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Calendar

Feb. 11 – County will give away free mulch at Pawleys Island Recycling Center. See page 4
Feb. 12 – Free trees to be given away for planting. See page 6
Feb. 14 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse
Feb. 16 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse
Feb. 20 – County offices and facilities are closed in observance of Presidents Day
Feb. 23 – New library book club has its first meeting. See page 9
Feb. 28 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

County hooks another Bassmaster tournament

Georgetown County’s five rivers will again be the site of some serious bass fishing this March, when Bassmaster brings its third tournament in as many years to the Hammock Coast.

While last year’s tournament brought bass fishing’s biggest names, this year the county will welcome some of the next generation of elite anglers as it hosts the Carhartt Bassmaster College Southern Conference Regional from March 2-4. More than 200 student anglers from colleges and universities across the Southeast will participate, all hoping to win a spot in the National Championship.

“It won’t be the same thing we saw last spring with a big festival and the same fanfare that accompanied the Bassmaster Elite Series, but it is going to be a significant event and is a step toward bringing the Elite Series back here,” said Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway. “We’re excited to continue our relationship with Bassmaster and we look forward to this event exposing even more people to the beauty and charm of Georgetown. Our expectations are definitely that we’ll continue to bring these tournaments back here in successive years.”

As with last year’s Elite tournament, boat launch will take place daily at dawn from the county’s Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex, with weigh-in occurring at the same location for the first two days of the tournament. However, the final day’s trailer weigh-in will move to Front Street, where finalist anglers will parade through on their way to the stage.

The county is working with its tourism arm and the Georgetown Business Association to arrange activities on Front Street that day, including sidewalk sales, musical performances and more. The state Duck Calling Championship will also take place on the Bassmaster stage that day leading up to the final weigh-in.

See “Bassmaster,” Page 10

Rotary clubs team up to install AEDs in county facilities

An effort to install life saving equipment in public facilities throughout Georgetown County took a big leap forward this year. For the second year in a row, the Andrews Rotary Club installed AEDs in four public facilities -- and clubs in Georgetown, Pawleys Island and Murrells Inlet picked up the project this year as well.

AEDs (automated external defibrillators) are portable devices that check the heart’s rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to restore a normal rhythm in cases of sudden cardiac arrest. Having one nearby if a person’s heart stops can dramatically improve the chances of survival, and with the device’s ability to offer voice instructions and determine on its own whether a shock needs to be administered, any bystander can use an AED with no previous training.

The Andrews Rotary Club introduced an initiative two years ago to work toward not only getting an AED in every public space, but mapping them, so residents can easily locate one close to them in an emergency using an app on their phone.

See “AEDs,” Page 5

Pictured from left are Loren Wallace, Georgetown County Recreation Manager; Capt. Jerry Liberatore of Midway Fire Rescue; Bill Crowther, president of the Georgetown Lunch Rotary Club; and Pete Little, the club’s president-elect. A new sign outside Beck Recreation Center notifies the public that an AED can be found inside.
County planning director, others to speak on the future of growth on the Neck

“How do we grow from here?” That’s the question residents of the Waccamaw Neck will be asking and discussing with local officials this month during a civic dialogue.

The public is invited to join the discussion on the future development of the Waccamaw Neck. This civic dialogue, organized by residents of the Waccamaw Neck, will take place at the Waccamaw Library on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 7-9 p.m. The challenges, opportunities and directions of growth will be among topics slated for discussion.

The meeting will include a review of the history of local development patterns by Georgetown County Planning Director Boyd Johnson. Michelle LaRocco of the North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will present changing development patterns for coastal South Carolina. Pamela Martin, a professor of politics and international relations at Coastal Carolina University, will introduce the formation of the Georgetown County Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development by the United Nations and its potential usefulness.

Public input will be welcomed during an extended question and answer period to identify notable issues and those interested in continuing the discussion.

For more information, contact John Sands at jsands@twc.com.

County to alter funding schedule for accommodations tax grants

Beginning this fall, Georgetown County will make a major change to the way state accommodations tax grants are awarded. The county will move from a twice-yearly funding cycle to issuing grants annually.

