Rocky Point Community Forest adds 19 acres

Building on the creation of South Carolina’s first coastal public-use community forest, the Open Space Institute and Georgetown County are expanding Rocky Point, with the help of the South Carolina Conservation Bank. This newest acquisition furthers efforts in improving access to, and protecting water resources and sensitive habitat within, the celebrated Black River.

Conservation of the 19-acre property protects both sides of the Choppee Road entrance to the Community Forest. The forested tract will be incorporated into the management and recreation for the now 680-acre Community Forest owned and managed by Winyah Rivers Foundation and Georgetown County. The Open Space Institute, a critical partner in the acquisition of the initial 460-acre property, secured most of the funding needed to purchase the addition.

“This expansion of Rocky Point Community Forest is another success story in the effort to enhance this invaluable community, economic and environmental asset,” said Kim Elliman, the Open Space Institute’s president and CEO. “This project truly validates the importance of community support in conservation. We commend our partners in the longstanding effort to protect this community forest and the scenic Black River for future generations.”

Beth Goodale, Georgetown County’s Director of Parks and Recreation, added that she could not be happier about the addition.

“This just improves an already outstanding resource,” she said. “The importance of Rocky Point cannot be overstated. We are so excited that the residents of and visitors to Georgetown County will now have even more space to learn, explore and enjoy one of our area’s most vital natural resources.”

Once closed despite its popularity with the community, Rocky Point Community Forest was re-established in 2015 after a two-year effort when the Open Space Institute purchased the land and worked with partners including The Nature Conservancy and Winyah Rivers Foundation to fundraise for its reopening. The public-use park and natural area protects scenic, recreational and conservation values of this incredible natural resource to benefit the North Coast community.

The scenic Black River in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties is one of the most popular canoe and kayak destinations in the state. The exceptional coastal-plain river is also at the heart of a thriving private-conservation initiative that strives to protect the expansive forested wetlands, tidal creeks, and unique species that define this region.

In the coming years, the newly-conserved property and much of the uplands of the existing Community Forest will be restored to longleaf pine, providing potential habitat for a suite of priority, threatened and endangered species including Red-cockaded woodpeckers.

The protection of Rocky Point Community Forest and the greater effort to protect the Black River is the result of a broad coalition of conservation partners, including Rocky Point Community Forest Steering Committee and Black Scenic River Council.

For this latest addition to the Rocky Point Community Forest, the Open Space Institute received a $90,000 grant from the South Carolina Conservation Bank for its work on the project. The Judith Haskell Brewer Fund of the Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia also supported OSI’s time on the project and due diligence. Georgetown County will own the property and work in collaboration to manage it for habitat and recreation.
Wishing a happy retirement to Family Justice Center Executive Director Vicki Bourus

Vicki Bourus, center, executive director of the Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry Counties, will retire on May 31, ending a 32-year career of advocating and providing services for victims of domestic and sexual violence. The Family Justice Center hosted a drop-in at its office in Georgetown on Wednesday, May 8, to allow members of the public to stop by and wish her well. Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office victim advocates Alma Sierra, left, and Caitlin Elliott, right, are pictured with Bourus during the drop-in. Bourus has led the Family Justice Center for the past seven years. Since coming on board with the Family Justice Center in early 2012, she has guided the nonprofit through tremendous growth. That growth included expansion into Horry County, an increase in services available to victims, increased financial stability and the construction of a new headquarters in Georgetown. Last year, the center provided services to 1,336 clients, including children.

“When I started here, I had two employees,” Bourus recalled. “I now have 21 employees. We have greatly expanded the array of services we offer with in-depth counseling, court advocacy, children’s programs. We have built the volunteer program – we had just a couple of volunteers when I started and we’re right now at anywhere from 80 to 100. One of the biggest things was taking over the operation of the shelter. That was a huge step, but it was very much needed. We’ve also added a lot of public education. I think we have really established the Family Justice Center as an effective, committed, viable organization that does excellent work and is committed to continuing that. These are all things I take a lot of pride in.” Georgetown County would like to thank Bourus for her efforts in helping the residents of our community and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Tracing your family’s roots with Freedman’s Bureau Records

Reference Librarian Patti Burns of the Georgetown County Library system will give two workshops in June to help residents with genealogy projects.

For those who already have some experience with genealogy, Burns will have a workshop at 10 a.m. June 4 to teach attendees how to use Freedmen’s Bureau Records to find their ancestors. The Freedmen’s Bureau, organized under a 1865 Congressional order at the conclusion of the Civil War, offered assistance to freed slaves. Handwritten records of these transactions include records such as marriage registers, hospital or patient registers, educational efforts, census lists, labor contracts, indenture or apprenticeship papers and more.

