

The Georgetown County Chronicle

A monthly newsletter produced by Georgetown County, S.C., for its residents and visitors.



Inside this Issue

- Waccamaw Neck road closings, Page 2
- Firefighters raise funds for child burn victims, Page 3
- Club helps teens realize potential, Page 6
- Sheriff's fundraiser nets over \$30,000 for safe house, Page 5
- Governor lauds library's efforts, Page 13

Calendar

April 5 – Pushing the Limits, Part 3 in a scientific discussion series, 5:30 p.m., Georgetown Library.

April 6 – Georgetown Farmers Market opens at East Bay Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 9 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

April 11 – Ceremonies celebrating new recreation facilities on the Waccamaw Neck: Retreat Park, Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center, Murrells Inlet Community Center.

April 23 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Volume I, Issue 8

April 2013

Booster groups essential for baseball, softball programs

There's nothing like the sound of baseball season for Jason Goude, president of the East Bay Area Youth Booster Club. The crack of bat connecting with ball, the roar of the crowd and laughter from kids all ages make up a soundtrack he can't get enough of.

This time of year, it's one he and others involved with the Georgetown County youth recreational baseball and softball program get to hear almost every night of the week. The fields at 8 Oaks Park — a tournament-level baseball complex the county opened just outside Georgetown last year — are almost constantly teeming with players, coaches, umpires, and family and friends who pack the stands.

Baseball and softball are easily among the county's most popular recreational programs, with more than 1,000 kids signed up this year.

Groups like Goude's are instrumental in keeping the programs running, both through organizing teams and play, and by financing the sport with fundraising activities. The county's budget couldn't support the pro-



Kids ages 2 to 14 participate in Georgetown County's recreational baseball and softball programs. More than 1,000 kids are signed up this year.

grams as they are without the involvement of the booster clubs. Between uniforms, paying umpires to call the games and other operational expenses, it costs about \$100 for

See "Baseball," Page 8

Community comes together to renovate Waccamaw Neck ball field

A crude baseball field behind Waccamaw Middle School got quite a makeover recently, thanks to the dedicated efforts of a group of community volunteers.

The field is one used by Waccamaw High School's B-team, which is comprised of middle school students, but it's owned by

Georgetown County rather than the school district. The county picked it up in a land swap deal a while back, but only basic maintenance had been performed on the field since.

"The only thing that made it resemble a baseball field was the backstop," said Fred Rourk, who

organized and spearheaded the volunteer effort.

He has a son, Daniel, 14, on the B-team, and another, Noah, 11, "coming up behind him."

"We're up to our ears in baseball," Rourk said, so he was well aware of how the field's shortcomings

See "Ball Field," Page 9

Ceremonies planned for new Waccamaw rec facilities

Georgetown County will celebrate the opening two new facilities on the Waccamaw Neck and break ground on another this month.

Join us for ribbon cuttings at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center and Retreat Park ball fields, along with a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Murrells Inlet community center on April 11.

The celebration starts at 3:30 p.m. at the site of the community center and progresses to Retreat Park. Everyone will end up at the new recreation Center at Parkersville Park at around 5:30 p.m. for refreshments and an open house. Call 545-3164 for information.

Kings River Road, Beaumont Drive to close for drainage work

Kings River Road in Pawleys Island will close for two weeks beginning April 1 to accommodate drainage improvement work in the Hagley community.

Plans are for Beaumont Drive to close during the second half of the month, after work along Kings River is finished. Motorists will be asked to find alternate routes during this time.

The closure on Kings River Road will extend from near Hagley Drive to Waverly Road. Signage will direct traffic to use Highway 17, Hagley Drive and Waverly Road as detour routes. Plans are to reopen the road on April 12, but that will hinge on weather conditions and other construction constraints during the project period, said David Gantt, capital projects manager for Georgetown County.

The start date for the project was chosen to coincide with spring break at Waccamaw schools in an effort to minimize the impact of the road closure on area residents as much as possible.

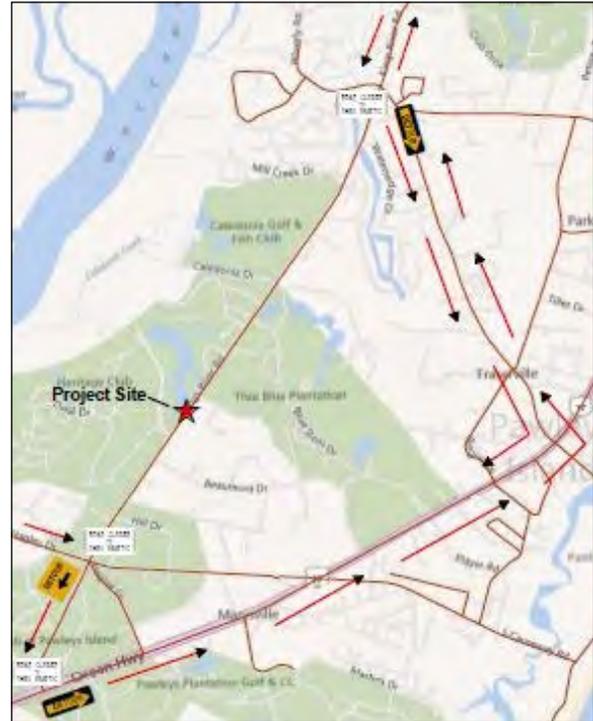
Beaumont Drive will close for about a week once Kings River Road reopens. The projected time period for the Beaumont closure is April 15-24.

