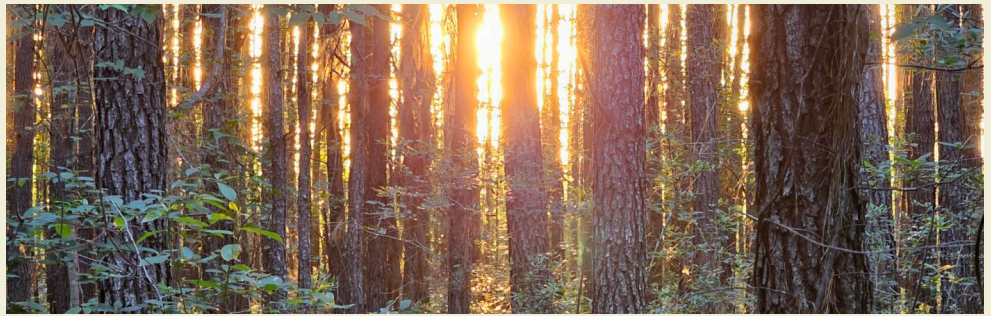
Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

Stormwater, 545-3524

Treasurer, 545-3102

P.O. Box 421270
 129 Screven Street



Conservation group buys 8,000 acres of Carvers Bay forestland

An 8,000-acre track of forestland in Carvers Bay will be protected and could eventually become a state forest following its recent purchase by a conservation group.

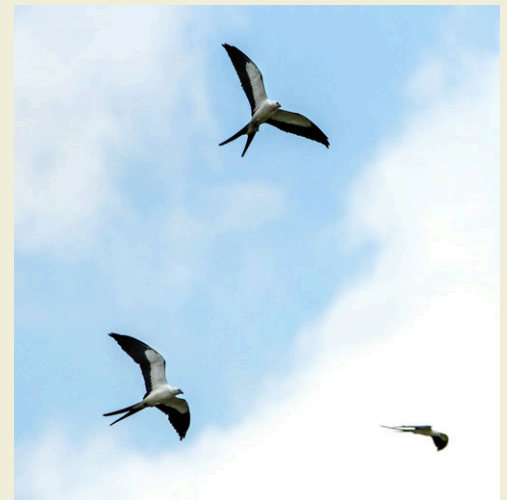
The Conservation Fund announced on July 23 that it had purchased the property for \$32.4 million, ensuring that it will be managed for conservation and sustainable forestry through the group's Working Forest program.

"Every year, we lose 1 million acres of working forests to fragmentation and development," said Jason Johnson, S.C. state director for The Conservation Fund. "The Carvers Bay Forest is one of the nation's most productive working forests. When the land went up for sale, we stepped in to ensure that it will continue to support wildlife habitat, clean water, recreation and economic opportunities for local communities — now, and for generations to come."

Protecting this exceptional forested landscape is a big win for wildlife and clean water. The site flows into the Black River and will help to protect water quality next to the recently expanded Black River State Park.

Carvers Bay Forest is also home to multiple nesting sites for swallow-tailed kites, which are endangered in South Carolina. Four of those kites are part of a conservation research project led by American Bird Conservancy (ABC).

"ABC has worked with partners including Avian Research and Conservation Institute in the Carvers Bay Forest area to trap and equip four swallow-tailed kites with transmitters," said Emily Jo Williams, ABC's Southeast Director of Sustainable Forest Partnerships. "We are thrilled that The Conservation Fund has stepped up to protect this important working forest landscape that is critical to successful nesting by the kites and a host of other migratory birds including prothonotary



Endangered swallow-tailed kites are among the birds that nest in the Carvers Bay forest.

and prairie warblers, indigo and painted buntings, Acadian flycatchers, and yellow-billed cuckoos."

Georgetown County is actually home to the state's largest population of nesting swallow-tailed kites. The large but slender raptors show a strong preference for nesting in loblolly pines growing near or on the edges of wetlands. When those habitats are not available, they will build nests in bald cypress or water tupelo. This preference makes Georgetown County an ideal home for the swallow-tailed kite.

In close consultation with the State of South Carolina, The Conservation Fund is working to eventually open the land for public recreation access, but those efforts are just beginning. Current hunting leases on the site will continue. When the time is right, the group plans to sell the land to the South Carolina Forestry Commission to establish a new state forest, permanently protecting this special landscape.

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