The
Georgetown County Chronicle

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County improves flood insurance program rating

Georgetown County residents may now be eligible for an additional savings on flood insurance rates, thanks to measures recently taken by the county’s planning and building departments.

Georgetown County was recently notified that it improved to a Class 7 in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. The county’s previous rating qualified residents for a discount up to 10 percent on flood insurance. The new rating should add 5 percent to the existing discount when the rating goes into effect May 2017.

The Community Rating System is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum national requirements. It plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. Flood insurance premium rates may be discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the rating system.

Those goals are to reduce flood damage to insurable property; strengthen and support insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program; and to encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

There were a number of changes to county regulations that went into achieving the lowered rating, said Planning Department Director Boyd Johnson. One of the most significant was a new regulation that added an additional foot to the federal minimum elevation requirements for new structures in flood zones.

Insurance companies will be automatically notified of the change in Georgetown County’s rating. Any policyholder with questions about how the new rating will affect them once it goes into effect next year should contact their agent.

FEMA Disaster Recovery Center open in Georgetown

A Disaster Recovery Center opened in Georgetown County on Nov. 1 to offer information on disaster assistance to survivors of the storms and floods of Hurricane Matthew. The center is located at the Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church St., in Georgetown. It will operate until further notice from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. It is closed on Sunday.

The center is staffed by state and federal disaster recovery specialists, as well as representatives of the U.S. Small Business Administration, various state agencies and volunteer organizations.

The center is designed to be a one-stop shop for survivors seeking information on programs available to them or needing one-on-one help with disaster recovery issues.

Disaster Recovery Centers are accessible to people with disabilities. The centers have tools to amplify sound, magnifiers and materials in alternative formats along with video remote interpretation. Sign language interpreters are available upon request at the center.

Survivors are encouraged to register with FEMA before visiting a Disaster Recovery Center by calling (800) 621-3362 (voice, 711, video services) or (800) 462-7585 (TTY).

Individuals can also register online at DisasterAssistance.gov. Registering with FEMA is the first step toward qualifying for disaster assistance which may include grants to help homeowners and renters pay for temporary housing, essential home repairs, personal property replacements and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance.
Chamber of Commerce to host inaugural State of Our County, Cities program

The Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce will have its inaugural State of Our County/State of Our Cities Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 11:30 a.m. at the J.B. Beck Administration and Education Center, located at 2018 Church St. in Georgetown.

At the luncheon, local leaders representing Georgetown County, the City of Georgetown and the towns of Andrews and Pawleys Island will discuss issues facing our communities, as well as ways in which business leaders can partner with local governments to create a stronger community.

Speakers confirmed for the event include Georgetown County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway, City of Georgetown Mayor Jack Scoville, Georgetown City Administrator Paul Gardner, Town of Pawleys Island Mayor Bill Otis, and Andrews Mayor Frank McClary and Town Administrator Maurreta Dorsey.

Tickets may be purchased by Georgetown County Chamber members for $20 each and by non-members for $30. Please register by Nov. 10 at www.VisitGeorge.com or by calling the Chamber at (843) 546-8436.

Election results for county seats

Everett Carolina Sr. will join Georgetown County Council in January and Allison Sippel Peteet will take over as County Treasurer based on the results of the Nov. 8 general election.

Carolina will serve Council District 3, replacing outgoing council member Leona Myers Miller. A current member of the Georgetown County Planning Commission, Carolina defeated Eileen Sullivan Johnson for the seat with 76 percent of the vote.

Peteet, who is currently an employee in the Georgetown County Auditor’s Office, will replace longtime Treasurer Loretta Washington-Cooper, who announced her retirement earlier this year. Peteet was elected with 57 percent of the vote, defeating opponent Chelice Cox Waites.

The County will also have a new probate judge with the retirement of Judge Waldo Maring. Leigh Powers Boan was elected for the job. Though opposed in the primary, she was unopposed in the general election.

Additionally, Sheriff A. Lane Cribb was elected to another term with 59 percent of the vote, defeating Darryl C. Carr and Birt K. Adams. County Council Members Ron Charlton, Lillie Jean Johnson and Austin beard were elected to another term, as were Clerk of Court Alma Y. White, Coroner Kenny Johnson and Auditor Brian D. Shult, all of whom were unopposed.

