Work on inlet community center is under way

The Murrells Inlet Community Center is even busier than usual this month, with construction activity added to the facility’s usual day-to-day comings and goings.

Heavy machinery started moving on site in mid-August and site preparation work has since been complete. The next step is to lay the building pad, then steel will start going up.

It’s a sight inlet residents have been waiting to see for years, since a new facility was promised with the adoption of the county’s long-term Capital Improvement Plan in 2008. The new building will be built behind the existing facility and will maintain a character in keeping with the inlet. The center will continue to operate during construction. The current building will be demolished when construction is finished sometime this winter.

“We’re expecting it to be a very quick project from this point on,” said Beth Goodale, Georgetown County’s director of Parks and Recreation. “I certainly hope it will be.”

The existing facility, a former school building, is “functionally obsolete,” according to Goodale and members of the community who

See “Community Center,” Page 5

Ribbon cutting for Jetty View project set for Sept. 19

Work on a new marsh front walkway in Murrells Inlet is complete and a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony are planned just in time for the end of summer.

Officials with Georgetown County and Murrells Inlet 2020, along with inlet businesses and residents, will celebrate the official opening of the new Jetty View Walk on Thursday, Sept. 19, beginning at 3:30 p.m. at Morse Park, where the walkway begins. The new walkway will increase public

As part of the festivities on Sept. 19, Georgetown County will also celebrate the designation of Morse Park Landing as part of the National Heritage Corridor. See story on page 5 for details.

See “Jetty View,” Page 5
Sheriff’s National Night draws a crowd in Andrews

The 30th annual National Night Out, hosted last month by Sheriff A. Lane Cribb and the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office, was a huge success.

The event, which took place Aug. 6 at the old Andrews High School, attracted many county residents and gave law enforcement officers an excellent opportunity to interact positively with the public.

National Night Out is a community building campaign designed to:

- Heighten crime prevention awareness;
- Generate support and participation in anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and community-police partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

“Providing a fun and safe outing for the entire family brings a community together and forms a positive relationship with law enforcement and other agencies,” Cribb said of the event. “I think next year will be even bigger and better.”

He offered thanks to everyone who participated, but especially to the following organizations, which worked hard to ensure a good time was enjoyed by all: Andrews Police Department, Andrews Fire Department, Georgetown City Fire, Georgetown County Fire/EMS, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office employees and Summer Academy cadets, Pepsi-Cola, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and Walmart.

For more information about National Night Out and other programs of the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office, call (843) 546-5102.

McGruff the Crime Dog receives hugs from kids during the 30th annual National Night Out.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Sept. 21, 9 a.m. to noon
at Palmetto Ace Hardware in Pawleys Island

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

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

For more information, call (843) 545-3524

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
Free homebuyer training workshop set for Sept. 21 in Pawleys Island

The next in Georgetown County’s series of free workshops for first-time homebuyers is set for Sept. 21. The workshop will take place at the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation office, 82638 Ocean Highway, in Pawleys Island from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participation and registration are again free, and lunch is provided. However, space is limited, so those interested in the workshop are advised to sign up early.

Online registration is available at www.eventbrite.com/event/7608568433.

The county, in partnership with the Lowcountry Housing Trust, the Bunnelle Foundation, Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and the Charleston Trident Urban League, offered the first of its certified homebuyer training courses last fall in the Pawleys Island area. Courses have been scheduled in the county regularly since.

During the workshop, the league will provide information on the steps to take in purchasing a home, from credit to moving in. Information on budgeting, home inspections, moving preparations and closing will be presented.

Some loan programs require borrowers graduate from this free training course to receive any of the following:
- Up to $5,000 in down payment and closing-cost assistance for first-time homebuyers or veterans
- Up to $7,500 in matching funds for the purchase of a home in an area targeted for stabilization
- Up to $12,000 in down payment and closing-cost assistance for purchase and rehabilitation of certain existing homes
- Up to $12,000 for weatherization and energy efficiency improvements or accessibility enhancements (up to $15,000 for veterans)
- Up to $15,000 in matching funds for the purchase of a foreclosed property being sold by an FHLBank Atlanta member financial institution.

To register for the training sessions, call (843) 973-7285 or e-mail debby@lowcountryhousingtrust.org.

Tips help parents teach kids about strangers

Most kids have probably been taught to be wary of strangers and to never, ever get into a car with someone they don’t know. But there’s more kids should be told to help them know what to do when they encounter a stranger.

The Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office offers the following safety tips and encourages you to incorporate them into safety talks with the kids in your life.

Tell children:
- Unless they have been given specific permission by you, it is never OK to go away with an adult or child under any circumstances.
- Never approach a stranger in a motor vehicle.
- If a stranger grabs them, kick, bite, hit, scream and do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others and stop the stranger from pulling the child away or dragging them into a car.
- If a child is left home alone, they should not to open the door for anyone.
- Use the buddy system and avoid walking anywhere alone.
- If a stranger approaches, it is not necessary to speak to him or her. Just keep walking or run from the stranger.
- Do not accept candy or other items from a stranger.

Adults should never leave young children unattended in public places. Also:
- Make sure your child knows his or her name, address and phone number.
- Keep a recent photo of your child, along with their fingerprints and medical information in an ID kit. Visit the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office at 430 N. Fraser St., Georgetown, to pick up a kit provided by the National Child Identification program.

For more information, call (843) 545-5102.

September programs at the Georgetown Library

September 17
“Treasures from Brookgreen Plantation’s Gullah-Geechee Street”
Susan Hoffer McMillan will describe a six-month, detailed excavation on part of the sweeping property that uncovered wonderful artifacts from Brookgreen Gardens’ past.

September 24
“Chronicles of an Irreverent Reverend”
Joe Baroody, a man who has seen it all, will recount why he believes “what goes wrong can make you better” through his hilarious experiences as a pastoral counselor.

Programs are free and begin at 10 a.m. in the library auditorium. To receive weekly program notices, e-mail pburns@gtcounty.org
Aviation has come a long way since the first airplane landed in Georgetown County, near Willowbank, in 1911. These days, the county has two bustling airports and those facilities have a direct economic impact of more than $1 million for the county.

The indirect economic impact is more than $900,000 and factoring in the “trickle down effect” increases the impact to up to $3.5 million, according to retired Major Gen. Gerald Harmon, the county’s representative on the S.C. Aeronautics Commission.

Those numbers are among many reasons county officials and aeronautics enthusiasts gathered at the Georgetown Airport on Aug. 19 to celebrate S.C. Aviation Week. Harmon was the keynote speaker for the event.

“When you invest in aviation, there is a great return on that investment,” he told a crowd of a few dozen. “A lot of people may not realize that when you invest in infrastructure such as the airports in our state, 90 percent is paid by the federal government. Local and state government split the rest equally. But this doesn’t come on the backs of taxpayers.”

The money instead comes from aviation fees and other funds directly linked to aviation.

“Aviation is a self-sustaining industry,” Harmon said. “It’s an economic engine not only for our airport but our entire state.”

Statewide, the dollars linked to aviation are in the billions, he added.

Georgetown County’s two airports employ 47 people, house more than 40 aircraft and see well over 100 takeoffs and landings every day. The county’s airports are also active in the support of businesses as well as the growing tourist industry.

“Aviation is a vital component of Georgetown County’s economic development strategic plan and we are pleased to have an airport commission and County Council that support this important industry,” said Ray Funnye, director of the county’s public services department, which is in charge of the airports.

“This airport, with the support of the S.C. Aeronautics Commission and the FAA, continues to make substantial improvements to the airport infrastructure to ensure that the flying public has a safe and accommodating facility to use.”

Tell us what you think!

The Georgetown County Chronicle has now been around for one full year. Whether you’ve been reading since the start or you just found us, we want to hear from you. Providing a publication that’s valuable to our residents, property owners and visitors is important to us, so we’ve created a brief survey to gather reader feedback. Access the survey at http://tinyurl.com/m6b0oog or you’re always welcome to send comments to jbroach@gtcounty.org.
helped make plans for the new building. Additionally, the current building is at an age where maintenance and repairs are becoming increasingly costly, and the facility isn’t conducive to energy efficiency. The new $1.5 million building will be about the same size as the existing center—7,500 square feet. But, a flexibility and efficiency of space not seen in the old building will allow better use of space, making the new facility seem bigger.

About half of the new building will be comprised of a flexible multi-purpose space. That area will be home to the Murrells Inlet Community Theater. The group will be able to seat up to 250 for its performances, more than doubling its current capacity. The space will also comfortably accommodate meetings, receptions, parties and more.

Parks and Recreation staff is currently in the process of picking out theater seating and, though the space where the theater will be located will be constructed with a flat floor, plans are to purchase a retractable telescopic platform seating system that will provide better viewing of the stage during performances.

