

# The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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## Calendar

**Feb. 29** – S.C. Democratic Primary. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**March 8-14** – Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week. See page 6.

**March 10** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

**March 12** – Cassandra King Conroy at the Waccamaw Library, 10 a.m. See page 4.

**March 17** – Georgetown County Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon, noon to 1:30 p.m. See page 7.

**March 19** – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

**March 24** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Volume 8, Issue 6

February 2020

## Economic Development project to create 74 jobs

Artist rendering of plans for the renovated building.



### Economic Development Director says more announcements expected this year

An innovative new business is setting up in Georgetown County, investing an estimated \$10 million into the community and creating 74 jobs in the process.

Georgetown County Economic Development, in partnership with the City of Georgetown and the S.C. Department of Commerce, recently announced that GreenCore Materials will make its home in Georgetown. GreenCore is a new manufacturing business that turns recycled materials into composite products that will be used in a variety of industries including construction. The business has purchased

the old Eagle Electric building on South Fraser Street, near the new City Fire Department, from the City of Georgetown and plans to renovate the site to fit its needs. Plans are to have operations up and running this spring.

The project is one Georgetown County Economic Development and the City of Georgetown have been working on for some time, and was made possible through incentives and support from the S.C. Department of Commerce and Santee Cooper.

There is also an option that would allow the company and owner Guerry Green to build additional structures on the site for Georgetown County to market to other companies. Green's company will occupy only

**See "Economic Development," Page 3**

### Bryant to act as interim administrator; Council narrows list to 4

At its Feb. 25 meeting, Georgetown County voted to enter into a contract with Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments to provide onsite interim administration services. This will fill the gap between current Administrator Sel Hemingway's departure on Feb. 28 and the time a new administrator is brought on board.

Waccamaw Regional staff member Wesley Bryant, the former County Attorney, will provide services on behalf of the Council of Governments. Bryant served as

County Attorney for more than a decade before departing in January of this year to become Waccamaw Regional's Director of Government Services and Compliance. He was still under contract with the county to provide temporary legal services until a new county attorney is hired. Under the contract for administration services, he will work for the county three days a week.

Meanwhile, County Council is hoping to finish up its search process for a new administrator in the first half of March. Council will

interview four finalists on Feb. 28, and may make a selection as early as March 10.

This is the second round of the search process. Council's pick (with a 4-3 vote) during the first round declined the offer in late October. Council then opted to hire a search firm to start the process over again. The firm delivered seven resumes to Council, resulting in four interviews.

County administrator Sel Hemingway announced his plans to retire last summer.

## Capital Project Sales Tax Commission members named ahead of referendum

As Georgetown County moves forward with plans for another Capital Project Sales Tax referendum in November, Council named its members of a special Capital Project Sales Tax Commission on Feb. 25.

Requirements for the commission and its makeup are laid out under state law. The commission will determine what projects will be included in the referendum for funding through the tax. Per law, the commission has six members — three appointed by County Council, two appointed by the City of Georgetown and one appointed by one of the other municipalities in the county.

Commission members appointed by County Council are Nate Fata of Pawleys Island, Dr. Craig Lieberman of Pawleys Island and Kennedy “Kenny” Johnson of the Browns Ferry community. The remaining commission members are George Geer III and Talicia McCants, appointed by the City of Georgetown, and Danisha McClary, appointed by the Town of Andrews.

As the county strives toward a more sustainable budget model, County Council has endorsed a plan to fund all capital projects with capital project sales tax funds moving toward. A 1 percent Capital Project Sales Tax that was in place for four years, ending last spring, raised money for more than 100 road resurfacing projects, dredging at Murrells Inlet, and construction of emergency services projects. County Council still has to determine how to spend surplus funds generated when the tax raised more money than anticipated.

## ‘Project Lead-Off’ is first to get purchase option at new Pennyroyal Industrial Park

Just two months after Georgetown County purchased property on Pennyroyal Road for an industrial park, a business prospect is taking a purchase option at the park, with plans for a business that would create at least 50 jobs.

On Feb. 25, County Council authorized the county to offer an Option to Purchase Land agreement with a company interested in purchasing 50 acres at the county's new Pennyroyal Road Industrial Park. The company, which is not being named at this time, will have the right to purchase the property for six years from the start of the agreement and will pay the county roughly \$250,000 in option fees over that period as it conducts permitting, engineering and other due diligence to ensure the property works for its needs.

“We have vetted the company and feel comfortable recommending this for approval,” said County Economic Development Director Brian Tucker.

The project has been given the code name “Project Lead-Off” until such time as the company can be named because it is the first to get a purchase option at the park, leading off development. Tucker said several others have expressed interest in the park.

*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](http://www.gtcounty.org) or through our Facebook page. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto: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](http://www.gtcounty.org)

## Economic Development

Continued from Front Page

the existing building following renovations, which leaves roughly seven acres that could be developed into light industrial and flexible space to be marketed to other prospective companies. That's exactly the kind of product that is in demand right now, said Brian Tucker, director of Georgetown County Economic Development.

