New business program gets $250,000 grant

A new business startup program in the works at the county-owned Litchfield Exchange building was awarded a $250,000 innovation grant from the S.C. Department of Commerce this month.

The grant was one of 14 worth a total of $2.4 million announced on May 6 that will help to further high-tech and entrepreneurial economic development across the state. Requests for these inaugural grants totaled more than $6.8 million and $250,000 was the maximum amount that could be awarded.

“There are two different components to economic development,” explained Brian Tucker, the county’s director of economic development. “There’s the traditional recruitment model, where you try to encourage a company to move into your area, and the other part is us creating an environment in which we can grow our own jobs rather than just relocating jobs from one place to another. We’re finding this is a really smart idea and there are some definite advantages to it.”

The startup program, a nonprofit officially known as the Grand Strand Startup Initiative, would work by helping to match entrepreneurs with capital and business mentors, and providing a space for new businesses to begin operating where they can have access to all the business tools they might need.

The grant applicants and entrepreneurs behind the initiative are business partners Mike Schroll and Paul Reynolds — the men behind Cowork MYR. The initiative would be part of the Georgetown County New Business Center, a program pitched for the Exchange building by George Onufer and Randall Ramsey, and embraced by the county’s leadership.

Cowork will move to the Exchange building this summer, and will give startups a home base, while the

See “Innovation,” Page 7

In celebration of National Public Works Week, the Georgetown County Department of Public Services will once again play host to the S.C. APWA Lowcountry Branch Backhoe Rodeo. The event is set for 11 a.m. May 22 at the Environmental Education Center located at the county landfill on Highway 51.

In its 20th year, this annual competition gives public services workers a chance to have fun and show off their heavy equipment operation skills through a series of tasks, such as pouring water from a bottle attached to the bucket of a backhoe into a glass.

The event also puts a spotlight on public works employees and how vital they are to communities, said Ray Funnnye, director of public services for Georgetown County.

The event is hosted in collaboration with the Lowcountry branch of the S.C. Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

National Public Works Week, which takes place this year from May 18-24, is an annual celebration of the hard work and dedication of public works

See “Rodeo,” Page 6
Public hearing will gather input for hazard mitigation plan update

Georgetown County government will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 15, to seek input on updates to its hazard mitigation plan. The hearing will begin at 2 p.m. at the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division headquarters, 2222-C Highmarket St., Georgetown.

The plan outlines the processes and policies for reducing and/or eliminating long-term risks associated with hazard events for all parts of Georgetown County, including incorporated areas.

The plan, which covers risks to life as well as property, must be updated and submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency every five years.

The most significant changes proposed for the plan are the addition of sinkholes and sea level rise as hazards that pose a threat within the county. Every section of the plan had minor changes, but most concerned updating maps and numbers, such as populations and building counts.

A copy of the plan will be posted on the county’s website, www.gtcounty.org, on May 9 and made available in the Georgetown County Library’s main branch on Cleland Street prior to the public hearing.

For directions or more information, contact Cindy Grace, (843) 545-3136.

Midway hosts child safety seat check

Midway Fire Rescue will host a free child safety seat check event on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its station on Beaumont Drive in the Pawleys Island area.

Midway is training new safety seat installation technicians in a three-day class May 7-9, and the event on Saturday will not only give parents an opportunity to make sure their children’s car safety seats are properly installed, but will also give newly certified technicians an opportunity to put their skills to work.

“Engineers are working hard to ensure that cars and car seats are designed to keep kids as safe as possible, but it’s up to every parent to take full advantage of these innovations by making sure car seats and booster seats are used and installed correctly,” said Jeff Pifer, Midway battalion chief.

Road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the U.S., according to national statistics. Correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71 percent.

No appointment is necessary to get safety seats checked, and free educational materials will also be available at the event. Additionally, residents are welcome to stop by a Midway fire station any time to get safety seats checked.