The center will also provide space for a Sheriff’s Office substation, room for various classes, programs and meetings, and will be made available for private banquets, receptions and other events.

Goodale said she’s heard only good things from the community about plans for the center. “Currently, everybody’s excited and everything is going as planned,” she said.

Morse Park joins National Heritage Corridor

Morse Park Landing in Murrells Inlet may be attracting quite a few more visitors soon. This scenic marsh front spot, featuring a public boat launch and crabbing dock, was recently designated as an S.C. National Heritage Corridor site. Georgetown County officials, along with Murrells Inlet 2020 and others from the community, will put up the new Heritage Corridor sign at the park on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 3:30 p.m. The occasion will be combined with a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony for the new Jetty View Walk, which begins at the landing.

“Getting a site designated in Georgetown County is something we’ve spent years working on,” said Beth Goodale, Georgetown County’s director of parks and recreation. “This will certainly be a good thing for tourism. There are a lot of groups out there who love to visit the kinds of sites on this list, so this is definitely a feather in our cap.”

As part of the corridor, Morse Park Landing will have a destination page on the South Carolina Traveler website at www.schnhc.org. The page includes photos, links for more information, and options to add a destination to an itinerary or share it via social media.

Morse Park Landing is located on the site of Morse’s Oyster Roast, one of the inlet’s first oyster shucking restaurants. It offers views of ocean jetties, Drunken Jack Island and Huntington Beach State Park.

Jetty View

The Jetty View Walk is 10 feet wide and extends about 700 feet along Allston Creek, from the crab dock at Morse Park Landing, past the Hot Fish Club and Fuego’s restaurant. Like the MarshWalk, Jetty View will be used as a marketing tool to attract visitors to the inlet and encourage them to stay there longer, enjoying the view, and perhaps spending money with more businesses and vendors.

The public is encouraged to join us on Sept. 19 to celebrate the completion of this project. For updates as the ribbon cutting date draws nearer, visit our website, www.gtcounty.org or connect with us on Twitter or at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc.
Library offers birding class, plantation field trip this month

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library will partner with Jerry Walls, a popular local naturalist, for a class and field trip focusing on birding. Both will take place during the month of September.

The classroom portion of the series is scheduled for 10-11:30 a.m. on Sept. 14 at the Waccamaw Library. A field trip to privately-owned Dirleton and Springfield plantations near Plantersville will be Sept. 28. The class will teach students to identify local and migrating birds, and cover equipment needed for birding, as well as locations good for birding.

Cost is $25 for the class and field trip, or $15 for just the class. Reservations are required. For information, call (843) 545-3623, or sign up at the front desk at the library.

Beach gets new emergency access

Garden City Beach should have a new emergency access by the end of this year. Plans are to start construction once tourist season finishes winding down.

Presently, the only emergency access on the Georgetown County side of Garden City Beach is at access No. 42 and the placement of the groin system in that area makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to travel north or south from No. 42. That means emergency vehicles often have to cross into Horry County to access the beach and drive back down to Georgetown County when responding to calls on the majority of that part of the beach.

Beach accesses in are numbered 1-46 in the Georgetown County portion of Garden City, with No. 1 starting near the Horry County line. Accesses pick up in North Litchfield at No. 47. The new emergency access will be paid for with an award of funds from the county's portion of revenue from the state's tax on short-term rentals.

The county is also getting ready to put up new beach regulation signs at public beach accesses in unincorporated areas of the county. The county currently has a “hodgepodge” of regulation signs on area beaches. The new signs will look similar to those at Horry County accesses, but in a different color.

Library seeks young stars

The Waccamaw Library is looking for actors ages 5-12 to perform in a Halloween program.

The program is part of the library’s First Thursday event for October, which will be titled “Ghost Stories and More.” The Oct. 3 program starts at 7 p.m.

Auditions will take place at 6 p.m. on Sept. 11 and 12 at the Murrells Inlet Community Theater, 4450 Murrells Inlet Rd. The theatre group will cast three boys and two girls.

For more information, send an e-mail to contact@mictheatre.com.

For more Waccamaw Library news and events, visit www.thefowl.org.
Preserving the past in the digital age an imperative task

The following editorial is by Julie Warren, project manager for the Georgetown County Digital Library.

When the Georgetown County Library launched its digital library in 2007, staff knew they were witnessing the start of something truly wonderful.

