Second phase of sales tax paving work begins in mid-July

Kings River Road was paved in the first phase of road improvements, thanks to sales tax funds.

Georgetown County residents will see more than 60 road resurfacing projects completed over the next 12 months, thanks to the 1 percent Capital Project Sales tax voters approved in 2014. This is in addition to more than 40 road projects completed last year during the first phase of work. All projects are scheduled to be finished by June 30, 2018.

The contract was awarded this spring and crews will begin paving work in mid-July on roads that don’t require concrete work. For roadways with concrete elements, such as sidewalks, driveways and curbs, concrete work must be completed before paving can begin. Crews will also begin concrete work in areas, including the

Practice fireworks safety this July 4th

For many families residing in or visiting Georgetown County this year, fireworks will play a big part in Independence day celebrations and festivities. Unfortunately, those celebrations could easily end in tragedy if safety precautions aren’t followed, said Todd Blomdahl of Midway Fire Rescue.

“It is important to be aware that more than 32,000 fires occur annually in the United States due to mishandling of fireworks, and these fires cause more than $30 million in property damage,” Blomdahl said. “In addition, many individuals are seriously injured by the misuse of fireworks. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is at a professional display. Both the City of Georgetown and

Practice fireworks safety this July 4th

Local July 4th activities

Happy Fourth of July to all our residents and visitors! If you’ve opted to celebrate Independence Day in Georgetown County, you made the right choice. There are a number of patriotic activities going on and we’re sure you’ll enjoy your holiday here. Check out one (or more!) of these local events:

• The 51st annual Pawleys Island Parade will kick off at 10 a.m. July 4. Visitors and locals parade down the island in floats that use local issues and current events to make fun, creative statements. All are welcome to watch or participate. Cost to enter a float in the parade is $15 in advance or $20 on the day of the parade. For information, call (843) 237-1698.
• The North Litchfield Children’s Parade takes place at 10 a.m. every July 4. There’s no fee to enter, no registration process and the only real rule is there are no internal combustion engines allowed. Walk, decorate a bicycle, scooter or golf cart for this event that starts on Hanover Drive.
• The eighth annual Salute from the Shore military flyover will take place between 1-1:30 p.m. on July 4. This tribute to America’s armed forces and their families will feature F-16s and vintage aircraft. Participants are asked to display red, white and blue as they view the flyover. The flyover begins at the N.C. border and should be visible from any spot on the beach.
• The Garden City Beach Golf Cart Parade begins at 2 p.m. July 4. Carts will wind their way down Calhoun Drive to Waccamaw Drive
Sheriff issues warning about credit card skimming devices

Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb is cautioning people who use credit or debit cards at self-service terminals, such as gas pumps and ATMs, to be on guard against a device thieves are using to steal their information: a credit card skimmer.

The skimmer is a false credit card portal attached to the front or on top of the legitimate scanner and records data from cards’ magnetic strips as they are inserted during transactions.

“Dozens of the devices have been found in Horry and Charleston counties during the past month, so it stands to reason we should expect to see them soon,” said Hank Carrison, an investigator with the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office. “When fueling vehicles at gas stations, please take a moment to examine the credit card reader on your pump.”

Members of the public can protect themselves by being observant, he added. Compare the credit card reader on a gas pump to the ones at other pumps. Are there any differences — shape, size, flashing LEDs or other features? Does any part of the reader wiggle if touched, as if it is not securely attached or an integral part of the machine? Also whenever possible, if your card is equipped with an EMV (microchip), use it instead of swiping the magnetic strip if the retailer provides that option.

Some skimmers use a miniature camera to record users typing in personal identification numbers. Some skimmers will even go so far as to place a secondary keypad over the actual keypad. The secondary keypad captures the victim’s PIN and records it while passing the input to the real keypad.

Most skimming devices are designed to be temporarily affixed to an ATM or gas pump so they can be easily retrieved by thieves once they’ve collected card data. When paying at the pump with a debit/credit card, customers usually have the option to process payments as a credit or debit. It’s best to choose the credit option, which allows customers to avoid entering a PIN in sight of a card skimmer camera, Carrison said. “When you use it as a credit card you usually enter your billing ZIP code as verification which is much safer than putting in your PIN.”

If you suspect that you might have had your card skimmed, monitor your account balance and report any suspicious activity immediately.

Phone scam: The Sheriff’s Office is also warning residents about a recent phone scam that attempts to collect money and financial information by falsely using the name of the S.C. Sheriff’s Association. The association does not solicit donations via telephone. It’s membership program is conducted exclusively through direct mail. If you have any concerns that a phone call you have received may be a scam, report it to law enforcement and do not give the caller money or personal information.

