



A publication for our residents and visitors NOVEMBER 2025

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

New jail takes shape on Browns Ferry Rd.



Workers are seen inside the new detention center building under construction on Highway 51.

Construction of Georgetown County's new \$65 million detention center on Browns Ferry Road is progressing steadily, with walls already up, and wiring and plumbing being installed. Block work is about 75% done and metal studs are currently being installed inside the structure.

The facility, located across from the current jail, remains on schedule and within budget, said Donny Cummings, Senior Construction Project Manager for the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office.

"The building itself is done," he said. "We're just finishing up a few interior walls and other details inside."

The new facility—expected to open in the first quarter of 2027—will replace the aging Georgetown County Detention Center, which opened in the mid-1990s. Sheriff Carter Weaver says the new jail will be able to accommodate about 250 inmates, compared to the existing jail's capacity of about 130.

"The new facility will give us more space, improved security and updated technology," Weaver said. "It's designed to be safer for both staff and inmates, with features that make day-to-day operations much more efficient."

→] Continued on Page 9

USTA grant funds major upgrades at Waccamaw tennis center

With support from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) at the national, regional and state levels, exciting improvements are underway at the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park.

Georgetown County was selected to receive Tennis Venue Services grant funding totaling \$301,000, including \$200,000 from USTA National, \$100,000 from USTA Southern, and \$1,000 from USTA South Carolina.

The project at Stables Park represents a \$1.7 million investment in Georgetown County's growing tennis

community and includes construction of two new clay courts and conversion of four existing hard courts into clay. When work is complete, the facility will feature nine clay courts and four hard-surface courts — along with new LED lighting and other enhancements that will make the center one of the top public tennis facilities in the region.

"These improvements are a huge win for local players and for the continued growth of tennis in Georgetown County," said David Bromberg, Georgetown County Parks and

→] Continued on Page 6

Inside this issue:



Tennis Center recycling program keeps 'dead' game balls out of landfills.



Parks and Rec. Department's Sportsmanship Initiative sparks growth in football programs.



County lays out timeline for moving forward in Port Redevelopment Master Plan Process

County welcomes new Public Services Dept. Director

Georgetown County is excited to welcome Carla Harvey, P.E., as the newest member of its executive team. An experienced engineer and longtime public servant, Harvey joined the staff Nov. 17 as the new Director of Public Services. She succeeds Ray Funnye, who retired this summer after leading the department for more than three decades.



Carla Harvey

Harvey brings to Georgetown County nearly two decades of experience in local government. She most recently served as an engineer for Colleton County, where she worked for nearly a decade. Before that, she spent nine years in Berkeley County managing its Capital Project Sales Tax program.

A Mount Pleasant native, Harvey received both a bachelor's degree and master's in civil engineering from Clemson University. She said she has always been drawn to public service work, and Georgetown County has been on her radar for several years.

"I've always been interested, and the right opportunity finally came along," she said. "Ray Funnye had reached out to me on several occasions through APWA (American Public Works Association) networking, but the timing was never right. This time it was. I see this as a great opportunity for advancement in my career. Georgetown is growing, and it's going to be great."

In her previous roles, Harvey supported numerous public

works initiatives, but she is most proud of projects that delivered immediate and visible improvements for residents. Harvey also brings experience with capital project sales taxes, something that will be highly relevant as Georgetown County implemented its own voter-approved Capital Project Sales Tax this year and is in the very early stages of beginning those projects. She noted that communities with large visitor populations stand to benefit significantly from this revenue model.

"All those visitors who use your resources but don't contribute to the local economy—they help pay for major improvements through a sales tax," she said. "Your residents will benefit, but the cost burden is shared much more broadly."

Harvey said she believes Georgetown County is entering a pivotal chapter, driven by growth from both the Charleston and Horry County regions and by the upcoming redevelopment of the Georgetown waterfront.

On a personal level, Harvey is mother to two teenage sons—one a year-round travel baseball player, the other an avid competitive bass fisherman. Most of her free time is spent at ball fields, on lakes or traveling for tournaments. "When we're not at the ball field, we're on the water," she said with a laugh. "That's our life, and this area is perfect for that."

