

The Chapin Star

The Capital of Lake Murray



Local Election Results

NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES

The 2024 election is over we have some new and returning faces to our local public offices. In terms of the familiar faces, on the national scale, incumbent congressman Joe Wilson decidedly won his re-election bid for SC-2, running unopposed. For state-wide offices, Se. Ronnie Cromer and Rep. Jay Kilmartin also retained their seats for SC Senate district 18 and SC House district 85, respectively, after running unopposed. Lexington County Sherriff Jay Koon also won re-election after running unopposed, as did Lexington County Council district 6 representative Charlene Wessinger, also, once again, running unopposed.



One of the more exciting races in this local election cycle was the race for the two open seats on the Lexington-Richland 5 School district's board. Educator Scott Herring secured a seat, earning slightly more votes than Kathy Huddle, who secured the second seat, and beating former school board member Ken Loveless. We at the Town of Chapin are pleased we were able to host early voting again and we encourage all citizens to get involved in public office, your local boards and commissions, or any other public service you can. If you're interested in being a part of any of Chapin's boards and/or commissions, we are accepting applications at the link below!

[APPLICATIONS](#)

Town Spotlight

IT'S CPL. CAMPBELL, FORMERLY OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT!

By the time this goes out, Corporal Walker Campbell will have left the Chapin police department to start with SLED. In the words of Chief Griffin, "We know that, realistically, some of our officers will eventually move on, but we're committed to providing them with the best training possible while they're here. In return, we simply ask for their dedicated service to our department and the Chapin community during that time. When they do choose to pursue opportunities to advance their careers or improve their family life, we wish them nothing but the best." We are proud of him and we will miss him.



The Importance of Shopping Small

LOCAL COMMERCE



On a serious note, it's hard to be a small business owner. Much of your success and livelihood is contingent on elements outside of your control and there's innumerable details to constantly think about. A time of the year that can really make or break a small business is the holiday season, as brick and mortar stores tend to get a noticeable uptick in sales during this time. While it may be convenient and easy to simply hop on Amazon and line Bezos's pockets with your hard-earned money, it is worth considering that perhaps shopping at one

of the many locally owned Chapin small businesses could be a way to both wrap up your Christmas list and help out the small businesses that make our Chapin special. Among ways to do so, the downtown Beaufort St. area will be abuzz during Old Timey Christmas. That's a great opportunity to patronize the businesses in the heart of town. Another great way to help small businesses is to follow your favorites on social media. You'll be much more tapped-in to discounts, holiday hours, and seasonal offerings of your favorite local spots. If you're simply stuck from all of the options and remain unsure of what to get your friend or loved one from a Chapin establishment, many of the businesses offer gift cards that give all the benefit of supporting the business while taking the onus of actual gift giving off of your shoulders. Now get out there and spend some money in your local community!

CHAMBER DIRECTORY



Town Council 11.19.24

DEVELOPER IMPACT FEES

Chapin Town Council had the first reading of alterations made to the Unified Zoning and Development Ordinance during this past month's meeting. Council voted to implement impact fees, insuring that developers are required to pay for the infrastructure requirements of their projects and not the citizens of Chapin. This vote came in conjunction with other alterations and clarifications; solidifying the standards for building materials, lighting requirements, and parking standards. This was to further ensure the aesthetic integrity of the community and maintain Chapin's identity.

MINUTES AND AGENDAS

Upcoming Events!

OLD TIMEY CHRISTMAS



The Holidays are around the corner and that means its time to get ready for our annual Old Timey Christmas Festival, sponsored by SOZO Family Fitness!

Come join us in downtown Chapin for an evening of Christmas cheer. Beaufort st. will be filled with displays from the local businesses and specialty holiday-themed vendors. The Crossroads band will open our night before we transition to Christmas carolers from Crossroads Church, Chapin Baptist children's ministry, and the Dutch Fork Choral Society. Food trucks will be located on Lexington Ave. as well as a Tap Snap booth, courtesy of Chapin Neighbors. Before you go, don't forget to stop by the Crossroads building to get a picture with ol' St. Nick.