Georgetown County is home to many special places. We want to see your favorite. Whether it’s a popular spot or someplace only a select few see the beauty in, we’re seeking photos of your favorite spot for our latest photo contest. The only requirement is they be located within Georgetown County and include a short paragraph explaining why you love the place pictured in your entry. Please also include a phone number where we can reach you in case you are selected as a winner.

**Deadline for entries is July 15, 2017.**

Send entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org. Details and contest rules at www.gtcounty.org.

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
Six months into her new job as Georgetown County Probate Judge, Leigh Powers Boan said she couldn’t have asked for a smoother transition.

“It has been great, which speaks volumes for Judge Maring and the staff here. They’re just phenomenal,” Boan said recently from her new office on the first floor of the Georgetown County Judicial Center on Cleland Street. “They made me feel welcome from day one and I was able to just move right into the role.”

Judge Waldo Maring is Boan’s predecessor, who retired at the end of last year following 36 years in office. When Maring announced he would not seek re-election in 2016, he left the field wide open and Boan said she knew it was something she wanted to pursue. She faced opposition in the primary election in 2016, but officially won the office in November and started work in January.

“I’ve tried to use this first six months as an opportunity to observe how things are done,” Boan said. “I want to get a good understanding of how things work before I jump in and start making changes. If it’s not broken, trying to fix it could create more problems. Once I’ve got a good understanding of how everything is working, I hope to use my perspective to see if there are ways I can improve upon things.”

A native of Georgetown’s Maryville community, Boan has been practicing law since 2000 and most recently worked for the McNair Law Firm in Pawleys Island. Prior to attending law school at the University of South Carolina, she lived and worked in Washington, D.C., and Atlanta. She also spent a semester in Germany, but said she eventually realized there was no place like home and couldn’t get back fast enough.

“I decided this was a pretty great place and I wanted to raise my children here, around family,” she said. She and her husband of 11 years, Jason, have three small children: Presleigh, 8; Ellerby, 5; and Jason “Buck,” 3. Boan is the daughter of Ann and the late Jackie Powers. She is the baby of four children and said she loves being so close to family and her roots.

“All my siblings live here. My mom still lives in the house I grew up in and my sister is right next door. I’m the long distance child living in Pawleys Island. We all get together every Monday and I love that my children will grow up with that.”

In some ways, Boan said coming to work at the Judicial Center was also a homecoming. She actually got her start in law working as a law clerk for then Judge Paula Thomas. That was when judicial offices were still housed in the old courthouse on Screven Street, but some of the people she worked with are still employed with the county.

“It was nice to be able to see some friendly faces and have connections here,” she said. “That also certainly helped in the transition and in making me feel at home.”

Though she’s still finding her feet to some extent, Boan said she is already finding her new position to be very fulfilling.

“I see a lot of opportunities in this office to help people and educate people, especially on the issues facing our aging population,” Boan explained. “There is a real need for people to be informed about the importance of planning in advance for what is going to happen after you’re gone. That’s something a lot of people are reluctant to talk about, but these are conversations that need to happen. A lot of people wait until it’s too late to start planning, and they may no longer have good clarity of thought; they’re not in a position to make those kinds of decisions anymore, so it’s up to the court to make decisions that should have been theirs.”

One of Boan’s main goals in office will be getting that message out and encouraging people to outline their wishes while they’re still able to do so. That also makes it easier for surviving family members, she said.

In addition to being dedicated to her job and her family, Boan is an active member of Prince George Church, where she works with the children’s committee and women’s ministry. She is a former actor and current fan of the Swamp Fox Players, and said she loves to travel, read and meet new people. She describes herself as lighthearted and someone who loves to laugh, which will help keep her balanced in a job that will often see her helping people through some of the hardest times in their lives.

Probate Judge Leigh Powers Boan is pictured in her office, where Lady Justice sits on the corner of her desk and a drawing from one of her children graces the lampshade.

2017 Summer Program Guides are now available!

Learn about all the exciting recreational activities we have to offer. Pick up your summer guide at a Georgetown County Parks and Recreation facility, or download one online at www.gtcparks.org.
Residents encouraged to prepare for hurricane season

Forecasters are calling for a busier than normal Atlantic hurricane season this year and Georgetown County Emergency Management is encouraging residents to start getting ready now.

The season started on June 1 and though the peak of the season usually doesn’t start until August or September, people shouldn’t wait until the last minute to prepare, said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County Emergency Manager.