Harvey said her first week has been warm and welcoming, and she is excited to get to know the staff and the broader community.

"I'm a public servant," she said. "I do what I do because I love working with people and improving the communities I serve. My goal is to make wherever I am better for my family and for everyone who lives here. That's what drives me."

FRIENDS OF THE GEORGETOWN LIBRARY

YULETIDE HOME TOUR

You are invited to the 23rd annual Yuletide Home Tour, where you will have the opportunity to visit holiday-decorated Georgetown homes, churches, and museums. Come and enjoy a special holiday home tour experience.

DECEMBER | 13 | 1PM - 5PM

\$25.00/PERSON
\$20.00/MEMBER OF ANY FRIENDS GROUP OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY LIBRARIES

myfogl.org/yuletidetour

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.

Sportsmanship Initiative sparks growth in youth football

Georgetown County's youth football program is experiencing one of its strongest seasons in years, thanks to a multi-year effort to rebuild excitement, skills and school spirit among young athletes.

The Parks and Recreation Department launched its Sportsmanship Initiative three years ago. It has directly led to a surge in registration, stronger feeder programs for school teams and a renewed sense of pride among players and families, said Department Director Beth Goodale.

The initiative began when staff noticed a growing disconnect: fewer children were sticking with youth football long enough to transition into middle and high school programs, and the once-common enthusiasm for "playing for your school" had begun to fade. At the same time, participation in youth tackle football was dropping nationwide.

"We realized numbers were declining, excitement was declining, and kids weren't feeling prepared or connected when it came time to move into school athletics," Goodale said. "We have great athletes in Georgetown County, but we wanted to help build well-rounded young people—kids who learn teamwork, how to win and lose gracefully, and who feel proud of where they're going to school."

A collaborative model with real results

The turning point came when the department brought together athletic directors and football coaches from across the district.

"We asked them, 'What can we do to help?'" said Jason Walters, the county's Recreation Manager. "The answer was simple—kids needed to know the coaches, the programs and the expectations long before they showed up for tryouts."

The county began inviting school football staff to practices and games to supervise, mentor and spend time with the kids. That early connection made an immediate impact.

"We started seeing buy-in right away," Walters said. "For the first time since before the pandemic, kids were transitioning directly into school ball. Participation has climbed every year since."

The numbers illustrate the success: teams that once struggled to field 12 to 15 players—often forcing "Ironman" football, where athletes played both offense and defense without breaks—now have 30 players per team. Equipment shortages, while a challenge, reflect a welcome problem: too many kids signing up.

"We can't do it without our partners," Walters said. "But the collaboration has been incredible."

Another major shift has been the county's decision to begin the season with flag football in August, followed by the tackle season in October. This change came after the district shifted to a year-round school calendar.

"With kids going back to school in early August, the heat was unbearable for full-pad practices," Goodale said. "Flag football lets them get conditioned, learn fundamentals and stay safe before we transition into tackle."

Once tackle season begins, coaches provide a small set of core plays and strategies the rec program can replicate.

"When those kids get to the next level, they're already running the basics," Walters said. "They hit the ground ready."



Waccamaw and Georgetown rec. league teams play on the field at Waccamaw High on Nov. 12.

Building pride and community

For Goodale, the most rewarding moments happen when young players take the field at their high school stadiums. "Seeing those kids play under the lights where they hope to play one day—it's incredible," she said. "It builds pride in their region and their future schools. Their parents are in the stands, the community is involved, and it creates an excitement that keeps kids coming back."

The sportsmanship initiative has also strengthened the volunteer community. Parents whose children have aged out are returning to coach, and the involvement of career coaches has raised the level of instruction across the board. "Volunteers are the backbone of rec programs everywhere," Goodale said. "Having high school coaches involved not only helps the kids, but it helps teach our volunteers how to coach effectively."

While the program is thriving, the department continues to need volunteers—especially coaches and officials.

"We always need officials, and we pay and train them," Goodale said. "It's a nationwide issue right now, and we feel it locally."

