The Georgetown County Chronicle

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Community partnerships improving public land throughout county

A new picnic shelter at the county’s athletic field complex in Choppee is now complete and open to the public, thanks to the determination of members of the Choppee School alumni. A dedication ceremony for the shelter will take place on Oct. 25 at 10:30 a.m.

The project, which cost more than $13,000, is part of what seems to be a growing trend in Georgetown County: Partnerships formed between community groups and county government to make enhancements to parks and other public areas. Including the picnic shelter project, three such partnerships have produced improvements at parks in the county already this year, and a fourth project is in the works with a projected 2015 completion date. It’s a trend Beth Goodale, the county’s parks and recreation director, said she wants to encourage and hopes to see continue in the future.

“T’ve been very impressed by how dedicated these groups are. They really take these projects and run with them, and the end result is something an

Free workshop for homebuyers set for Oct. 18; registration open

Registration is open for a free one-day workshop that will provide valuable resources for people interested in purchasing their first home. Co-sponsored by Georgetown County, in partnership with the SC Community Loan Fund and the Charleston Trident Urban League, the workshop will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Bunnelle Center in Pawleys Island. Lunch will be provided.

Participants in the workshop will receive information on the steps involved in purchasing a home, from strengthening credit to moving in. Information will also be presented on the effect of credit scores on the home buying process, budgeting, working with realtors, home inspections, moving preparations and closing.

Those who complete the course will receive a certificate that may allow them to qualify for subsidies including down payment and clos-

Oct. 4 is voter registration deadline

This Saturday, Oct. 4, is the last day to register to vote in time for the November general election.

In order to help ensure anyone who wants to register has the opportunity to do so, the Georgetown County Office of Voter Registration and Elections will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 4 to accept registrations.

The office is located at 303 N. Hazard St. in Georgetown. Voter registration forms can be picked up and turned in there, or the forms can be downloaded online at www.scvotes.org. That website is also where vot-

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Local startup incubator accepts first class of entrepreneurs

Startup.SC, a nonprofit startup incubator based in Lexington, has selected five companies to participate in its first cohort.

To be selected, the companies must be web- and technology-based businesses with ability to scale to $10 million over the next five years.

“This first cohort is a phenomenal representation of what we want to nurture in Georgetown County,” said Brian Tucker, Georgetown County’s director of economic development. “The ideas behind these businesses solve traditional market demands by leveraging technology and innovation. I have gotten to know these CEOs over the past months and I am very excited to see these businesses bloom into huge successes.”

Out of 21 applicants, five entrepreneurs were selected: Barb Royal, CEO and co-founder of KidsCanGiveToo.com; Ray Antonino, founder of FieldVine; Graham Ladd, founder of GeoTraks; Jerry Harrison, founder and CEO of LunaDesk; and Peter Gasca, founder of Yumbev.

Following is a description of each of the five companies:

- **FieldVine** provides online productivity tools that enable small and mid-size service companies to view in real-time the status of all projects, and collaborate with clients, customers and trade partners without the need for time consuming phone calls and searching emails.
- **KidsCanGiveToo.com LLC** is an online birthday party management service that makes it easy for kids to share their birthday gifts with charities. Custom email invitations explain to guests not to bring a wrapped gift, but instead RSVP and make a donation to your child’s secure online account.
- **LunaDesk** is an online employee-management platform for small to mid-sized businesses. LunaDesk’s intelligent communication platform and incredibly simple interface reduces employee absenteeism, saves time scheduling and training employees, increases customer satisfaction, and saves businesses money.
- **Yumbev** wants to more effectively change people’s tastes and preferences for craft beer by developing a family of microbreweries that appeal to a broader set of consumers. The ultimate goal is to do for craft beer what Starbucks has done for coffee.
- **GeoTraks** is a mobile app scavenger hunt that offers a fun way to discover or rediscover a city, while simultaneously driving foot traffic into brick and mortar businesses.

Over the next 10 weeks, Startup.SC will provide the selected entrepreneurs with mentorship, guidance and resources to help them take their ideas to the next level.

Support for entrepreneurs will include educating them on choosing co-founders, creating pitch decks, finding investors, taking on investment, and providing a platform to launch their businesses.

“We were impressed with the first round of applicants and are excited at the potential of our current cohort,” said Ryan Smith, executive director of Startup.SC.

For anyone interested in contributing to economic development through Startup.SC or submitting an idea for a business, visit [www.startup.sc](http://www.startup.sc).
Public meetings to address updates to county’s stormwater ordinance

Georgetown County was recently issued an updated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The permit, which is updated every five years, sets out new requirements for the county that will necessitate a corresponding update of local stormwater ordinances.