Work to be completed during the closures includes a culvert replacement along Kings River Road and Beaumont, new quantity control structures, and a number of ditch and pipe improvements that will improve water flow throughout the eastern part of the Hagley community.

The work is part of a master drainage improvement project that will correct significant deficiencies in the Hagley area drainage system. The existing drainage system is "severely undersized," Gantt said.

The project, which is divided into two phases — Hagley East and Hagley West — will bring the drainage system in line with current regulatory standards, ensuring the system is able to stand up to a 10-year storm event.

Phase 2 of the project is expected to begin in June.



The map above shows the project area and proposed detours.

Take a video tour of Georgetown County

**Whether you're thinking about moving here,
or maybe just visiting, we invite you
to take a look at what we have to offer.**

**Learn more about Georgetown County's
quality of life, education system, real estate
market, history and much more with a video tour.**

**Video tours are available on the home page of our
website, www.gtcounty.org.**



Get the Chronicle

In Georgetown County, we want our residents and visitors 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.

Georgetown County Fire/EMS raises funds for child burn victims

Firefighters, EMTs and paramedics at Georgetown County Fire/EMS traded in their standard blue uniform shirts for green T-shirts last month as part of a fundraiser to benefit child burn victims.

Between T-shirt sales and donations, department staff has raised more than \$1,500, which will be used to send at least three children to Camp 'Can' Do, a residential camp for kids ages 6-17 who have been treated for serious burn injuries. In addition to swimming, boating, canoeing and other fun activities, the camp helps kids build self-esteem and leadership skills.

The fundraiser was proposed by Keith Ziegenhorn, a firefighter/EMT with Georgetown County Fire/EMS, and was organized by Ziegenhorn and Ryan Allen, battalion chief. Ziegenhorn designed the T-shirts, which firefighters, EMTs and paramedics started wearing on St. Patrick's Day and continued to wear at work throughout the month of March.

Though plans were to have around 20 shirts printed when the idea was introduced at the end of January, response from firefighters and their families was so great, the department was able to sell 220 shirts.

Ziegenhorn said the idea for the fundraiser came to him after a couple of recent incidents the department responded to in the Georgetown area in which children received burns in household accidents and had to be transported to either Georgetown Memorial Hospital or the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston for treatment. Camp 'Can' Do is



Georgetown County Fire/EMS staff members are pictured wearing the green shirts designed to support Camp 'Can' Do. From left are firefighter/paramedic Tony Starkey, Lt. Ron Smith, firefighter/EMT Keith Ziegenhorn and Battalion Chief Ryan Allen.

a project of MUSC's children's hospital and firefighters statewide.

"You never want to see anybody injured, but children can't cope the way adults do, and I think we all have a soft spot for kids," said Ziegenhorn, who has a 14-month old daughter. "You see 2- and 3-year-olds affected this way, and it gets to you. It's nice to know you've not only treated them on scene, but you get to do something to help them behind the scenes as well."

Allen said he hopes the green shirts will raise awareness, as well as money, and

remind parents to turn pot handles inward while cooking, closely supervise children in areas of the home where burns are common and turn hot water heaters to 120 degrees or below.

Although all the green shirts printed for the fundraiser have been sold, Georgetown County Fire/EMS is still accepting donations for Camp 'Can' Do. Donations may be dropped off at any Georgetown County Fire/EMS station or mailed to: Georgetown County Administration, Attn: Jackie Broach, 716 Prince St., Georgetown, S.C. 29440.

**Want updates about severe weather,
potential hazards and more?**



**Check us out at facebook.com/GCEMD
and [Twitter.com/GCEMD](https://twitter.com/GCEMD)**

**Is your community
StormReady?**

Georgetown County offers help for communities interested in becoming better prepared for disasters.

For more information about the StormReady program, e-mail shodge@gtcounty.org.

Hodge earns statewide honor for second time in 3 years

Sam Hodge, Georgetown County's emergency manager since 2008, has been named the S.C. Emergency Management Association's Director of the Year for 2013.

He also won the award in 2011.

The honor, presented during the S.C. Emergency Management Association's annual workshop at Grand Dunes in March, came as a surprise to Hodge, but those who work with him agree the award is well deserved.

"This award is a testament to Sam's commitment and dedication to our county's emergency preparedness effort," said Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "It's nice to see that his peers recognize what we already know."

"Georgetown County is extremely fortunate to have Sam as our emergency manager," said Greg Troutman, the county's director of human re-

sources and administrative services. "He is a thorough and proactive planner, a skilled organizer and a respected expert source."

Hodge has been involved in emergency service science since 1984, when he joined the Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire Department. He started as a volunteer and became one of the department's first paid firefighters in 1986.

After going back to school and getting his paramedic certification, he was hired at Midway Fire Rescue as a firefighter/paramedic in 1990 and moved up the ladder to lieutenant, then battalion chief.

He was in that position in 2006 when he transferred to Georgetown County's emergency management department.

"My life mission has always been to help people in need," Hodge said. "In the emergency management field, I have the opportunity to do that — to



Sam Hodge, center, Georgetown County's emergency manager, is pictured with his wife, Tonya, and County Administrator Sel Hemingway after being named the S.C. Emergency Management Association's Director of the Year during a ceremony last month.

help people plan and be better prepared for emergencies."