Volunteer opportunities are available across all youth sports, outdoor programming and senior services. In addition to youth athletics, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation manages a broad range of services for older adults, including congregate dining, home-delivered meals, transportation, fitness programs and special events. The department delivers about 3,000 meals per month through its Meals on Wheels service.

Seasonally, the department also offers year-round recreation opportunities for all ages, from line dancing and pickleball to hiking clubs, senior fitness, theater programs, and more.

"We have something for everyone," Goodale said. "Whether you're a young athlete, a parent, a senior, or someone looking to get involved, we have a place for you."

County staff makes annual donation to Helping Hands



Georgetown County employees recently completed their annual Thanksgiving food drive for Helping Hands of Georgetown. Through the generosity of staff members across all departments, the county's Morale Committee was able to deliver 1,506 pounds of nonperishable food to the nonprofit's warehouse this month. With so many families struggling with rising prices, the annual collection was more important than ever. Georgetown County employees are proud to give back to the community we serve and call home. Thanks to all who donated, and to Helping Hands Executive Director Brendon Barber and his team for the important work they do.

Public Services Dept. honors outstanding employees

Georgetown County recently honored three outstanding Public Services employees for their dedication, leadership and exceptional service to the community. The awards highlighted individuals who not only excel in their daily responsibilities, but also set a positive example for their coworkers through their attitude, work ethic and commitment to teamwork.

"These employees have gone above and beyond in their service to our county," said Public Services leadership during the presentation. "Their professionalism, initiative and dedication make a meaningful difference for our organization and the residents we serve."

Lamontierra Lewis, a truck driver with Environmental Services, received the Professional Achievement Award. Over the past year, Lewis has demonstrated tremendous growth in her role and established herself as a true team player. When the department introduced a new boom truck to its fleet, many employees were hesitant to operate the unfamiliar equipment. Lewis immediately volunteered to step up. Her willingness to embrace new challenges, along with her reliability and positive attitude, has set a new standard of excellence for her team.

Anthony Grant of the Facilities Services Division received the Customer Service Award. Grant joined the county in 2018 as an HVAC preventive maintenance technician and has continually expanded his skill set over the years. In addition to HVAC work, he has taken on responsibilities as an electrician, carpenter and, most recently, plumber. His flexibility, craftsmanship and strong work ethic have made him an invaluable asset to Facilities Services and to the county as a whole. Grant has received multiple commendations for his dependable, high-quality work and exceptional service.

Harold West, Public Works Special Project Supervisor was named the Department's Employee of the Year. West plays a vital role in coordinating and managing the county's in-house drainage projects, ensuring they are completed efficiently, cost-effectively and to high quality standards. Because of his extensive technical knowledge and hands-on experience, the county has been able to complete complex projects internally, saving both time and resources. In addition to overseeing special projects, West manages fleet assets, conducts beaver control inspections and assists other departments whenever needed. He is known for his professionalism, willingness to help and dedication to doing the job right. He is respected by his colleagues, trusted by his team and admired for his integrity.



Lewis



Grant



West


FALL BINGO
Blowout
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21
 9:30 a.m. to noon
 at the Howard Center,
 1610 Hawkins St., Georgetown
FREE TO PLAY • WIN PRIZES • ALL ADULTS WELCOME
 Hosted by Georgetown County Parks & Recreation
 and Bureau of Aging Services

Game, set, Recycle: Stables Tennis Center gives old balls new life

The Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park has quietly joined a growing environmental movement — recycling used tennis balls to keep them out of local landfills and waterways.

Through a partnership with RecycleBalls, a national nonprofit that collects and repurposes tennis balls, the center has recycled nearly 15,000 used balls since launching its program about three years ago. The initiative began as a student-led project and has continued thanks to the generosity of Mark Hawn, a frequent player at the center, who now sponsors the program with an annual \$600 contribution.

“It just felt like a good use of my money,” Hawn said. “Tennis balls are basically made to last forever — like nuclear waste, in terms of how long they stay around. If you don’t recycle them, they end up in our lakes, rivers and beaches. Helping fund a program that prevents that and benefits the community at the same time just makes sense.”

While tennis balls might linger forever, their useful life on the courts is incredibly short.