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
Public input sought for transportation plan update

Georgetown County residents are asked to provide input on transportation needs in Georgetown and Horry counties during a series of public meetings taking place this month.

A total of four public information meetings will take place, including one at the Murrells Inlet Community Center on Nov. 17 from noon to 2 p.m. The community center is located at 4462 Murrells Inlet Road.

Other meetings will be in North Myrtle Beach, Carolina Forest and Shallotte, N.C. The meetings will focus on the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. This long-range plan identifies feasible projects, programs and policies for transportation in the region.

The planning process will consider the mobility, safety, convenience and comfort of all modes of transportation, coupled with the desires of local communities throughout the region. This includes bikeways, pedestrian walkways, highways, public transit and more.

Public information meetings will be conducted in a drop-in, open house format, allowing participants to come and go at their leisure and convenience. Interactive activities will be available, allowing the public to provide input with regard to preferences, concerns and issues with the transportation network.

Residents who can not attend one of the meetings can also participate online via a project WikiMap, an interactive mapping application that allows users to point areas of concern. The map and a survey can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/GSATSwikimap.

Residents can also find more information about the plans and the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study at www.gsats.org.

Recreation Center honors Murray

Georgetown County and members of the Parkersville community paid tribute last month to the late Bill Murray for his many contributions to the community and his vital role in completion of the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center. The center was the site of a dedication ceremony on Oct. 18, during which a plaque honoring Murray and his work was unveiled. The plaque was installed near the entrance of the center. Pictured are friends and family of Murray with County Council Chairman Johnny Morant and County Council Member Steve Goggans.

Ladies Stretching Classes at Beck Recreation Center

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
10:30-11:30 a.m.
Classes are $1
Walk-ins Welcome
2030 Church St., Georgetown

Fall Scenes photo contest

Cooling temperatures. Changing colors. Football. Morning walks on nearly deserted beaches. Trick-or-treating with the kids. A family Thanksgiving in a beach house or on a farm. There are a million things to love about autumn in Georgetown County, and we want to see your favorite!
Submit your fall photos in our latest contest.
Deadline for entries is Dec. 1, 2016.
Send entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org.
Details and contest rules at www.gtcounty.org.

Zumba gold

Zumba fitness classes customized with lower intensity moves for active older adults.
$3 per class.
Walk-ins welcome!
Celebrate the season and support library programming at Yuletide Home Tour

Festive mantles, staircases wrapped with garland, decorated trees and doors adorned with wreaths! The annual Yuletide Tour of Homes, organized by the Friends of the Georgetown Library, will feature some of the best of all these.

This year’s event is set for Saturday, Dec. 10, from 1:30-5:30 p.m., and tickets are on sale now, with all proceeds going toward future library programming.

Offered for touring will be eight lovely residences bedecked in their holiday finery, and a beautiful house museum that will serve as a refreshment site.

The tour is self-guided and maps will be provided. Tour locations include: the Miller home, Bolick Street; the Jayroe/Waldroup home, Bolick Street; the Goldbach home, Queen Street; the Goedtel home, Orange Street; the Angner home, Orange Street; the Ullman home, Prince Street; the Ness home, Queen Street; and the Joseph home, Willowbank Road.

Tickets are $25, ($20 for Friends of the Library), and may be purchased in advance at the Georgetown Library, 405 Cleland Street or the Waccamaw Library, 41 St. Paul Place. For more information, contact Trudy Bazemore, (843) 545-3303.

A scene from last year’s Yuletide Tour of Homes. This year’s tour will feature eight Georgetown homes in and around the Historic District. Proceeds benefit library programming.

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A Holiday Show at the Waccamaw Library

Featuring

Hallelujah and
Southern Comfort

Friday
December 16, 2016
6:30 p.m.
41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island

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If you need food, clothing and shelter:

Call 2-1-1

For storm cleanup help:
Homeowners may call 1-800-451-1954 to request Volunteers from Helping Hands to assist with debris and mold cleanup.

Si usted necesita comida, ropa y refugio:

Llame al 2-1-1

Limpieza tras la tormenta:
Los duenos de casa pueden llamar al 1-800-451-1954 para solicitar voluntarios de Helping Hands que ayudan con la limpieza de escombros y moho.
Expert to give presentation on Native American artifacts

Public invited to bring in personal artifacts for identification

The Waccamaw Library is excited to announce a lecture by an expert on Native American studies this month.