What every family should do now:
• Know your evacuation zone and review the local hurricane evacuation route(s), so you’re ready if an evacuation order is issued. Have a plan for where to go. If you have pets, remember they are not allowed in American Red Cross shelters. Many hotels allow pets – go to petswelcome.com for more information.
• Put together a disaster supply kit including non-perishable food, water, a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies and copies of your critical information in case you need to evacuate. Make sure to include your pets’ supplies in your kit.
• If you are not in an area that is ordered to evacuate and you decide to stay in your home, plan for enough supplies in case you lose power and water for several days and you are not able to leave due to flooding or blocked roads.
• Make a family emergency communication plan so relatives know how to check on you. Remember, phone systems may be overloaded. Consider designating an out of area point of contact.
• Go to gtcounty.org and sign up for phone, text and/or email alerts.

Preparing Your Home
• Hurricane winds can cause trees and branches to fall, so trim or remove damaged trees and limbs to keep you and your property safe.
• Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts, and clear any clogged areas or debris to prevent water damage to your property.
• Reduce property damage by retrofitting to secure and reinforce the roof, windows, and doors, including the garage door.
• Purchase a portable generator or install a generator for use during power outages. Remember to keep generators and other alternate power/heat sources outside, at least 20 feet away from windows and doors and protected from moisture; and NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging a generator into a wall outlet.

S.C. Gov. Henry McMaster visited Georgetown County June 2 to meet with county officials about hurricane preparedness issues.

Residents are invited to submit artwork celebrating the total eclipse coming here on August 21st!

Georgetown County kids ages 5—18 are invited to submit artwork celebrating the total eclipse coming here on August 21st!

Artwork can be any format including 3D
Submissions are due by July 16th at the Georgetown, Waccamaw, Andrews or Carvers Bay Libraries.
Winners will be announced August 1st and the entries will be on display until the eclipse.
First place winner in 3 age categories will receive $25! (5-8, 9-12, 13-18)
All entrants will get a free, special prize!
For more information, email hpelham@gtcounty.org

Register online now!

Sept. 23 and 24 in Georgetown

The Inshore Fishing Association Redfish and Kayak tours

Atlantic Qualifying Events
Registration fee is $250 per team for the Redfish Tour and $50 for the Kayak Tour. Events offer 100% payback. Redfish Tour boat launch and weigh-in at the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex, 101 River Walk Drive.

For information and registration, visit www.ifatours.com
Fourth of July Events
Continued from Front Page

and up Woodland Drive. Line up starts at 1 p.m. behind Willards Fireworks. Spectators should expect to get wet. For more information and updates, visit the parade’s Facebook page, facebook.com/gardencitygolfcartparade.

• The high tide on Independence Day will usher in the 34th annual Murrells Inlet Boat Parade, beginning at 4 p.m. This patriotic display leaves from Garden City Point and heads south down the Murrells Inlet shoreline to Morse Park. The annual Marsh Walk fireworks show will be on July 4 as usual, beginning at 10 p.m.

• A Pawleys Island Fourth of July Musical Celebration will take place from 6-8 p.m. at Precious Blood of Christ Family Life Center on Waverly Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. This event features the Pawleys Island Concert Band. The event is free. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Call (843) 235-9931 for details.

• The Indigo Choral Society will have its 21st annual Fourth of July concert on the Kaminski House Museum lawn at 7 p.m. The museum is located on Front Street in Georgetown. The event is free and everyone is welcome. Highlights of the concert will include a Color Guard and songs from the Americana genre with a salute to our Armed Forces. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and picnic baskets.

• The City of Georgetown will present its annual Fireworks display from East Bay Park at 9 p.m. July 4. The Harborwalk and other areas along the Sampit River make great viewing locations.

• MarshWalk restaurants will light up the sky at 10 p.m. with a 20-minute fireworks display conducted from Veterans Pier. Arrive early to snag a good spot. A community clean-up will take place the following day to help rid of parade and fireworks debris in the inlet following the festivities.

Fireworks
Continued from Front Page

the Murrells Inlet Marshwalk will host free public fireworks displays on the night of July 4th. Fireworks are banned in the Town of Pawleys Island and along much of the beachfront in Litchfield.

For those who choose to have private fireworks displays, officials at our local fire and rescue departments ask that residents adhere to the following simple fireworks safety tips to ensure summer activities stay fun and festive:

• Never let children under the age of 16 handle, play with, or light any fireworks. A celebration can quickly turn tragic if a child is injured.

• Use fireworks outside only — never indoors or in a garage. Use a clear, open area and keep your audience a safe distance from the site where fireworks will be ignited.

• Never aim, point, or throw fireworks at people, vehicles or buildings.

• Do not discharge fireworks from any vehicle.