“A can of tennis balls really only lasts one or two matches for advanced players. After that, they start losing pressure and the felt wears down,” said David Bromberg, head tennis pro at the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center. “Between members and our teaching programs, that’s a lot of tennis balls. Without this recycling program, most would eventually just end up in the trash.”

With around 160 members and constant league and lesson play, the center goes through thousands of balls each year. As a result, the recycling program has quickly become an important part of operations at the busy county-owned facility. Instead of ending up in landfills, those “dead”



Mark Hawn, left, and David Bromberg.

balls are boxed up and shipped to RecycleBalls, where they’re given new life as materials for playground surfaces, horse stable flooring, walking paths and more.

Bromberg said the program began when a local high school student, Stephanie Davis, took on tennis ball recycling as a project. “She was the one who really got it going,” he said. “When she went off to school, we needed someone to keep it going, and Mark was more than happy to sponsor it.”

Bromberg said it only takes him about 30 minutes a week to pack and ship the balls, but the environmental benefit is huge. “It’s not time-consuming at all,” he said. “And when you think about how much waste we’re diverting, it’s worth every minute.”

For Hawn, supporting the recycling program is also a way to give back to a place he enjoys. “This is one of the best public facilities in the state,” he said. “My wife Sally and I both appreciate what the county has done here, and we’re happy to support programs that make it even better.”




GEORGETOWN COUNTY
POLAR PLUNGE
OCEANFRONT LITCHFIELD INN
1 NORRIS DRIVE, PAWLEYS ISLAND
2.7.26
Registration 10 am | Costume contest 11 am
Plunge at 11:30 am



When you join the **Polar Plunge**, you help athletes with intellectual disabilities to experience the life-changing benefits of participating in **Special Olympics**, at no cost to themselves or their families.

Donate
or raise \$50 and take the plunge with us!
<https://www.classy.org/campaign/2026-georgetown-county-polar-plunge/c724519>




For more information contact:
Lt. James Ketcham at Georgetown County Sheriff's Office
jketcham@gtcounty.org or 843-546-5102



Chick-fil-A
BENEFITTING
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
SOUTH CAROLINA
BREAKFAST • CLOSED SUNDAY

for Special Olympics

Chick-fil-A MURRELLS INLET
4400 US-17 S, Murrells Inlet, SC
Friday, December 5
10:30am to 7:30pm





→] Tennis Center upgrades

Recreation’s head tennis professional. “Clay courts are not only easier on players’ joints but they also make for longer rallies and more strategic play. I grew up on clay courts, and I’m thrilled to see our community getting this opportunity.”

Bromberg said construction is on schedule and expected to be completed by spring, depending on weather.

The upgrades are part of a broader local effort to expand access to tennis beyond the Waccamaw Neck. Through partnerships with schools and nonprofits, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation introduced summer camp programs in Andrews, Choppee, North Santee and Pleasant Hill, allowing children to learn the game and keep their rackets and balls after camp.

“There might be the next Serena Williams out there who just hasn’t been introduced to tennis yet,” said Beth Goodale, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation Director. “We want kids in every part of our county to know that tennis is for them too.”

Recent additions at East Bay Park in Georgetown — three new public courts that saw more than 115,000 users last year — also support that goal.

Volunteer engagement continues to grow as well. Friends of Stables Tennis, a new nonprofit organization, is helping bring free tennis programs to youth through partnerships with groups such as Teach My People. Bromberg and other volunteers are also exploring an eight-week “off-season” program to help young athletes keep playing outside of traditional school sports seasons.

“Kids in all areas should get the opportunity to play tennis,” Bromberg said. “Tennis is a forever sport.



Construction of new tennis courts as seen from the center’s porch.

It’s great for kids to participate in all sports, especially in today’s day and age when all they want to do is get on their phones.”

The ongoing expansion at Stables Park follows other recent initiatives to make tennis more sustainable and community-driven — including a tennis ball recycling program, which keeps used balls out of landfills and gives them new life in eco-friendly surfaces.