This event, as mentioned, is generously sponsored by SOZO Family Fitness. If you'd like to formally RSVP, the link is here:

[RSVP HERE!](#)

Landscaping that Hides Utilities

A SERIOUS PROBLEM

We all spend a lot of effort and expense making our yards attractive. There is nothing wrong with that, except when landscaping starts hiding utility equipment and especially fire hydrants! It becomes easy to disregard the dangers of blocking the view, manholes, sewer clean-outs, water valves, meter boxes or fire hydrants in that pursuit of the perfect yard. When your water & wastewater utilities are working properly the value of easy access to these utility devices seems inconsequential, but the opposite is actually true.

When there is a water main break and you and all you neighbors are out of water, how quick do you want your water back on? The time our utility crews spend trying to find hidden valves is the same amount of time your choice to coverup those devices delayed the water service being restored to everyone. How would you feel if your neighbor hid the water main valve and caused you to go without water service longer than necessary?

This same scenario applies to sewer. We all love Lake Murray and when our sewer system has blockages or broken pipes, many times the sewer ends up making its way into the lake. Harming our environment more than necessary. Possibly worse than that, is when the sewer backup actually overflows into someone's home. When that happens the home owner wants it stopped immediately and every minute counts. If that was happening in your home, how important would you think the appearance of your neighbor's yard is over sewer flowing into your house?

Probably the worst possibility is when your home is on fire and the fire department is forced to spend time finding the fire hydrant before they can start save your home or lives. This is truly when every minute counts.

Landscaping that Hides Utilities

A SERIOUS PROBLEM PT.2



We know that no one intends to harm themselves or their neighbors by dressing up their yard, but when you choose to or allow your landscape contractor or you choose to hide these devices you are putting your family, your neighbors and our environment all at risk during those emergency situations. You could actually open yourself up to law suits if others are damaged by your choice to hide this equipment. The Town, the County, the State DES, the Federal EPA and the Fire Department all have ordinances, international codes, policies, regulations and laws against these practices. Even the service agreement you signed for your utility service with Chapin Utilities specifies you must keep all utility equipment accessible at all times. If you have any utility devices in your yard hidden, please take this opportunity to correct that in a way that provides visibility and accessibility at all times and in a way that you find aesthetically pleasing. If you chose not to, then we are required to do so, and will start exposing these devices to the best of our ability as we perform our system maintenance. We are not the best landscapers. Our work is more for functionality than aesthetics. Please address these issues before we are forced to.

Below is the link to the full Lexington County Fire Service flyer that defines and illustrates the requirements for Fire Hydrants. If you have any questions, please call our utility office at 803-345-0416 and we will be glad to help you. Thank you.

[LCES FLYER](#)

Remembering TOC

ONE YEAR LATER



It's maybe once in a lifetime that someone comes in to your life and completely changes it. It's even more rare that the person isn't even a person, but a young rooster with soft spurs like gentle hands and feathers colored like the evening sky. It has officially been one full year since the Good Lord saw fit to take our beloved TOC the rooster from our Town Hall family. His personable demeanor and kind temperament have forever burned a hole in our community that cannot be filled.

Our town hall was first graced by our feathered friend on Halloween night in 2023. He sidled on to our property with the bluster of a bird twice his size. It was not long before TOC was captured by the Clerk of Court and his home was searched out. After hours and hours of radio silence, it was clear no one was coming for him. We thought it best to release TOC back in to the forest and say our goodbyes. Though we had thought our time with TOC was over, we were elated to find, on Monday morning, he'd returned to us! The town leadership decided to take him in as our own, feeding him and keeping him company. For weeks he clung to us as his surrogate mothers, desperate for love. We treated him as a son and built him up every day. It began to feel like TOC would be in our lives forever...until tragedy struck. After an extended time away from TOC over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, we returned Monday to find no sign of TOC. High and low we searched, to little avail. Our officers examined the scene of the disappearance, only to find what was left of TOC, a predator of the night having taken him. Further investigation supported the theory and foul-play was ruled out. We may never truly have an answer, or closure for that matter. But we'll always have that special little bird in our hearts. Rest well friend.

-Dylan

[EMAIL HERE](#)

Have a story for us?

IF YOU HAVE A STORY THAT YOU FEEL WOULD BENEFIT YOUR FELLOW CHAPINITE TO KNOW, PLEASE SUBMIT IT TO US FOR NEWSLETTER CONSIDERATION. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR COMMUNITY!

[LET'S CHAT!](#)

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