HHW collection event returns to Pawleys Island

Georgetown County Public Services will host its semi-annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Paper Shredding event in Pawleys Island on Oct. 28.

This event takes place every fall and spring, and grows more popular each year. The purpose is to make it easier for residents on the Waccamaw Neck to dispose of paint, chemicals and other toxic household items that require special disposal. These items normally have to be taken to the Landfill on Highway 51 in Georgetown for disposal. By making proper disposal easier, the department is seeing fewer people getting rid of such items improperly and is helping to keep dangerous chemicals from leeching into the ground and ending up in the water supply.

The Oct. 28 collection event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon at Palmetto Ace Home Center, 8317 S. Ocean Highway. Georgetown County will give away rain barrels to the first 10 people who bring in at least five qualifying household hazardous waste items. A pet waste disposal station will also be given away, along with other items.

The collection will take place in conjunction with Palmetto Ace’s Fall Festival, which will include face painting, pumpkin painting, games for kids, a bake sale and a pet adoption event with Saint Francis Animal Center. Midway Fire Rescue and Keep Georgetown Beautiful will also partner in these events.

Materials that will be accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Paper Shredding event will include: unwanted paint, used oils, auto batteries, rechargeable batteries, chemicals, antifreeze, noncommercial pesticides and fertilizers, and other unwanted products labeled “poison,” “warning” or “caution.” Residents should not bring waste from businesses, containers larger than five gallons, explosives, ammunition, radioactive waste or compressed gas cylinders.

For the paper shredding event, residents may bring old utility bills, bank statements, medical records, cancelled checks, old tax returns or any other document that needs to be permanently destroyed. A representative from Georgetown County, S.C., will offer the county a huge advantage as it works to lure new businesses.

“Having all these characteristics combined on one site is extremely rare,” Tucker said. “We don’t have an interstate and that limits us. We have to have something that sets us apart if we want to compete for jobs... We are at a crossroads in this county. We have the potential to do something phenomenal for the residents of this county, but we have to be bold.”

Residents along Pennyroyal Road object to the idea of bringing more heavy industrial projects to their neighborhood and encouraged Council to deny the rezoning request. Council approved second reading of the rezoning request, but required that prior to final reading, its Land Use and Tourism Committee would work with a
Public encouraged to participate in ‘ShakeOut’

On Oct. 19 at 10:19 a.m., people across the Southeastern U.S. will practice how to drop, cover and hold on. The idea is to make sure as many people as possible know what to do if our area is affected by an earthquake.

This large-scale drill is known as the “Great Southeast ShakeOut,” and all Georgetown County residents are encouraged to take just a few minutes and participate, wherever they may be.

“You could be anywhere when an earthquake strikes — at home, at work, at school, in your car, or even on vacation,” said Cindy Grace of Georgetown County Emergency Management. “We want you to be prepared to survive and recover as quickly as possible.”

On average, 10-15 earthquakes below a 3.0 magnitude occur per year in S.C. The largest earthquake to hit the Eastern U.S. happened near Charleston on Aug. 31, 1886. It had a magnitude of 7.3, caused major damage and claimed the lives of at least 110. An earthquake of that magnitude occurring in the same location today would affect the entire state, with the greatest destruction occurring within a 100-mile radius of the epicenter. There would be major damage to roads, bridges, buildings and more. Up to 2,600 people could be left homeless and over 21,000 homes could be without utilities.

To register to take part in the ShakeOut, visit https://www.shakeout.org/southeast/index.html.

Kiwanis Club donates stuffed animals to help comfort youngest victims

The Pawleys Island Kiwanis Club recently presented the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office with 600 stuffed animals, which will be used by deputies and victims’ advocates in comforting children affected by violence, accident or natural disaster. Pictured above, Sheriff’s Office Victims’ Advocates Alma Sierra, left, and Caitlin Elliott are pictured with the donation. They attended the club’s breakfast meeting and accepted the stuffed animals on behalf of the Sheriff’s Office.

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
Fire depts. urge residents to plan two ways out as part of fire prevention activities

Throughout the month of October, firefighters across Georgetown County will be encouraging residents to make sure they know and practice at least two escape routes from their homes. In cases of fire, that knowledge could mean the difference between life and death, firefighters said.

October is National Fire Prevention month and this year’s theme is “Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!” It’s a message that firefighters will be taking into school and communities as they talk to residents this month, and one that effectively serves to remind us that even though working smoke alarms save lives, we all must plan for our escape in case of a fire emergency.