With the creation of the digital library, this small, rural library added a collection of historic photographs, books and other digitized documents dating back to the 18th century. For more than 200 years, these items had been stored in out-of-the-way places, mostly unavailable to the general public.

The concept of a digital library was fairly new in 2007, but the Georgetown Library received a grant from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation to partner with eight other local organizations to scan and preserve historic documents, photos and other important items related to the history of Georgetown County. Today, there are close to 40,000 items available through the Georgetown County Digital Library at www.pcdigital.org.

Those wonderful, historic photographs, land grants, newspapers and other items that were previously kept under lock and key, can now be accessed by anyone from anywhere around the world. Photographs in black and white showcase what life was like in Georgetown at the turn of the century. Horse-drawn carriages sit outside Iseman Drug, waiting for the owner to return. Children on bicycles pause to pose for the photographers hired by Mayor William D. Morgan (1853-1938), to capture life in this third oldest city in South Carolina.

Other agencies that participated in launching the digital library include the Baruch Foundation, the Kaminski House, the Georgetown County Museum and many others.

Maybe you’re new to the area or maybe you’ve lived here your whole life, but you’ve never visited all of the wonderful historical and cultural sites that Georgetown County has to offer. Well, now you can log on to one website and see those sites through the ages.

But why is this important? Why does the Georgetown County Library believe so strongly that these important items should be saved? Just like our forward-thinking Mayor Morgan at the turn of the 20th century, the Georgetown County Digital Library believes in the preservation of our history, the telling of the story of Georgetown through the many pieces of the puzzle that work together to form a complete picture. The Georgetown Library has a rich archive that holds stories and memories from long ago. But we don’t have every story, every photograph or even every newspaper.

Working together with area museums has helped to create a useful resource that researchers from around the globe can tap into for numerous projects. Doing a keyword search can lead to many items from many collections, again, like pieces of a puzzle fitting together. Yet we know that out there, both in Georgetown County and beyond, are more photographs, letters and more pieces of history that have been preserved by families for generations. These are missing pieces of the puzzle that can help tell the long and rich story of our county more fully. So, while the original part of the grant has finished, there’s still more hidden history of Georgetown waiting to be discovered.

The Georgetown County Digital Library isn’t just utilized locally. In fact, server stats show that the site receives anywhere from 80,000-100,000 views a month, and people from all over the world write to tell us how much they appreciate the ability to do research from their own computer, rather than having to spend hours in a cold, dark storage room. Recently, a woman from Ireland found information on an ancestor, Sarah Sullivan, who had once lived in Georgetown and owned the Crowley building on Front Street. After years spent researching her family’s history, imagine her surprise when she was able to fill in one more blank with the information that she had discovered through the digital library.

We’re striving to share our collections with as many people as possible and we’ve partnered with the South Carolina Digital Library, www.scmemory.org, and the Digital Public Library of America, http://dp.la, to go beyond our county borders. The Georgetown County Digital Library was one of only a few public libraries invited to participate in the DPLA from the very beginning. Other members include the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Boston Library and the University of Virginia.

We’re the Little Library that Could and we’re moving around with the big boys to show the world just how relevant our history is to the story of America. It’s up to us, the current residents of this historic county, to save our history so we don’t become a county known for only modern architecture and tourist attractions. Our history must be preserved, whether in the form of historic buildings or hand-written letters. Historic preservation protects the memories of the people, places and events that made us who we are today.

If you haven’t been to the digital library website, please visit it today. There’s so much to see and we’re adding new things all the time. You can also check us out on Facebook for weekly trivia and great photos that highlight this great archive. So, whether you’re in the market to make new memories or to relive some old ones, visit the Georgetown County Digital Library and begin your virtual tour of the past.
County, Palmetto Ace team up to help residents properly dispose of household hazardous waste

Collection Day is Sept. 21

Georgetown County Public Services collected more than 150 cans of paint, plus fertilizers, pesticides, light bulbs and various other household chemicals during its Household Hazardous Waste Collections day last year.

The annual event returns on Sept. 21 and organizers are again hoping for a good response.

With help from Midway Fire Rescue and Habitat for Humanity of Georgetown, Georgetown County Public Services staff will collect hazardous items from 9 a.m. to noon at Palmetto Ace Home Center, located on Highway 17 in Pawleys Island.

Residents are encouraged to bring items including paint, oil, rechargeable and alkaline batteries, incandescent light bulbs, household cleaners, and non-commercial pesticides and fertilizers for proper disposal.