Chris Judge, director of the Native American Studies Center at the University of South Carolina—Lancaster will present “The Pee Dee, Cheraw and Waccamaw: Archaeology and Ethnohistory in Eastern South Carolina” on Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. in the library auditorium. Later that day, from 4:30-7 p.m., members of the public will be invited to bring in their own Native American artifacts for examination and identification.

Judge teaches courses in anthropology, archaeology and Native American Studies at the Native American Studies Center. With bachelors and masters degrees in anthropology from USC, he has devoted his life to the study of Native Americans in South Carolina. Judge is active in many archeological and anthropology organizations, including the Native American Advisory Committee and South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs.

In 2006, he joined the faculty at USC—Lancaster and helped build the newly formed Native American Studies program. He was appointed assistant director of Native American Studies at the school in 2007. By 2012, Judge served as building supervisor for the 15,000-square-foot center, which houses galleries, special collections, archives, archaeology, Catawba language and folklore labs and classrooms.

Judge also runs a public archaeology lab at the center, in which volunteer members of the public of all ages are invited to wash and sort artifacts recovered from the Kolb site.

To reserve a seat at the program or for more information, email Steele Bremner at sbremner@gtcounty.org.

Library’s fall book sale begins Nov. 16

The days are shorter, sweaters are being brought out of the closet and it’s time to stock up on a long winter’s supply of great reads. The Georgetown Library is ready to help with a giant, four-day fall book sale.

“We’ve got histories, mysteries, humor, children’s books, DVDs, coffee table books, cook books, you name it,” said librarian and book sale organizer Shelia Sullivan. “Come get something fun to read, and maybe find a few stocking stuffers along the way. Best of all, you’re supporting children’s programming here at the library.”

Hardback books will be just $2 and paperbacks are $1.

The library is located at 405 Cleland Street in Georgetown. The sale will be held in the auditorium and entrance lobby Nov. 16-19. Times are as follows:

- Wednesday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“We love the fall book sale – it’s our chance to catch up with everyone and kick off the holiday season,” said library director Dwight McInvaill. “We hope to see you there.”

For more information, email Sullivan at ssullivan@gtcounty.org or visit the library’s website at www.georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

Find updates on Georgetown County at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc
Building permit fees for construction related to damage from Hurricane Matthew will be offered at a reduced rate for the next year. Georgetown County Council Members recently approved a temporary 50 percent reduction to building permit fees for all qualifying projects. Council took the same action after historic flooding in 2015 to assist residents whose homes were damaged.

Additionally, council took action to allow residents of properties deemed uninhabitable to live in temporary structures on their properties while homes are repaired or rebuilt.

The Georgetown County Building and Zoning Department reminds residents that it is extremely important they obtain the appropriate permits for construction work when making repairs to a flood-damaged home or business. This provides several benefits to property owners, including ensuring structures are properly inspected for safety.

A permit also helps ensure that only licensed contractors are working on properties and that the work meets all codes and standards for safety.

“We understand that residents will want to begin repairs and reconstruction as soon as possible, but it’s definitely to the property owner’s benefit to make sure they take the time to get a permit,” said Boyd Johnson, department director. “Also, most insurance companies will require licensed contractors be used and proof that properties passed inspections before they will approve payment for any future claims.”

The Building and Zoning Department will assess buildings and homes as expeditiously as possible, Johnson said. Any structure that has been deemed uninhabitable and has had notice posted of such cannot be occupied until the status is changed by the Building and Zoning Department. Anyone who has repaired a flood-damaged home without permits or inspections should take corrective action now and apply for a permit.

Examples of actions that require a building permit include but are not limited to:

- Repair or replacement of water-damaged electrical outlets
- Structural repairs
- Replacement of insulation
- Any repair work dealing with mechanicals located underneath the structure.

Demolition work done as a result of flood damage will also not require a permit. However, please notify the Georgetown County Assessor’s office, (843) 545-3017, prior to total demolition or removal of a structure including mobile homes. For information, call (843) 545-3116.

Walk-in Story Time at the Andrews Library

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
For ages 5 and under. Daycare groups welcome!
Includes games, songs and crafts in addition to stories.