The fire departments of Georgetown County are committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living, working and visiting in our county. As fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, outreach activities like those that take place during Fire Prevention Month are of the utmost importance, they said.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), home fires killed more than 2,685 people and injured more than 13,000 persons in the United States in 2015. In addition, fire departments in the United States responded to more than 501,000 structure fires resulting in more than $10.3 billion in property damage.

After creating an escape plan, residents should practice it as often as possible, according to firefighters. Young children should be taught how to escape on their own, know how to close doors behind them, and know they should never go back inside a burning building.

By working together, Georgetown County’s fire departments believe we can greatly reduce not only the occurrences of fire, but more importantly fire deaths and injuries.

For more information on fire prevention and fire safety, contact your local fire department or visit the US Fire Administration website at www.usfa.fema.gov.

Local fire department officials accept a resolution from Georgetown County Council that proclaims this October to be Fire Prevention Month in the county. From left are Georgetown County Fire/EMS Fire Marshal Jesse Cooper and Fire Inspector Harry Avant, County Council Vice Chairman Austin Beard, and Midway Fire Rescue DFLS Division Chief and Fire Marshal Todd Blomdahl.
Youth sports fall season under way; register now for winter sports

Fall is finally here, and Georgetown County Parks and Recreation’s youth sports leagues are taking full advantage of the cooler weather.

Visit any of the county’s numerous parks and recreation facilities on any given night, and you’re bound to see kids of all ages taking part in flag football, soccer, girls basketball clinics, and even tackle football.

“It’s so important to give our area youth a positive outlet, which is why we’re proud to offer these great programs,” said Beth Goodale, Parks and Recreation Department director. “We’re glad to see so many kids getting out, being active and taking advantage of these programs, as well as the many wonderful facilities the county has to offer.”

Flag football games take place at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday nights at Stables Park in Pawleys Island, as well as the Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown. Soccer games are played on Thursday nights at 5:45 p.m. at either Beck or the Andrews Recreation Center. Girls basketball clinics are on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7 p.m. at Beck.

Tackle football games are on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights as well as Saturday mornings at several sites across the county. The season will conclude with championship games on Saturday, Oct. 21 (sites to be determined).

If you missed out on our fall sports opportunities, don’t fret – registration for winter sports is open now! Winter youth basketball registration for ages 5-8 (co-ed) will close on Oct. 13, and registration for ages 9-17 (boys/girls) will close on Oct. 27. The fee for each league is $25 per child. Winter cheerleading registration will close on Oct. 27. The fee is $20 per child.

For more information regarding schedules for fall sports, or assistance with registration for winter sports, please call (843) 545-3275 or e-mail gtcponds@gtcounty.org. Information is also available at www.GTCParks.org, or @GTCParks on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
Free program aims to help residents with balance issues

Residents who have concerns about their balance and want to reduce the likelihood of experiencing a fall are encouraged to attend a November program at the Waccamaw Library.

Titled “Enhance Your Stance,” the program will feature Pawleys Island resident Michelle Lusardi, a doctor of physical therapy, Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association and Professor Emeritus from Sacred Heart University. She will discuss how dynamic balance and postural control change as we age. Participants will also learn about how risk of falling is determined, and the simple things we can do to improve our balance system’s ability to keep us upright and safe as we continue to do the things we love to do.

Lusardi’s 40-plus years of research and clinical practice as a physical therapist has focused on prevention of falls and wellness initiatives for older adults. Her teaching and research skills have been recognized by nationally by the American Physical Therapy Association and Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy.

The program will take place at 10 a.m. on Nov. 21. The library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island. For more information, send an e-mail to sbremner@gtcounty.org.

Library, museum team up to offer free art classes

The Waccamaw Library and Myrtle Beach Art Museum are offering a series of free crafting classes for kids ages 8-12 this fall. Above, participants make their own paper in a scrap-paper blending class held on Oct. 4. The next class will be Nov. 1, when students will create botanical prints with the museum’s Arielle Fatuova. On Dec. 6, a wheel-throwing demonstration and class with guest artist John Johnson is scheduled. Classes are from 3-4:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Amy King at (843) 545-3349 or aking@gtcounty.org.
Local man places in redfish tournament

Danny Payne of Pawleys Island and his fishing partner Jake Haynes of Emerald Isle, N.C., were just ounces shy of a grand prize worth more than $31,300 last month at the IFA Redfish Tour in Georgetown. The pair reeled in two redfish with an aggregate weight of 9.19 pounds, earning third place in the tournament.

“For the first time ever, we had them early and fished with no pressure most of the day,” Payne said. “We had some missed opportunities, but overall we had an enjoyable day and tournament.”

A total of 70 boats were entered. The first place team, comprised of Glenn Finley and Dodd Wood of Belton, weighed in with a total of 9.51 pounds, claiming $2,000 cash and a new Ranger flats boat powered by Mercury. A team from Florida, J.D. Nobles and Kyle Craven, ranked second in the tournament with 9.48 pounds.