For those just getting started with their genealogy project, Burns will host a beginners workshop at 11 a.m. June 22.

Sheriff warns of new scam

The Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office is warning citizens and, specifically, people listed on sex offender registries they may be targets of a scam.

The sheriff’s office has received reports of telephone calls from the number (843) 473-3055, claiming to be a deputy sheriff with an outstanding warrant for their arrest. The caller asks for $3,000 to release the warrant. Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office does not make requests for bond money over the phone.

When the victims call the number back, they receive a recorded message stating they have reached the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office and are given options to select. Please, do not call the number provided by the scammer. Contact the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office at (843) 546-5102 instead.

With the proliferation of phone and e-mail scams going around, residents should always be cautious of giving personal information or money to someone if they are not 100 percent certain the person is who they claim to be. Instead of clicking on links in e-mails, it is wise to use a trusted search engine to make sure you are navigating to a legitimate link. If you are unsure of a caller’s identity, hang up, look up the published number for the company or agency they represent and call back at that number to verify the call. Find more information at www.consumer.ftc.gov.

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 in 2012. 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
In Memoriam
Sheriff’s Office mourns longtime Deputy

Gerald G. Owens, 74, passed away on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at his home. He was born in Hemingway, a son of the late James T. and Vernise Cribb Owens. He was a Deputy Sheriff for Georgetown County and had retired from Smurfit-Stone Container in Florence in 2007. He was a member of the Union United Methodist Church and some of his favorite pastimes were cooking pileaus and BBQ for others. He loved fishing but most of all loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by two granddaughters, Shelby and Jaime Owens; sisters, Betty O. Lewellen, Patricia O. Amick, Gracie O. (Don) Birchmore, and Arden O. (Archie) Evans; brother, Gregg (Myra) Owens; sister-in-law, Erma Owens; a number of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and his Sheriff’s Office family.

He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara “Bobbie” Kiesel Owens; two sons, Robbie and Jamie Lee Owens; two brothers, Johnnie Owens and George Owens.

Funeral services were April 14 at Union United Methodist Church. Burial, directed by Morris Funeral Home of Hemingway, was in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Union United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, PO Box 580, Hemingway, SC 29554.

Increased costs create budget struggles

The outlook for next year’s budget was grim as County Council received an update in a budget workshop on May 14. But it was a little less grim than it had been just a week earlier. A significant deficit in the general fund had narrowed to $803,000 from $917,000 a week earlier. It had started at just over $2 million.

The Midway Fire Rescue budget had a deficit of $97,000, down from a starting point of $360,000. The Solid Waste budget is more than $1 million short, a result of needing to make some engineering changes to a landfill closed off 25 years ago due to new regulations. The law enforcement fund has a deficit of $628,000. The deficit for that fund actually increased over last week as a result of the cost of the hosting fee for the CAD system.

The deficits are largely a result of rising costs in areas such as health care and worker’s compensation rates.

Council gave reading to the budget at its regular meeting May 14. Between then and second reading on May 28, county officials will continue line by line reviews of the budget and attempt to further decrease the deficit. Whatever deficit remains will have to be covered from the $10 million unrestricted fund in the general fund budget. The county has a self-imposed policy of maintaining at least $8 million in the fund for emergencies. Covering the deficit would not deplete the fund below $8 million.

The full budget will be published online after second reading for public review. Final reading is set for June 25.

Filing is open for District 5 County Council seat

A special election to fill a seat in County Council District 5 will take place this summer. A primary election is scheduled for July 9. If a runoff election is needed, it will take place July 23. A general election will be Sept. 10.

Filing for this seat will open at noon May 17 and close at noon May 25. The Georgetown County Office of Elections and Voter Registration will be open on Saturday, May 25, from 9 a.m. to noon to help facilitate filing. Filing fee is $202.37. For more information, call (843) 545-3339. The Office of Elections and Voter Registration is located at 303 N. Hazard St. in Georgetown.
Lock it or lose it, Sheriff advises

Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb is reintroducing an awareness campaign called “Lock-It or Lose-It” for this summer. This is due to a rise in thefts from unlocked vehicles as tourist season gets underway.

