

# COASTAL OBSERVER

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## PAWLEYS ISLAND

### Town ready to try again on easements for beach work

BY CHARLES SWENSON  
COASTAL OBSERVER

The town of Pawleys Island has hired a Charleston firm to appraise the value of easements over three lots on the island's south end that the Army Corps of Engineers says it needs before starting work to replace land lost to a hurricane four and a half years ago.

"There've been some challenges with appraisals of these easements," Mayor Brian Henry said.

The town had a bid of \$22,250 for the appraisals last year. The firm wasn't able to do the work.

The appraiser hired this week, Curt McCall of Colliers International, estimated the cost at \$7,500 to \$10,000, but more important to the town he is doing similar appraisals for the town of Edisto Beach, Henry said.

For the Edisto renourishment project, McCall worked out a protocol for the appraisals that satisfied the Corps.

"There are a lot of things that have to be considered," Henry said.

The Corps has faced legal

SEE "PAWLEYS," PAGE 2



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

Pawleys Island's south end after Ian in 2020. The dunes have recovered, but a repair project is still pending.



Photos by Madison Sharrock/Coastal Observer

Looking through Oliver family photos at the farewell ceremony for Oliver's Lodge. The audience listens from outside the construction fence around the former restaurant.

## MURRELLS INLET | The end of Oliver's Lodge

### Last rites for an inlet landmark

BY MADISON SHARROCK  
COASTAL OBSERVER

The building can't be saved, but the memories sure can.

A crowd of about 100 members of the congregation and community gathered in front of Oliver's Lodge on Sunday afternoon. They were sniffing and wiping away tears by the time the Rev. Will Malambri, the senior pastor at Belin Memorial United Methodist Church, closed out the farewell ceremony with a prayer.

"We thank you for the warmth, rest, good food and good fellowship that have been enjoyed at Oliver's Lodge. Countless people sat on the joggling board, enjoyed corn fritters and fried flounder, had their first dates, anniversaries and birthdays, made this place central to their annual family gatherings," he said.

Kin McKinzie spent his summers in Murrells Inlet as a child in the late 1960s. He became a busboy at Oliver's Lodge during his summer breaks from high school in Florence.



McKinzie recalled the thousands of hungry diners who lined up around the building to grab a seat.

"We'd sit there like hawks and watch those tables come open. We'd have our tray ready to take off, and boom. Boom, boom, boom. Clear and set a table in 30 seconds," he said. "People would laugh and photograph us and time us."

It was simple back then, McKinzie added. Each dish washed and every dollar was counted by hand.

He said he did it alongside Roosevelt "Rooster" Pickett, a longtime resident and employee at Oliver's Lodge.

"It's just incredible to me how one man with so little material possessions, you know, nothing to his name, impacted so many lives," McKinzie said. "He certainly had a tremendous impact on my life that will stay with me."

Inlet Affairs provided a taste of the food Oliver's Lodge once served including popcorn

SEE "OLIVER'S," PAGE 3

## GEORGETOWN | Jay Doyle's first 100 days

### Third party mayor finds no honeymoon from partisan politics

BY MADISON SHARROCK  
COASTAL OBSERVER

Jay Doyle is 100 days into his first term as Mayor of Georgetown. He hasn't been counting up, he said. He has been counting down.

"I was retired, living a nice, peaceful life, and this just throws your life into chaos," Doyle said. "I think it's intended to be a part time job. It's anything but that."

The Belmont, Mass., native fell in love with Georgetown more than 15 years ago when he and his wife Suzanne moved to Front Street. It was a friendly place where strangers greeted each other in passing.

That's changed since he took office in January.

"There are some people who walk by and can't even look at me," Doyle said.

Georgetown has had a temporary City Hall for nearly a



Jay Doyle, left, and three Democrats unseated four incumbent Republicans last year.

Madison Sharrock/Coastal Observer

decade, and the lack of office space doesn't help, he said.

Neither does social media, he added. It's a vocal minority that's taking grievances to Facebook about the mayor's performance.

Doyle has been working to bring new industries to the city. He said it's unfortunate the vitriol on social media will be the

first impression for prospective companies and residents.

"It hurts the city. If they really care about the city, want the best for the city, why don't they back off and give me a chance?" he said. "Let me prove what I can do."

Doyle was elected last year as a candidate of the Forward Party, established in 2022. He is

the first third-party nominee to win a partisan election in South Carolina since 1894, according to the party's research. He is also the first Forward Party candidate to win an election outright rather than as a party affiliate, said Clint Eisenhauer, who chairs the state party.

The party has no candidates running in Georgetown County

but there are four vying for Horry County Council seats.

"I'm excited about that. In time, you know, if I'm successful I think that'll help people see that there is an alternative, and more people will come on board," Doyle said.

He received 56 percent of the vote in the mayoral race

SEE "MAYOR," PAGE 4

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Good vibes: Festival brings out a little hippie in everybody. **SECOND FRONT**

Beaches: YMCA expands rip current safety class for sixth-graders. **PAGE 2**



Breaking 500: The WHS boys soccer team passed a milestone with penalty kicks. **PAGE 12**

Obituaries .....	2
Crime.....	5
Opinion .....	6
Crossword .....	10
Classifieds.....	11
Sports .....	12
Online	
coastalobserver.com	

