



A publication for our residents and visitors FEBRUARY 2026

County Airport completes reconstruction of historic secondary runway

A major aviation improvement project decades in the making is now complete at the Georgetown County Airport.

The airport has officially finished reconstruction of its secondary runway, Runway 11/29, restoring a critical piece of infrastructure that strengthens safety, reliability and long-term economic opportunity at the airport.

Originally constructed by the military during World War II, Runway 11/29 had never been resurfaced prior to this project and had developed significant deterioration over time, including sinkholes and surface failures that created safety concerns for pilots and airport operations. Airport Manager Jim Taylor said the newly reconstructed runway represents a major advancement for the airport.

“The biggest reason is safety,” Taylor said. “It now gives us a great crosswind runway. About 40% of the time, the winds favor that runway, and you always want to land and take off into the wind. It also eliminates the risk of aircraft encountering sinkholes, which had become a concern on the old runway.”

The project also reduces ongoing maintenance costs. Prior to reconstruction, airport crews were frequently required to patch failing areas of pavement and address sinkholes caused by the runway’s original construction, which included asphalt laid over tree stumps and roots.

Beyond safety and maintenance improvements, the upgraded runway plays an important role in the airport’s



future growth. Taylor said the runway will support the County’s long-term vision for aviation-related economic development by improving access for larger aircraft and strengthening operations within the Aviation Economic Development Area.

The runway was opened for use late last year following a soft opening, restoring full crosswind capability to the airport and marking the successful completion of the \$6.3 million project.

Runway 11/29 was the first secondary runway in S.C. to be accepted for reconstruction through a specialized funding initiative from the S.C. Aeronautics Commission, which made the project financially feasible and allowed the County to address a long-standing safety need. With the project now complete, the Airport continues to build on decades of steady improvement, supporting general aviation, business travel and regional economic development while ensuring safe and reliable operations for years to come.

Inside this issue:



Friends of the Georgetown Library open new Friends Center at main branch.



Amy King promoted as county's new Director of Human Resources.



County facilities to be named after two recently passed community legends.

Friends of the Georgetown Library cut the ribbon on new Friends Centre Store



People celebrate the ribbon cutting on Feb. 24 (top) and then pour into the new facility to get their first look (above).

The Georgetown County Library is pleased to welcome a new chapter of community engagement with the opening of the Friends of the Georgetown Library Centre, now located in the former Heritage Center space at the main library branch in Georgetown.

The facility had a soft opening at the beginning of the month, with an official grand opening and ribbon cutting taking place Feb. 24, following the Friends of the Georgetown Library annual meeting.

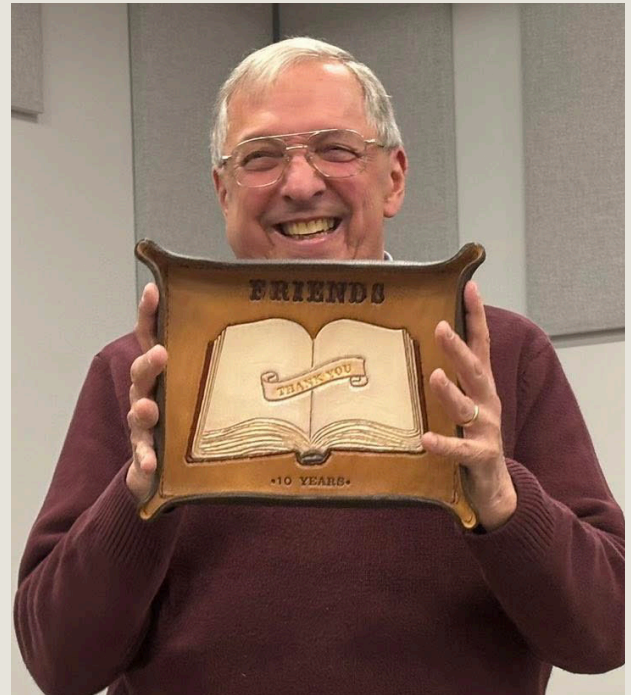
The Friends Centre was part of the long-term vision during the library's recent renovations. Friends of the Georgetown Library Past President Bob Willey said the goal has always been to create a welcoming space where visitors can browse affordable books, relax and connect with others in a comfortable setting.

"This has been in the plans since the beginning of the renovation project," Willey said. "We wanted a place where people could come in, find books and magazines, sit down and read, enjoy a snack or coffee, and even gather for small meetings. It's meant to be a relaxed, inviting corner of the library."