The question is, “Could thefts have been reduced if the doors were locked?” Trends in breaking into motor vehicles reveal offenders prefer unlocked cars because they are an easier target. The sheriff’s Office found that 76 percent of break-ins have occurred in unlocked vehicles so far this year. Thousands of dollars in currency, electronics and other valuables, including 17 weapons, have been reported stolen from vehicles.

The sheriff asks everyone to secure valuables outside their vehicles when possible.

Listed below are a few simple suggestions that can be used to discourage a thief from breaking into your vehicle:

- Lock your doors! If a thief is on a mission, he/she is far more likely to try his luck elsewhere if your doors are locked.
- If possible, remove all valuables; thieves will search for other vehicles that are easier targets if they do not see anything of value in your car. If you choose not to remove valuables from your vehicle, conceal them from view by securing them in a glove box, center console, or, even better, in the trunk.
- Be aware of where you park your vehicle. If it is during daylight hours, park it where it is constantly being seen by somebody. Don’t try to hide it because the place you may choose will be a perfect location for a break-in. During the night, if possible, park in an area with a lot of light; light is an enemy of thieves.

Find fresh produce and more!

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at 122 Screven St., Georgetown
across from the historic courthouse

K-9 Officers in training

Everybody get ready to say “Awwwww!,” because the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office is training a new litter of bloodhound puppies to join its K-9 unit. The litter of seven was born at the Sheriff’s Office on March 7 and the pups are just now reaching the age where deputies can begin early exercises to see which puppies might have the potential to be K-9 officers someday. The Sheriff’s Office’s K-9 unit is taking the puppies for regular training outings at 8 Oaks Park, where they get plenty of time to run and chase. The puppies deemed to have potential to become K-9 officers will continue training and eventually join the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office or a department in a neighboring area. Those that don’t make the cut will be adopted out into loving homes and a much more leisurely life.

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.
Harold West, a valued employee of Georgetown County's Public Works Division for 16 years, was recognized April 23 as the county's Employee of the Quarter. He has been employed in the positions of heavy equipment operator, infrastructure inspector, interim Public Works manager, and special projects coordinator.

West’s work is invaluable, Public Services Director Ray Funnye said in his nomination letter.

Over the last year, West has worked on key projects including construction of new fire substations, an airport taxiway, a new hangar at the airport and a new landfill administration building. His work on these projects was excellent. He was also pivotal in preparing for Hurricane Florence in the fall, and coordinating among heavy equipment operators. Additionally, he played a key role in removing a potentially hazardous and long-problematic damaged boat from within the Murrells Inlet estuary.

West’s calm, easy-going manner is valued in the field, his director said. His workers not only take his direction, but genuinely respect his judgment. He is known as a team player and is a valued asset to the County.

In his day-to-day duties, West ensures that drainage infrastructure is maintained and organizes infrastructure improvement projects where necessary. He supervises the activities of his workers, helps collect survey data, and coordinates stormwater issues with the Watershed Committee, along with investigating matters of concern related to the duties of his position.

West also assists with the acquisition of new equipment by working with Fleet Services and the Public Works Manager on specification and pricing, and general recommendations. His input is relied upon heavily and was invaluable in helping guide efforts to ensure safe operation for the county’s vacuum truck.

"We must continue to reward this type of professionalism with the recognition it deserves," Funnye said.

Harold West, right, is pictured with County Council Chairman John Thomas during his recognition in April.

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"We must continue to reward this type of professionalism with the recognition it deserves," Funnye said.
Tennis Center to offer youth clinics

The Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park will offer a series of summer clinics for youth in June, July and August. Clinics generally run 90 minutes for two days a week and are $15 per class or $60 for six classes for ages 4-5 and $25 per class or $90 for six classes for ages 6-17. Session dates are June 10-28, July 1-19 and July 22-Aug. 9.

Sessions for ages 4-5 take place from 9:15-10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and will introduce kids to tennis through fun drills that focus on motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Sessions for ages 6-9 are from 10-11:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and teach basic skills. Ages 9-12 can learn advanced skills from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. For ages 11-17, a session on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5:30 p.m. will focus on match play and live ball drills for intermediate high school and tournament players.

For youth ages 12-17 who want to learn the basics of tennis, a junior development program is also planned, with the time to be determined. Pre-registration is required. Lastly, an invitation-only high performance clinic is available for advanced players. Call (843) 545-3450 for details.

Friends of the Waccamaw Library to celebrate life of writer Susan Meyers, founder of Litchfield Tea & Poetry series

On Thursday, June 6, at 5:30 p.m., the Waccamaw Library will host a special poetry reading to celebrate the life and work of beloved Lowcountry writer and mentor Susan Laughter Meyers.

