



GEORGETOWN News-Graphic

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SPORTS

Cards' run ends in semifinals

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Ward Hall added to C-1 zone

By James Scogin
Georgetown News-Graphic
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Ward Hall, a Greek Revival mansion now operated under Ward Hall Preservation Foundation, was ap-

proved for a zone change last week as part of Georgetown/Scott County Planning Commission meeting June 12. Ward Hall changed from an A-1 (agricultural) zone to a C-1 (conservation) zone.

"The applicant is seeking to rezone the property from A-1 to C-1 in order to establish greater

measures of protection for historic structures, which is not provided for in the current A-1 zone," said Senior Planner Mark Carper at Thursday's meeting. "Ward Hall, a former plantation, now serving as a historical and

cultural education center, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation that highlights the cultural significance of the site but does not provide towards protection or

preservation."

Ward Hall is also outside the boundary of the Georgetown Historic Overlay, Carper said.

A conservation district's purpose is to "promote and protect the significant natural features, wooded areas, water courses, existing and potential lake sites,

and other conservation and recreational resources," according to Carper's presentation.

To be considered for a C-1 zone, a site must have a five acre lot size, "except for

'The Comprehensive Plan Heritage Chapter advocates for the preservation of historic districts, sites and structures as a means of retaining local culture, heritage, sense of place and pride in the past.'

Mark Carper
Senior Planner

See **ZONE**, 12



NEWS-GRAPHIC PHOTO BY EMILY UTELEY

Georgetown O'Charley's was demolished last week. A Chipotle and Dutch Bros Coffee are planned to go in its place.

Coming soon: A lot is going on with new, expanding businesses around the county

By Mike Scogin
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The weather is warm and construction is in full swing throughout Scott County. In addition to new construction, some businesses have changed hands.

Some businesses are keeping information close, but here is what we know.

GEORGETOWN CINEMAS

Last week, Georgetown Theatres announced it was closing and the theatre had been purchased. Late last week, Republic Theatres announced it

had purchased Georgetown Theatres and was planning to reopen in July.

"We are pretty busy working overtime to make that happen (opening in July) while maintaining all our other locations during the busy summer season," said Anthony Bryson, vice president and co-owner with his father, Mitch, of Republic Theatres. The theatre will be renamed Georgetown Cinema, he said.

Republic Theatres specialized in small market, affordable movie theatres.

"Being able to give a small town an affordable

option for movies just makes it a slam dunk for Georgetown and Republic Theatres," Bryson said.

The exact date for the reopening is unknown as some upgrades, remodeling and a health inspection must be completed. Seating, a new coat of paint, self-service drink machines and ICEE machines are in the plans. One of the auditoriums is not operational, so that will be fixed as well.

Republic plans to do some of the cosmetic work after opening, so the theatre can be opened as quickly as possible.

"We want something

that is going to be affordable, clean and a fun, friendly environment for families to be able to see a first-run movie," Bryson said.

Republic is known for promotions and one popular promotion is a Tuesday special where all first-run movies are a low price.

The staff who worked at Georgetown Theatres will be retained. Georgetown Theatres Dana Jones will help during the transition before retiring.

Georgetown Cinemas is located in the newly renovated Georgetown

See **BUSINESSES**, 12

GMWSS financial plan continues to hold water

By Mike Scogin
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The financial plan approved in 2023 for the Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service continues to hold water based upon its latest budget projections.

Following a series of public hearings, in 2023 the Georgetown

City Council approved a six-year plan for the city owned utility that included annual rate increases.

Based upon that plan, GMWSS is projecting revenues of \$25.35 million during the 2025-26 fiscal year, an increase of \$3.97 million. That is an 18.59 percent revenue increase over the previous fiscal year.

Expenses are projected to be \$24.28 million, an increase of \$2.47 million or 11.34 percent.

Revenue from water will be \$11.9 million. Sewer revenue is projected to be \$10.8 million. The remaining revenue comes from tap-on fees, late fees, etc.

The budget includes a rate increase on March 1, 2026 in water and

If you go

GMWSS meets the first Tuesday of the month at **4 p.m.**; and the third Tuesday of every month at **12 p.m.** Meetings are held at the GMWSS Building, **1000 West Main Street.**

sewer rates. Water rates will increase from its current \$21.61 for the

first 2,000 gallons of water to \$22.90, a \$1.29 increase in March 2026. Sewer rates will increase on March 1, 2026 from \$19.89 to \$21.09 for the first 2,000 gallons or an increase of 76 cents.

The 2025-26 fiscal year budget projects 150 new water connections and 150 new sewer connections.

Employees will re-

ceive a 2.9 percent cost-of-living pay increase, but there will be no new positions created.

Project funds available for capital projects is \$6.8 million with a debt service coverage of 2.53.

The GMWSS budget was presented to the Georgetown City Council at its June 9 meeting and was approved.

Coming up:
Juneteenth
Thursday



Area deaths

Patricia Ann Jones, 87
Ollie Marie Kelly, 74
Carolyn McMillin, 75

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