Tucker started working in the fall of 2017 to convince City officials to put the Eagle Electric property on the market, knowing there was a demand for buildings of that size in that area. He got permission from the City to market the property the following spring.

"We put a sign up on the property in August of 2018 and within a week, Guerry was asking to look at it," Tucker said. Green lives in Georgetown County, and having this piece of property available allowed him to start GreenCore at home, rather than looking to other areas.

Green said he developed the idea for the process GreenCore uses about six years ago. The process takes recycled plastic bottles and turns them into thin sheets. A composite made from recycled fiber materials is then inserted between two of the sheets, forming a rigid, heavy material that can be used to make plastics, such as vinyl siding, more structurally sound. Green's process is significantly cheaper than others currently available and has many applications in a range of industries.

"Innovation is key to any long term success in business," Green said. "After receiving two U.S. patents and having over 50 other U.S. and international patents pending, we are proud to launch our new enterprise in the City of Georgetown. We believe our new technology will change the plastic extrusion industry and we are looking forward to developing our business where we call home."

It's a big win for Team Georgetown, with great potential for growth, Tucker said. Officials at Santee Cooper, which assisted with economic incentives for the project, agree.

"This is a big moment for economic development, growth and jobs in Georgetown. We applaud the City and County's leadership and South Carolina for bringing GreenCore Materials to the area," said Santee Cooper President and CEO Mark Bonsall. "The City of Georgetown is one of our municipal customers and, through a grant from the Santee Cooper Economic Development Investment Fund, we are proud to be a part of this economic development win."

Added County Council Chairman John Thomas, "We are excited to welcome GreenCore Materials to Georgetown County. We have a long working history with Guerry Green, its founder, and we are eager to see this new venture move toward production. This announcement is the culmination of over a year of work with the GreenCore Materials team, our real estate partners and the City of Georgetown. We would also like to thank our partners at Santee Cooper and the South Carolina Department of Commerce for their



**Brian Tucker**

support. We wish GreenCore Materials much success."

### Part of a Larger Vision

GreenCore fits in perfectly with Georgetown County's overall vision and strategy for economic development, Tucker said.

"We recognized about three years ago that our recruitment activity was starting to see a sort of a concentration of types of companies and types of properties that these companies were looking for. Primarily, the companies fit into a couple of different categories," Tucker said. "Generally, they are all smaller companies, so instead of hiring hundreds of people, they were looking to hire 25-75 people, and generally privately held and just smaller operations. We also saw they were looking for anywhere from 10,000-30,000 square feet of space."

Paying attention to that trend, Tucker said the county is now actively targeting such companies and is looking for opportunities to provide spaces of that size.

The trend, he said, is largely due to Georgetown's proximity to Charleston. Many of these companies want to be close to Charleston – whether for its port or just the Charleston market in general -- but look north to Georgetown because property in Charleston is too expensive, they can't find what they need there or they want to avoid hustle and bustle of a larger city. "We've been taking advantage of that," Tucker said. "We've developed really close relationships with industrial brokers in Charleston. Instead of us flying to New York, or Detroit or Pittsburgh, we would spend just as much time in Charleston becoming part of that community, and that's starting to pay off."

— **Brian Tucker**

*Economic Development Director*

**"Our pipeline is fuller right now than it has been in the last 15 years."**

It was that avenue that led him to pursue marketing the old Eagle Electric property, he said. He knew there would be interest in it.

"It just so happens someone local got to it before someone from Charleston got to it." But that's why the potential for Green to build facilities on the site that the county can market in the future is so important. That site is almost guaranteed to draw in other businesses looking for a home near Charleston.

Smaller industries are a niche that fits well for Georgetown County, Tucker said.

"Smaller companies with smaller space needs really fit well with the character and culture of Georgetown County. It's much easier for us to fill 20 jobs at a time than it would 200 jobs at a time, and it doesn't have nearly the same impact on the economy if those jobs are lost later. It helps us be diversified and spread out the employee base over more companies, which in the long run makes us a lot more resilient."

But that doesn't mean there isn't opportunity to add some larger companies to the mix. The county recently purchased property on Pennyroyal Road in the City of Georgetown which is ideal for larger companies. Georgetown County Council gave second reading in February to an ordinance that would allow Tucker to move forward with marketing and selling parcels on that site.

"Right now in our pipeline, we have 300-job projects and we have 30-job projects," Tucker said. "Our pipeline is fuller right now than it has been in the last 15 years, so we anticipate that there will be additional announcements in 2020 and we are confident."

*The Waccamaw Library and the Poetry Society of SC  
are pleased to announce the*



## 2020 Litchfield Tea and Poetry Series

**The Waccamaw Neck Library, 41 St. Paul Place  
Third Thursday, January-April, 10 a.m.**



Four convivial meetings,  
each featuring thought-  
provoking poets



Homemade confections  
and tea provided



Book signing following  
each reading



Free and open to  
the public

### March 19



**Shelby Stephenson** served as Poet Laureate of North Carolina from 2015-18. His recent books include "Paul's Hill: Homage to Whitman," "Our World" and "Nin's Poem." He was editor of Pembroke Magazine from 1978 to 2010, when he retired from the University of N.C. at Pembroke.