The county will have two public meetings in October to explain the mandated updates to the county’s stormwater management ordinance. All members of the public are welcome to attend these informative sessions. The required updates to the ordinance will primarily affect developers, contractors, engineers and those involved in land disturbance activities.

Meetings will take place:
- **Thursday, Oct. 2,** at 5:30 p.m. in County Council Chambers, located in the historic courthouse, 129 Screven St., Georgetown.
- **Monday, Oct. 6,** at 10 a.m. at the Murrells Inlet Community Center, 4450 Murrells Inlet Rd., Murrells Inlet.

A draft of the updated stormwater ordinance is available at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org) and at each of the county’s four library branches. For more information, contact the Georgetown County Stormwater Division, (843) 545-3524.

Updated mitigation plan helps county, municipalities better prepare for disasters

With the recent federal approval of its updated local hazard mitigation plan, Georgetown County has a plan in place for just about anything, from hurricanes to sinkholes.

The plan is a long-term strategy to reduce the community’s vulnerability to disasters and covers unincorporated areas of Georgetown county, as well as the City of Georgetown and the Towns of Andrews and Pawleys Island. Adopted plans identify hazards and potential hazards in communities, and create a framework to help community officials make decisions that ultimately protect lives and property.

The plan also outlines a strategy for implementing mitigation projects. Throughout such projects, Georgetown County is taking proactive steps to lessen the impact of future disasters and the costly expenses associated with them. History shows that the physical, financial and emotional losses caused by disasters can be reduced significantly through hazard mitigation planning.

The planning process encourages communities to integrate mitigation with day-to-day decision making regarding land use planning, floodplain management, site design and other activities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency reviews and approves state, tribal and local hazard mitigation plans, which are required as a condition for states and communities to receive certain types of disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. Local mitigation plans must be updated and approved every five years.

The most significant changes in this year’s plan included the addition of sinkholes and sea level rise as hazards that pose a threat within Georgetown County.

Learn more about the proposed Capital Project Sales Tax!

On Election Day 2014, Georgetown County voters will be asked to decide on a proposed 1-cent sales tax to help fund:

1. Dredging
2. Road Improvements
3. Fire and Rescue Service Enhancements

Be prepared when you go to the polls!

Learn more about the proposed Capital Project Sales Tax at one of the following community meetings. All meetings begin at 6 p.m. Visit [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org) for more information.

- **Oct. 20 — Waccamaw High School**
- **Oct. 23 — Andrews High School**
- **Oct. 21 — Georgetown High School**
- **TBA — Carvers Bay High School**
TRICK-OR-TREAT!
Halloween event for kids returns to county judicial center

The fifth annual Fall Festival hosted by the Georgetown County Judicial Center and Clerk of Court Alma White is set for 4-6 p.m. this Halloween in the center’s plaza, 401 Cleland St. Georgetown.

The event is for elementary school-age children, and will provide a safe and controlled environment for children to show off their costumes and collect candy while picking up some valuable safety information, said White.

As in years past, a number of offices and agencies will set up booths in the area with activities, treats and educational information for kids. Local businesses and organizations are invited to participate. For information call (843) 545-3036.

Trick-or-treaters pick up candy at last year’s event.

Voters
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Voters can download sample ballots and find the answers to frequently asked questions.

Donna Mahn, the county’s director of voter registration and elections, advises all voters to familiarize themselves with the ballot, candidates and Election Day protocol before heading to the polls. Doing so can make the process a much smoother one, she said. A list of polling locations in Georgetown County can be found on the office’s website at www.gtcounty.org/elections. Voters who are already registered can also use that site to request absentee ballots or check their registration information. Anyone who has changed their address since the last time they voted should update their registration information before heading to the polls. Waiting until the last minute could cause significant delays when signing in at the polls and, in some cases, could lead to voters reporting to the wrong polling location and being redirected.

For those who would like to cast absentee ballots, in-person absentee voting will begin Oct. 6. The Georgetown County Office of Voter Registration and Elections will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office will also be open on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for in-person absentee voting. Mahn said more than 400 requests for absentee ballots have already been received in Georgetown County.

Anyone with questions about registration, absentee voting or Election Day protocol should contact the Georgetown County Office of Elections and Voter registration, (843) 545-3339.

Georgetown Library
Friday, Oct. 3
Money and Your Legal Rights

Carvers Bay Library
Monday, Oct. 6
Topic to be announced

Andrews Library
Wednesday, Oct. 8
Investment 101

All sessions are noon to 1 p.m.