As a result, the spring 2017 funding cycle will be the final spring cycle. Any applicants who normally seek funding annually during the spring are asked to alter their usual request this year by seeking six months’ worth of funding in the spring cycle and transitioning to making annual requests in the fall. Applicants who have previously sought funding during both cycles should plan to apply for 12 months’ worth of funding this fall to begin the transition to annual funding.

Georgetown County made the decision to alter the funding cycle from semi-annual to annual in an effort to level the field of opportunity for all applicants. In the past, some worthy projects have received less funding than they otherwise might have simply because of more applicants competing for fewer dollars than in the other cycle that year. An annual funding cycle ensures all applicants have an equal chance at the same pot of money.

Anyone with questions about this change is asked to contact the Finance Department at (843) 545-3251.

Is getting in shape part of your new year’s resolution?

Georgetown County Parks & Rec. has plenty of programs to help!

- Weight and cardio rooms
- League sports
- Zumba
- Barre Fit
- Line dancing
- New programs added regularly

We have facilities located throughout the County, and more facilities coming online.
Freelance program instructors are always wanted.
Call to inquire.

Call (843) 545-3275 for information

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 Facebook page. If you’d rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail jbroach@gtcounty.org with the subject line “send me the Chronicle.”

That’s also the place to send questions and comments about this newsletter and its content. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

www.gtcounty.org
As patrons stream in and out of the busy Waccamaw Library on a sunny weekday morning, Carlethia Rudolph seems to know most of them by name. She smiles and waves a hello or goodbye to some, while others approach to share a more personal exchange, talking about their families or whatever thing is going on in their life that day.

Rudolph has clearly made a lot of friends and touched many lives during her years as branch manager. It’s not surprising as she’s been part of the Waccamaw branch since its creation in 1991, having seen it through decades of growth and change, culminating in its move to a new, state-of-the-art building two years ago.

Now, Rudolph is ready to close that chapter and begin another. At the end of this month, she will join her husband Sam in retirement, ending a career with Georgetown County that started in the Treasurer’s Office and spans a total of 38 years.

“I think it’s time,” she said. “Everyone should know when it’s time and this is mine. I’ve reached a goal I never even imagined I could attain based on where I started in my library life. It’s time for the next thing.”

Taking a trip down memory lane, Rudolph recalled being hired by Charlie Lawrimore as a full-time temporary employee in the Treasurer’s office. She spent 11 years there before applying for a departmental transfer to work in the new library in Pawleys Island that was being opened to serve an area of the county that was starting to see significant growth. It was closer to her home and meant a shorter commute, and it presented an opportunity to try something new and interesting.

She was initially stationed at the library with just one other employee, Tracy Sessions, who was the branch manager at the time. But after less than a month, Sessions was promoted and Rudolph found herself the sole employee of the new branch.

“I did it all by myself for about three months,” Rudolph recalled. “Talk about coming up the rough side of the mountain!”

But she survived and the staff gradually began to increase to three full-time employees and a fourth part-time.

“It stayed that way until we moved into this building and we went from four to 14. That was quite an adjustment from a management standpoint,” Rudolph said.

But even with a new building and new staff, that’s not necessarily the biggest change Rudolph has witnessed for the library. She’s watched it change from a place where people came to check out books to a community hub. The borrowing of books and other materials is still a huge component of what the library offers. It’s circulation numbers tell that story. But especially with more space to work with, the library has also become a computer resource center, an art gallery, a cultural center, a safe place for teens to learn about and enjoy technology, and so much more.

“It’s no longer the brick and mortar business with books. We have had to evolve with the times and change our face to serve the community and fulfill their changing needs and wants,” Rudolph said.

“We’ve had to adapt and adjust. It has kept us relevant and ensures we’re still viewed as an important community resource.”

Again, the numbers show it. With the growth in space and staff, library use has soared. New people from all walks of life come in every single day. That may be what Rudolph will miss most.

“This job has truly allowed me to interact, fellowship and communicate with all kinds of people,” she said. “I won’t say there haven’t been rough moments, but I’ve always found it gratifying and fulfilling. Some of the regulars, you really build a connection with. It’s almost like being a hairdresser: you listen to the ins and outs of people’s lives and problems. I’m going to miss that.”

As to what she’s looking forward to, “my greatest joy will be not having to listen to an alarm clock,” she said. She also looks forward to doing some traveling, becoming active again with a few local organizations, including the Howard Alumni Association and Midway Fire Rescue, and spending time with her children, who both live in Charlotte.