“Between the new clay courts, expanded lighting, and sustainable programs, we’re building something special at Stables Park,” Goodale said. “We can’t thank the USTA enough for this investment, which ensures Georgetown County will continue to be a destination for tennis players of all ages and skill levels for years to come.”

jr. nba

JUNIOR NBA BASKETBALL

REGISTRATION CLOSES NOV. 30

AGES:
 - 5-6, 7-8 (CO-ED)
 - BOYS: 9-10, 11-12, 13-15
 - GIRLS: 9-12, 13-15

COST:
 - \$40

REGISTER AT GTCPARKS.ORG

For more information call 843-545-3320

@GTC Parks
<http://secure.rec1.com/SC/georgetown-county-sc/catalog>

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

Group donates park bench



Visitors to North Santee Park will have a comfortable new spot to relax, thanks to a donation from Woodmen of the World. The bench was unveiled Oct. 29 during a brief ceremony led by Deborah J. Stoner, a North Santee resident and representative of Woodmen of the World, a not-for-profit life insurance company and fraternal organization dedicated to giving back to the communities where its members live and work. "When I learned we could take part in a 'Giving Together' project, I wanted to do something meaningful right here in my own community," Stoner said. "North Santee Park felt like the perfect place to make a small contribution that everyone could enjoy." The donation was made as part of Woodmen Life's ongoing efforts to support local communities and recognize the everyday heroes who make a difference—such as first responders, nurses and teachers. Beth Goodale, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation Director, thanked Woodmen of the World and Stoner for their generosity, noting that the new bench will provide a lasting benefit to park visitors for years to come.

A-Tax Committee to make recommendations on Dec. 4

The Georgetown County Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee heard presentations from 31 applicants seeking funding for tourism-related projects and events when it met on Nov. 6.

The committee will meet again on Thursday, Dec. 4 to make recommendations on funding allocations. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in County Council Chambers. Committee recommendations will then go to County Council for final approval and distribution of funds on Dec. 9. That meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

Accommodations taxes are collected by the state directly from accommodations providers in the county. The state then issues quarterly payments to the county from these collections to be used for the purposes of promoting tourism. Grants from Georgetown County's portion are available for award annually.

Groups requesting funds this year include: the Myrtle Beach Area Hospitality Association for Restaurant Week; Murrells Inlet 2020 for the annual Race for the Inlet and Oyster Roast events; Litchfield Beaches POA for a beach support project; Georgetown Business Association for 2026 holiday events; Kiwanis of Pawleys Island Foundation for Art Under the Oaks; Georgetown County Sheriff's Office for its beach patrol; Main Street Pawleys Beautification Committee, Litchfield Beautification Foundation, Brookgreen Gardens and Pawleys Island Highway Beautification Program for corridor maintenance and landscaping; and many more.

View the full list: gtcounty.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/11062025-302

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

GEORGETOWN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

COME JOIN US AT OUR COMPOSTING WORKSHOP AND LEARN HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN NATURAL FERTILIZER FROM KITCHEN SCRAPS.

12/6/2025
11:30 AM-12:30 PM

CARVERS BAY LIBRARY
13048 CHOPPEE RD, HEMINGWAY, SC

FREE! 5 CU FT COMPOST TUMBLER

CONTACT US FOR REGISTRATION:
@REALLYGREATSITE
123-456-7890

Georgetown County Environmental Services Division

We get it! Recycling is complicated!

Questions & registration 843-545-3452

Know Your Recyclables

NOVEMBER 22
11:00AM - 12:00PM

Carvers Bay Library

13048 Choppee Rd., Hemingway, SC 29554

Students recognized for artwork



Georgetown County Council recently recognized the winners of the annual "I Voted" sticker contest, hosted by Georgetown County Voter Registration and Elections. Winners were chosen by popular vote via Facebook. The first place winner's sticker was given out to voters during this month's election. The young artists who created the top five designs are: Madelyn Taylor, a student at Georgetown Middle School, first place; Hadlee Goldfinch, Waccamaw Intermediate School, second place; Harper McClary, Coastal Montessori Charter School, third place; Avalon Sheekey, Waccamaw Intermediate School, fourth place; and Claire Chadwell, Waccamaw Middle School, 5th place.

Bike path repairs under way

Repair and resurfacing work along the Waccamaw Neck Bike Path began on Oct. 30. The area of focus is between Huntington Beach State Park and Litchfield by the Sea.