For more information, call (843) 545-3327
entire community can benefit from,” Goodale said. “That kind of investment from the public is really a blessing and, I think, shows how much these parks are valued in the communities they were built to serve.”

In addition to the picnic shelter in Choppee, the Pawleys Island Rotary Club recently purchased and installed exercise stations along a walking path at the Stables Park field complex in Litchfield and regulars at the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center on the other side of Stables Park recently built and installed shade shelters for tennis courts. Also at the Stables Field Complex, the Pawleys Island Kiwanis Club is raising money to create a playground for toddlers. A groundbreaking ceremony for that project took place on Sept. 30.

The picnic shelter in Choppee houses a sign paying tribute to the Choppee School Class of 1959, and it was that sign that inspired the project, said Curtis Gamble, a member of the class of ’59. The sign is a replication of one that was originally put up by the class of 1960 to honor those who graduated before them. Gamble initially contacted the county about repairing the sign and finding a fitting place for it in the community. At the time, the park was still in the planning stages, so it took a while before a location for the project could be confirmed. As it turned out, the original sign was too deteriorated to repair, so the alumni group changed its plans slightly, creating a new sign to go under the shelter instead. Gamble and Jerome Palmer, another alumnus, contributed their brick masonry skills to the project. Many alumni from various graduating classes made monetary contributions.

“A lot of the total we collected $5 and $10 at the time. A few made larger gifts. People gave what they could and were very supportive,” Gamble said.

As one of the fundraisers, bricks from the old sign were sold as memorabilia. The Parks and Recreation Department contributed the land and a concrete pad for the project. The shelter is located near the concession stand at the field complex and holds two benches overlooking multipurpose fields.

“We’re quite pleased with how it came together,” Gamble said. So are county officials and staff, including Goodale.

“The request to preserve this sign grew into a wonderful partnership,” Goodale said. “I look forward to the partnership here resulting in other wonderful opportunities at the campus, as well as serving as a wonderful example of the power of partnership across the county.”

All of the groups that have worked with the county to enhance and improve public parks have been a blessing, Goodale said and she is excited to see what the future holds for any continuation of those partnerships, and for the formation of new partnerships.

The playground project sponsored by the Kiwanis Club has a $25,000 goal and about 60 percent of that has been raised so far. The club welcomes contributions to the project. Read more about that in last month’s issue of the Georgetown County Chronicle at www.gtcounty.org/newsletters.

For more information about these community partnerships or how to form a new community partnership, contact Jackie Broach at (843) 545-3164 or jbroach@gtcounty.org.
Is your family earthquake-ready?
Sign up now for ‘ShakeOut’

On Oct. 16 at exactly 10:16 a.m., Georgetown County will take part in the Great Southeast ShakeOut. It’s the largest earthquake drill in the U.S., and Georgetown County Emergency Management is encouraging families and businesses to participate as well.

“Recent events have reminded us that damaging earthquakes can happen when we least expect them, causing widespread damage and disruption,” said Sam Hodge, the county’s emergency manager. “The 6.0 magnitude earthquake near Napa, Ca., this August is a perfect example, with an estimated $500 million to $1 billion in insured losses. South Carolina experienced a 4.1 magnitude earthquake in February that was felt throughout the state and parts of the Southeast. Recovery from a 5.8 magnitude earthquake in Virginia in 2011 is still going on three years later.”

The ShakeOut is similar to other emergency preparedness drills sponsored in South Carolina. The signal to begin the drill will be broadcast at 10:16 a.m. on NOAA tone-alert weather radio and broadcast media. Once the signal is broadcast, all participants should “drop, cover, and hold on” as if there were a major earthquake occurring. Participants should stay in that position for at least 60 seconds. Earthquakes occur with no warning, leaving only seconds to seek protection, so it’s important for people to have a plan and know exactly what to do should an earthquake occur, Hodge said. Contrary to popular belief, standing in a doorway is not an earthquake-safe plan.

To sign up to participate in the Great Southeast ShakeOut, visit shakeout.org/southeast. Resources to help with earthquake planning are available for download on the ShakeOut site and at scemd.org

“We don’t know when the next damaging earthquake will strike, but we can act now to get prepared,” Hodge said. “This drill offers members of the community an opportunity to set aside time to think about how they will respond to an earthquake.”