“At first, I’m not going to do anything, and when I’m tired of that, I’ll do something,” she said.

Fletcher is an accomplished guitarist with an international fan base. He has been featured at cultural venues of the highest caliber, including the Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Chicago Cultural Center and the George Eastman House. Email sbremner@gctcount.org to reserve a seat.
Mardi Gras Strut and celebration return to downtown Georgetown for fourth year

Members of the public are invited to gather a krewe, grab a mask and celebrate Fat Tuesday in style with the Georgetown Business Association. The group will host a Mardi Gras Strut down Front Street at 6 p.m. on Feb. 28.

Participation in the parade is free and lineup is at the corner of King and Front streets. The parade will travel up to the clock tower and west down Front Street to DiAngelo’s Italian restaurant.

Following the strut, DiAngelo’s will be the site of a carnival-style Mardi Gras celebration. Tickets for the party, which features food, drinks and of course a king cake, are $25 and are available at the Cultural Council of Georgetown County office, Doodlebugs, Bienvenue Home, Green Bean Consignment and Havana Cabana of Pawleys Island, or online at gba.Yapsody.com.

For more information, contact one of the above businesses or the Business Association.

County to offer free mulch on Feb. 11

As Georgetown County and state contractors continue a massive vegetative debris cleanup following Hurricane Matthew, county disposal sites have a surplus of mulch on their hands.

This material will be made available to county residents free of charge on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. or until it runs out. Mulch may be picked up at the Pawleys Island Recycling Center, located at 596 Grate Ave.

Staff will be on site to help load mulch into vehicles and trailers. There will be no limit on the amount of mulch residents take.

The county previously had a mulch giveaway in late January and still has a plentiful supply, Public Services Department staff said.

Library’s ShushCon to return in March

ShushCon, an exciting convention devoted to “games and geek-ery,” will return to the Waccamaw Library next month for its second year — and it’s expected to be bigger and better, said library staff.

The convention is slated for March 10-12. All activities are free, and participants can expect to enjoy a full weekend of board games, roleplaying games, cosplay, anime screenings, escape rooms, tournaments and more.

Activities will run from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. that Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, culminating in the Guild Ball.

Activities are family appropriate, with something for children, teens and adults. A full schedule is available on the events page on the library website at www.georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov. More details are also available at www.shushcon.com, and look for more information in our March newsletter.
AEDs
Continued from Front Page

“You open up this AED Registry app and you can see little red dots all over the place where AEDs are available. A year ago, before we started this, there was pretty much nothing on the map here in our area, so we’re already seeing great progress,” said Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway, who is also a member of the Andrews Rotary Club.

“We were very lucky to have other Rotary Clubs jump on board with this project, and I think we’ll see it continue to grow moving forward.”

This year the Andrews club installed AEDs at Andrews Town Hall, the concession building at Georgetown County’s Catclaw Park, and on two Town of Andrews fire trucks. They had already added AEDs at Olive Park, the Andrews Library, Andrews Regional Recreation Center and the Andrews Senior Citizens Center in 2016.

The Georgetown Lunch Rotary Club installed four AEDs around the Georgetown Area on Jan. 31. The devices are now at Beck Recreation Center, Howard Recreation Center, the Georgetown Senior Citizens Center and Eight Oaks Park.

The Pawleys Island and Murrells Inlet Clubs have also said they plan to install AEDs in the communities they serve, including along the MarshWalk and at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center.

The project “has the potential to not only affect our county, but could be replicated throughout Rotary International to save thousands of lives,” said Pete Little, president-elect of the Georgetown Lunch Rotary Club.

He, along with club president Bill Crowther said they hope to eventually get every club in Georgetown and Horry counties to participate, as well as expand the program outside the club to corporate and community partners.

“With enough people participating, we could have the entire Grand Strand area covered in a matter of years,” Crowther said.

At about $1,300 per unit, the devices aren’t cheap, but having one nearby can be the difference between life and death in a cardiac emergency.

“Our emergency responders can tell you, when a person’s heart stops suddenly, every second counts and even a very small delay in efforts to get the heart beating again can be detrimental,” Hemingway said.