Overnight canoe/kayak trip

Friday, May 16 — Sunday, May 18

Adults ages 21 and over are invited to spend 3 days and 2 nights traveling and camping with a guide from Georgetown County Parks and Recreation. Leave at 5 p.m. Friday, May 16, and return Sunday, May 18. Cost is $60 per person (includes transportation and meals) Bring your own camping gear. Departing from Georgetown.

Call (843) 545-3333

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
May 10 is last day to register to vote in primary election

Georgetown County voters will pick representatives for two County Council districts in the primary election on June 10.

Council Chairman Johnny Morant who represents District 7 will face Ben Grate in the Democratic primary, while District 6 Council Member Bob Anderson will face Steve Goggans on the Republican ballot.

The Georgetown County Office of Elections and Voter Registration reminds voters that May 10 is the last day to register to vote in the primary. Now is also the time to update voter registration information, including current address, said Donna Mahn, director of that office. Voters can download a registration application, check their registration information or request an absentee ballot at www.gtcounty.org/elections. That’s also the place to find precinct and polling information.

For assistance, voters may also call (843) 545-3339 or stop by the Office of Elections and Voter Registration at 303 North Hazard Street in Georgetown.

Additionally, voters are reminded that they are now required to show photo ID when checking in at their polling location on Election Day. Acceptable forms of ID include: a current S.C. driver’s license or ID card issued by the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles, federal military ID (including VA benefit cards), a U.S. passport, or an S.C. voter registration card with photo.

Anyone who does not currently have one of the accepted forms of ID can get a voter registration card with photo for free by visiting the Office of Elections and Voter Registration at 303 North Hazard Street in Georgetown. Registered voters need only provide their date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

Voters who do not have an accepted form of photo ID on Election Day will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot only if they have a reasonable impediment to obtaining photo ID and can provide a non-photo voter registration card.

A reasonable impediment is any valid reason, beyond your control, which created an obstacle to obtaining photo ID. Some examples include: Religious objection to being photographed, disability or illness, work schedule, lack of transportation, lack of birth certificate, etc.

Voters casting provisional ballots without photo ID will be required to sign an affidavit stating why they could not obtain a photo ID. Provisional ballots will be counted unless the county election commission finds reason to believe the affidavit is false.

Anyone who does not have photo ID and does not have a reasonable impediment to obtaining one, or who simply forgot to bring their ID to the polls may still vote a provisional ballot. However, for that ballot to be counted, the voter must provide photo ID to the county election commission prior to certification of the election.

County to partcipate in Governor’s Tabletop Exercise

Georgetown County participated in a State Emergency Response Team (SERT) workshop last month at the S.C. Emergency Management Division in Columbia. From left at the front table are county employees Beth Goodale, Sam Hodge, Cindy Grace, Doug Eggiman and Kyle Prufer. The team will be in Columbia again on May 12 for the Governor’s Tabletop Exercise.

Georgetown Men Endorsing Non-Violence

Please Join Us
Saturday, May 31, 2014 / Shotgun Start at 2:00 pm
Litchfield Country Club Golf Course
619 Country Club Drive
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

G-Men will be kicking off its “2014 Safety Now Campaign”

Entry Fee: $65.00 per person
Entry fee includes: Silent Auction, player, green fees & cart, gift bag, beverages on the course, dinner and awards ceremony.

For additional information, contact the Family Justice Center (843) 546-3926, or Donna Moeller (843) 436-6066.
3-time winners: Library teens win national contest — again!

With the help of the Georgetown County Library system, two local teens turned their love of books into a riveting mini-movie and won a national prize for the third time.

Wyatt Hester and Sean England Morris shot an action-packed, futuristic video called “A Nod to Orwell,” in which a valiant group of teens save books in a computer-run world.

The video was made for the Collaborative Summer Library Program, which was host to a contest urging teens to make videos celebrating summer reading. This video competition is in its fourth year, and each participating state selected one winning video to be named the program’s official Teen Video Challenge State winner. Twenty-six states and more than 100 teens participated in the creation of these winning videos.

“Congratulations to the other state winners,” Hester said. “There are so many different ideas, and you can tell the teens had fun making them. I know I really enjoyed editing this year—we explored a lot of different special effects.”