Earthquake guides available

The “South Carolina Earthquake Guide” is available for the first time statewide via the Senior P.R.E.P. section at every Walgreens store in the state. The guide is the first publication that details S.C.-specific information on what citizens should do before, during and after a major earthquake. The S.C. Emergency Management Division is a partner with the lieutenant governor’s Office on Aging and Walgreens to sponsor the Senior P.R.E.P. (Planning Resources for Emergency Preparedness) program.

Senior P.R.E.P highlights a different type of S.C. hazard each month to offer preparedness tips.

South Carolina has been recognized by the U.S. Geological Survey as one of the most seismically active states in the country. Since February 2013, there have been 24 low-magnitude earthquakes recorded in the state. The largest earthquake ever recorded on the East Coast had a 7.3 magnitude and its epicenter was in Summerville on Aug. 31, 1886. The guide also available for download at www.scemd.org.

Homebuyers
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Participants must complete all eight hours of training to receive certification.

Registration is available online at www.gtcounty.org or by calling the SC Community Loan Fund at (843) 973-7285.

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.
Employees of the Georgetown County Public Services Department had the opportunity to participate in a two-day motor-grader operators training session in September. While many of the students already had experience operating this type of heavy machinery, even those who have been on the job for years said they learned some new tricks and found the course to be a valuable one.

"You can always learn something when it comes to heavy equipment," said John Green, who has been a heavy equipment operator for the county for 13 years.

Green was one of the students in the class and said the training, offered through the Clemson Extension Service, was an excellent resource for those at his level, as well as some of the staff who were new to motor-grader operation.

The first day of the session was spent in the classroom, while Day 2 focused on hands-on training in the field. Participants received information about soil types, drainage and how those things relate to various aspects of the grading process.

"I think we all feel better prepared now," Green said. For his part he learned some alternative ways to do things that would allow him to work more efficiently. He also learned new uses for motor-graders. Motor-graders are used to maintain dirt and gravel roads throughout the county. Other types of heavy equipment are generally employed for other operations, such as ditch work, but Green said he learned that a motor-grader could be used for ditches too if there was a need.

"There are a lot of things we can do with that piece of equipment," he said.

This kind of periodic training makes county staff more efficient and allows more to be accomplished with existing resources, Green added.
A dedication ceremony for a new trail on the Sandy Island Preserve took place on Sept. 18 and featured remarks from Ray Funnye, above, Georgetown County’s director of public services. The Larry Paul Hiking Trail covers about two miles of the preserve, which is owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy. “I had the privilege of walking the trail and can say that it speaks true to the spirit of Sandy Island,” Funnye said. “It assists in preserving the environmental resources of Sandy Island and, in turn, those of Georgetown County.” He said the trail will also promote tourism and economic growth.

Workshop for Gullah Geechee artists to take place at Georgetown Library

The S.C. Arts Commission, in partnership with local libraries, will present a series of professional development workshops called “Promoting your Gullah Geechee Art Form,” at Lowcountry libraries, including the Georgetown Library. The workshops are offered for free. Space is limited to the first 30 registrants.

The workshop in Georgetown will be Monday, Nov. 10, from 6-9 p.m. To register, artists should email sduplessis@arts.sc.gov or call (803) 734-8693 and provide their name, art form and contact information.

The goal of the series of workshops is to give artists the tools to create basic support materials necessary for promotion of their art through a variety of mediums. “It is especially designed for Gullah Geechee residents who practice or represent one or more of the cultural expressions outlined in the Gullah Geechee Corridor’s management plan,” said Ken May, South Carolina Arts Commission executive director. Those areas include music, arts, handicrafts, foodways, spirituality, language, education and economic development. The development of these workshops began after a series of community arts meetings in 2013, where the Arts Commission, in partnership with the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, heard from more than 80 artists and community residents in the Corridor.

“Our ongoing goal is to make new relationships that bring new resources to people and create interest in the Corridor – both in the state and beyond,” May said. “This series of workshops for Gullah Geechee artists will hopefully provide a template for replication in the four-state corridor.” The other states in the Corridor are North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

A workshop tool place in Mt. Pleasant in September and a third is set for Nov. 17 at the St. Helena Island Library branch in Beaufort County. All workshops are led by Charleston native Kerri Forrest, award-winning journalist and owner of Social Creative Media Consulting. Other artists and local arts leaders will also participate.

Free Tai Chi lessons available for veterans

A “Tai Chi for Veterans” course will be offered for free to veterans living in Georgetown County. The course will take place on Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m at the Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Office, 537 Lafayette Circle, Georgetown.