**Open Mic.** For our March event, everyone in the audience is invited to read a short poem that he or she has written. (Please keep your reading to a single poem no longer than a page.) We all look forward to hearing a variety of voices, including yours. Please join in and encourage others to do so as well!

### April 16



**Carolyn Elkins** is the author of three books of poetry: "Angel Pays a Visit," "Daedalus Rising," and "Coriolis Forces." Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and six of her poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She is associate editor of "Tar River Poetry" and a contributing and advisory editor of "Poetry South."



**Diana Pinckney** is winner of the Ekphrasis Prize, Atlanta Review's International Poetry Prize and "Prime Number" Magazine's 2018 Poetry Prize. Published in "RHINO," "Cave Wall," "Green Mountains Review," "Tar River Poetry," "The Pedestal Magazine," "Still Point Arts Quarterly," and "Connotation Press" along with other journals and anthologies, she has five books of poetry.

*For more information, contact Dan Turner at [dturner@gtcounty.org](mailto:dturner@gtcounty.org)  
or at (843) 545-3363.*

## Bestselling author to discuss memoir on life with Pat Conroy

### Cassandra King returns to the Waccamaw Library

Bestselling author Cassandra King Conroy will consider her life and the man she shared it with when she visits the Waccamaw Library in March. King will pay tribute to her husband, Pat Conroy, the legendary figure of modern Southern literature on Thursday, March 12 at 10 a.m. in the library auditorium.

The stop is part of promotions for King's new memoir, "Tell Me a Story: My Life with Pat Conroy." The book gives an intimate look into her shared life of 19 years with the acclaimed writer whose novels brought national attention to the South Carolina Low-country he called home. King's talk will



**Cassandra King, widow of Pat Conroy, will promote her new memoir in Pawleys Island on March 12**

be free and open to the public. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library. The Library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

Cassandra King was a fledgling novelist teaching in her native state of Alabama when she first encountered at a party the famed writer, whose popular works include "The Water Is Wide" (1972), "The Great Santini" (1976), and "The Prince of Tides" (1986).

Their relationship blossomed from professional to personal, and the pair tied the knot in May 1998. She joined Conroy in his beloved coastal home of Beaufort, where they lived and wrote together until his passing from pancreatic cancer on March 4, 2016.

After King and Conroy married, King soon established herself as a considerable writer in her own right. Her second novel, "The Sunday Wife" (2002), became a New York Times bestseller, and she has published four other well-received novels: "Making Waves" (1995), "The Same Sweet Girls" (2005), "Queen of Broken Hearts" (2007), and "Moonrise" (2013), an homage to Daphne du Maurier's "Rebecca" (1938) set in the North Carolina mountains. She has also produced a popular nonfiction book, "The Same Sweet Girls Guide to Life" (2013), in addition to numerous essays as well as magazine pieces for Coastal Living and Southern Living.

"Tell Me a Story" was released from William Morrow on October 29, 2019. King resides in Beaufort, where she is honorary chair of the Pat Conroy Literary Center.

# History Makers: Bibb was Georgetown County's first black jailer

**W**hen Clade Bibb joined the staff at the Georgetown County Detention Center back in 1982, he wasn't trying to make history. But as the first African-American to be hired at the jail, he did.

He had no experience and no rank back then. By the time he retired on March 31, 1996, he was deputy administrator.

Bibb, 86, was recently highlighted by the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office as part of a series on Black History Month. More pieces from the series are featured on the department's Facebook page.

Bibb retired from the Air Force in 1974 and worked at Westbrook Chevy-Olds in Georgetown until 1981 when he saw a help wanted ad in the local newspaper for a jailer. Then-Sheriff Michael Carter knew his character and work ethic, and hired him on the spot.

The jail, then on Merriman Road, had been in service for decades and was showing its age. The plumbing and electrical systems were constantly in need of repair. Even the doors gave the jailers trouble.

Bibb joined "Squeak" Mitchum and Bob Medlin on the staff, working 24-hour shifts and taking 48 hours off on rotation. Each of them designed his own uniform.

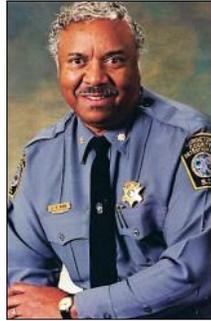
The inmates were almost all local, being held for minor crimes. Bibb remembers a handful of serious offenders during his time as a jailer: three rapes, two murders and one bank robbery. Some inmates spent their days on a work crew doing whatever the county needed. The jail had a cook who served three meals a day, even though lunch and dinner were often the same. Inmates' diets contained no sugar — and no chance of a sugar high to cause problems, Bibb said.

Bibb and Sheriff Carter turned the jail over to County Council around 1990 in hopes of getting a new facility built. Under county control, Keith McLean was named administrator and federal inmates pending trial were housed there for a fee. The facility came back under the Sheriff's Office in 1994 with the election of the late Lane Cribb as Sheriff.