Meyers was a generative figure in establishing and enhancing the literary community in the Lowcountry. Before relocating to South Carolina, she had previously served as a notable creator and contributor to the growth of literary arts in her native state of North Carolina.

The author of three poetry books and a chapbook, Meyers earned numerous prizes, awards, and fellowships, and her poems appeared in major journals, including “The Southern Review,” “Prairie Schooner,” and “Crazyhorse.”

Among her many contributions to arts and letters in our region, she co-founded the longstanding Litchfield Tea and Poetry Series, which just concluded its 13th year at the Waccamaw Library, and served as President of the Poetry Society of South Carolina as well as the Poetry Society of North Carolina.

Friends and fellow poets will share selected poems by Meyers during the program, as well as memories of her sustaining love of life and of literature.

Meyers died in June 2017 at the age of 72. She is remembered as a “welcoming presence to all she encountered” and an enthusiastic supporter of other poets, who always had an eye for the small details — line endings, lines, the right sound or the right phrase, not just in poetry but in life. The program is free and open to all. The Library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

Summer reading challenges aren’t just for kids anymore!

Those with a passion for books probably remember the summer reading challenges of their school days with great fondness. Not only did you get to spend the summer exploring fantastic places and having grand adventures with some help from your favorite authors, but you won prizes for doing it! Ah, those were the days.

Well, the Georgetown County Library system has some exciting news. It’s introducing fun summer reading challenges at its Andrews and Waccamaw branches!

At the Andrews Library patrons can pick up a Library Challenge bookmark from the front desk between June 3 and July 26 to get started. Anyone over age 16 is eligible to participate. Just complete six items off the challenge list and return the bookmark to the information desk to be entered into a prize drawing.

At the Waccamaw Library, adults are invited to play Summer Reading Bingo. Pick up a Bingo card at the library, read some great summer books to complete a line and get Bingo! Return your completed card to the adult reference desk by Aug. 9 to be entered in a drawing to a gift card to the Friends of the Library book store.

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Parks & Rec. to offer a range of summer camp opportunities

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is accepting registration for its annual youth summer camp. The camp, as usual, will offer eight weeks of fun activities at two locations: Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown and Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center in Pawleys Island.

However, the department will also offer a range of specialty camps this year, including those focusing on magic, theatre and art. These specialty camps will take place at the Murrells Inlet Community Center.

The Department’s traditional eight-week camp will begin June 10 and run through Aug. 2, with the first week’s fees due May 27. Cost is $65 per child per week, plus a one-time, non-refundable registration fee of $15. The camp is open to kids ages 5-12. Camps are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each week of camp will feature a different theme and activities, covering topics such as local history, nature, sports and emergency preparedness. Register in person at your local recreation center or online at www.gtcparks.org.

A one-day magic camp featuring local magician Gerry the Great and his Great Pirate Bubble and Water Show is set for Monday, July 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The camp will feature a full day of magical fun, including lessons on performance, sleight of hand, public speaking, persistence and self confidence. Each child will receive magic props for performing at home. Gerry the Great will also have one-day Magic Show and Balloon Twisting workshops on June 17 and July 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Kids will learn to make at least four different balloon animals, play games and enjoy a magic show. Cost is $30 and children should bring their own lunch. To reserve a spot, send an email to GerryTheGreat@SandyShoesEntertainment.com or call the Murrells Inlet Community Center at (843) 545-3651.

Two one-week intensive musical theater camps from Pied Piper Youth Theater are set for June 24-28 and Aug. 5-9 from a.m. to 3 p.m. The camp is open to youth ages 7-14. Cost is $195. In June, Using a three-ring circus as inspiration, kids will create a rambunctious performance with songs, dances and skits. Special guest Nick Pike will also instruct campers in the art of juggling. In August, campers will say hello to the ’50s as they focus on songs, scenes and dances from great musicals including “Grease,” “Hairspray,” “Bye Bye Birdie,” “Zombie Prom” and “Little Shop of Horrors.” Register at pipertheater-south.coursesstorm.com.

Summer art camps and classes for ages 5-10 are set for June 18-21 from 8 a.m. to noon ($120) and June 26 from 5-7:30 p.m. ($30). For ages 7-12, dates are July 15-18 from 5-7:30 p.m. ($75) and July 24 from 5-7:30 p.m. ($30). Space is limited. Payment is required two weeks prior to class start date, so materials may be purchased. To register, send an e-mail to KayBeArts@gmail.com.