This introductory course is taught by Dawud Hasan and is designed for veterans and their families. The aim of the program is to introduce veterans to the mind-body exercises of Tai Chi — one of the most popular exercises in the world, appealing to people of all ages, backgrounds and physical conditions.

The program will promote health and serenity, and will also provide a social opportunity for veterans. For information, call (843) 545-3330.
Sheriff, G-MEN recognized for aid to Family Justice Center

Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb, right, was recently presented an award from the Family Justice Center during a luncheon honoring G-MEN (Georgetown Men Endorsing Nonviolence). The G-MEN group was started by Cribb to raise money and awareness for the center, which aids victims of domestic violence. Cribb, pictured with Gillian Roy, the center’s board chairwoman, was thanked for his “outstanding and relentless efforts on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their children.”

Library to host free legal aid Workshops in Georgetown

Visitation actions and rights for victims of predatory lenders will be among the topics discussed in two upcoming legal help workshops at the Georgetown Library. The workshops are free and are conducted in conjunction with S.C. Legal Services, a statewide nonprofit that provides free legal services in a variety of civil legal matters to eligible low-income residents.

The first session will be a Visitation Clinic from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23. Attorneys will provide information about how members of the public can file their own visitation actions and how to represent themselves in court.

The second session will focus on predatory lending and will take place from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18. Attorneys will discuss scams, illegal lending practices and the rights of those who have been victimized by predatory lenders.

While workshops are free, advance registration is required. To sign up or for more information, contact S.C. Legal Services, (843) 381-8182. The library is located at 405 Cleland St. in the City of Georgetown’s historic district.

To find more upcoming programs offered through the Georgetown County library system, visit www.georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Saturday, Oct. 11
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at Palmetto Ace,
8317 S. Ocean Hwy.,
Pawleys Island

Please join Georgetown County Public Services, Midway Fire Rescue, Palmetto Ace and Habitat for Humanity in keeping pollutants out of our drainage system!

The following materials will be accepted:
Paint, oil, batteries (alkaline and rechargeable),
incandescent bulbs, household cleaners,
non-commercial pesticides and fertilizers.

The first 10 people to drop off 5 items receive a Free rain barrel!

For more information, call (843) 545-3524
Deputy Hank Betts of the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office is pictured with some of the prescription drugs residents dropped off at Midway Fire Rescue on Sept. 27. The Sheriff’s Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration sponsored a prescription drug takeback event to give residents an option for safely disposing of unwanted medications. It was the ninth event the agencies have hosted in the county over the last four years. Takeback events are intended to help prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

Elite Basketball Training Sessions

Two-week sessions for boys and girls in grades 9-12 at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center

Oct. 20-23 and 27-30
6:30 – 8 p.m. for girls
and 8-9:30 p.m. for boys

$150 per player, includes logo T-shirt
Sessions cover basketball fundamentals and team drills to get participants in top physical condition for the high school season!

Coach: Joe Harrington, former NBA coach for the Toronto Raptors, Division I NCAA assistant coach for the University of Maryland.

Call (843) 545-3333
or visit www.gtcounty.org

Public meetings offer info about proposed sales tax

A series of community meetings set for this month will offer details about a proposed Capital Project Sales Tax. County residents will vote on the tax in a referendum when they go to the polls on Election Day.

Meetings are tentatively scheduled at high schools in each of the four regions of the county as follows: Oct. 20, Waccamaw High School; Oct. 21, Georgetown High School; Oct. 23, Andrews High School; and a date is to be announced for the presentation at Carvers Bay High School.

Look for updates and more information about the proposed sales tax at www.gtcounty.org. The tax would fund dredging, enhancements to public safety service and road improvements. Call (843) 545-3164 for information.
Canoe/Kayak Day Trip

Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ages 16 and up — $15 per person
(16 and under must be accompanied by an adult)
Please bring your own water and snack.
We provide transportation and canoe if needed.

Call (843) 545-3333
or visit www.gtcounty.org

Strengthening, stretching, toning and core building!

$8 per class, ages 15 and up
Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.
at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
Instructor: Lisa Arnold
Call (843) 655-6734
or register online at gtcounty.org

The Georgetown County Bookmobile
will be at the Murrells Inlet Community Center
every other Thursday
from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Check out books or bring your driver’s license
with a Georgetown County address to apply for a library card!

SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 9-NOON
Featuring keynote speaker
JONATHAN GREEN
discussing youth, culture and health
at Choppee Health Complex, 8189 Choppee Rd.,
FREE ADMISSION
Pre-register August 11 – September 30 at 843.545.8723, Ext. 113