Special Note: South Carolina Resident Fire Marshals have determined that Kongming Lanterns (i.e. sky lanterns, Chinese lanterns, sky candles, fire balloons) present a serious fire and safety hazard when released into the sky. As a result, these devices are banned from use unless they are securely anchored or tethered.

For more information about fireworks safety or to determine if the use of fireworks is allowable in your area; please contact your local fire department.

Microsoft Publisher Class

Wednesday, July 19
10:30—11:30 a.m.

405 Cleland Street, Georgetown
Questions? Call (843) 545-3327

Georgetown Library:
July 10—13
10:30—12:30
For questions or sign-up, call (843) 545-3327
Melvin Bromell of Plantersville and Charlene Smith of North Santee were crowned King and Queen last month, when Georgetown County’s Bureau of Aging Services hosted a “Senior Prom” for attendees of its senior citizens centers across the county. Seniors danced the morning away, enjoyed lunch and generally had a good time at the event. For more information about services and programs the county offers for senior citizens, call the Bureau of Aging Services at (843) 545-3185.

Interview skills workshop, POV screening among upcoming library programs

Georgetown County residents will learn job interview skills in a free workshop coming up at the Georgetown Library on July 5, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The library is located at 405 Cleland Street. For information about the workshop, titled “Getting the Job,” call (843) 545-3327.

On July 12, 19 and 26, the Waccamaw Library will host free public viewings of the popular PBS series, “POV.” The cinema term for “point of view,” “POV” is TV’s longest running showcase for independent non-fiction films. Since 1988, “POV” has presented more than 300 of the best, boldest and most innovative documentaries to audiences across the country.

Each showing begins at 4:30 p.m. at the library auditorium, located at 41 St. Paul Place. The schedule is as follows:

July 12 — “4.1 miles,” the Oscar nominated film following a captain in the Greek Coast Guard caught in the middle of a refugee crisis.
July 19 — “Last Men in Aleppo,” about the remaining citizens of Aleppo preparing for siege after five years of war in Syria.
July 26 — “Joe’s Violin,” the Oscar-nominated film about an improbable friendship forged by a donated musical instrument.

For information, call (843) 545-3623.

Howard Recreation Center will be closed on July 4th and July 5th, but join us Thursday, July 6 for a very special Free Patriotic Movie

The show starts at 10 a.m. in Howard Auditorium (1610 Hawkins St.) All ages welcome. Refreshments will be available for purchase.
Sheriff’s Office Honors

Two members of the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office and one member of the Public Works Department who assisted the Office, recently received awards in separate ceremonies.

Deputy Lance Stone was named Deputy of the Quarter on June 21 for his outstanding work.

Caitlin Elliott, a victim advocate, received an award from the South Strand Optimist Club for her commitment to the lives of youth in the community. In her work for the Sheriff’s Office for the last two years, she has worked to help create a calm and safe environment for children at crime scenes, utilizing resources donated by groups, including the Optimists.

Harold West of Georgetown County Public Works was recognized at the Sheriff’s Office by agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for his assistance to the Sheriff’s Office on a project. Mike Connelly, supervisor of the FBI’s office in Myrtle Beach, and Jeff Long, an FBI case agent presented West with a certificate of appreciation and a coin symbolic of membership in the law enforcement team at the Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Lane Cribb and Assistant Sheriff Carter Weaver participated in the presentation.

Airport hosts American Public Works group

The Georgetown County Airport and the Public Services Department, which is in charge of the airport, recently had the honor of hosting the Lowcountry Branch of the S.C. Chapter of the American Public Works Association. The group had its board meeting in one of the airport conference rooms. The county and its aviation partners continue to move forward with long-range plans for the airport and its improvement. The group met in late June to finalize a draft of the plan. Look for more details on that in next month’s newsletter.

Pickleball Open Court

FREE and Open to Ages 18+

Two Locations:

Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
10am-12pm Mon-Sat
12pm-1pm Sun

Georgetown Recreation Center
10am-12pm Mon-Sat
1pm-2pm Fri

Call (843) 545-4275 For Details

No Experience Necessary!
Come Join The Fun!

@GCSPlaces
PI Kiwanis club makes donation to library

The Pawleys Island Kiwanis Club recently donated a collection of history books to the Waccamaw Library as part of its Literacy Project. Additionally, the club delivered books to Sampit Elementary School. The club consistently partners with Georgetown County on community projects and programs and we are grateful for their dedication to the community.

Waccamaw Library’s annual summer book sale starts July 6

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library will host their 27th annual summer book sale the week of Independence Day. This perennially-popular event draws book lovers from near and far, with some families reporting they plan their summer vacation around it.