Unlike the county’s eight-week camp, special focus camps are led and managed by outside agencies rather than county staff. Agencies are responsible for setting their own times and fees.

Find us online!

Whether you’re looking for jobs, the latest news or to contact a specific department, online is a great way to stay updated or get in touch with us.

Visit our website at www.gtccounty.org. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.
Georgetown County youth eligible to participate in free summer programs

Students in the Georgetown County School District are eligible to participate for free in programs being offered this summer by the S.C. Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics. The application deadline is May 31. Programs are open for rising 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders. The programs are able to be offered for free thanks to generous support from the Boeing Company.

For students entering grades 6-8 in the fall, applications are being accepted for iTEAMS XTREME: Next Generation. This exciting course takes place July 8-11 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Waccamaw Elementary School and focuses on robots and programming lessons. Students will work in teams to program microcontrollers and robots, and explore digital communications between linked hardware and the Internet of Things. Lunch and transportation will be provided by the school district. Learn more and apply online at www.scgssm.org/iteams.

For students entering grades 8 and 9 in the fall, applications are being accepted for the CREATEng statewide engineering summer camp. The camp will take place July 15-18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Waccamaw Elementary School. Students will be asked to imagine they are NASA engineers with a mission to develop a sustainable colony on Mars. Working as a team, they will create, test and refine solutions to the challenges they encounter as they go about establishing life on the red planet. Lunch and transportation will be provided by the school district. Learn more and apply online at www.scgssm.org/createng.

Spring Soccer Champions

Georgetown County’s adult soccer league concluded its Spring season with a thrilling overtime match-up between three-time defending champions Prestige Worldwide and perennial contenders AC United. Prestige Worldwide opened the game with two goals, but AC United didn’t quit – scoring two in the second half and one more within the first minute and 10 seconds of overtime to win the game by a score of 3-2 and hand Prestige Worldwide their first outright loss in league play since August 2017.
News from our Veterans Affairs Officer: Events, scholarship opportunities, meetings and more

By David Murphy

Greetings Veterans! This month we will be celebrating Memorial Day. Let’s take the time to remember those who fought to protect and defend our great nation.

Commander Franklin E. Rutledge and his Low Country Veterans Group will pause on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, to pay tribute to those members of our Armed Forces who have made the supreme sacrifice during the wars and conflicts of our nation. Our deepest sympathy goes out to our Gold Star families who have lost a loved one in military service. The Low Country Veterans Group serves everyday to remember the fallen and to assist veterans who have borne the battle. Our service also includes assisting the families of our veterans.

The group also held a yard sale last month, which was a success. All proceeds will assist homeless veterans and the veterans transportation program. Among the veterans and other volunteers assisting at the yard sale were Nathaniel Moultrie, John Russell, Joseph Nesbitt, Ernest Cole, Lorenzo Cobb, Sammie Pyatt, Daniel Brown, David Morant, James Graham and Greg Bennett. Special thanks to Commander Franklin E. Rutledge, Theodore Russell and Jacqueline Dozier, who organized the yard sale.

On May 4, the Low Country Veterans Group was Guest of Honor at the Blessing of the Inlet. The group was also one of the featured charities in the annual Palmetto Giving Day on May 15, where it raised $2,555. To make a donation to the LCGV go to www.palmettogivingday.org.

The Low Country Veterans Support Group will host an ’80s Attire Date Night on Saturday, May 18, from 7-11 p.m., at the Mitney Building, located at 102 S. Merriman Road in Georgetown. The public is invited and tickets cost $20 per couple or $15 for singles. For information contact Janette Graham at (843)546-0718, or Lil Moultrie at (843)545-7610 or Sandra Rutledge at (843)543-2795. Veterans who are homeless or under-housed can receive assistance at the LCGV office every Wednesday, from 9-11 a.m.

The Low Country Veterans Group meets on the second Saturday on the month at 10 a.m. at the Meeting Place, located at 2921 Highmarket Street in Georgetown. For information go to www.lowcountryvets.org or call (843) 527-6555.

Commander Ed Jayroe and Sergeant at Arms David Redick of American Legion Post 69 will lead Legionnaires in flagging the graves at the Town of Andrews Memorial Cemetery on Memorial Day week. Assisting Legionnaires will be the NJROTC Cadets from Andrews High School. American Legion Post 69 will host a Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 27, starting at 10 a.m. at the Town of Andrews Memorial Cemetery. The theme of this year’s Memorial Day Observance will be the Centennial of World War One, often referred to as the Great War. All veterans and the public are invited to the Memorial Day event. For information contact Commander Ed Jayroe at (843)325-7740.