Hester and Morris won a cash prize, and $125 for the library’s summer reading program. Shelia Sullivan, children’s librarian, said she couldn’t be more pleased.

“Our summer reading program has events for kids and teens, so our talented directors—and the scores of young actors—were helping to enhance their own summer events,” she said.

Hester and Morris acted in the video when they weren’t directing, and are grateful to library video teacher, Heather Pelham, and parents who helped get the actors where they had to be.

“This was a team effort for sure,” said Morris. “Thanks to our actors: Shakira Deas, Niah S. Elder, Hunter Lee, Rowan Pelham, Alexander Pelham and Harrison Pelham.”

To see the video, visit: http://youtu.be/JYvKoqsuJ3Vw. The video is also posted on the Georgetown County Library website, www.georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

Look for more information about the library’s summer reading programs coming soon!

****

The Beck Recreation Center
Rock Climbing Wall is now open!

Mondays & Wednesdays,
12:30-1:30 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays,
4-5 p.m.

Fee is $3 for 30 minutes of climbing

Minimum weight: 40 pounds
Maximum weight 310 pounds

Call (843) 545-3275
or visit www.gtcounty.org

Hester and Morris are pictured in a screenshot from their video.
Yard sale will raise funds for playground at Stables Park

A yard sale hosted by the Pawleys Island Kiwanis Club this month will raise funds to build a play area for kids ages 2-5 at the county-owned and operated Stables Park in Litchfield.

The club has partnered with Georgetown County Parks and Recreation to fund and install the play area, which is expected to be complete in the summer of 2015. But first the club needs to raise $25,000 to purchase playground equipment, utilizing fundraisers, grants, private donations and a match from the county.

The yard sale will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 17, at Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church. All proceeds from the sale will go toward the playground project. The public can also contribute to the effort by making a donation to the Kiwanis Kids Park Fund at Palmetto Bank.

The club took on construction of the play area as a service project as its credo is “an organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time.” This is the club’s first major project, though it has been supporting local kids causes since 1998, said club member Mike Diem.

The park will be the only one of its kind open to the public in the Pawleys Island area, and will be located between multi-purpose fields No. 1 and No. 2 at the Stables Park field complex on Petigru Drive.

The county will provide site preparation and surface material for the play area, in addition to the necessary land.

Sign up now for Adult Co-ed and Men’s Summer Softball Leagues!

A program of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation

Men’s League
Registration ends:
May 30, 5 p.m.
Team registration only
Cost: $400 per team (covers umpires, balls, maintenance, awards, etc.)
Games on: Monday and Wednesday nights, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.
Location: Retreat Park

Co-ed League
Registration ends:
May 30, 5 p.m.
Team registration only
Cost: $360 per team (covers umpires, balls, maintenance, awards, etc.)
Games on: Tuesday and Thursday nights, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.
Location: Retreat Park

Hazmat training at Midway

Staff at Midway Fire Rescue spent part of April training to deal with situations involving hazardous materials. They used a scenario that entailed crews responding to an unknown gas leak from a container truck. Emergency responders had to dress out in level A suits, access and identify the gas, identify evacuation and treatment plans, and stop the leak.

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.
Sign up now for emergency alerts

When important information needs to reach the public, direct messaging is a key method used by Georgetown County’s Emergency Management Division. The county contracts with the Emergency Communications Network for use of the CodeRED high-speed notification system to send important messages via phone, text and e-mail to those in its database.

However, such systems are only as good as the telephone number database that supports them, said Sam Hodge, the county’s emergency manager.

“If your phone number is not in the database, you will not receive these alerts,” Hodge said.

The database does not automatically include unlisted or cellular phone numbers. But no one, even if they have a listed residential number, should automatically assume their phone number is included.

Every resident and business in the county is encouraged to make sure they’re signed up for alerts by visiting www.gtcounty.org. A link to sign up is available through the “EmergencyAlert Center” in the Quick Links box on the left-hand side of the home page. Sign up is easy and residents can choose to enter just a phone number, or opt to receive notifications by text message or e-mail. Residents can enter multiple phone numbers and will also be asked for their street address as the system allows Emergency Management to send notifications to specific areas of the county as well as countywide.