While Hodge is honored to have been nominated for and to have received the Director of the Year Award for a second time, he said it really belongs to his entire department.

"I'm just one member of our team, which works every day to make the citizens of our county better prepared for the hazards we face," he said.

Please join us in congratulating Sam for this outstanding achievement.

Fire/EMS station plans community safety awareness event for public

Georgetown County Fire/EMS will host a Community Safety Awareness Day at Pee Dee Park on Carvers Bay Road on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is open to everyone and lunch is included.

The day will start with the staging of a vehicle accident involving a four-wheeler and a car operated by an intoxicated driver. The exercise is intended to show the consequences of riding a four-wheeler without the appropriate safety gear and/or getting behind the wheel while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The staging of the wreck will be quite detailed, with paramedics arriving on scene, followed by the coroner. A helicopter will land to transport any survivors in the mock accident, and the public will have the chance to talk with the flight crew once the exercise is over.

The Highway patrol will be on hand to deal with the driver of the vehicle, putting him through a field sobriety test and then putting him in handcuffs.

Community Safety Awareness events are held periodically throughout the county and provide valuable information for the public, but also are good training for emergency workers.

"We take this seriously and the ones that help me with this know that," said George Avant, project coordinator. "We do this



Above is an image from a past Community Safety Awareness Day demonstration.

and we hope that somebody will be affected by it; that it might save a life."

Once the exercise is through, lunch will be served to attendees and there will be opportunities to talk with those involved in the mock wreck and get more information. The event will also include child safety seat checks, and smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers will be given away.

The park is located across the street from Trinity AME Church.

Deal will create more affordable housing for county workforce

A partnership formed several years ago for the purpose of creating more affordable homes in Georgetown County has produced its first project.

Georgetown County officials were recently notified that the Lowcountry Housing Trust closed a \$375,000 loan agreement with Tri-County Regional Development Corporation. The nonprofit corporation will use the borrowed funds to purchase and rehabilitate the Winyah Apartments, a 14-unit complex at 1604 Duke Street in Georgetown. Under the affordable housing program, the units will be available to residents earning at or below 80 percent of the area median income.

Once renovated, the units will have to be preserved for at least 20 years under the provisions of the loan.

Georgetown County partnered with the Lowcountry Housing Trust in 2010 after recognizing the need for “workforce housing.” The agency expanded its service area to include Georgetown County and — with Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and the Frances P. Bunnell Foundation, the other two partners in the initiative — has since been providing programing and funding opportunities to help residents purchase homes and increase the number of affordable homes available.

“This initiative isn’t what people usually think of when they think of affordable housing,” explained Beth Goodale, the county’s director of recreation and com-

munity services. “We’re targeting the working class; people who are teachers and firefighters; who make important contributions to our community, but aren’t at the top of the pay scale.”

A housing needs assessment was one of the first things the partnership produced and it showed the county needed not only more home-buying opportunities for people performing those types of jobs, but also rental opportunities that meet the constraints of their income levels. The Lowcountry Housing Trust has worked for more than two years to create those opportunities.

“We’ve been actively meeting with developers, nonprofits, churches — anybody interested in developing affordable housing in the county,” said Michelle Mapp, executive director of the Lowcountry Housing Trust.

The trust is also working with people who will take advantage of housing opportunities made possible by their efforts.

The third in a series of training courses for first-time homebuyers was March 23 at the Waccamaw Regional offices in Georgetown. Completion of this course is mandatory to qualify for many down payment and other homebuyer assistance programs. The county planned to have just four of the workshops. However, it’s now expected that more will be scheduled due to the high level of interest.

The trust has additionally had programs

to help potential homebuyers build their credit.

Market conditions hindered efforts to get loan agreements under way, but with the first deal complete, all parties involved are hopeful more won’t be far behind.

“It does take time to form these agreements,” Mapp said. “It does require some technical assistance and handholding with the developer trying to get the project off the ground. If it was easy to do, the market would be doing it and there wouldn’t be a need for our type of organization. But once you’ve got that first agreement, that first success, you’ve got someone to tell the story and more projects come along.”

Sarah Penick Smith, executive director for Waccamaw Regional, agrees.

“We’re excited because we believe this first project will be an example of the wonderful opportunities available to developers who are interested in providing affordable housing to the working families in our county,” she said.

Usually once the word gets out about the opportunities that exist, interest increases and more agreements are signed.

“I’m thrilled about the potential here and that the county is so forward-thinking,” Smith said. “We’ve embraced this opportunity to work with the Housing Trust and I totally credit Georgetown County Council. They took a bold, brave step when they entered this partnership and it’s going to pay off.”



The Winyah Apartments, shown above, will be the first “workforce” housing project to be completed in Georgetown County through an agreement with the Lowcountry Housing Trust.

Boys and Girls Club helps teens realize potential

Every day after school, around 30 middle school and high school age kids meet at Georgetown County's Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown. They're part of the growing number of youths who belong to the Boys and Girls Club, a program of the Salvation Army in partnership with Georgetown County Parks and Recreation.

The program is geared toward helping kids and teens do better in school, make better choices and realize their potential both personally and as contributors to their community, said Adam Payne of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation.

Though daily attendance in the program hovers around 30, the group's membership is up to around 90, Payne said, and more young people are joining as word spreads about the program.

"The doors have only been open for about a year," Payne said.