The Friends Centre welcomes visitors on a regular schedule, open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help staff the center in two-hour shifts. In the meantime, library staff is helping to fill gaps. Volunteers are welcome to bring a friend and enjoy a relaxed environment while assisting visitors.

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A Decade of Service



Bob Willey, who served as the Friends of the Georgetown Library President for the last 10 years, was recognized at the group's annual meeting Feb. 24 for his thoughtful leadership and dedication. Willey decided to step down as president at the conclusion of his last term, but will remain part of the organization. During the meeting, members also elected new officers to guide the group's work in supporting the library: Linda Bradley is the new president, Alex Weller is vice president, Nathalie Humphreys is secretary, and George Geer is treasurer.

About this publication

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 Georgetown County Monthly.

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 our newsletter on our website at www.gtcounty.org/newsroom or through our social media accounts. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, sign up at gtcounty.org by clicking the "News & Alerts" icon on the home page.

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact Jackie Broach at (843) 545-3164 or jbroach@gtcounty.org. We welcome your feedback.

King promoted to Human Resources Director

Georgetown County is pleased to announce the promotion of Amy King to the position of Human Resources Director.

King has been serving in an acting capacity since November, when former Director Walt Ackerman resigned to become the Clarendon County Administrator. During that time, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism and a deep commitment to the success and well-being of Georgetown County's workforce.

"Amy's enthusiasm and genuine zest for making Georgetown County a better place to work truly set her apart," said County Administrator Angela Christian. "She brings a positive energy and strong work ethic to everything she does, and her efforts have already made a meaningful difference in our HR operations. We are confident that under her leadership, our county will continue to build a welcoming, supportive and high-performing workplace for all employees."

King brings valuable experience in talent acquisition and employee development, and she has a clear vision for enhancing the employee experience across the organization. Throughout her tenure filling in as interim HR Director, she has proven her ability to lead, innovate and collaborate — earning the respect and appreciation of her colleagues.

King joined Georgetown County in 2012 and has worked in the Human Resources Department for the last three-and-a-half years, during which time she served as Ackerman's right hand. Prior to that, she spent a decade as a youth services librarian for the county's library system.



Amy King talks to a potential new employee during a recruitment event at the Howard Center last year.

In her new role, King will oversee all aspects of the County's human resources functions, including recruitment and retention, policy development, benefits administration and employee engagement initiatives.

Please join us in congratulating King on her well-deserved promotion and in supporting her continued success in this important leadership role.

Georgetown County is currently working to fill King's former role, "Human Resources Generalist." Pay starts at \$50,000 annually. View the listing at gtcounty.org/jobs.



G.O.A.T. HERD

Shamrock Hike & Float

HIKE
11 a.m. - Noon


MARCH 17

FLOAT
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the GOAT Herd! 2 hiking trail options at Rocky Point and paddling down the Choppee Creek. Free to participate. Pack a lunch or snack to enjoy at the picnic area. Email GoatHerd@gtcounty.org to sign up.






Council District 3 Town Hall Meeting

Share concerns and feedback, ask questions and more with Council Member Bishop Ernie Cooper

Come meet with fellow community members and Bishop Ernie Cooper, District 3 County Council Representative, to discuss issues and concerns in the community. All are welcome to attend, meet Bishop Cooper, ask questions and share feedback on community needs.



Wednesday
March 25
6:30 p.m.

at
**Andrews Regional
Recreation Center**
220 S. Cedar Ave., Andrews

Facilities to be named in honor of Florene Linnen, R.L. Port

Georgetown County will permanently honor two beloved community leaders whose lives were defined by service, mentorship and a deep commitment to others. At its Feb. 24 meeting, County Council agreed to name the Choppee Regional Resource Center in honor of Florene Linnen and the Northwest Regional Recreation Field Complex at Pleasant Hill in honor of R.L. Port. Both passed away in recent months, leaving behind legacies that shaped generations and strengthened rural communities across Georgetown County.



Florene Linnen

Linnen, who died Nov. 30, was widely known as a tireless advocate for rural families, particularly in the Choppee, Dunbar and Browns Ferry communities. For more than 50 years, she worked to improve the lives of local residents through nonprofit leadership, grassroots organizing and community health advocacy.