Finding Your Family Tree

Genealogist Patti Burns can help you begin researching and creating your family tree using online and print resources.

Thursday, November 17
4–6 p.m
Andrews Library
105 North Morgan Street

Yuletide Home Tour

Georgetown Friends of the Library

Enjoy eight beautiful homes decorated in the holiday spirit.
Tickets:
$20 for Friends of the Library
$25 for non-members

Tickets available at the Georgetown and Waccamaw Libraries. More information: (843) 545-3503 or friends@library.org.
After 10 years managing the bustling Carvers Bay Branch Library, Marilynn Lance-Robb knows it and its patrons like a favorite line from a beloved book.

A lifelong resident of the Dunbar community, Lance-Robb came to work at the Carvers Bay Library as supervisor in 2006, when the new facility was built. Prior to that, she served for several years as the assistant head of the Andrews Branch Library. Library director Dwight McInvaill had noted she was effective there with teens — an age group that was to be a target audience for new programs offered in Carvers Bay.

As branch manager, Lance-Robb directs the work of three employees, organizes library programming, selects the books the library orders, does community outreach and works closely with the adjacent Carvers Bay Middle and High schools.

She regularly organizes bread drives and distributes this food from the library to many residents of the Carvers Bay community who are in need. She also visits area nursing homes and childcare centers often to share new things, such as digital assistive technology devices that can be utilized by the elderly, as well as books and activities. She works to bring a bit of what the library has to offer to these places, and encourage visiting the library and utilizing library resources.

Library Director Dwight McInvaill described her as extremely dedicated and involved with the community.

In 2006, Lance-Robb helped the library system to win two national library awards: the National Health Information Award for excellence in consumer health information from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the National Library of the Month Award from WebJunction. Later, her work was featured in a booklet and in a video entitled “Keeping Your Community Connected,” which was produced and shared nationally by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

“Marilynn always has a positive attitude along with a very strong public service attitude,” McInvaill said. “She consistently exemplifies an excellent professional service demeanor. It is obvious that she loves what she does and takes great pride in helping her community. She has a real sense of being part of a very special place.”

Lance-Robb grew up in a large family. Her father was a minister and her parents worked to instill strong values in all of their children.

Lance-Robb has two grown children of her own, April and Joshua Pringle, and several delightful grandchildren.

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. announces open registration for Youth Basketball

Youth ages 5-17 are invited to register for the 2015 Youth Basketball League. The last day for registration is Nov. 30.

Fee is $25 per child. Check with staff to see if you qualify for a discounted rate.

Call (843) 545-3275 for information or visit www.gtcounty.org.
Hello Georgetown County veterans! I hope that everyone has been able to recover from Hurricane Matthew.

First off, I’d like to ask you to help me get the word out about the following:

The Disabled American Veterans charity is providing disaster relief to eligible veterans. Should you need an application or have any question regarding this program, please call (803) 647-2422.

A number of area veterans experienced losses during Hurricane Matthew. Thank you all for your generosity in helping the charity to meet the needs of those veterans. Due to the recent storm, there are many veterans who are in desperate need of assistance. Many of them lost everything due to flooding and storm damage. One vet today came for help – he was living on a small boat that sunk in the storm.

If you are able to help, they need:
- Men’s tennis shoes (sizes 9-13)
- Men’s Sweats (Med-2XL)
- Women’s Sweats (Med-2XL)
- T-Shirts (M-2XL)
- Men’s Deodorant
- Bodywash (men’s and ladies)
- Ladies sports bras (M-2XL)
- Men’s Underwear (M-2XL)
- Ladies Underwear (M-2XL)
- Backpacks
- Depends underwear (S-XL)
- Ensure/Boost drinks
- Bus passes
- Gas cards
- Grocery cards

From Oct. 26-28, I attended our Fall County Veteran Affairs Officers Training conference. During this conference I listened and received several amounts of new information that I want to pass on to you. Many of your concerns were heard — especially about the length of time it takes for appeals and claims. I want you to know that they are working on this problem please continue to bear with them.

On Nov 10, the U.S. Marine Corps will celebrate its 241st birthday. I ask that all veteran join me in saying happy birthday to all our fellow Marines and thank them for their service.