The program started up last June with about a dozen kids. Participation numbers are expected to grow this summer as outreach efforts continue.

The program consists of activities ranging from Power Hour, a daily, hour-long homework help and academics-focused period, to Triple Play, which focuses on the mind, body and soul, said Gaye Anne Tanner, executive director at the Salvation Army. Triple Play includes activities that stimulate learning, but also works to get kids outside and active.

"That's where we really partner well with Georgetown County Parks and Recreation," Tanner said.

The Boys and Girls Club also has a Smart Moves program, for which the Salvation Army

partnered with the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office to help kids learn how to combat peer pressure and bullying, avoid getting involved with gang-related activities and say no to drugs and alcohol.

The Keystone and Torch clubs, which exist within the Boys and Girls Club, focus on community service and have worked with a variety of organizations, involving youths in everything from beautification efforts to visiting residents in nursing homes.

A partnership with the Georgetown County Family YMCA allows kids to go swimming once a week. Kids also get to visit the beach and area rivers, and participate in kayaking and other water activities. They recently attended a basketball tournament in North Carolina and learned the basics of tennis at the county's recently completed Stables Park with David Bromberg, the county's tennis pro. They had a movie night on a recent Friday and the club just started a step team, which is something the area didn't have previously.

"It really is fun and being able to use all the parks and rec. facilities is great," Tanner said.

The club will kick off summer programming on June 1 with a family block party at the Beck Recreation Center on West Church Street from 10 a.m. to 2



Academics are a big focus of the Boys and Girls Club, but there are also plenty of opportunities for fun and games.

p.m.

Enrollment for the Boys and Girls Club is always open. Fee to participate ranges from \$50 to \$365 per year depending on the family's finances. The club is funded primarily through sponsorships. To sign up for the club, call 485-7067 or 527-

4479. Get more information about the club and its activities at facebook.com/bgcgeorgetownsc.

The program also needs adult volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is asked to e-mail volunteer.tsa@gmail.com.

Don't miss Baseball Camps at Retreat Park!

April 20-21
Cost is \$50 per camp or \$80 for two camps
For more information, call 545-3275.



Supervisor honored by booster club

Ricky Rowe, Georgetown County park maintenance supervisor, was recently honored by the East Bay Area Youth Booster Club at 8 Oaks Park in Georgetown.

Rowe was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his work from the booster club on behalf of the thousands of children and teens who have benefited from his 38 years of dedication and services to the county.

The booster club thanked Rowe for his commitment to excellence in all that he has done for our community and the various Athletic programs that he has been involved with.



Ricky Rowe, center, is pictured with officials from the East Bay Area Youth Booster Club at East Bay Park.

Georgetown County farmers markets are back!



Find fresh, local produce, baked goods and more at the farmers markets in Georgetown and Pawleys Island.

Open at East Bay Park on Saturdays and at Parkersville Park on Wednesdays
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 (starting April 6)

For information, call 545-3333.



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is now offering



Join the party at the Beck Recreation Center!

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
 4-5 p.m.

For ages 13 and up
 Cost is \$7 per class

For information, call (843) 545-3275

Baseball

Continued from Page 1

each child to play.

Goude's club signed up 440 kids for teams this year. "We organize every aspect of the program, from registration of players and registration for volunteer coaches to scheduling practices, games and inter-league play," he said

Then there's assigning commissioners to oversee each league, recruiting team sponsors, running the concession stands and myriad other duties. The program run in Georgetown County is through the Dixie Network. That means the teams follow Dixie Youth rules and guidelines. Players range in age from 2 to 14, with the youngest starting on co-ed T-ball teams.

"It is a lot of effort and time," Goude said. And it lasts a good part of the year, with registration starting in January and the first game usually taking place in March.

In Pleasant Hill, booster club president Mark Avant said transporting kids to practice and games is often also part of the job, and an added challenge in getting players to sign up. In that rural area of the county, many folks are "driving 30 to 90 minutes just to get to work," Avant said. He doesn't want any child who wants to participate to miss out because they don't have a ride. If a child tells him that's an issue, he'll find a way to get them where they need to go, he said.

Greg Ormsby, treasurer for the Waccamaw Youth Booster Club, said he's not sure exactly how many hours his group puts in every year. "Somebody probably needs to do a study," he said. "But I'm sure it's several hundred hours over the course of a season. Some put in more than others, of course, but a lot goes into making this operation run

right, and we're constantly looking at how to better our service."

It's all volunteer work, so it's not something a person would likely want to do if they didn't have a passion for the program. Most who put in their time say they not only have children who participate, but were once participants themselves and have a love for the sport and what it offers to youth.

"I think we all do it because we, first of all, support the youth in our area," said Amanda Cannon, secretary for the booster club in Andrews. "Most of us have been there and we know it this program helps mold kids

into the people they're going to be. We want this program to work and be successful for the kids."

The boosters want kids to "get out there and have fun," all the while absorbing the lessons sports have to teach — sportsmanship, hard work and fair play to name a few.

Goude is 38 now and has two sons who play recreational baseball. But he still remembers well, and fondly, his own years in the program.

"I can remember making the all-star team and the kids I played with. And now I'm coaching some of their kids," he said.

It's very rewarding to watch

kids go through the program, becoming better players and having the same kinds of experiences that shaped Goude's childhood, he added.