The existing jail on Browns Ferry Road was finished in 1996. Bibb said he was asked to delay his retirement until March 31, 1996, to help with the transition. The current jail is drastically different from the old one, Bibb said. There were no computerized locks and security cameras to help keep order during Bibb's days on the job. Additional personnel also had to be added to manage the inmate population.

"It's a far cry from Merriman Road," Bibb said.

Interestingly, the county is again working on a plan to build a new jail as the one on Browns Ferry Road is reaching the end of its life.



Clade Bibb at his desk at the old county jail on Merriman Road.



## Georgetown County TAXPAYER ACADEMY

Have you ever wondered how your tax dollars are spent or what exactly your county government does?  
This program is for you!

Join Georgetown County officials every Wednesday in April to tour facilities, learn about county-provided services & programs, have in-depth conversations with staff, and get a behind-the-scenes look at how your government works for you. Space is limited. Email [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org) or call (843) 545-3164 for more information.

APPLY AT [WWW.GTCOUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.GTCOUNTY.ORG)

## Severe Weather Safety Week is March 8-14

*Residents urged to participate in tornado drill, review safety plans*

Along the coast, residents do most of their worrying about the weather during hurricane season. But spring and winter have their own dangers to contend with. Wind, flooding and the threat of tornadoes are among the top threats.

South Carolina will recognize Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week March 8-14, and residents, businesses and agencies are encouraged to participate in a statewide tornado drill on March 11. A test tornado warning will be issued via weather radio. If for some reason your radio does not alarm, begin your drill manually on your own by 9:05 a.m., said officials with the National Weather Service's office in Wilmington. Residents should first review their safety plans and check to make sure their weather radios are in working order and have fresh batteries.

When a tornado warning is issued, individuals should take shelter immediately, preferably in a storm shelter, basement or interior (windowless) room on the lowest level of a well-constructed home or building, and stay in place until the danger has passed. If outdoors, do not get under an overpass or bridge — it is safest to get to a low, flat location. Use your arms to protect your head and neck. Be mindful of flying debris. Do not try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. If you are in a car or outdoors and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms, and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

Watch for the release of a series of severe weather and flood safety videos and other resources from Georgetown County Emergency Management during Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week.

## ELECTION 2020

The 2020 election season is upon us. Georgetown County does not endorse any political party or candidate, but does want to make sure residents are aware of important dates, who is running for local offices and other important voter information.

The best place to find a wealth of voter information throughout the year, including how to request absentee ballots, check your voter registration information, register to vote, view a sample ballot, and view results and statistics is the S.C. Election Commission website at [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org).

### S.C. Democratic Primary is Feb. 29

The South Carolina Democratic Primary will take place Saturday, Feb. 29. In the state of South Carolina, voters do not have to be registered with a political party in order to vote in the party's primary. As always, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and voters will cast their ballots at their usual polling place. If you don't know your polling place, you can find it by checking your voter registration at [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org). For those voting at Pawleys Island Precinct 5 (Waccamaw High), please note voting will take place in the school's media center.

### County Coroner won't seek re-election

Longtime County Coroner Kenny Johnson has announced he will not seek re-election this year. He has held the position since 1996. Prior to that, he was an investigator with the Sheriff's Office.

Chase Ridgeway, who has served as a Deputy Coroner under Johnson since 2012, has said he plans to run for Coroner.

Other county officials up for re-election this year who have announced they will seek another term are: County Council Member Ron Charlton, Probate Judge Leigh Boan, Treasurer Allison Peteet, Clerk of Court Alma White and Sheriff Carter Weaver. Filing opens at noon March 16.



**PAID POLL  
WORKERS  
NEEDED!**



*Serve your community and  
be a part of the election process*

**The Georgetown County Office of  
Elections and Voter Registration  
is in need of people willing to serve  
as poll workers during 2020 elections.  
Pay starts at \$85 for working each  
election, plus \$70 for required training.  
No prior experience necessary; the county  
will provide all training needed.**

Call (843) 545-3339 for information



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## Georgetown County Women's Hall of Fame to induct Frances P. Bunnelle

As the Georgetown County Women's Hall of Fame prepared to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> year of sharing the legacies of incredible local women, its organizers knew they would have to pick someone special for induction in 2020. It was a tall order with the likes of Elizabeth Allston Pringle, Ruby Middleton Forsythe and Anna Hyatt Huntington on the list of past inductees.

The induction committee proudly announced in January that it will induct philanthropist Frances McKay Peace Bunnelle (1905-2000) to the Hall of Fame on March 17 during a luncheon at Pawleys Plantation. The event will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. and members of the public are encouraged to attend. Tickets are \$35 per person or \$280 for a table of eight. Seating is limited and reservations should be made by March 10 at <http://www.visitgeorge.com/events> or by calling (843) 546-8436.

"Frances P. Bunnelle is a name just about every person in Georgetown County knows, because of all the wonderful work she has made possible in our area. But most people don't know much about her – just her contributions," said Beth Stedman, executive director of the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce and chairwoman of the induction committee. "We're really looking forward to celebrating Mrs. Bunnelle and her legacy, and really introducing this community to her as a person."