Coastal Asphalt will complete the project in phases, with each section fully repaired and repaved before moving to the next area. Work will progress from north to south along the path.

During construction, sections of the bike path will be temporarily closed. All active work areas will be clearly marked with signage.

We appreciate the public's patience and cooperation as these important improvements are completed, and we ask all cyclists and pedestrians to observe closures to help keep everyone safe.



Hulit is Employee of the Quarter

Master Firefighter/Paramedic Henry Hulit of Midway Fire-Rescue is Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of this year.

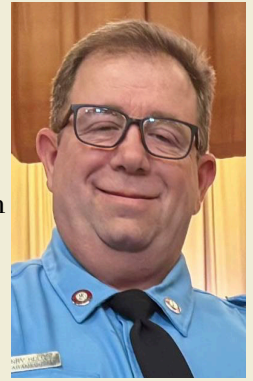
Hulit has served the community for 20 years at Midway and is known for his calm presence and steady professionalism on even the most intense calls. He sets a high standard for excellence and teamwork, and his peers describe him as someone who is always willing to step in, share his extensive knowledge and support others, whether on scene or at the station.

What truly distinguishes Hulit this quarter, however, is his extraordinary commitment to training the next generation of emergency responders, said Emergency Services Director Brandon Ellis. Hulit stepped up as the lead instructor for the most recent joint EMT class, which had a 100% pass rate, far exceeding the national average of around 65% and demonstrating the impact of Hulit's mentorship and dedication.

Hulit routinely gave up his own time to ensure student success, often spending his off-days teaching or sitting one-on-one with students in the firehouse day room to help them study and prepare. His commitment to their growth highlights his passion for public service not only in the field, but in shaping the future of emergency services in Georgetown County.

Recently, Hulit led a critical cardiac arrest response in which the patient regained consciousness and was able to speak and thank him before being transported from the scene—a powerful example of the lifesaving impact of his skill and professionalism.

Ellis praised Hulit for his leadership, integrity, and dedication, noting that he "embodies the spirit of service and mentorship," and is a model representative of Georgetown County's team.



Hulit

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.

Holiday Closures

Georgetown County offices & most facilities will be closed on the following dates this holiday season:

Nov. 27 & 28	Thanksgiving
Dec. 24-26	Christmas
Jan. 1, 2026	New Year's Day



Facilities that normally have weekend hours may have different closures. Visit gtcounty.org for information.

2025 State of the Community




Georgetown County leaders joined partners from across our community on Nov. 13 for the 2025 State of the Community event, hosted by the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce. County Council Chairman Clint Elliott and Administrator Angela Christian participated in a conversation with leaders from the City of Georgetown, the Town of Andrews and the Town of Pawleys Island, discussing shared challenges, opportunities, and the continued work to strengthen our county. If you missed the event, make sure you look for Georgetown County's 2025 Annual Report, which will be released at gtcounty.org next month. That document will have all the details about the county's accomplishments, challenges, ongoing projects and more.



COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS
WATCH LIVE
youtube.com/gtcountysc

Stay informed. Stay involved. County decisions — streamed straight to you.



THE FRIENDS OF THE GEORGETOWN LIBRARY
WILL HAVE ONE LAST BOOK SALE AT THE
FARMERS/GROWERS MARKET THIS YEAR!

- Huge selection of holiday children's books
- Hardback and paperback holiday fiction
- Books on holiday crafting and cooking
- Coffee table books for gifts
- An assortment of collector dolls, including Madame Alexander, storybook figures and play dolls
- Three beautiful staghorn ferns
- And some surprises!


SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

9 AM – 1 PM

120 N. FRASER ST.,
GEORGETOWN

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
GEORGETOWN LIBRARY

www.myfog.org



→] New Detention Center

Among the safety enhancements are negative-pressure medical cells designed to isolate sick inmates, separate housing areas for male and female detainees, and individual recreation yards for each housing block to prevent inmates from intermingling. A secure booking and intake area will streamline the process of admitting and releasing inmates while keeping operations separated from administrative areas.