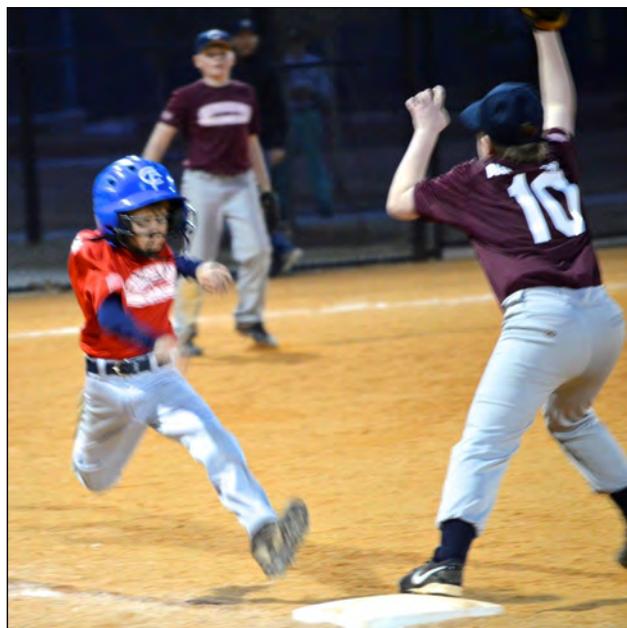
"It's all for the kids," he said.

Ormsby played baseball all his life. His father taught him the game.

"I want to continue the legacy down through the kids and teach it to them," he said. "To me, baseball is a fabulous game. With recreational baseball, it's a competition, but it's also about community. We're doing this for the community."

The boosters also put in bids to host games and tournaments, which helps bring money into the community. The county hosted two Dixie Youth tournaments at 8 Oaks Park last summer. Visitors traveling to the

See "Baseball," Page 8



Boys and girls play ball at 8 Oaks Park on a recent game day. The park is packed with kids, coaches and spectators almost daily.

Ball Field

Continued from Page 1

ings affected the team's ability to play there. He said the bases weren't attached to the ground, there was no clay where there should have been a pitcher's mound, home plate and bases, and there were holes in the outfield. If the area received any rain, the field was too muddy to play on at all.

The county's budget wouldn't support overhauling the field, but the new fields the county recently completed nearby at Retreat Park weren't ready for use. Those fields officially open on April 11.

Rourk, who is "big into baseball," wasn't ready to give up. He saw something that needed to be addressed and decided to find a way to help his community. When he started telling friends about what he wanted to do, they were quick to hop on board.

Jim Coster and his company, Carolina Paver and Wall Systems, were among the first to commit to help. Walter Warren of Thomas and Hutton engineering firm signed on, along with Andy Keelin and Philip Sawyer of United Rentals, which furnished equipment.

R. L. Causey, owned by Robby Causey, of Murrells Inlet furnished trucks to haul in clay from Glasscock; Ace Hardware of Pawleys Island furnished rakes and buckets; Stephen

Rabon and S&R Turf contributed labor and equipment to redo the bases, home plate and pitcher's mound; Bud Stone and Stone Construction gave top soil and trucking; and Georgetown County provided clay, bases, equipment and staff.

"What ended up happening was the private sector stepped up," Rourk explained. "We were all involved in getting that park built. A lot of people stepped up and helped."

It was a true community effort, he added.

"This project is an excellent example of the positive results citizens partnering with government can achieve," said Beth Goodale, the county's director of parks and recreation. "None of us could have accomplished this project alone and within the timeframe it was done."

Additionally, the project allowed county staff to develop new and stronger relationships within the community, which Goodale said she's sure will be beneficial in the future.

Those who worked on the project met at the school on a Tuesday to work out the details and do some prep work on the field. Then they came back on Wednesday to finish the project.

"It was amazing. We started on Wednesday morning and had finished basically by Friday," Rourk said.

Players and parents were asked to come out the following Saturday and wrap up the project.

"I'm a Christian and I believe the Lord did this," Rourk said. "It was absolutely overwhelming the response I got from these folks and how willing they were to do it in a very tight schedule. Their hearts were touched and I believe they were compelled to help me... No one ever asked me for any kind of payment, or moaned and groaned. They just saw a need and tried to address it."

Georgetown Council Member Bob Anderson said that's the way it should be.

"Here's a case of our citizens stepping up to the plate and helping our community through their own efforts and labor, taking the initiative and getting personally involved with community development," he said.

It's something he'd like to see more of, and Rourk agrees.

"We as citizens have to step up," he said. "I think it's appropriate to step up and help your community."

It's not too late for others to get involved in the project.

The field could still use some fencing for the outfield, so the kids don't have to chase the ball into the woods, and some extra equipment would also be appreciated.

Baseball

Continued from Page 1

area for those events filled up rental homes and hotel rooms, and contributed more than \$600,000 to the local economy, according to a report generated by the county's Department of Recreation and Community Services based on data collected by staff and a formula from the National Association of Sports Commissions.

Booster clubs report participation in baseball and softball programs is down this year. Andrews registered around 340 kids. Their all-time high was 462. Pleasant Hill averages 160, but was struggling to reach 100 last month. For the boosters, it's one more challenge to be taken on and overcome.

"It's a constant push, push, push to get the kids involved," Avant said. Though sometimes

getting the parents on board is the bigger challenge, he adds.

Yet in the end, when the fields are full and the kids are laughing and having a great time, the boosters agree it's all more than worth the effort.