Those without Internet access can sign up for notifications by calling the Emergency Management office, (843) 545-3273.

“CodeRED gives those who want to be included an easy and secure method for inputting information,” Hodge said. Data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes. For more information, call (843) 545-3273.

Meeting will address Hagley drainage project

An informational meeting this month in the auditorium at Waccamaw High School will address a continuing drainage improvement project in the Hagley area of the Pawleys Island community. The meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. on May 29.

The project, part of the county’s Capital Improvement Plan, addresses drainage issues that exist in the Hagley Estates Watershed. The project is divided into two phases — Hagley East and Hagley West. The first phase of the project is complete and work on the Hagley West phase will begin soon. Improvements to be completed during this phase include improving the ditch conveyance system for the 800 block of Tyson Drive, down stream toward the Waccamaw River and across the five-way intersection with Kings River and Hagley to the 200 block of Hagley Drive.

This work will provide flood relief to numerous properties in the area.

County staff will provide further details and be available to answer any questions at the meeting on May 29. Georgetown County government believes citizen input is an integral component in the continual growth, maintenance and future development plans in every community, and residents of Hagley Drive and Tyson Road are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting.

For more information, call (843) 545-3322.

Spring Photo Contest!

Photographers of all ages and skill levels are invited to enter Georgetown County’s latest photo contest

The theme: “Flora and Fauna of Georgetown County”

The catch: To win, photos should be identifiable as having been shot in Georgetown County, so be creative! A closeup of a flower that could have been taken anywhere won’t do it.

Deadline: July 1, 2014.

Send entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org

Rodeo

Continued from front page

professionals who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as “public works.” This year’s theme is “Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow,” and recognizes that what we do today is vital to a sustainable and vibrant tomorrow. Public Works provides various community services that will allow future generations to enjoy a higher quality of life, Funnysaid.

Backhoe operators from Georgetown, Charleston, Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester and Berkeley counties will compete in the rodeo. The winner competes in the state championship.

Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester and Berkeley counties will compete in a higher quality of life, Funnysaid.

various community services that will allow future generations to enjoy a higher quality of life, Funnysaid.

Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester and Berkeley counties will compete in a higher quality of life, Funnysaid.

The Backhoe Rodeo is open to the public, but guests are asked to RSVP. For more information, contact Mark Cain, (843) 545-3436 or mcain@gtcounty.org.

Beautification work continues

The Litchfield Beautification Foundation will once again place 60 American flags along its maintenance area on Highway 17 this year in honor of patriotic holidays. The nonprofit foundation maintains the median from Sandy Island Road to Martin Luther King Road with funds from private donors, homeowners associations and accommodations tax grants.

The Foundation reminds the public that its efforts can only continue with their support. For more information, visit www.litchfieldbeautification.com.
‘Musical Evening’ benefits new library

A Musical Evening
Featuring Jackie O’Neill and Gretchen Downer
will be a fundraiser for
the new Waccamaw Library.

The event is May 16
from 7-9 p.m. at Holy Cross Faith Memorial Church. Tickets are $12.50 and include wine, coffee or tea and desserts.

The two will perform popular songs from Broadway musicals and themes from popular movies, including “Moon River.” The performance will also include an audience sing along with favorite classics from the 1940s, timeless standards, “Carolina songs” and a patriotic medley.

For tickets or more information, contact Kathy Gramet, (315) 952-5813, or Diane Stern, (908) 310-2953.

Innovation
Continued from front page

center as a whole will offer the tools to nurture new businesses and get them off the ground.

Schroll, who worked with web startups in Boston before moving to Myrtle Beach, said he and Reynolds (who worked in the same field in Silicon Valley) opened Cowork MYR for tech professionals like themselves who could work out of their homes, but don’t want to.

“That gets boring really fast. You don’t have any coworkers — there’s no one to communicate with or bounce ideas off of,” Schroll explained.