According to the American Heart Association, a victim’s chances of survival drop by 7 to 10 percent for every minute that passes without the restoration of a normal heartbeat. Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death among adults over the age of 40, affecting 424,000 people of all ages annually in the U.S. Nine out of 10 victims die. In 2013, there were 9,500 cases of sudden cardiac arrest in children and teens, according to the American Heart Association.

“Even without a heart condition, a child’s heart can stop during a sporting event,” said Midway Fire Rescue Chief Doug Eggiman.

“They could take some type of hit to the chest and that could throw anyone into a lethal arrhythmia.”

Midway advised Rotary in what kind of AEDs it should install. For more information about becoming a community partner in this effort, contact Carr Gilmore at Midway Fire Rescue, (843) 545-3620. To locate AEDs near you and see where AEDs might be needed, download the AED Registry on your phone or mobile device.

Above: Pictured from left are Andrews Rotary Club members Alex Hemingway and Ned Hemingway, Rotary president Mack Burgess, Andrews Fire Chief Bobby Barrineau, and Rotary Club members Sel Hemingway and Tommy Branyon with two of the AEDs the group recently donated. Left: A screenshot shows how nearby AEDs are displayed on the AED Registry app.

Ladies Stretching Classes
at Beck Recreation Center

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
10:30-11:30 a.m.
Classes are $1
Walk-ins Welcome
2030 Church St., Georgetown

Join the party
at the Murrells Inlet Community Center!
Tuesdays & Saturdays
10-11 a.m.

ZUMBA® gold
Zumba fitness classes customized with lower intensity moves for active older adults.
$3 per class. Walk-ins welcome!
Georgetown County Employee Spotlight:

Timothy McWhite always has a smile for everyone

Timothy McWhite joined Georgetown County’s Parks and Recreation Department four months ago as a facility attendant at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center. He has been making the place brighter with his enthusiasm and excitement ever since.

“He loves talking to everyone who comes in the door and is always wearing a smile,” said Loren Wallace, the county’s recreation manager.

Many of the pickleball players who come in regularly for court time at the facility said they look forward to being greeted by McWhite. “Timothy is kind, polite, respectful and a good man,” one representative of the group said. “We appreciate all his hard work and he deserves to be recognized.”

McWhite’s primary job responsibility includes helping with facility operations. David Cooper, facility Manager, said McWhite’s “ethic is impeccable and his diligence in completing all tasks is superior. He is passionate about his responsibilities and gives each task 100 percent.”

McWhite lives in Pawleys Island and said his favorite thing outside of work is basketball.
New recreation center taking shape

Construction on the new Northwest Regional Recreation Center on Choppee Road is moving quickly and the facility is on track for completion this summer. Above is a recent view of the exterior of the building. At right is a view taken inside from what will be the gymnasium. The design of the $5 million, 24,000-square-foot facility will be nearly identical to the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center, with the same amenities, including gym, cardio and weight room, multipurpose rooms for classes and activities, rock climbing wall and catering kitchen. Like other county facilities, private rentals for wedding receptions, family reunions and other events will be available. Construction started last summer.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is now registering youth participants for

**TRACK AND FIELD**

For boys and girls ages 5-14
Registration is $10 per child

Call (843) 545-3275 or register online at www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation, or at any regional recreation center

Devans to pay tribute to Crosby, Sinatra in second performance

George Devens will return to the Waccamaw Library this month with another exciting tribute concert — this one honoring the legendary Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra.

Following a successful tribute to The Beatles in January, Devens will present "Bing & Frank" on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 6:30-8 p.m. The free show promises to be an entertaining stroll through music history, filled with little known facts and backstage stories, and punctuated by the best known tunes from these two original triple threats. The library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

Devens has been a working musician all his life. In his 20s, he joined The George Shearing Quintet, playing vibraphones and timbales. He then worked as a studio musician in Manhattan for 35 years. He has actually recorded with Sinatra, in addition to Burt Bacharach, Barbra Streisand and Barry Manilow, and cut countless commercials and film soundtracks. He then began writing, producing and performing musical theatre and cabaret in Manhattan, Massachusetts and Vermont.

Upon moving to Little River in 1995, he began performing a series of 90-minute one-man shows at nearby colleges and museums in North and South Carolina.