American Legion Post 197 in Pawleys Island is seeking high school orators for a speech competition. High school students in the Pawleys Island and Litchfield areas are invited to compete in the annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship competition.

The contest for community students has been arranged with the cooperation of local school officials and faculty who will assist with the contest arrangements. The subject in the prepared oration portion of the contest must be about some phase of the Constitution of the United States government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must be 8-10 minutes in length. In the second portion of the competition the student will speak on an assigned topic on one of the Amendments to the Constitution for 3 to 5 minutes. Four specific sections of the Constitution have been preselected and will be made known to each participant. In this Assigned Topic portion, one of these sections is randomly drawn at the contest, and each contestant will speak extemporaneously on it for three to five minutes.

In addition to the awards by winners of the various elimination rounds of competition, college scholarships of $18,000, $16,000 and $14,000 will be awarded to the 1st through 3rd place winners in the national finals. Each State winner who competes in the first round of the national contest will receive a $1,500 scholarship. Participants in the second round who do not advance to the national final round will receive an additional $1,500 scholarship.

The top three youth orators who have won all previous elimination rounds of the contest will vie for top honors in the national contest in April 2017 in Indianapolis, Ind. The American Legion will pay the expenses of state winners at the national contest.

Waccamaw High School and Low County Prep students, as well as, home schooled students, who are interested in entering the competition will find complete rules and contest information either through their guidance counselor, speech instructor or at http://www.sclegion.org/view/document/2017_sc_orat_contest_rules_brochure_-_ledger.pdf

Interested students may also email the American Legion Post 197 commander at pahero@msn.com.

The annual Georgetown Veterans Day Parade begins at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at East Bay Park. Grand Marshals this year are Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb and City of Georgetown Police Chief Kelvin Waites. “All of our veterans appreciate the fine job provided by law enforcement and we want to salute them also,” said Marty Alfonsi, one of the parade organizers.

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 turn out 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 chosen will award trophies to the band and ROTC unit that perform the best.

Local merchants and residents are asked to display American flags, banners and bunting throughout the weekend.

For more information, contact Rodney Ward at (843) 833-3700, or Franklin McCray at (843) 237-3187.

The local Vets for Jesus group is looking forward to its first Appreciation Event for Georgetown First Responders on Saturday, Nov. 12, at noon at Victory Christian Fellowship, 58 Academy Ave. in Georgetown.

Vets for Jesus and others want our Georgetown first responders to know that they are appreciated that their families are appreciated, and that we have their backs. Please help us get the word out to all our first responders and their families. Additionally, volunteers are needed to help make and serve food.

For information, call David G. Ellison, IV, Lt. Col., Retired, at (843) 543-2872. To our Vets and family members, thank you for allowing me to serve you! Proud to Serve!

David Murphy, Manager, Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs
County opens new hangars at Andrews Airport

Like many residents of the Andrews area, Frank Swinnie remembers when the Andrews Airport was no more than a grass field. It was on the other side of town from the current location, and it was a place Swinnie and many others of his generation spent a lot of time and made a lot of good memories.

“A lot of kids my age were flying. That’s the way it was in those days,” he recalled.

The airport, named for Swinnie’s father, the late Robert F. Swinnie, has come a long way since then, and it celebrated another milestone on Nov. 1 with the opening of a new $283,475 steel building housing four hangars for private planes. All four already had tenants lined up, so they will immediately begin bringing in revenue for the airport.

“It’s unbelievable how far it has come,” Swinnie said. “We had that grass field, and it was a dream of dad and a few other business people to buy this property and create an airport and that’s what they did. They built the hangars themselves, they cut the grass themselves, and did what was necessary — and have done that forever.”

While Swinnie was glad to see the county and federal government step in and take a role in the airport, the Andrews aviation community stayed actively involved.

Swinnie himself still pays the electric bill for the hangars, he said.

The opening of the new hangar building will be a catalyst to moving forward with construction of another group of hangars and continuing to attract more aircraft and grow aviation in the Andrews area, said County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

Airport Commission Member Thomas Alford said that’s something Andrews needs for economic development.

“It’s great to have this done now. I envision in the future there are going to be some things happening here, and this facility is going to be a valuable asset for us. It will help us be competitive in getting companies to locate here.