Bunnelle is best known as the creator of the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, which she established just before her death in 2000 to support charitable causes that serve the area she chose to make her home in – Georgetown County. Upon her death, her trustees adopted her mission and put a large bequest from Bunnelle to work. The Foundation has now contributed more than \$26 million toward improving the quality of life for area residents through grants made to charitable organizations and causes. One such cause she championed was the Saint Frances Animal Center, which was named in her honor for her support. Throughout her lifetime, she also was a regular supporter of the Pawleys Island-Litchfield Rescue Squad, Tara Hall Home for Boys and Tideland Community Hospice, among other organizations.

"Frances Bunnelle was a firm believer that people should care for one another according to their means," said Geales Sands, executive director of the Bunnelle Foundation.

**What:** 10th Annual Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon, honoring Frances P. Bunnelle

**Where:** Pawleys Plantation

**When:** March 17, noon to 1:30 p.m.

Thanks to an inheritance from her first husband, Charlie Peace, whose family owned the Greenville News-Piedmont Co., Bunnelle's means were quite significant. After Peace's death in 1958, the widow received stock in the newspaper, which became a media conglomerate when it was sold in 1995. She later married Robert E. Bunnelle, who died in 1988.

During her life, Bunnelle went about her good works discreetly, quietly giving assistance to the disenfranchised and disadvantaged, because she believed in the importance of community, Sands said.

Sands will be among a panel of special guests who will discuss Bunnelle during the induction luncheon. Also serving on the panel will be Jim Dumm, executive director of Tara Hall Home for Boys and Chairman of the Georgetown County School Board; Doug Eggiman, Chief of Midway Fire-Rescue (formerly the Pawleys Island-Litchfield Rescue Squad); and Brenda Stroup, retired executive director of Tideland Hospice.

The quiet nature of Bunnelle's giving is likely responsible for the shortage of available information about her. She kept the spotlight on the causes rather than herself as the donor. As a result, there are few mentions of her online and only one photo of her seems to be available.

"Our panel will shed some more



light on who Frances Bunnelle was, as well as delving into how greatly she has impacted our community," Stedman said. "I really hope members of the community will take

the opportunity to attend the induction luncheon and learn more about this great woman, who continues to give to Georgetown County 20 years after her death."

The annual luncheon is sponsored by the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce, Georgetown County Library, Friends of the Waccamaw Library, Brookgreen Gardens, Hobcaw Barony, Georgetown County Historical Society and Museum, and Women in Philanthropy and Leadership for Coastal Carolina University. The committee is creating a website for the Hall of Fame, and plans are to create a virtual Hall of Fame within the Georgetown County Library's main branch on Cleland St. in Georgetown.



### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY and Paper Shredding Event

**Safely dispose of your paper documents. Staples, rubber bands or paper clips are fine, but no 3-ring binders or binder clips.**

**The following materials will be accepted:** Paint, batteries (alkaline & rechargeable), light bulbs, household cleaners, non-commercial pesticides, fertilizers and items labeled "warning," "poisonous" or "toxic." NO gas, oil, antifreeze or ammo.

HELP KEEP POLLUTANTS OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS  
For more information or to volunteer call (843) 545-3542 or (843) 545-3443

**Saturday,  
April 4**

**9 a.m. to noon  
at Waccamaw  
High School,  
2412 Kings  
River Rd.,  
Pawleys Island.**

Sponsored by Georgetown County Public Services Department, with assistance from Midway Fire & Rescue, and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office.





### Finance director says goodbye after 15 years

Georgetown County Finance Director Scott Proctor transitioned into a well earned retirement at the end of January. Proctor is pictured above receiving a hug from a colleague during his retirement party. Prior to becoming the county's CFO in 2004, Proctor was Finance Director for the City of Georgetown for nine years. In his time with the county, he has done exceptional work, seeing the county through difficult periods including the Great Recession, and making the county's finances more transparent and accessible to the public.

## Groundworker recognized for going above and beyond

Georgetown County would like to recognize employee Daniel Szuch, a groundworker with Parks Maintenance. A resident in the Big Dam Swamp area recently contacted us about Daniel. Daniel was traveling between sites when he observed a woman fall while coming from her mailbox. He stopped to help, showing great compassion and a comforting presence, the woman told us. We are proud of Daniel for this act of kindness and are proud to have him on our team.



## Award-winning historian to present research on slaves' journey to freedom

The highly anticipated Friends of the Waccamaw Library "First Thursday" Lecture Series returns to the library for another run this spring. The First Thursday Series has become one of the Library's featured programs, attracting audiences robust in number and in engagement.

The series opens at 10 a.m. March 5 with Dr. Amy Murrell Taylor, a prominent, award-winning historian of the American Civil War and Theodore A. Hallam Professor in History at the University of Kentucky. Taylor will reveal the amazing story of how thousands of slaves made the journey to freedom behind Union army lines during the Civil War, with focus on those from the Carolinas.