American Legion Post 69 proudly announces that Andrews High School juniors Tyjon Nyger Wragg, Dylan Bradoc, Paul Phillips and Ashton Altman will represent Post 69 at the upcoming 2019 Palmetto Boys State, to be held June 9-15 at Anderson University. We are so proud that two of Andrews High School Boys State alumni will be returning to the Palmetto Boys State as camp counselors.

Auxiliary Unit 69 President Olga Miles proudly announces that Andrews High School juniors Ansley Harrington and Breanna Thornell will attend the 2019 Palmetto Girls State.

Members of the Andrews Veterans Association (AVA) and American Legion Post 69 are planning and designing the Andrews Veterans Memorial Park, to be located on American Legion property on North Morgan Avenue. Prior to the erection of monuments, the property must be leveled off and drainage pipes installed. Donations of top soil, concrete, material and labor are welcome from contractors. The Andrews Veterans Memorial Park Committee welcomes donations at: AVMPC, PO Box 584, Andrews, SC 29510. For further information contact American Legion Commander Ed Jayroe at (843) 325-7740 or Andrews Veterans Association Chairman Thomas Alford at (843) 833-3267.

Lastly, Flag Day is approaching! If you have flags that need to be destroyed, please bring them to our office by June 13 for proper ceremonial retirement.

For updates and more information about events happening locally and around the state for veterans, please follow the Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gtcVeterans. If you are a veteran and have questions or want more information about services that may be available to you, please contact my office at (843) 545-3330.

David Murphy, Manager,
Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs
On July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 crew arrived at the moon, and Neil Armstrong took his famous giant leap for all of humankind upon the lunar surface. On Thursdays in May, the Georgetown County Library System will host space science presentations in celebration of the upcoming 50th anniversary of this monumental mission. All programs are free and open to the public, thanks to a Library Services and Technology Act (LTSA) grant successfully submitted by Dwight McInvaill, library director, and his staff members. The funded project, “Moonrise: Exploring New Phases of Innovation,” will foster a diversity of original programming and materials that cater to a true hunger for scientific literacy across Georgetown County.

The Moonrise project will feature space science programs by astronomy experts at the library’s four branches. The presentations will be enhanced by the creation of special astronomical models created on a 3D printer. On May 16 at 4:30 p.m., Dr. Louis J. Rubbo’s presentation, “Gravitational Wave Astronomy: Listening to the Universe,” will enlighten attendees at the Carvers Bay Library, located at 13048 Choppee Road in Hemingway, about the importance of gravitational waves, ripples in spacetime that result from the collision of two neutron stars. More than a century ago, Albert Einstein predicted the existence of such energy waves. Only since 2017 have scientists been able to detect gravitational waves. Rubbo is Professor of Astrophysics at Coastal Carolina University.

The Georgetown Library, located at 405 Cleland Street, will feature two presentations on May 23. Dr. Jeannette M. Myers, Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Dooley Planetarium at Francis Marion University, will deliver a 3:30 p.m. presentation geared toward youth, titled “Rockets to the Moon,” which will look at how the Apollo 11 astronauts were able to get to the moon (and return) and what they discovered. Myers will then offer a further presentation for adults at 5:30 p.m., called “Science on the Moon,” which will explore the science experiments set up by the Apollo astronauts and the samples they brought back to Earth. The experiments and equipment left behind on the moon have allowed us to better understand our nearest neighbor in space.

Finally, on May 30 at 4:30 p.m., Ron Revere, NASA Solar System Ambassador, will give a talk entitled, “Yes...We Really Did Put Men on the Moon!” The internet is full of sites proclaiming that the Apollo program was a hoax and that no human has ever landed on the Moon. In the 50th anniversary year of the Apollo 11 mission, Revere’s presentation will provide scientific proof that humans have indeed walked on the lunar surface.

Other activities and programs supported by the Moonrise grant will include intergenerational LEGO robotics space programs pairing senior citizens with school aged children at each of the library’s four branches; science and technology activities and reading materials for inmates at the Georgetown County Detention Center; English as a Second Language (ESL) science and technology tutoring for approximately 40 adult learners; assistive technology demos to help the visually challenged to access science and technology books and other resources; and virtual reality outer space gaming laptops and headsets in rotation at the four branches so that youth—many of whom hail from rural, disadvantaged areas—can engage space science and technology activities and learning in an immersive, interactive manner.

For more information, visit the library website.