The first 25 residents who bring in five items will receive a free rain barrel.

Disposing of these items properly helps keep harmful chemicals out of local waterways, said Tracy Jones, who manages the county’s stormwater division. Each item collected during this event means one less chemical entering the county’s waterways and ground water systems which ultimately degrades the environment, she said.

Georgetown County is designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Operator. As such, the county must be in compliance with their MS4 permit allowing discharges of stormwater through ditches and pipes into large water bodies. Hosting activities that involve the public in actively reducing non-stormwater discharges into local water bodies are a requirement of the county’s permit.

For more information about Household Hazardous Collection and the Sept. 21 event, call (843) 545-3524.

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

Participants must be between the ages of 5-17 as of Sept. 1.

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.

Pictured above are scenes from the 2012 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
County to launch improved website

Georgetown County government will introduce an improved, more user-friendly website this month. The redesigned site will be easier to navigate and help county residents make the most of services and information offered online. Look for the redesigned site to go live at www.gtcounty.org in mid-September.

Beach, river sweeps on Sept. 21

Beach and river sweeps will take place across the state on Saturday, Sept. 21, as part of an S.C. Sea Grant Consortium annual one-day volunteer cleanup event. The effort is done in partnership with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and local groups and individuals that volunteer to organize community teams.

In Georgetown County, beach and river sweeps will take place at the following locations from 9 a.m. to noon:

- Pawleys Island (beach, creek and marsh) — contact Frank Johnson, 340-1717, pijohnson@sc.rr.com.
- Huntington Beach State Park — contact Mike Walker, 235-8755 or mwalker@scprt.com.
- Prince George — contact Shannon Guy, 237-1120 or smillerguy@sc.rr.com.
- DeBordieu — contact Blanche Brown, 527-4436 or bbrown@debordieucolony.org.
- Black Mingo Creek, Cowhead Landing — contact Phyllis or Jessica Jordan, 546-0562 or pojordan@frontier.com.
- The Sampit River (Morgan Park to Steward Parker House) — contact Cindy Thompson, 545-4100 or cthompson@cogsc.com.
- County line, south — contact Heather Tenney, 839-8082 or heather@ccarsc.org.

To succeed, small businesses need more than just a good idea — they need a plan. This workshop will guide you through the major planning issues needed to successfully launch your new business.

iPad Classes

**Tuesdays**

**At the Georgetown Library**

**Basics 10:30a – 11:00a**

We talk about everything you need to get started with your iPad. Come learn how to find or add apps, what apps are essential, and what you can command your ipad to do.

**Topics 11:00a – Noon**

Once you’ve learned the basics there is so much more to explore! Photography, art, news, weather, games, social networking, email, and cloud apps are all at your fingertips.

**QUESTIONS? 843-545-3343**

ddennis@gtcounty.org

**Are You Ready to Start Your Own Business?**

**Wednesday, September 11th**

4:30—6:30 p.m.

**Georgetown Library Auditorium**

To succeed, small businesses need more than just a good idea — they need a plan. This workshop will guide you through the major planning issues needed to successfully launch your new business.

To sign up for this class, call the library at 545-3327, or email hpelham@gtcounty.org

**This class is a FREE offering of SCORE**

SCORE is a national volunteer organization that mentors small businesses to help them start, grow and manage their small business.

Sponsored by:

**FINRA**

**American Library Association**

**Society for Innovating Education**
Georgetown County kids travel to Hershey Nationals

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is extremely proud to have had six of its athletes compete in the Hershey’s Track and Field North American Final, held last month in Hershey, Pa.

More than 400,000 athletes from across the country and Canada compete in local Hershey’s Track and Field programs, but only 480 qualify for the North American Final. Georgetown County participants who qualified this year include: Christopher Bryant, William Daniels, John Fraiser III, Melissa Jefferson, Toronto King and DaShawn Priest.

Above, South Carolina (in yellow), along with others line up for opening ceremonies at the North American Final last month. At top, Georgetown County participants are pictured with other participants from the state during their trip to Pennsylvania. They are joined by adults George Lloyd, state coordinator, Darlene Priest, coach, and Desmond Phillips, eastern district coordinator. At right are sixth-place medalists, King, Priest, Fraiser and Bryant. Below are participants Bryant, Priest, Jefferson, King and Fraiser. At bottom right are Lloyd, Daniels, Fraiser, Priest, Bryant, Justin Pelk, King and Phillips.