Based on research supported by the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities, her presentation, "Embattled Freedom: How Carolina Slaves Journeyed to Freedom as Civil War Refugees" is drawn from her most recent book, *Embattled Freedom* (UNC Press), which has won awards from the Organization of American Historians, the Society of Civil War Historians, and the Center for Civil War History.

The book also won Yale University's 2019 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, a prestigious and highly coveted award. Taylor is also the author of *The Divided Family in Civil War America* (UNC Press), on families divided by national loyalties during the U.S. Civil War, and she is involved in a variety of public history and historic preservation projects.

She is the co-editor, with Stephen Berry, of the "UnCivil Wars" series with the University of Georgia Press, which explores unique topics related to the war's history, as well as an editorial advisory board member of the *Civil War Monitor* magazine and a past member of the board of editors of the *Journal of Southern History*.

## PAID SOCCER OFFICIALS NEEDED!

Georgetown County Parks & Rec. is looking for certified officials to work its spring, summer and fall soccer leagues.

Pays \$35 per game. Multiple games every Saturday during league season.

SCHSL certification preferred. Must be available to work approx. 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday mornings. You pick the days/seasons you want to work. Must be willing and able to commute to Stables Park in Pawleys Island.

For more information, contact Randy Akers at (843) 545-3321 or [bakers@gtcounty.org](mailto:bakers@gtcounty.org).

## Library to honor F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald with gala on 100th anniversary

Georgetown County residents are invited to celebrate the "Roaring '20s" in all their glory at the Waccamaw Library!

The Library will host several programs in March and April to celebrate (in an appropriately grand style) the life and work of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald — the married couple who became American literary icons of the 1920s and quintessential figures of the "Jazz Age," a term coined by Scott Fitzgerald.

The main event will be a "Great Gatsby Gala" dance concert on Friday, April 3 at 5:30 p.m. — exactly 100 years to the day Scott and Zelda married, thereby rewriting literary and cultural history.

Throughout March and April, a special exhibit of 1920s dresses, hats, and accessories from the collection of Melissa Levey will be on display at the Library. All the Fitzgerald programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and are free and open to all. The Library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

Back in April 1920, Scott Fitzgerald, an aspiring Princeton-educated writer from Minnesota, and Zelda Sayre, a precocious Southern belle from Alabama who also harbored literary ambitions, decided to tie the knot, one week after the publication of Scott's first novel, "This Side of Paradise" (1920). Scott would follow his debut book with two further novels in quick succession, "The Beautiful and Damned" (1922) and "The Great Gatsby" (1925). A glamorous and talented—if tempestuous—young couple, Scott and Zelda rose to cultural celebrity. The Fitzgeralds were among the "Lost Generation" writers in Paris and the French Riviera during the 1920s, alongside fellow expatriate artists including Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Pablo Picasso and Cole Porter. Several of Scott's works, including "The Beautiful and Damned," "The Great Gatsby," and "Tender Is the Night" (1934), reflect their wild lifestyle and tumultuous marriage, which further emerges in Zelda's lone novel "Save Me the Waltz" (1932).

The Library will kick off its F. Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Monday, **March 16** at 5:30 p.m., with a talk on "Jazz Age Jazz" by Lloyd Kaplan, Professor Emeritus at the Community College of Rhode Island. Kaplan will discuss the brilliant music that sprang up in the 1920s and inspired the Fitzgeralds' life and work. Kaplan is also a skilled musician who is the leader of The Aristocats, a longtime favorite among area jazz fans.

On Tuesday, **March 24** at 10 a.m., Deno Trakas, Ph.D., will explore what makes "The Great Gatsby" great in a talk about "The Perennial Appeal of 'The Great Gatsby.'" Dr. Trakas studied with preeminent F. Scott Fitzgerald scholar Matthew J. Bruccoli and teaches a course on "F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Jazz Age, and The Depression" at Wofford College, where he serves as Laura and Winston Hoy Professor of American Literature. Trakas has authored three books to date, including a novel, a poetry collection, and a nonfiction book.

On Monday, **March 30** at 10 a.m., expert collector Melissa Levey will describe her collection of dazzling Jazz Age dresses, hats, Art

Deco jewelry, accessories, and other items that she is generously allowing the Library to put on display throughout March and April. These lovely artifacts truly capture the spirit of the era and provide community members with a real sense of living history.

On Thursday, **April 2** at 5:30 p.m., the Library will screen the 1974 classic film version of "The Great Gatsby," starring Robert Redford as nouveau-riche millionaire Jay Gatsby and Mia Farrow as his beloved Daisy Buchanan. This adaptation comes closest to capturing



onscreen the essence of Scott Fitzgerald's iconic novel.

Sometimes lost in the drama and allure of the Fitzgeralds' lives is the fact that Zelda was a serious writer in her own right. On Friday, **April 3** at 2:30 p.m., Celeste McMaster, Ph.D. will remember Zelda's voice. McMaster will read her prize-winning short story, "Zelda, Burning," which offers an original, compelling account of Mrs. Fitzgerald's tragic fate in her final days at Highland Hospital, poignantly presented from Zelda's view. The short story won the 2016 Great American Fiction Contest from the *Saturday Evening Post*. McMaster is Professor of English at Charleston Southern University and earned the 2017 Coker Fellowship for Fiction from the South Carolina Academy of Authors.