The book sale will open as always with a members-only event, set for Thursday, July 6, from 6-8 p.m. There will be special pricing that evening. Those who would like to renew or get a new membership will be able to do so at the door. Individual memberships are $15 and family memberships are $25.

The sale will be open to the general public on Friday, July 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, July 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. All patrons are asked to bring their own bags for books.

This huge summer sale will take place in the Debordieu Colony Auditorium at the Waccamaw Branch Library at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island. A range of books at bargain prices will be available, including paperbacks, hardbacks, books by local authors, cookbooks, coffee table books, children’s books and more.

All proceeds from the sale go to purchase books and computers for the library and to support children’s programming at the library.

Georgetown County Farmers Market

Find fresh produce, baked goods and more!

Saturdays through October 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at 122 Screven St.
in historic Georgetown

Blood Drive

Wednesday, July 26
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Beck Recreation Center,
2030 Church St., Georgetown

Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org. Use the sponsor lookup code GeoCounty.
Hello, veterans, and happy Independence Day! As you celebrate the July 4th holiday, please remember to be safe as you are shooting off fireworks and grilling at the cookout. Please remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us to be free and independent.

Veterans, do you have a copy of your DD FM 214? This is a very important document. To file or to seek eligibility for any type of benefits, you must have a copy of your DD FM 214. Please also show your spouses this document and where you keep it in case your spouse has to file for any type of benefits.

If you do not have a copy of your DD FM 214, please check with our office to see if we have one on file. If not, we will require you to sign a Standard Form 180 where you keep it in case your spouse has to file for any type of benefits.

To request mosquito control service in your area, leave a message at (843) 545-3616.

Fight the Bite

To request mosquito control service in your area, leave a message at (843) 545-3616.

Protect yourself:
- Wear light-colored clothing. Mosquitoes are attracted to darker colors.
- Spray yourself and children with repellant.
- Wear long sleeves and pants if possible.

Reduce breeding sites:
- Drain or eliminate sites that have standing water.
- Reduce and eliminate garbage in drain areas.
- Be sure to repair window and door screens.

News from our Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

Hello, veterans, and happy Independence Day! As you celebrate the July 4th holiday, please remember to be safe as you are shooting off fireworks and grilling at the cookout. Please remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us to be free and independent.

Veterans, do you have a copy of your DD FM 214? This is a very important document. To file or to seek eligibility for any type of benefits, you must have a copy of your DD FM 214. Please also show your spouses this document and where you keep it in case your spouse has to file for any type of benefits.

If you do not have a copy of your DD FM 214, please check with our office to see if we have one on file. If not, we will require you to sign a Standard Form 180 where you keep it in case your spouse has to file for any type of benefits.

If you do not have a copy of your DD FM 214, please check with our office to see if we have one on file. If not, we will require you to sign a Standard Form 180 to send to the National Personnel Center in St. Louis. We have had some veterans come to our office inquiring about non-compensation. I want to share with you the eligibility requirements for non-compensation. These are for those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for us to be free and independent.

Veterans, do you have a copy of your DD FM 214? This is a very important document. To file or to seek eligibility for any type of benefits, you must have a copy of your DD FM 214. Please also show your spouses this document and where you keep it in case your spouse has to file for any type of benefits.

If you do not have a copy of your DD FM 214, please check with our office to see if we have one on file. If not, we will require you to sign a Standard Form 180 where you keep it in case your spouse has to file for any type of benefits.

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.gtcounty.org. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.
Active at every age

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has a range of summer activities under way for residents (and visitors) of all ages. As seen below and at right, our adult co-ed softball and soccer leagues are in the midst of their seasons and still need pick-up players to act as subs when there are absences on teams. For youth, baseball and softball All Star teams have been participating in tournament play. A variety of tennis programs are taking place. Youth and teen summer basketball leagues are playing at Howard gym through July 20. Summer camps, including soccer camp (July 10-13), British soccer camp (July 17-21) and football camp (July 15 and 22) are coming up. A football skills and drills camp is July 24 - Aug. 3 in all regions. For more information about current and future programs, visit gtcparks.org or call (843) 545-3275.

Paving
Continued from Front Page

City of Georgetown’s historic District, in mid-July, said Kit Scott, resident construction engineer for the S.C. Department of Transportation’s office in Georgetown.

SCDOT is working closely with the county on the projects. However, dates for completion of specific roadways within the plan are not available, as the order in which roads are completed is up to the contractor. Contractors are allowed to complete paving in the order they deem most efficient, as long as the full project list is completed by the deadline — June 30 of next year. A list of all roads included in the Capital Project Sales Tax plan, along with their completion status, is available at www.gtcounty.org.