

COASTAL OBSERVER

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ROADS

Garden City paving helps county keep pace with Horry

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

Nine roads in Garden City will be repaved thanks to an influx of money that was part of the state's budget surplus.

The roads - Starfish, Dolphin, Pompano, Oyster Cove, Basin, Yucca, South Dogwood, Underwood and Moonfish - are in "bad condition," Ray Funnye, Georgetown County's director of Public Services, told the County Transportation Committee this week.

The committee allocations revenue from the state gas tax, known as C-funds, to road projects from the county and the local office of the state Department of Transportation.

Horry County is spending \$30 million to improve the streetscape along Atlantic Avenue and 1.9 miles of Waccamaw Drive in Garden City, stopping at the county line. That's being funded with hospitality taxes.

That would make their part of the community "better" than Georgetown County's, Funnye said.

"I think we need to take some proactive measures to balance the scorecard in Garden City to make sure that Georgetown County can sustain itself over time with this type of base that we have in this community," he told the committee. "I think paving these roads is a small token to demonstrate our willingness to recognize the importance of this community."

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LAND USE | Parkersville townhouses

Lawsuit expected after council vote



BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Plans for two townhouse projects in the Parkersville community were reduced from 109 to 88 units before receiving approval this week from Georgetown County Council.

Area residents said the development still posed a threat to the traditionally Black neighborhood where another plan for 90 more townhouses is still pending.

The lawyer representing the residents said afterward that she expects to challenge the decision in court.

The two projects are planned for property on Petigru Drive and Parkersville Road that is owned by members of the Nesbit family. They have a contract to sell the parcels to Laine Commercial Real Estate of Mount Pleasant, according to the application filed with the county.

The property is zoned "general residential," which allows multi-family development, but which requires site plan review for projects with more than 10 units. That review is limited to conformity with the county regulations.

Area residents have argued that with 6.8 and 8.3 units per acre the projects are classified as high density, but the future-land-use maps adopted as part of the county's comprehensive plan designate the area as medium density.

"Zoning must be in accordance with the comprehensive plan," said Cindy Person, attorney for Keep It Green Advocacy, who represents community groups opposing the projects.

SEE "PARKERSVILLE," PAGE 4

Deborah Gregg, above, tells council the projects will change her community. Council Member Bob Anderson, below right, said the townhouses may look nice, but there are too many of them.



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

TRAFFIC

Litchfield CC association takes speeding issues to the next level

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Property owners in one of the area's oldest neighborhoods hope they have found a solution to one of their oldest problems.

The \$12,000 solution to speeding in Litchfield Country Club was launched this month with a pair of radar displays that let drivers know how fast they are going.

"This is not a new issue. It's a very widespread issue," said Jerry Oakley, president of the property owners association and a former County Council member.

Complaints about speeding that he heard about during his two terms on council, which ended in 2014, were still the top concern at the association's annual meeting this year, he said. It approved \$10,500 to buy two radar displays along with money for engineering and insurance. The state Department of Transportation issued permits for the displays on the west end of Hawthorne Drive and the east end of Crooked Oak Drive. The Georgetown County Department of Public Services installed them.

"They serve two purposes," Oakley said. "They remind drivers of what the speed limit is; they call the attention of drivers to what his or her speed is."

The sites were selected because they fall along a route between Highway 17 and Kings River Road and have the highest traffic volume.

The limit in Litchfield Country Club is 25 mph. The POA got traffic studies by the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study in 2017 and 2020.

SEE "LCC," PAGE 2



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

One of two radar displays installed by the Litchfield Country Club POA.



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Candidates answer questions at the rally. Ellen Weaver, right, is running for state superintendent of education. Behind her is Russell Fry, candidate for Congress.

ELECTION 2022

GOP told not to rely on past success

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Carter Weaver came away from a GOP rally this week with a check.

"I was surprised," he said.

Weaver is midway through his first full term as Georgetown County sheriff. He won't be on the ballot again until 2024. The donation and his pre-stump speech to hundreds of people who filled the ballroom at Pawleys Plantation came as Republicans celebrated their gains in capturing local offices and reminded voters that they still need to show up at the polls.

"You think this is a red area, that the future is going to be in Republican hands. It's not," said Russell Fry, the GOP candidate for the 7th District congressional seat. "If the Democrats are fighting like hell to keep their power, then we have to fight back."

Fry beat U.S. Rep. Tom Rice in a seven-way race for the nomination. He got the endorsement of former President Donald Trump to unseat the incumbent, one of 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach Trump following the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol.

Fry said he met with Trump at a rally in Wilmington, N.C., last week.

"He is super-engaged. He doesn't have to be, right?" Fry said, adding that applied to most people in the room. "But

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