McMaster's dramatic reading of "Zelda, Burning" will lead into the crowning event of the F. Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: the "**Great Gatsby Gala**" on April 3 at 5:30 p.m. The gala concert honors Scott and Zelda's wedding day, a day that launched this famous couple as well as modern literary history. The ever-popular Island Jazz Quintet will help us relive the Jazz Age in proper style by recreating the upbeat music of Scott and Zelda's prime. The event recalls the vivid, extravagant soirees hosted by Jay Gatsby... all to win back the attentions of his lost love, Daisy Buchanan. Guests are invited to come dressed in the fashions of the day. A prosecco toast will be offered to celebrate Scott and Zelda.

Given their love of jazz and gin, Scott and Zelda were no strangers to speakeasies in their heyday. On Thursday, **April 9** at 10 a.m., J.R. Fennell, Ph.D., director of the Lexington County Museum, will deliver a talk on bootlegging and Prohibition in the Roaring '20s.

Sadly, like their best-known tales, the Fitzgeralds' life-story does not end happily. As the booming 1920s came to a grinding halt with the 1929 stock market crash and the ensuing Great Depression, the Fitzgeralds' personal world also began to dissipate. Scott's drinking became prolific; Zelda's behavior became erratic. In April 1930, Zelda was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and from then on, she would spend the brunt of her days institutionalized at various mental hospitals. Scott moved away to write screenplays in Hollywood, where he would die young from the effects of long-term alcohol abuse in 1940 at age 44. In 1948, Zelda perished, along with eight other patients, in a fire at Highland Hospital in Asheville, N.C. Nevertheless, Scott and Zelda were unquestionably a visionary pair, who loved, perhaps not wisely, but too well.

## News from our Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

February is the month we celebrate Black History month. Let us remember the contributions and the sacrifices of our veterans to help defend our great nation.

The Strickland Act has been passed and it may help some Veterans get some tax money back. They will need to file for reimbursement with the IRS, not the VA. The veteran applying will need a letter from the VA that indicates your disability rating percentage and all of your form 1099Rs for 2014 - 2018. They will verify your entitlement and then provide you the documentation to submit to the IRS for refund.



Murphy

For more information, visit <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/special-tax-considerations-for-veterans>. If needed, veterans should seek assistance from a competent tax professional before filing amended returns based on a disability determination. Refund claims based on an incorrect interpretation of the tax law could subject the veteran to interest and/or penalty charges.

There have been some veterans who have been asking for information about the Blue Water Act. Please see the links below that show the Blue Water Navy Act fact sheets. I hope this helps answer some of your questions.

- <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>
- [https://www.va.gov/Blue\\_Water\\_Navy\\_Factsheet.pdf#](https://www.va.gov/Blue_Water_Navy_Factsheet.pdf#)
- [https://www.va.gov/Blue\\_Water\\_Navy\\_FAQs.pdf#](https://www.va.gov/Blue_Water_Navy_FAQs.pdf#)

**The Low Country Veterans Group (LCVG)** joins our nation in celebrating Black History Month. Commander Franklin E. Rutledge recognizes the contributions of black Americans in making America the "Land of the Free" and the "Home of the Brave." The first American to sacrifice his life for our nation was Cyrus Attucks. He was shot and killed by British troops in Boston, in what became known as the Boston Massacre, just before the onset of the Revolutionary War.

The LCVG will hold a **golf fundraiser** on Saturday, March 21, at the Wedgewood Country Club. All proceeds from player fees and hole sponsorships will go towards assisting homeless veterans in our community. The fee is \$60 per/player. For information call (843) 527-6555.

The LCVG will once again participate in **Palmetto Giving Day**, set for May 5 in Georgetown. Please make a donation on or before Palmetto Giving Day to the Low Country Veterans Group to aid in its mission is to serve our community, our veterans, and especially homeless veterans and their families. The group also assists disabled veterans in obtaining their VA compensation for disability. The LCVG maintains transitional house for homeless veterans, along with other organizations in our community. Weekly, the LCVG also delivers food to the homes of veterans in need.

The LCVG meets every second Saturday at the Howard High School main building, located in Georgetown. Both veterans and volunteers are welcome. Meetings start at 10 a.m. For information about the Low Country Veterans Group, call (843) 527-6555 or visit [lowcountryvets.org](http://lowcountryvets.org).

The **Andrews Veterans Association** and **American Legion Post 69** have partnered to erect the **Andrews Veterans Memorial Park**, on

American Legion property at 1067 N. Morgan Avenue in Andrews. The war memorial committee will soon seek the support of the public, businesses and churches by selling engraved bricks. Individuals can purchase engraved bricks to honor living and deceased veterans, and service members to include the National Guard and Reserves. Non-veterans can have their name or organization engraved as a supporter of veterans and the veterans memorial park. Engraved bricks will cost \$150 each.