Crosby and Sinatra “are the singers of the century,” Devens said. “Movie stars too! We remember Crosby’s ‘Moonlight Becomes You,’ ‘Personality,’ ‘The Second Time Around,’ and ‘Swinging on a Star.’ And Sinatra’s ‘All the Way,’ ‘High Hopes,’ ‘Irresponsible,’ and ‘Time After Time.’ Oscar-winning songs!”

The concert is open to the public and sponsored by the Waccamaw Library and Friends of the Waccamaw Library.

Sign up for emergency alerts!

Don’t miss out on important information that could keep you and your family safe. Sign up to receive emergency alerts specific to your address from Georgetown County Emergency Management Division via email or phone. Sign up for this free service at www.gtcounty.org (look for the link near the top of our home page) or call (843) 545-3213.
**Aristocats to play free concert at Library**

The Aristocats will bring some smooth tunes to the Waccamaw Library this month as the quartet break out some favorite swing and jazz classics from the 1920s to the 1950s.

The free concert will take place on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the library’s DeBordieu Auditorium. The library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

The members of the Aristocats have been playing their whole lives. That’s especially impressive when you consider that guitarist Nat Piccirilli is over 95 years old! He has played for President George H.W. Bush, as well as numerous musical luminaries in New England.

Lloyd Kaplan, professor emeritus of the Community College of Rhode Island, not only plays a mean clarinet and saxophone and sings, but also shares his love of music as he teaches courses through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Coastal Carolina University.

Dr. Joseph Moyer is an allergist who also happens to be a multitalented percussionist, ukulele player and vocalist. And Clair Fancher will be rocking the bass, although he’s spent plenty of time over the years as a cornet virtuoso.

“I played gigs almost continuously for 35 years in groups ranging from duos to 16-piece big bands,” he said. “For a while, I even backed a 5-piece banjo band.”

The concert is sponsored by the Waccamaw Library and Friends of the Waccamaw Library. Registration is not required, but the public is encouraged to RSVP to sbremner@gtcounty.org.

**Volunteers needed for bike path cleanup**

A community cleanup of the Waccamaw Neck Bikeway, which runs through Murrells Inlet, Litchfield and Pawleys Island, is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 25, along four sections of the bike path including:

- Along the bike bridge in Murrells Inlet,
- Trace Drive at the south entrance to the Huntington Beach State Park trail,
- In front of All Saints Church on Kings River Road, and
- In front of Pawleys Island Community Church on Highway 17 between the north and south causeways.

Members of Bike The Neck are seeking volunteers to assist with the cleanup and is asking those who regularly walk or ride the bikeway to lend a hand.

With 15 miles of bikeway now completed, the scope of maintaining the pathway — with is heavily utilized by residents and visitors alike — has become too much for the county’s existing parks and recreation staff to handle at the level users would prefer. That led Bike the Neck to launch a partnership with businesses, neighborhoods and other volunteers to make sure the pathway remains clean and safe for all who enjoy it. The County provides necessary equipment.

In addition to quarterly cleanups, volunteers are asked to provide routine inspection and litter control for their adopted segment of the bikeway and to serve as scouts for County staff — to identify structural problems, such as root damage, potholes, path erosion, etc. that need to be addressed.

Volunteers may sign up by contacting group chairwoman Linda Ketron via email at linda@classatpawleys.com.
News from our Veterans Affairs Officer
By David Murphy

The Georgetown Veteran Affairs Office is very excited to announce it is planning a Veterans’ Fair for this summer. This special event, already in the works, is planned for July 14 at the Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church St. in Georgetown, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The purpose of this fair is to better educate our veterans and their families on services and benefits they can take advantage of. We talk to many veterans every year who aren’t receiving certain benefits simply because they aren’t aware they are available. My hope is that this fair will eliminate that problem. We’re already talking to several providers and inviting them to set up for the fair to talk with our local veterans. Knowledge is no good unless it’s shared. Anyone with questions or input, please give me a call at (843) 545-3330.

How many of you veterans know where your DD FM 214 is? If you can’t find or no longer have your copy of your DD FM 214, please come see us to fill out a SF FM 180 to retrieve a copy. Also, please make sure we have a copy of your document on file at our office.