The tournament took place in Georgetown on Sept. 24, with boat launch and weigh-in at the county’s Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex. It was the Inshore Fishing Association’s seventh Redfish Tour stop in Georgetown since 2014. The tour usually stops in Georgetown every spring and fall.

On the day after the Redfish Tour, the county hosted the IFA’s Kayak Fishing Tour. Angler Mark Patterson of N.C. won that event with a 43-inch red drum and a 14.88-inch trout, for a total length of 57.88 inches. He took home a $3,000 prize. Bob Powell came in 2nd place and Justin Carter won 3rd place.

Library hosts Charleston tea grower

The Waccamaw Library and the Grand Strand Camellia Society will host horticulturist Joshua Giordano-Silliman of Charleston this month for a special lecture. Giordano-Silliman will discuss the history, culture and production of green and white teas for personal consumption. Titled “Home Grown Tea: Domestic Culture and Production of Green and White Tea,” the lecture will take place Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. Participants will gain a knowledge of basic camellia tea culture nomenclature, USDA efforts to popularize home cultivation in 1912, and a method of how to cultivate, process, and prepare green and white teas.

Participants will also have an opportunity to sample tea at the conclusion of the lecture.

Giordano-Silliman is a horticulturist who operates his horticultural services and tea company, Hortfire LLC, in Charleston. He has an associates of agriculture degree from Trident Technical College and a bachelor’s of science degree in horticulture from Clemson University. He is a member of Coastal Carolina Camellia Society and the Holly Society of America. His company blog can be found at hortfire.com For more information about this program, call (843) 545-3623 or e-mail sbremner@gtcounty.org.
Hurricane Irma caused nearly $2.7 million in damage to public property, according to an initial damage assessment submitted by the county to the state. The majority of that damage was to the beachfront.

The cost of tilling and replacing sand on the beach that was washed away by the storm will be $2.32 million, the damage assessment team said. The next largest total was $277,000 for debris removal, including landfill costs, picking up debris from along the beach in Litchfield and Garden City, and setting up a special debris reduction site at the Pawleys Island Recycling Center. That site was open until the end of September.

Costs also included $52,500 in damage to county facilities; $32,876 for emergency supplies and staffing; and $205,100 in damages to beach crossovers and structures including the Murrells Inlet Marshwalk, Veterans Pier and Jetty View walk. The county is not sure yet whether costs will be reimbursed by FEMA.

The county’s Public Services and Parks and recreation staff has completed cleanup on the beaches in Garden City and North Litchfield. Dunes will be checked the week of Oct. 8 for small debris. Cleanup is still ongoing in Litchfield and in front of Litchfield By the Sea. Those areas sustained heavy damage, particularly at Inlet Point South.

Five beach crossovers received significant damage from the storm and were closed for repairs. Beach access Nos. 54 and 58 have been repaired and reopened. Access No. 60 is under construction and should reopen by Oct. 16. Access Nos. 61 and 66 remain closed. Use of closed accesses is prohibited.

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Cindy Grace, Georgetown County’s Emergency Management Coordinator, graduated last month from FEMA’s National Emergency Management Advanced Academy at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md.

The Advanced Academy reinforces the qualities needed to lead emergency management programs, provides relevant management theories and concepts, and utilizes appropriate case studies. By working within their series, Advanced Academy participants work within a collaborative environment on projects and establish a network of their peers.

The Academy is designed for emerging leaders and mid-level managers wanting to advance their skillset. Students learn skills critical to performing leadership responsibilities such as program management and oversight, effective communication at all levels, integrated collaboration, and strategic thinking.

The Advanced Academy provides students the opportunity to demonstrate their critical thinking ability through a guided research project. Students apply the key learning concepts from the curriculum relative to their own skillsets and abilities within their organizations, and their own performance environments.

FEMA’s Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP) curriculum is designed to provide a lifetime of learning for emergency managers and includes three separate, but closely threaded, training programs: the National Emergency Management Basic Academy, the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy and the National Emergency Management Executive Academy.

Grace has been the county’s emergency management coordinator for the past nine years. She is a valued employee with a reputation for approaching tasks with enthusiasm and dedication, and always raising the bar.
News from our Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Officer: Details on local Veterans Day Parades

By David Murphy

Hello Veterans! I want to begin by thanking all those who have made donations to the hurricane relief fund for Houston and Florida. On Oct. 11, any funds that were raised will be combined with any proceeds raised by my counterparts in each county at our fall statewide training conference.