The Andrews Veterans Memorial Park Committee is researching service members from zip code 29510 who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the Armed Forces and those who are listed as Prisoner of War-Missing in Action. Engraved bricks for these heroes will be provided at no cost by the Andrews Veterans Memorial Committee.

This week topsoil donated by Mr. Bud Stone of Stone Construction will be put down on the veterans memorial park site, with concrete and a brick wall to follow. The logos of our Armed Forces, the American Legion and the Andrews Veterans Association will be placed on the brick wall. Flag poles will also be erected. After the initial construction phase, war memorials will be designed and dedicated.

For information about the Andrews Veterans Memorial Park and engraved bricks, contact Teon Singletary at (588) 937-8752. Sponsorships are available.

The members of American Legion Post 69 pause to remember the Four Chaplains of World War II fame. The Chaplains were serving aboard the Army Transport DORCHESTER, which on February 3, 1943, was sailing in a convoy to an American base in Greenland. This was in an area of the North Atlantic known as Torpedo Junction due to enemy U-boats operating in the area. The 902 soldiers on the DORCHESTER were ordered to stay below decks and wear their winter uniforms. The DORCHESTER was covered with ice in the frigid seas and could only do 10 knots. The DORCHESTER was struck near the boiler room by a torpedo fired by an enemy submarine. Many soldiers and sailors were killed instantly or trapped below decks. Boiling steam and suffocating ammonia gas filled the troop compartments.

The Four Chaplains directed soldiers into lifeboats and handed out life jackets. They calmed soldiers who were frozen with fear. The Four Chaplains gave their own life jackets to soldiers. They also gave up their life boat stations to soldiers. Survivors in lifeboats stated as the DORCHESTER went under, they observed the Four Chaplains linking arms and bowing their heads in prayer. The Four Chaplains were George L. Fox (Methodist), Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Clark V. Polling (Reformed Church) and John P. Washington (Roman Catholic). For information about the Four Chaplains go to [www.fourchaplains.org](http://www.fourchaplains.org).

The Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs welcomes calls and visits from veterans and their families. We are located at 537 Lafayette Circle in Georgetown. We can be reached at (843) 545-3300. Let us know if we can be of assistance.

David Murphy,  
Manager,  
Georgetown County  
Office of Veterans Affairs

# Georgetown County, South

County Government

## Numbers to know

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

Planning and Zoning, 545-3116

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270  
129 Screven Street  
Georgetown, S.C. 29440-4200

Phone: (843) 545-3063  
Fax: (843) 545-3292



## Carter Weaver sworn in as new Sheriff



A week after a landslide victory at the polls, Carter Weaver, surrounded by his family, was sworn in as Georgetown County's first new Sheriff in nearly 30 years. He fills the vacancy left by longtime Sheriff Lane Cribb, who died unexpectedly in office in September. Cribb had held the office since 1992.

Weaver, who served as Assistant Sheriff under Cribb, was appointed to serve as Sheriff in an interim capacity shortly after Cribb's death. A special election on Feb. 4 made it official and Weaver's oath of office ceremony was scheduled for Feb. 13 at Georgetown First Baptist Church. The oath was administered by Judge Ben Culbertson.

After being sworn in, Weaver thanked the voters for having confidence in him and recalled the sorrow that created the need for a new department leader.

"We can't lose sight of the fact that we were here five

months ago, in this sanctuary, for the funeral of a friend and mentor," Weaver said. "We sat here as a broken agency at the loss of its leader, not knowing what the future held."

Weaver said he is proud of how the department came through that situation, emerging "more committed stronger than ever and determined to carry out the mission" of making the county a safe place to live work and visit.

However, it won't be without its challenges, Weaver told those gathered. He spoke of school-age children "preyed upon by people and trends," of bullying and peer pressure, and asked the public to join him in finding solutions as the Sheriff's Office partners with the school district, clergy and mental health professionals to help county youth.

He also addressed the opioid epidemic and related crimes.

"Alternatives to locking peo-

ple up need to be found," Weaver said. "I advocate for more treatment than arrests. We cannot arrest our way out of this situation. Our correctional facilities should not be the largest mental health provider in the country."

Weaver spoke of the need for comprehensive solutions and vowed to start conversations at the state and local levels to help create those solutions.

Lastly, Weaver praised the dedication of the deputies who serve under him.

"It is their dedication to duty that inspires me to be a better person and a better sheriff," Weaver said. "I am here today before you because of their commitment to making Georgetown County better."

The special election win granted Weaver the remainder of the late Sheriff' Cribb's unexpired term. That means Weaver will appear on the ballot again this year as he seeks a full term.

## Wayne Owens returns to Georgetown County as Chief Deputy

Wayne Owens was sworn in Feb. 18 as the new Chief Deputy at the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office. He served 22 years with the Sheriff's Office under the direction of the late Sheriff Lane Cribb, rising to the rank of Captain of Operations. For the past three years, he has been administrator at the J. Reuben Long Detention Center in Horry County.

Owens, a resident of Pleasant Hill, graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy, and recently completed the required training to obtain his Class 1 Law Enforcement Corrections Officer certification.



Wayne Owens