I’d also like to make veterans aware of several local meetings this month. American Legion Post 69, located at 1067 N. Morgan Ave. in Andrews, meets on the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. A light meal is served. For information contact Post 69 Commander Ed Jayroe at (843) 325-7740. New members are welcome. The American Legion Post 69 Auxiliary Unit meets at the same time and place. For information, contact Auxiliary Unit 69 President Prissie Miles at (843) 221-5551. To become a member, you must be related to a veteran. New members are welcome.

The Andrews Veterans Association meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Meetings are held at the Andrews Public Library. Veterans are welcome to join. For information, contact AVA Chairman Thomas Alford at (843) 833-3267.

Veterans for Jesus has scheduled its next meeting for Feb. 16, and meets every other Thursday thereafter at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are at 72 Swamp Fox Lane, Georgetown (or other designated locations in cases of special events such as fishing, barbecues and service projects). For information, call or email Lt. Col. David Ellison, USAF, Retired, at (843) 543-2872 or ellison7777@gmail.com.

Proud to Serve!

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library present

The Georgetown Library is instituting a new adult reading club, and everyone is invited to join in time for its first meeting Feb. 23. The January/February selection is “Keeper of the House” by Rebecca L. Godwin.

“Keeper of the House” is based on the Sunset Lodge, the famous brothel in Georgetown County that closed in 1976. The story is narrated by the lively Minyon Manigault, a young black woman from a coastal South Carolina Gullah community. In 1929, due to mysterious family circumstances, Minyon is given up by her grandmother to the employment of Ariadne Fleming, a white madame in the famously elegant brothel called Hazelhedge. At the age of 14, she becomes a pair of eyes and hands, watching and working almost invisibly in a world where men and women leave their inhibition — and their pasts — at the door.

Anyone interested in being part of the club is invited to read the novel, then come discuss it with others on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 5:30 p.m. in the Georgetown Library Auditorium, located at 405 Cleland St.

The library will also have a presentation by David Hodge, a local author with an upcoming book on Sunset Lodge, at 5:30 p.m. March 5.

Copies of “Keeper of the House” are available for checkout at the Georgetown Library. For information or to reserve a copy, call or email Patti Burns, (843) 545-3388 or pburns@gtcounty.org.

Library launches new book club

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library

Come Connect

Volunteer Fair

Folks who live on the Waccamaw Neck know that it’s important to keep our community clean, healthy, and creative.

Join the Friends of the Waccamaw Library (FOWL) on Friday, February 16, from 9 AM to 2 PM in the Debordieu Colony Auditorium at the Waccamaw Library to learn what our local nonprofits are doing to make a difference in our community and how you can help.

Light refreshments will be served.
New and re-elected council members take oath of office

One new and three returning members of Georgetown County Council were sworn in during a ceremony on Jan. 10. Pictured at right, they are from left, re-elected council members Lillie Jean Johnson, Austin Beard and Ron Charlton, and new council member Everett Carolina. Below, Carolina stands with his family as he is sworn in by Clerk of Court Alma White. Below right, Charlton is joined by his son, Ron Jr.

Bassmaster
Continued from Front Page

Local fishing fans and businesses are encouraged to turn out for boat launch and especially weigh-in to pull for their favorite college team. Though a final list of participants won’t be available until later this month, local favorites including Clemson, the University of South Carolina and Coastal Carolina University are all expected to have teams participating in the tournament.

Businesses along Front Street will be encouraged to put out flags, banners and other items supporting participating universities, as well as take advantage of foot traffic on Front Street by setting up merchandise outside to lure potential customers.

“This presents a wonderful opportunity for our businesses along Front Street and I think after the success we’ve seen with previous tournaments, business owners recognize the potential this type of event has to draw in business,” said Michele Overton, president of the Georgetown Business Association. “Restaurants especially saw a huge impact from the last bass tournament, and with the main event taking place on Front Street this time, the benefit for that day will be increased dramatically.”

Overton said businesses that sell licensed college merchandise will also be encouraged to stock up before the tournament to take advantage of students, their families, alumni and fans who will be drawn downtown to cheer on their school’s team.

Additionally, the Georgetown Business Association is working to arrange a concert event around the tournament to give spectators a reason to stay on Front Street after weigh-in is finished and perhaps lure some people who might not otherwise come to a fishing-related event.

Look for more details to be released this month.