Boys and girls as young as 2 are eligible to sign up for recreational T-ball teams. See more photos at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc.

Free workshop helps youth plan for bright future

Teens, parents, teachers and people who work with youth are all invited to Achieving Success for Teens, a two-hour workshop that includes a bestselling workbook to help guide your planning.

The workshop is coordinated by The Georgetown County Library system, The Village Group, Life Decisions Group, Georgetown County School District, Waccamaw Regional Education Center and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

"We believe that successful, thriving communities are built by educated families with good jobs," said Ray Funnye, founder of the Village Group. "We think this workshop can be a stepping stone for our youth to move to a brighter future. I would love for every teen to achieve something they can be proud of, a job that challenges them, and this is a great first step."

The program will be offered three times, allowing participants to choose the date that works best with their schedule. Program dates are Wednesday, April 10, 6:30-8:30 pm; Thursday, April 11, 6:30-8:30 pm; and Saturday, April 13, 9-11 am. All three workshops will be at the Beck Administration Building, 2018 Church St., Georgetown.

Al Foderaro, the presenter, has more than 30 years of experience providing counsel and advice to teens and adults making important academic, personal and career decisions.

His experience inspired him to write several books, including "It's Your Decision for Teens: A Commonsense Guide to Making Better Choices" and "Keys to Student Success." Both have been used in schools and colleges nationwide.

"The teenage years serve as a kind of bridge between being a child and becoming an adult, and are filled with high expectations and great responsibility," said Foderaro. "Teens are being asked to make some life-impacting decisions. The better they become at making those decisions, the more satisfying and brighter their futures and adult lives will be. Achieving Success for Teens covers critical elements that every youth needs to address."

There are some fun perks for attending the workshop – dozens of door prizes will be given away, including an iPad. WalMart

**You can become anything.
But you need to know how.**

ACHIEVING SUCCESS for Teens

**Teens, parents, teachers, and those who
work with teens are invited!**

FREE Workbook! **FREE Event!** **Prizes Even an iPad!**

Three dates to choose from—pick any one!
Wednesday, April 10, from 6:30—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 11th, from 6:30—8:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 13th, from 9:00—11:00 a.m.

**Beck Administration Building
2018 Church Street, Georgetown**

**More information:
(843) 436-7071**

Coordinated by: **The Village Group**, **Life Decisions Group**, **WACCAMAW REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER**, **ΔΣΘ**

is providing snacks for participants, and generous groups including Agru America, First Citizens Bank, Trebol USA, Allstate Insurance, KRA Corporation, Mead & Hunt, and the Georgetown Times will also contribute.

There's even a chance to start right away on your path to success, Funnye said. On April 13, just after the workshop, there will be a giant Teen Job Fair in the same building. From 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., teens can meet with representatives from local businesses that are hiring for the summer, enjoy great giveaways, and even get help with their résumé or applications.

The job fair is sponsored by the Georgetown County Library and S.C. Works

Waccamaw, with funding from a Smart investing@your library grant, a partnership between the American Library Association and the FINRA Investor Education Association.

"We want to get teens connected with summer jobs, and it seemed to be a great fit, teaming up with the workshops," said Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County library director. "One step to career success is getting that first job on your resume!"

Pre-registration is not required for the workshops or job fair. For questions about the Achieving Success for Teens workshops, please call (843)436-7071. For more information about the teen job fair, call (843) 545-3327.

Sheriff's G-MEN campaign raises over \$30K for safe house

A rainy day did not dampen the enthusiasm of more than 150 attendees to a barbecue and fish fry event at Greenfield Plantation on Sunday.

Hosted by Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb, founder of G-MEN (Georgetown Men Endorsing Non-violence), the event raised over \$30,000 to help victims of domestic violence. The funds will support a new safe house being opened this month by the Family Justice Center of Georgetown County. The safe house, which will also be operated by the center, is the only safe house for domestic abuse victims in the county.

The fundraiser was part of an ongoing effort to enlist men "to take a proactive stance in putting a stop to domestic violence in Georgetown County; to serve as positive role models for our youth, families and residents; and to provide safety for those in crisis and immediate danger."

"The outpouring of support and generosity of all who participated in this fundraising event for the Georgetown County Safe House to serve

victims of domestic violence was tremendous," Cribb said. "I want to thank everyone who participated in making it a success." Not only was it a good time for all who attended, but the commitment of the community in support of the safe house was evident, he added.

Jimmy A. Richardson, 15th Circuit Court Solicitor, was a speaker at the event. He thanked the sheriff for inviting him to participate in "such a worthwhile endeavor needed to give victims of domestic abuse a foothold and a place to regroup." He also called the event a tremendous success and complimented the crowd for their willingness to brave the weather in support of the cause.

"There is a lot of work to be done, but this is a good start," Richardson said.

Cribb plans for G-MEN to increase awareness of the issue of domestic violence by creating educational programs and developing funding sources. His goal is to recruit at least 500 men to his volunteer coalition.

For more information about



At top, Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb, right, is pictured with County Council Member Ron Charlton at the event. Above, people fill the tent set up at Greenfield Plantation on March 24.

G-MEN or to join, contact Donna Moeller, (843) 436-6066, or send a check payable to FJC/G-MEN to P.O. Box 366, Georgetown, SC 29442. For

more information regarding the Family Justice Center, contact Vicki Bourus or Beverly Kennedy, (843) 546-3926, or visit www.fjcgeorgetown.org.