The site will also include an armory, shooting range for law enforcement training, and separate buildings for the Coroner's Office and the Sheriff's Reentry Program, a successful training initiative that provides inmates with valuable skills to help them transition back into society.

"It will all be a major upgrade from what we currently have," Weaver said. He noted that the project represents an important investment in public safety and in the future of the county. "This new detention center is about more than just bricks and mortar—it's about building a safer, more modern facility that allows our staff to do their jobs effectively and humanely. It will better protect our officers, improve conditions for inmates and ensure we can meet the needs of our growing community for years to come."

Jonathan Branch, who is in charge of the Reentry Program, said he's incredibly excited to have a space designed specifically for the purpose of housing the program.

"The building we're in now was an old detention center warehouse that was retrofitted to meet our needs," he said. "We're grateful for it, but this new space will be built from the ground up for what we do. It's going to give us more room and allow us to expand opportunities for education and job training."

Founded in 2007 and substantially revitalized by Sheriff Weaver with the hiring of Branch in 2022, the Reentry Program provides inmates with job training, education and personal development before release. Participants gain hands-on experience through apprenticeship partnerships and local employers, often earning certifications in high-demand trades such as HVAC, plumbing, electrical work and welding. The program also partners with Coastal Carolina University and Horry-Georgetown Technical College to offer college-level courses and GED instruction.

To date, more than 250 men have graduated from the Reentry Program. Its success rate is nearly 100%. A number of graduates have gone on to secure full-time employment with Georgetown County and other local businesses.

"The Reentry Program changes lives," Weaver said. "It's about accountability, opportunity, and redemption. Giving people the tools to rebuild their lives makes our whole community safer and stronger."

The detention center project broke ground in June 2024. The 85,800-square-foot facility – an addition of about 15,000 square feet compared to the current facility – is being constructed on county-owned property that will eventually also include a new Emergency Operations Center and potentially other county buildings.

<< 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



County advances Georgetown Port Redevelopment Master Plan process

Strong industry interest in Georgetown County's Port Redevelopment Master Planning process has set the stage for the next phase of the project, with 17 qualified firms now under review following a competitive RFQ process.

The County recently completed the solicitation phase for its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking consultant services to lead the master planning effort. The RFQ was issued publicly and drew significant attention from planning, design, engineering and economic development firms across the country. A Pre-Bid Meeting on Oct. 1 attracted more than 50 attendees — a reflection of broad professional enthusiasm for the transformation potential of the site.

The County has selected a five-member Review Committee made up of individuals with relevant expertise. The committee will now begin the detailed scoring and shortlisting process, with finalist interviews to follow, said Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Georgetown County's Director of Economic Development.

Due to a technological issue, the public bid opening originally planned for Oct. 29 was briefly postponed. However, the delay is not expected to impact the overall timeline. As outlined in the RFQ, consultant selection and contract execution are expected in early 2026, with planning work beginning immediately afterward. The full process is anticipated to span approximately 9 to 12 months from initiation.

The completed Master Plan will provide a comprehensive strategy to revitalize one of Georgetown County's most significant economic assets. Additional updates will be shared as the Review Committee narrows down top-ranked firms for further consideration.

Next at the Library

STEM Saturday

Looking for a fun, flexible weekend activity? Join your local branch on Nov. 22 for a LEGO free build. It's a self-paced, hands-on STEM experience perfect for families. The fun lasts from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Georgetown branch and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Southern Georgetown branch.

Get fit at the library

If you want a free, fun way to get moving, stop in for a fitness class with Diane Pringle at the Georgetown branch from 11 a.m. to noon Nov. 24

in the auditorium. On Nov. 25, stop in from 2-3:30 p.m. for line dancing in the auditorium. For either program.

Creative writing for teens

From fiction to poetry, a workshop for teens and young adults on Nov. 24 will cover it all. Stop by the Waccamaw Library from 4-5 p.m. No pressure; just creativity!

Laser cutting & engraving

Adults are invited to learn how to use the lasers at the Waccamaw Library from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Learn the software, design a project and take your creation home. Five seats available per session. Call 843-545-3343 for information.

Find many more programs at your local branch by viewing our calendar at gtcounty.org.