Her work was especially influential in the area of public health. Through leadership roles in community-based organizations, including the Diabetes Core Group, Linnen helped bring attention to serious health disparities affecting Georgetown County's African American population. A comprehensive community health assessment she led in 2000 revealed stark inequities, including significantly higher rates of diabetes and premature death, and barriers that often prevented residents from continuing care or taking prescribed medications.

Those findings helped drive her long-running advocacy for accessible, community-based health services in rural Georgetown County. Linnen was a leading voice behind the creation of the Choppee Regional Resource Center, working persistently to ensure health and wellness



R.L. Port

services would be brought directly into historically underserved communities. The facility opened in March 2005 and has since grown into a cornerstone of community health, education and engagement, offering programs and services for residents of all ages.

The center's success reflects Linnen's lifelong vision of equitable access, stronger health outcomes and a more connected community. Naming the facility in her honor ensures future generations will understand the lasting impact of her leadership and dedication.

Port, who died Feb. 7, leaves behind a different but equally powerful legacy — one built on mentorship, opportunity and the quiet, steady work of investing in young people. For decades, Port was a constant presence in Pleasant Hill, where he helped shape generations of youth through baseball and softball.

To Port, sports were never just games. They were classrooms without walls, where young people learned discipline, teamwork, respect and perseverance. Whether organizing teams, mentoring players, maintaining fields or encouraging participation, he worked to ensure children in his rural community had access to structured, positive recreation — opportunities not always guaranteed in very rural areas.

His influence extended far beyond the scoreboard. Parents trusted him, players looked up to him and coaches relied on his steady leadership. Many who

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Read our **2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, S.C.
CIRCA 1769

gtcounty.org/newsroom

District 7 Community Cleanup

District 7 County Council Member Louis Morant is organizing a community roadside cleanup.

**Saturday, April 4
9 a.m. to Noon**

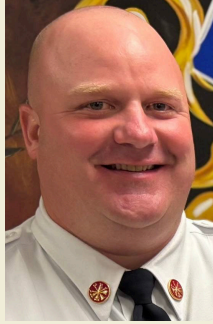
Browns Ferry | Choppee | Kensington
Plantersville | Pee Dee | Sandy Island
Spring Gully | St. Paul

Sign up now to volunteer and help improve communities across District 7. Team leaders are needed for each community. All materials will be provided by Georgetown County. For more information, contact Council Member Morant, (843) 527-2448.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, S.C.
CIRCA 1769

Bostic is Manager of the Year

Aaron Bostic, Assistant Chief for Georgetown County Fire-EMS, was recognized as the County's Manager of the Year for 2025. Bostic oversees the department's day-to-day operations and is a dedicated public servant, not only to the community he serves, but also to the men and women who work under his command. He's not afraid to get his hands dirty and often steps in at an incident scene to work alongside the men and women of the department.



Aaron Bostic

Bostic has utilized his outdoor and nautical experience to develop and implement the department's new marine response division. This included designing an appropriate vessel, as well as training boat and rescue technicians to respond to marine-based emergencies. He also oversees and manages the department's drone program. Through his efforts, he was recently successful in obtaining a certification for the department that allows for blanket operations of in-house trained pilots under his pilot-in-command certification. Having this resource expedites the deployment of this critical aviation resource for things like search and rescue operations, fire detection and aerial reconnaissance on large-area or expanding incidents.

Among other things, Bostic's handling of a recent off-duty accident that critically injured one of the department's firefighters was exemplary. Being a true leader, he designated himself as the departmental point of contact with the family. He not only assisted them in navigating the HR waters of short-term and long-term disability options, but was also a beacon of information to the department.

'Day of the Fox' set for March 7

Although Francis Marion left us 294 years ago, his legacy will be alive Saturday, March 7 in Georgetown.



"We'll be celebrating

Francis Marion Living History Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with re-enactors and artisans at Francis Marion and Rainey Parks," said Ken Baeszler, chairman of the Georgetown 250th Committee.

The 2nd SC Regiment will present live firing demonstrations while Webster's 13th Regiment of Foot, Royal Forces will be in hot pursuit of the evasive Swamp Fox. One may also expect to meet George and Martha Washington along with Rachel Moore Allston.

There will be basket weaving and activities for children along with American Revolution displays by members of the Choctaw Nation, the Colonial Dames and Daughters of the American Revolution, the Gullah Museum, Sons of the American Revolution, Elizabeth Huntsinger, Gunsmith Robert Hill and the History Man. The Francis Marion Interpretive Center will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., where a rare, signed letter by Francis Marion is on display with other historical information about the Swamp Fox.