That’s what led to the creation of Cowork, where entrepreneurs can pay a membership fee and have a place to put their business where they can be surrounded by other intelligent, creative people. Those people often end up talking and starting new business initiatives together, he noted. Then, word spreads and people start walking through the door with business ideas, but no idea about all the details that go into starting a new business. With the Grand Strand Startup Initiative, those people could walk through the door, explain their idea, get feedback from a professional, and if the idea is a workable one, get step-by-step help with getting the business off the ground and setting up work space.

The result would be diversification of the region’s economy, with new job-creating industries, Reynolds said. Based on an economic impact study by Henry Lowenstein, he estimates the initiative could bring nearly 400 high-paying jobs to the area over the next three years.

Businesses that can benefit from the New Business Center range from highly technical initiatives to manufacturing, Tucker said.

“The whole point of this effort was to establish an entrepreneurial culture in Georgetown County and at least part of that equation is a technological entrepreneurial culture,” Tucker said.

He pointed to a study conducted about two years ago that showed the county is losing adults ages 18-44 to other areas. One reason identified was a lack of employment opportunities for people in this age group.

“This program is one step toward solving that by creating an environment that fosters smart ideas — good, marketable ideas that with the right kind of support and encouragement can grow into a business,” Tucker said.

The result will be allowing people who grew up in Georgetown County to stay here through the creation of high tech jobs that can be done anywhere and possibly creating more traditional jobs along the way.

Georgetown County Council is expected to receive an update on the New Business Center next month that will offer further details about the project, said Onufer.
Catfish tournament at Campbell Marina attracts 21 teams to county

Gusting winds on the first day of the two-day Cabela’s King Kat fishing tournament in Georgetown County made it rough going for the 21 teams who participated in the event. Day two brought better luck as teams lined up at the Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex on the Sampit River for weigh-ins. Teams fished all five of the county’s rivers, but the Waccamaw was where the winning team — comprised of Brian and Cole Tanner and Bryon Lavoie — caught their prize winners. With a full limit of flatheads on both days they won bragging rights and a hefty cash prize with 108.68 pounds. While three of the teams were from in and around Georgetown County, most traveled from other areas for the tournament, booking hotel rooms, eating in local restaurants and buying gas and supplies here, said Adam Payne of the county’s Parks and Recreation Department. Many teams also made pre-tournament visits to get the lay of the land, and will hopefully come back to enjoy fishing in the county in the future, he said.

The King Kat tournament is the first of three major fishing tournaments set to take place in the county over the next year. The Inshore Fishing Association Redfish Tour and Kayak Tour will take place in the county from Aug. 15-17, and the week-long B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional Championship is set for April 19-25, 2015, in Georgetown County.

County staff participate in pageant to raise money for cancer research

Two Georgetown County directors and two firefighter/paramedics were among 10 local men who put on evening gowns this month to raise more than $6,000 for the American Cancer Society. Firefighter Adam Maag, pictured at right with Sharon Moultrie of the county’s public services department, even allowed strangers to shave his head for $5 a swipe with proceeds going to charity. At top right are Ray Funnyc, director of Public Services and Brian Tucker, director of economic development for Georgetown County. Below are the 10 contestants in the Ms.(ter) Relay for Life pageant held on May 2 with Miss South Carolina International. At bottom right is firefighter/paramedic Chris Armstrong.
Piatt is Employee of the Quarter

Beth Piatt, a clerk in the Auditor’s Office, was named Georgetown County’s Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2014. She will be recognized by County Council at its next meeting on May 13.

Employed with the county for eight years, Piatt’s duties include assessing values to personal property for the purpose of generating annual tax bills, researching personal property for the purpose of determining whether it is taxable, working with taxpayers on a daily basis, and working closely with the Assessor’s and Treasurer’s offices.

“Beth shows great pride and enthusiasm in her work in the Auditor’s Office,” said Auditor Brian Shult, who nominated Piatt for the award. “She is conscientious about doing it right the first time, and is always willing to help a coworker and will take the initiative and time to help a taxpayer resolve any issue. We always can count on Beth getting her job done. From the moment she walks in the door in the morning until she leaves in the evening, she has a ceaseless work ethic.