Waccamaw Library

Recipe Swap Party!

Saturday, April 6th at 1 p.m.
RSVP: 545-3623

It's FREE!

Here's how it works!

- Pick a favorite recipe
- Bring a copy of the recipe to the library by March 30th.
- Bring the delicious dish to the recipe swap, and taste all the other creations.
- We'll also have a hilarious 'cooking quiz' and a cookbook with all the recipes at the party!

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.

Georgetown County Spotlight

Meet Robert Lee

Georgetown County's Public Services Department wants to highlight one of its outstanding employees, collection driver Robert Lee. He was recently promoted to collection crew chief due to his attention to detail, leadership skills and willingness to work as part of a team.

Better known as "Captain Trash" to his peers, Lee exhibits an exceptional work ethic, said Fred Davis, the county's superintendent for environmental services.

Lee came to Georgetown County in 2009 from a 15-year stint with Waste Management in Miami, Fla. He is a father of seven and resides in Hemingway. During his first year with Georgetown County, Lee was recognized as employee of the year. He works hard, but you couldn't tell by looking at his roll-off truck, which he calls "Brenda Jean," his co-workers say. Lee maintains Brenda Jean to unimpeachable standards. It's clean inside and out, and even smells good.

Rich Price of First Vehicle Services commends Lee, "for setting an example for new and current employees on how to maintain county vehicles." Lee's work ethic and commitment to maintenance of his equipment are valued by Environmental Services and the county as a whole," Davis said.



Robert Lee, a collection driver, is pictured with his truck, Brenda Jean.

Riverkeeper offers opportunities to help improve water quality

Volunteer monitors sought

The Waccamaw Riverkeeper program is looking for volunteers to participate in the Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program.

Interested volunteers will join existing volunteer teams to sample selected sites along the Waccamaw River every second and fourth Wednesday morning of each month. Volunteers will be trained and assisted by the Waccamaw volunteer monitoring coordinator.

The water quality monitoring program began in June 2006 and was designed to fulfill four needs:

- To help local municipalities satisfy stormwater pollution prevention program requirements for

public involvement and education;

- To assist local municipalities in detecting and responding to pollutants discharged into the Waccamaw (Illicit Discharge Detection and Response);
- To increase coverage of water quality monitoring along the Waccamaw River to assist with development of site specific water quality standards;
- And to develop a program that meets S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control requirements.

Information on the Program is available at www.coastal.edu/wwa/vm/index.html or by contacting Kelly Davis, (843) 349-4007 or (843) 349-4114.

Take the Riverkeeper Challenge

The Waccamaw Riverkeeper is inviting youth from local organizations and schools to take part in the Riverkeeper Challenge.

The challenge is based on the World Water Monitoring Challenge (www.wwmnd.org), an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. The Riverkeeper will launch the program with youth groups by providing a simple monitoring kit and teaching participants about some of the most common indicators of water health. Youth of all ages have the chance to take part in this local and global project that encourages further participation in more formal citizen-driven monitoring efforts.

The test results obtained by youth groups can then be posted online at the World Water Monitoring Challenge's database, www.monitorwater.org. There, the local community can track their data as well as share and observe data from around the world.

For more information, call (843) 349-4007.

Join a river sweep and make a difference

The Waccamaw Riverkeeper and its Adopt-a-Landing partners invite to public to join their annual spring cleanups on the Waccamaw River as part of the Great American Cleanup through May 31.

For more information on river cleanup efforts near you, contact the Riverkeeper office, (843) 349-4007.

Governor lauds efforts at Carvers Bay Library

The successful effort to bring books, technology and education to the residents of rural northwestern Georgetown County has earned accolades from the S.C. Department of Commerce, and a plaque presented by Gov. Nikki Haley.

On March 4, at the South Carolina Rural Summit in Aiken, the Georgetown County Library was presented the Education Award for the construction of the Carvers Bay Library, and the computers, classes, software and technology club that filled it.

“Rural areas are the heart of South Carolina,” said Gov. Haley. “It’s important that individuals in our rural areas become the drivers of change that can help make their communities successful. By working together, community leaders can help attract new industry to their areas. The future is bright for our rural communities.”

Haley was the keynote speaker at the summit, which brought together community leaders, economic developers and state officials to share ideas, experiences and knowledge to improve rural South Carolina. Local library efforts were lauded as an example of how improvement in education can add to the quality of rural life.

“We opened the Carvers Bay Branch Library in 2006,” said Library Director Dwight McInvaill. “There had never been a public library there before. The nearest one was about an hour away round trip. The area was isolated and poor with illiteracy approaching 30 percent, unemployment 15 percent and poverty 20 percent.”

The library construction was made possible by a \$695,450 federal grant from the Small Business Administration along

with county and state funds altogether totaling about \$1 million. The local Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation gave the library a special and substantial grant to establish an innovative technical center for teens. When the library was built, it became a bustling center for residents, and teens flocked to the gaming, video production, and new technology events held there.

By August 2006, WebJunction – a web-based learning center for libraries – had named the new facility as the National Library of the Month. Then, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in January 2007 released a video nationally called “Keeping Your Community Connected” highlighting the Carvers Bay Branch Library’s achievements.

When the Georgetown County Library became in January 2008 the first South Carolina institution ever to win a National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, First Lady Laura Bush lauded the fact that the library card registration rate in Carvers Bay had gone from one in 50 to one in six.