I also want to wish a happy birthday to our sailors of the U.S. Navy. The Navy will celebrate its 242nd birthday on Oct. 13. Please join me in offering well wishes and thanks for the service of all who are and have been a part of that great branch of the military.

The Andrews Veterans Association (AVA) recently announced its 2017 Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony will be Saturday, Nov. 4, beginning at 1 p.m. on Main Street by the Exxon station. Parade assembly starts at 12:30 p.m. The parade route will travel down Main Street and turn on N. Farr Ave., ending at the Library Pavilion, where a Veterans Day Ceremony will follow.

The Army 282nd Band from Fort Jackson will march in the parade and perform in the ceremony. Also expected to participate is the Coast Guard’s Georgetown Station and the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Lowcountry Veterans group.

The Andrews High School Band and Chorus along with the Browns Ferry Elementary School Band will also participate. Commander Dennis Turner will be the Grand Marshal and keynote speaker. He has had a distinguished military career and served as the Senior Instructor for the Andrews High School NJROTC.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event will be former Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill.

All veterans, military and their families are invited to participate. For more information about the Andrews parade and ceremony, call Thomas Alford, (843)333-3267, or Greg Bennett, (843)325-6693 or BbaF9@aol.com.

The annual Georgetown Veterans Day Parade begins at 4 p.m. Nov. 9 at East Bay Park. Grand Marshal this year is the American Legion Post 144 Adjutant, Marty Alfonsi.

Parade participants will assemble at East Bay Park at 3 p.m. to march as a unit or ride in personal vehicles up Front Street to Wood Street. Participants are responsible for their own banners, flags and signs.

“We’re hoping for a large turnout, so please encourage all veterans to participate in the parade,” said American Legion Commander Rodney Ward. “We’re also asking for their families and friends to line up on Front Street and salute our veterans on this special occasion when our country remembers them and their sacrifices.”

To help create some rivalry and friendly competition between the high school bands and ROTC units, a panel of judges will award trophies to the band and ROTC unit that perform the best.

All civic clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, churches and other organizations are welcome to participate. Local merchants and residents are asked to display American flags, banners and bunting throughout the weekend. For more information about the parade, call Paige Sawyer, (843) 546-3745.

Glenn Hero, Commander of Pawleys Island American Legion Post 197, recently attended the Legion’s Americanism Conference in Indianapolis to obtain details on sponsoring its annual scholarship speech contest. Each year the American Legion conducts an Oratorical Scholarship Speech contest for high school students. The speech topic can be on any aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. The contests’ purpose is to develop deeper knowledge of and appreciation for the Constitution.

Young speakers can earn some generous college scholarships. Students under age 20, including those who are home schooled, are eligible. Competition begins at the Post (local) level and advances to a State competition. Legion representatives certify one winner per state to advance to the national contest. There will be three top winners at the National level, who will be awarded $18,000, $16,000 and $14,000 respectively for first, second and third place. The scholarship money can be used at any college within the United States.

More detailed information about the contest and videos of past National winners can be found at www.legion.org/departments, or by contacting Commander Hero via email at pahero@msn.com for information about the Waccamaw Neck contest.

David Murphy, Manager

County Office of Veterans Affairs

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Just search for GtCountySC.
HHW Collection  
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sentative will be on hand to securely destroy sensitive materials. Items including window envelopes, photos, blueprints, magazines, brochures and newspapers are also accepted. There is no need to remove staples, paper clips, rubber bands or small binders.

At the most recent collection event back in April, the county collected a record 13 tons of household hazardous waste and nearly 3 tons of paper documents that were shredded. Officials with the Public Services Department said they expect the number of materials collected at these events will continue to grow.

“Were doing a better job with promotion every year and were at a point now where people are asking about these events, they’re telling

Rezoning  
Continued from Front Page

small group of residents to mutually agree to limitations on development of the property that would alleviate resident concerns. After a preliminary meeting on Oct. 4 to discuss details, it was determined that residents will be asked to select three to five individuals to meet with the county officials. The meeting is set for Oct. 26 at 5 p.m. in County Council Chambers. While the meeting will be open to the public, only those members of the committee and appointed representatives for the Pennyroyal Road residents will be allowed to make comments.

Among topics expected to be discussed are design considerations, access to the property, environmental considerations and features of businesses that would be considered unacceptable to residents, such as noise and odors.

“We want to communicate to them and assure them that this rezoning, if it passes, will be the first step of many. We need to talk with them about the process and regulatory rules that are already in place, identify additional due diligence items that will need to take place, and have a positive exchange of ideas,” said Austin Beard, committee chairman.

Beard said he wants to see all participants come to the table in the spirit of cooperation and look for ideas on a solution that could make people on both sides of the issue happy.