

COASTAL OBSERVER

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SEPT. 11, 2001

They have not forgotten

BY CHARLES SWENSON
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A line of firefighters filed past a rusted piece of steel outside the Midway Fire and Rescue headquarters at 8:46 a.m. They touched the gray granite that held the fragment from the World Trade Center.

Wearing turnout gear that weighs 50 to 60 pounds, the 10 firefighters walked a circuit around the station, the school and the library in Willbrook that they normally use for physical training. They walked for 102 minutes.

"A hundred and two minutes is a long time," Master Firefighter Keith Zeigenhorn told them. "You're going to get tired."

But he reminded them that 23 years ago firefighters in New York walked up 90 flights of stairs to reach the scene of the passenger jet that hit the World Trade Center as part of a terrorist attack that killed nearly 3,000 people.

And when they were told to evacuate, Zeigenhorn said, "they refused." They stayed to tend to the victims.

"It's a day that we promised never to forget," Fire Chief Brent McClellan said.

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On 9/11, from top, firefighters start their memorial walk. The flag is raised to half staff. Jim Crawford recalls Ground Zero.



LAND USE

County moves to cut top density to 5 units an acre

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

A plan to cut the top residential density allowed by Georgetown County's zoning ordinance from 16 to 12 units an acre was postponed this week. The county is now on track to cut the top density to five units on the Waccamaw Neck.

If that is approved, the only way to develop a high density development, one with over five units an acre, will be through "planned development" or "flexible design district" zoning. Those require public hearings and approval by County Council.

The proposed change would affect the "general residential" zoning district, which allows multifamily development and

was a focus of the update to the county's future land use plan adopted in July.

Following that vote, Council Member Stella Mercado asked the planning staff to draft a revision to the general residential requirements to cut the top density to 12 to reflect changes to the land use plan.

After approval from the Planning Commission, that change was up for a vote by County Council this week.

Council Member Bob Anderson urged his colleagues before the meeting to further reduce the general residential density to five units and set the minimum lot size for single-family homes at a quarter acre, or 10,890 square feet. It is currently 6,000 square feet.

SEE "DENSITY," PAGE 2

EDUCATION

District casting a wide net to address bullying in schools

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

When it comes to combating bullying in schools, it takes everybody: students, administrators, teachers, parents, counselors, school staff and bus drivers.

"It's not just one person. Regardless of your credentials you cannot do it by yourself," said Lonnie Stuckey, the director of safety and risk management for the Georgetown County School District. "It has to be complete buy-in by everybody."

Stuckey knows something about dealing with bullying. In 2018, he completed Clemson University's Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, which focuses on long-term changes in school environments to de-

crease bullying and anti-social behavior and improve peer relations.

"To reduce bullying it is important to change the climate of the school and the social norms with regard to bullying," Stuckey said.

Once a year the district surveys students about bullying.

"It gives the administration a blueprint from the kids' perspective about how they feel about bullying in that particular school," Stuckey said, and helps administrators form a plan of action.

Making sure the entire staff is on board is a key component, Stuckey said. You can't have one teacher who doesn't allow bullying and another teacher who does allow it.

SEE "SCHOOLS," PAGE 8

ELECTION 2024 | Sales tax referendums

Fate of trees draws criticism for road project

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Proponents of raising the sales tax in Georgetown County to fund capital improvements realize that the 22 projects on the priority list won't appeal to everyone.

But if there's a project they really don't like, "know that if you vote 'no,' you're not just killing that project, you're killing the whole list," said Mark Hawn, who chaired the committee that drew up the project list that will appear on the ballot in a November referendum.

Everett Allen, who attended a meeting on the capital project sales tax last month, took Hawn's words to heart. So it wasn't until the end of the meeting that he said he really wasn't happy with the No. 2 project, which will provide \$1 million to relocated power



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

lines to allow the widening of a portion of Black River Road in Georgetown.

"All the trees along Black River Road have to go," said Allen, a Heritage Plantation resident.

Others have also raised opposition to the project, part of \$74.3 million in projects that would be funded through eight years of collections of a 1-cent

sales tax.

Last year Mayor Carol Jayroe asked the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study to come up with a less intrusive plan.

"All the houses on Black River Road are going to lose two thirds of their front yards," Jayroe said in July 2023. "Not to mention that we're going to lose

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The widening of Black River Road will require cutting 12 to 15 trees, according to DOT.

Proponents present the case for passage

BY CHRIS SOKOLOSKI
COASTAL OBSERVER

More than two dozen people gathered at the Georgetown Library this week to hear why they should vote for the capital project sales tax and local option sales tax referendums in November.

If the referendums pass, it is estimated that 40 percent of the revenue from the 2-cent sales tax increase will come from people who don't live in the county.

"The way I think, it takes the burden off the people that are in this county and it spreads it so that our visitors that are fueling our growth and using a lot of our resources and filling up our roads are paying their fair share," said Harris Chewing, who served on the commission that came up with the project list and wording for the capital project sales tax referendum.

Chewing spoke at the invitation of the Georgetown Business Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the Pawleys Island-Litchfield Business Association, which are campaigning for passage.

He talked about how the commission "focused" on infrastructure when coming

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Shark infested waters: It's one sign that Winyah Bay is a healthy estuary.

Second Front



WHS sports: Wilson Rutherford tops field of 619 at Eye Opener.

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