The quantity and quality of Beth’s work is exceptional.”

During the last quarter, Beth has been working diligently, as usual, on the 2013 and 2014 local business personal property tax files, Shult said. She must amend, correct and refund 2013 tax bills as needed. She is also preparing the thousands of 2014 local business property tax files for the yearly tax roll, among other duties.

Piatt has served on the county’s morale committee and is a treat to work with, treating everyone with the “utmost kindness and respect,” Shult said. “She is everything that I could ask for in an employee.”

Nominees for Employee of the quarter are submitted by their department director and are voted on through secret ballot by a panel of county directors.

Officer recognized by school

Ryan Owens of the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office was recently recognized by Carvers Bay High School as its staff member of the month. Owens is the school resource officer there.

Bush joins Assessor’s Office

Demonta Bush is the newest employee in the Assessor’s Office. Moving to the area from Florence, he joined the staff as an appraiser on March 31.

He previously worked for Atlantic Appraisal Services and is in the process of earning an associate’s degree in business before starting on a bachelor’s in the same field. He and his wife, LaWanda, have two sons and a daughter.

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation Presents “Kids in Action” 2014 Summer Camp!

Week 1: June 9-13 "Toes in the Sand"
Week 2: June 16-20 “Weird Science”
Week 3: June 23-27 “It’s a Zoo in Here”
Week 4: June 30-July 3 "America the Beautiful"
Week 5: July 7-11 “Let’s go Camping”
Week 6: July 14-18 “Minute to Win It”
Week 7: July 21-25 “Building & Creating”
Week 8: July 28-August 1 "Best of the Best"

For boys and girls ages 5-11
Camp is Monday—Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
**$60 per child per week
$10 registration fee
For information:
Georgetown: 545-3275
Pawleys Island: 545-3202
Limited space. Register Now!

Registration is now open for Fall League Sports

Tackle Football (ages 8-12, 3 divisions)
Flag Football (ages 5-7)
Cheerleading (ages 7-12)
Soccer (ages 5-12)

Registration ends July 31
Call (843) 545-3275 for Information or visit www.gtcounty.org.

Limited space. Register Now!
The Georgetown County Chronicle

Georgetown County, South Carolina
County Government

Numbers to know

Animal Control, 546-5101
Assessor, 545-3014
Auditor, 545-3021
Clerk of Court, 545-3004
County Council, 545-3058
Coroner, 546-3056
Elections, 546-3339
Finance, 545-3002
Planning and Zoning, 545-3116
Probate Judge, 545-3077
Register of Deeds, 545-3088
Sheriff, 546-5102
Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven Street
Georgetown, S.C. 29440
(843) 545-3063
(843) 545-3292

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Murrells Inlet Community Center is open!

Georgetown County opened its newest recreational facility with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and much excitement from Murrells Inlet residents on May 1.

About 60 people attended the event, many of them getting their first look at the long-awaited facility, constructed under the county’s long-range Capital Improvement Plan. Built with a rustic, Lowcountry design, the center is 7,700 square feet — about the same size as the previous building that housed the center. However, a more efficient layout allows for better utilization of space.

The center’s largest space is a 3,000-square-foot multi-purpose area with stage and electrical graduated platform seating system. This space will be home to the Murrells Inlet Community Theatre and can also be used as an auditorium or banquet/reception area. Three smaller program rooms can be used as classrooms or meeting areas.

The center is available for rentals and can be booked by calling (843) 545-3532.

A schedule for classes and other programming at the center is in the works and will be released soon.

In the meantime, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is always looking for new programs and class instructors. Call (843) 545-3275 for information.

From left are Whitney Hills, County Council Member Bob Anderson, S.C. Rep. Stephen Goldfinch, County Council Vice Chairman Jerry Oakley, County Auditor Brian Shult, Anne Chandler, Judge Waldo Maring and Sheriff Lane Cribb.

Community residents pour into the new facility during an open house following the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

A 3,000-square-foot multi-purpose space will serve as home to the Murrells Inlet Community Theater.