Francis Marion Living History Day events are free and sponsored by the Georgetown 250th Committee. The celebration is one of many upcoming events to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolutionary War. For more information, contact Corinne Hoch at 201-452-0270.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Panel & Luncheon

Let us commemorate Women's History Month with an empowering discussion focused on leadership, resilience, and the pursuit of breaking barriers. We will highlight dynamic women leaders who have significantly influenced and will continue to shape the future.



Public Servant
Lillie Jean Johnson



Magistrate Court Judge
Mary Vanderhost



Gullah Geechee Historian
Pelor Richards



News 2 Reporter
& Weekend Morning Anchor
Dalilah James



Panel Moderator
Jo'Vonna Davis



Executive Director
Optimism Preventive Services
Denise Chatman

Saturday, March 7, 2026

11:00 am

Business-casual attire is welcome but not required for this event. Light refreshments will be served.

sponsored by

4187 Powell Rd (843) 545-3389

Friends of the Georgetown Library

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

March 14th, 2026

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Georgetown Library

405 Cleland Street, Georgetown, SC 29440
(Judicial Center Parking Lot Behind the Library)

Sellers: \$15 Single Space
\$20 Double Space

To register:

<https://www.myfogl.org/our-events>

Rain Date:
March 21, 2026

Black History Month



On Feb. 24, Georgetown County Council passed a Resolution honoring Black History Month and recognizing the life and legacy of the late Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. Marvin Neal, president of the Georgetown branch of the NAACP and other members of the group were present to accept the resolution.

King & Queen of Hearts

Melvin Bromell and Alice Young were pronounced the King and Queen at a Valentine's Day party the Bureau of Aging Services hosted for its Senior Center participants on Feb. 13.



RIBBON CUTTING AT SOUTH ISLAND PARK



On Feb. 11, County officials and community residents gathered at South Island Park to cut the ribbon on long-awaited new playground equipment. Council Member Bishop Ernie Cooper made remarks and manned the scissors. This is an addition residents in that area are very excited about.

The Grand Strand's Premier Gaming Event

MARCH 20-22 2026

- RPGs
- Board Games
- Card Games
- CCGs/LCGs
- Miniatures
- Cosplay
- Crafting
- Video Games
- Tea Tasting
- VR



10th Anniversary



A FREE weekend of games at the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library
41 St Pauls Place, Pawleys Island, SC
ddennis@gtcounty.org <https://shushcon.com/>



TRACK & FIELD



REGISTRATION FEB 16 - MARCH 14
\$15 REGISTRATION FEE
AGES 5 - 12

TRACK MEETS SAT. 10AM
APRIL 11TH APRIL 18TH
APRIL 25TH MAY 2ND



REGISTER AT
GTCPARKS.ORG

→] Friends Centre

The center offers hardback and paperback fiction, children's books, and a growing selection of magazines published within the last two years. Children's books are especially affordable, priced at 50 cents each or four for \$1.

Over time, the collection is expected to expand to include a wider variety of genres and materials. Donations can be dropped off at the library's front desk, where holds them for sorting and storage. Linda Bradley of the Friends group is coordinating volunteers, and email is the preferred method of contact for those interested in helping: lbradley000@outlook.com.

In the past, the Friends organization primarily sold books during seasonal events such as the summer Georgetown Farmers Markets and the Friends of the Library's bi-annual community yard sales. The new center allows residents to browse and purchase books year-round, helping support library programs and services throughout the community.

Specialty and rare books will continue to be reserved for special events, including summer sales at the Farmers Market, the Wooden Boat Show, and the annual community yard sale.

The new Friends Centre reflects the continued partnership between the library and the community, providing a welcoming space for reading, connection and lifelong learning.

→] Linnen and Port

passed through Pleasant Hill's baseball and softball programs carried the lessons they learned into adulthood, crediting Port not only with athletic development but with shaping character and personal growth.

Port's work also strengthened the broader community. Local games became gathering places that brought together families, schools and neighborhoods, helping preserve small-town traditions and reinforce community bonds. In 2009, he was inducted into the Dixie Softball Hall of Fame and is credited with helping bring softball not only to Pleasant Hill but to South Carolina.

Perhaps most fittingly, Port never sought recognition. His legacy lives not in headlines or trophies, but in the countless lives he influenced — young athletes who found confidence, families who found connection and a community made stronger through his steady commitment.

