

COASTAL OBSERVER

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PAWLEYS ISLAND

Pier rebuilding expected to start before Ian anniversary

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

Construction should be underway to rebuild the Pawleys Pier when the fourth anniversary of the hurricane that destroyed a third of the structure arrives in September.

It will take 14 to 18 months to replace the 820-foot-long pier, the contractor told Pawleys Island Town Council this week.

"We can all appreciate that the pier is somewhat iconic to the town of Pawleys Island," Mayor Brian Henry said. "We want to make sure it's an aesthetic fit for the island."

The pier's demise during Hurricane Ian was also iconic, captured on video by owners who stayed at Pawleys Pier Vil-

lage when the Category 1 storm made landfall on North Island. The east end of the pier broke loose and floated away around 1 p.m. on Sept. 30. A tattered American flag was still flying over the fishing pavilion.

"Our intent is to build the pier back in the identical footprint," said Wade Warr, president of Pawleys Pier Village Homeowners Association, which owns the pier. "The end will look like the old one did with a light pole right on the end and a pavilion."

The pier was insured for \$5.5 million and the HOA began making plans to replace it right after the storm. It got state permits to make soil borings the next summer, solicited proposals for designs and hoped to



Charles Swenson/Coastal Observer

start rebuilding in 2024.

It wasn't until the end of that year that Pawleys Pier Village applied for state and federal permits for the replacement. Board members said it was just a lengthy process.

Town Council asked for updates, and some members were concerned that the new pier could be made of concrete or steel rather than wood.

"It will be a wooden pier," Warr said, confirming what other board members previously told the town.

The only possible change
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The pier, above, is more than 550 feet long. At left, waves from Hurricane Ian, that washed away 267 feet of the pier.

HIGHWAY 17 | The Litchfield corridor

Proposed fix to long-time problem draws questions

BY CHARLES SWENSON
COASTAL OBSERVER

There have been two traffic accidents on Highway 17 in Litchfield since a group of residents and officials met three weeks ago to review plans for reconfiguring intersections in the area. One was Monday morning, said Brent McClellan, chief of Midway Fire Rescue.

"Residents of Litchfield Country Club obviously want safer, easier access to 17," said Jerry Oakley, president of the neighborhood's property owners association. "The proposal will substantially improve both those things."

The state Department of Transportation will present the plans and take comments from the public at a forum next week. A design presented last month calls for eliminating median breaks and restricting left turns onto the highway from the YMCA north to Crooked Oak Drive.



S.C. Department of Transportation

DOT's plan shows where median cuts will be located. Each will have a signal to allow left or U-turns.

At the YMCA and Crooked Oak, traffic signals would be installed to allow U-turns. People on the east side of the highway, including those in Litchfield Beach, would have to go north to Crooked Oak to turn south.

Those on the west side of the highway could leave Litch-

field Country Club at Crooked Oak and turn north or go south to the YMCA to make a U-turn.

Left turns will no longer be allowed at Country Club Drive, the main entrance to Litchfield Country Club.

The initial proposal removed left turns into Litchfield

Beach from the highway. That was changed after Midway Fire Rescue objected.

"I couldn't see bypassing South Litchfield to go back in there," McClellan said.

The plan now allows southbound traffic to turn left onto Litchfield Drive.

"I'm a lot more comfortable with it," McClellan said.

But property owners at Litchfield Beach raised objections to losing the left turn onto the highway. "We don't think this solves the problem," said Kevin Corrigan, president of the

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STABLES PARK

Born to run? There's a place for you to unleash

BY MADISON SHARROCK
COASTAL OBSERVER

Georgetown County's first dog park at Stables Park is a social event in itself for four-legged hounds and humans, too.

"That's the interesting thing, is there's so many people here from different areas, some natives, some transplants," said Dan Heinz of Litchfield. "You get to meet a lot of different people, a lot of different dogs."

Kathy Kavanagh of Murrells Inlet said she had been waiting for the gates to open. It's a way for her foxhound, Sadie, and herself to socialize with others.

"She needs the exercise, and I like to chitchat," Kavanagh said.

The park is much bigger than her yard, she added.



Madison Sharrock/Coastal Observer

Girlly, left, lives a short walk from the park, which now has a dog run.

"If she can have somebody chase her, she's good. If she can dig, she's good," Kavanagh said.

That's certainly what the two hounds did on Tuesday afternoon, running up and down the section of the park intended for large dogs. Sadie and Heinz' shepherd hound, Girlly, played with one another as if they had known each other for years.

"These two seem like they're old souls," Heinz said.

The 25,000-square-foot area has another section for small dogs. Parking is located adjacent to the area and a well-used walking trail.

It also has a water bottle filler station along with a doggy fountain. Having water for the
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NONPROFITS | Palmetto Giving Day

Casting a wider net, event sees donations grow

BY MADISON SHARROCK
COASTAL OBSERVER

The community clearly stretches farther past the Georgetown County lines as last week's Palmetto Giving Day raised more than \$5.2 million from 5,395 residents across 46 states.

"Our donor base isn't just limited to the community in which we live and serve," said Ashley Nelson, executive director of the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation. "It just speaks to the causes in which our nonprofits are working in every day and people are rallying behind the great work that our nonprofit community does and that message could reach somebody in any way."

Palmetto Giving Day, hosted for the 10th year by the Bun-

nelle Foundation, exceeded its \$4 million goal by 30 percent last week for 86 nonprofit organizations that serve Georgetown County. Its website displays an interactive U.S. map that shows which states donations came from.

The most gifts, 4,866, came from S.C. residents.

"It becomes an event and an opportunity our entire county can rally around, and you see that in the final results. \$5.2 million has the power to be very transformational for Georgetown County," Nelson said.

SOS Care topped the leaderboard for another consecutive year with \$516,607 raised from 235 donors. Last year, they became the first nonprofit to exceed \$400,000 in donations.

Donations this year passed
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Down the stretch: WHS spring sports begin quests for Class 3A state titles. **SECOND FRONT PAGE**

Tourism: Beaches are in the running for a marketing trifecta. **PAGE 4**



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