The technology and gaming programs launched in Carvers Bay were expanded to all four county library branches, where they continue to flourish. In an effort to serve even more patrons, the technology has been given dual uses: at the Georgetown branch, the game room also serves as a small business center replete with eight computers, workshops, and individualized help for job seekers and business owners.

“We want to continue to be a place where books are just the beginning,” said McInvaill. “Our branches have always been hubs of activity in the commu-



From left are Gov. Nikki Haley, Carvers Bay branch manager Marilyn Robb-Lance, Georgetown County library director Dwight McInvaill and public services librarian Heather Pelham. Haley presented the Education Award from the S.C. Department of Commerce to Georgetown County library staff on March 4.

nity, and we know, to continue the latest technology, and the that, we need to give patrons best service possible.”

Teen FREE!

JOB FAIR

Saturday, April 13

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Beck Administration Building
2018 Church Street, Georgetown

- Great local summer jobs
- Financial Fitness Mini-tutorials
- Resume Doctor
- Online Application help

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Georgetown County breaks ground on new Waccamaw Library

When Georgetown County officials broke ground on a new Waccamaw Library off Willbrook Boulevard on March 15, hundreds were there to witness it. The groundbreaking, which featured musical performances, kids activities and opportunities to be part of upcoming fundraising efforts for the new library, was a hit with the community.

Clockwise from right, a bubble-blowing station was one of the most popular activities at the groundbreaking; a robotics demonstration was also a popular draw; Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County library director, addresses the crowd; Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth and Gullah artist Jonathan Green, special guests at the event, watch the festivities; Carlethia Rudolph, Waccamaw branch manager, talks with other guests at the groundbreaking; and county officials, members of the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and others involved with the library building project prepare for the ceremonial turning of dirt at the site.

The new library is expected to open next year and will be more than double the size of the existing library at 17,000 square feet. For more information or to get involved with the fundraising campaign, call the library, 545-3623.



Third installment in science series focuses on ‘connection’

Pushing the Limits

There are just two more opportunities to take part in the groundbreaking science series, “Pushing the Limits,” at the Georgetown County Library’s main branch in Georgetown.

The third installment in the four-part series will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, April 5. Admission is free. The theme for this installment is “Connection” and the suggested book to read before the program is “Thunderstruck” by Erik Larson.

In “Thunderstruck,” Larson combined painstaking research into technology history with compelling characterizations and murderous twists. The novel fictionalizes Guglielmo Marconi’s struggle to generate enough electricity for a reliable trans-Atlantic transmission, which also parallels the true-life search for one of Britain’s most notorious serial killers. Marconi’s technology eventually allows people on both sides of the pond to listen in as Scotland Yard tracks and captures the villain.

Free copies are available at the library.

As part of the program on April 5, a video interview with Larson, the widely acclaimed author of “Devil in the White City,” will be shown. Participants will also watch an interview with Roxanne

Swentzell, a prominent ceramic sculptor, whose works are represented in museums around the world. She is also a founder of the Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute in New Mexico.

Swentzell was born with a speech impediment that made it hard to communicate with the world around her, until the first time she began to work in clay.

A scientific discussion, led by a moderator, Jeff Pelham, will follow.

“Pushing the Limits” is intended to give participants a new way to look at their surroundings, using real people, real stories and real science. The Georgetown County Library is one of 20 public libraries nationwide chosen as a pilot site for the series, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Additionally, it’s one of only three where the programs are being filmed.

For more information, call 545-3327.

Coming up Next:

KNOWLEDGE

Friday, May 3

Suggested book: *The Land of Painted Caves* by Jean Auel

Don’t miss April Children’s programs at the Waccamaw Library

Books by children’s author Eric Carle, who wrote “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” in 1969, will be the focus of the first story time Wednesday this month, on April 3, at the Waccamaw Library.

Story times are every Wednesday at 10 a.m. for babies up to age 3 and at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 3-5.

Other story time themes this month include fables on April 10, science on April 17 and pets on April 24.

Kids are also invited to join Mrs. Manners at the library at 10:30 a.m. April 6 to learn how and why to behave.

For information, call 545-3623.

Free performances April 7 at the library

“Chit Chat and the Classics” is the title for April’s First Thursday of the Month program at the Waccamaw Library.

The program begins at 7 p.m. April 4 and is presented by Murrells Inlet Community Theatre’s Second Stage.

The program will feature Mike Bivona chatting with “Tree Man” Duane Keck, cello selections by Heidi McCarty, a reading by Alice Phillips and a monolog by Vonna Gingo.

The program is offered for free by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call the library, 545-3623.



Free, educational fun
for all ages, at the
Waccamaw Library!



Saturday, April 13th
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.



Jerry Wall’s Amazing Animals presents:

Mammals!

Are WE One?

Don’t miss the live animal guests!



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, 545-3339

Finance, 545-3002

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven Street
Georgetown, S.C. 29442-1270

Phone: (843) 545-3063
Fax: (843) 545-3292

Find us on the web!
www.gtcounty.org



Scenes from Hershey's Track at Waccamaw High



This is the time of year when Hershey's Track and Field games, offered through Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, are keeping kids active. Pictured are scenes from a March 23 track and field event at Waccamaw High School. For more information about current and upcoming recreational programs, visit our website, gtcounty.org or call 545-3275.