The requests to rename the facilities were submitted by the communities these leaders served — for Linnen, by community advocates, and for Port, by the Pleasant Hill Baseball/Softball Booster Club. County Council's decision ensures their names, and the values they represented, will remain part of Georgetown County's story for generations to come.

One of Black History's most influential Civil Rights Leaders, the life and story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of both triumph and tragedy. Learn how Dr. King came to be such a prominent leader in this dramatic show. Follow Dr. King's life from his time as a young boy in Georgia, to becoming a preacher in Alabama, to becoming an important figure on the international stage. A powerful and impactful story, audiences will come to recognize that the Civil Rights won during Dr. King's time came with a heavy price, and consider what role they will continue to play in the struggle for equality.

**Saturday,
March 14th @
2:00PM**

All welcome
but geared toward
ages 9 to adult-



KIDS!

Tuesdays
3pm-4pm

March 17th
April 7th
May 5th

Pond Life

with the North Inlet - Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve!

Join us for a hands-on exploration of the tiny creatures living in our library's outdoor retention pond! We'll collect water samples and examine invertebrates up close under microscopes. Fun and fascinating for all ages!

@ the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library

<< Numbers >>
TO KNOW

(All begin with area code 843)

- Directory, 545-3063
- 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
- Parks & Rec., 545-3320
- Planning/Zoning, 545-3116
- Public Works, 545-3438
- Probate Judge, 545-3077
- Recycling/Solid Waste
545-3463
- Register of Deeds, 545-3088
- Sheriff, 546-5102
- Stormwater, 545-3524
- Treasurer, 545-3102

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven Street



EMPLOYEE MILESTONES



Every February, Georgetown County recognizes its employees who celebrated milestone anniversaries during the previous calendar year. This year, we recognized more than 60 employees who celebrated anniversaries ranging from five to an incredible 55 years of service. They are as follows.

55 years: Susan Edwards of the Assessor's Office. As far as we know, she is the only employee ever to reach this milestone.

50 years: Ricky Rowe of Parks Maintenance and Cindy Howard of Family Court.

35 years: Sharon Moultrie of Public Works and Jeanette Alston of the Assessor's Office.

30 years: Priscilla Johnson of the Building Department.

25 years: Sheila Gardner of Summary Court, Michael Thacker of the Sheriff's Office, Clerk of Court Alma White, and Rhonda Stone of Emergency Management

20 years: Harrison Walker of Public Works, Planning and Zoning Director Holly Richardson, Pete Copeland and Henry Hult of Midway Fire-Rescue, Jeffrey Bialecki of Georgetown County Fire-EMS, Samantha Wragg-Point of the Treasurer's Office, and Tanya Cumbee and Deborah Huggins of Summary Court.

15 years: Alex Roman of Georgetown County Fire-EMS, Alma Sierra of Victim Services, Vanunderia Brave of the Landfill and Jim Crawford of Midway Fire-Rescue.

10 years: Folona Duncan of Recycling, Alice Cribb of Building, Christopher Holmes of Midway Fire-Rescue, Jeremy Colbert of the Sheriff's Office, Patrice Cohen of the Assessor's Office, Rhonda Cunningham of the Treasurer's Office, Judge Tony Love and Candice Lilly of Summery Court, Cindy Kinder of the Clerk of Court's Office, Itelia Cooper of Parks and Recreation, Aaron Bostic and Henry Barnes of County Fire-EMS, Randy Welsh and Scott Walker of Parks and Recreation, Hailey Davis and Mallary Allen of the Library, and Caitlin Lavoie of Victim Services.

5 years: County Council Member Bob Anderson; County Administrator Angela Christian; Nedra Morant of Victim Services; Caleb Freyer, Christopher Lopez, Brett Kowalewski, Jason Flint, Danny Fivek, Charles Whitaker, Mark Gumpert, Anthony Marracino, Wayne Owens and Joshua Weaver of the Sheriff's Office; Hunter Powers of 911; Lamar Gamble of the Landfill; Dixie Bryant of the Assessor's Office; Samantha Washington of Summary Court; Bill Collins and Brianna Bostic of Midway Fire-Rescue; Maureen Mulligan of Recycling; Cindy Hall of Building; Alan Holmes, Brian Trappier, Deven Montgomery and Tristan Scoville of County Fire-EMS; Roban Mears of Mosquito Control; Aphra McCrea of Voter Registration and Elections; Vanessa Funnie of Aging Services; and Pat Sanders of Facilities Management.

