

# The Georgetown County Chronicle



A monthly newsletter produced by Georgetown County, S.C., for its residents and visitors.

## Inside this Issue

- Waccamaw Library gets big gift, Page 3
- Museum opens at new site on Jan. 10, Page 4
- Free grant workshop, Page 6
- Volunteers recognized for service, Page 7
- Student artists awarded, Page 8

## Calendar

**Jan. 1** – County offices and facilities are closed.

**Jan. 14** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

**Jan. 20** – County offices and facilities are closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Jan. 28** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

For more upcoming events, visit [www.gtcounty.org/calendar.html](http://www.gtcounty.org/calendar.html) or [hammockcoast.com/calendar](http://hammockcoast.com/calendar).

Volume 2, Issue 5

January 2014

## Tucker is new economic development director

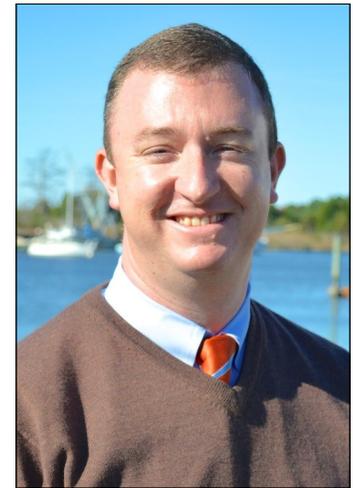
**B**rian Tucker, the president and CEO of the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce, has been hired as the new director of economic development for Georgetown County.

A resident of the Pawleys Island area, Tucker replaces Wayne Gregory, who left the county in August for a position with the City of Columbia. County Administrator Sel Hemingway has been acting as economic development director since then, while searching for a candidate with the right combination of experience and abilities to boldly move the county to the next level in recruiting new businesses and helping existing businesses to thrive. Tucker was selected from a list of qualified applicants from all regions of the country, Hemingway said.

He described Tucker as energetic, enthusiastic, visionary and self-motivated, as well as morally and ethically solid. Tucker was selected for his position with the Chamber in part because of his personality and ability to reach out to a broad spec-

trum of the community and get everyone working together, and those were certainly aspects that made him an appealing candidate for economic development director.

“Brian has demonstrated the ability to build relationships and is fully capable of nurturing existing relationships with current allies while developing new ones,” Hemingway said. “He is goal-oriented with the focus and determination to succeed, and his inherent interest is to enhance the quality of life and job opportunities in Georgetown County, which his family has adopted as their home. Brian brings a new perspective to the position of economic development director. He understands the need to assist existing industries in expanding their businesses and to actively recruit new industrial prospects. Additionally, he recognizes the opportunities that exist in developing knowledge-based and entrepreneurial jobs. I am fully confident that Brian is the right choice to move Georgetown Coun-



**Brian Tucker**

ty forward in the Economic Development arena.”

Since moving to Georgetown County to lead the Chamber in July 2012, Tucker has focused on forming partnerships and collaborations with all stakeholders in the county, and said that will not change in his new role. The move will simply allow him to dedicate more energy

**See “Tucker,” Page 3**

## Georgetown County takes steps to close pay gaps

Georgetown County Council members agreed on Tuesday to take action that would bring starting salaries paid to county employees more in line with those offered by competing jurisdictions. Adjustments will be made in phases, but existing employees will begin seeing an increase in wages beginning with their second paycheck in January.

Council’s action was based on the results of a wage and salary review conducted earlier this year by a committee of county directors. The review was initi-

ated this summer after members of the public expressed concerns about wages paid to public safety workers, high turnover rates in those departments and elevated training costs associated with those turnover rates.

“What we heard the most about were salaries in public safety jobs, but we know high turnover is an issue across the board and has caused difficulty in hiring and keeping qualified people with the starting salaries we currently offer,” said County Administra-

**See “Pay,” Page 2**

## Pay

Continued from front page

tor Sel Hemingway.

As a result, the county selected a range of “problem positions” to study within three categories: Emergency services, law enforcement and general services. Wages offered for each position were compared with those offered by what the review committee identified as competing jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions varied for each category.

The review showed that beginning wages for emergency services employees were on average 13.58 percent below those offered by competing jurisdictions. Starting salaries for law enforcement and general services were 10.43 percent below average. Using a weighted average of 11.13 percent for a total of 586 employees and factoring in benefits, it would cost the county \$2.9 million to bring wages up to the survey averages. To accommodate that adjustment will require a millage increase, and caps on how much millage can be raised in a single year necessitate proceeding with the salary adjustments in phases over a three-and-a-half-year period ending in fiscal year 2018.

“This problem was not created overnight and, unfortunately, it can’t be corrected overnight,” Hemingway said. “But we do recognize the need to rectify this issue and we’re taking steps to do so beginning almost immediately.”

Under current calculations, the average annual countywide millage increase required through 2018 to pay for the adjustments in the Midway Fire District would be the equivalent of \$5.10 on a home valued at \$100,000 if the home is listed as a primary residence. In the unincorporated western portion of the county, the annual average would be \$6.30 on a \$100,000 home. The remainder of the county, including incorporated areas, would see an annual average increase of \$4 on a \$100,000 home.

“However, lower millage increases could be realized if the economy grows at a greater rate than currently forecast,” Hemingway pointed out.

Other issues, such as changes to state regulations, might also require modification of the plan in the future, “but action is being taken to address this very important issue that affects the quality and retention of our workforce, as well as costs associated with training new employees,” Hemingway said.



**Wednesday mornings  
at the Georgetown Library**

FREE and always fun!

Call Donald Dennis at 545-3343 or email  
ddennis@gtcounty.org for details.

### Basics 10:30 — 11:00

We talk about everything you need to get started with your iPad. Come learn how to find or add apps, what apps are essential, and what you can command your iPad to do.

### Topics 11:00 — noon

Once you’ve learned the basics, there is so much more to explore! Photography, art, news, weather, games, social networking, email and cloud apps are all at your fingertips.

## Library announces 2014 schedule of ‘info-tainment’ programs

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library will kickoff a new season of its monthly First Thursday programs beginning on Jan. 9. All programs begin at 7 p.m., are free and include refreshments.

The 2014 schedule through May is as follows:

- **Jan. 9** — Sean Thompson, a local photographer, will discuss photography, answer questions and present a slideshow of images he has captured.

- **Feb. 6** — Tibby Plants, president of the S.C. Writers Workshop will be on stage to discuss writing and how to get published. Authors will read from some of their published works.

- **March 8** — Cap’n Rod of Georgetown will be on hand to talk about local history including that of Shell Island. Also, the audience will meet the “Turtle Lady,” who will talk about the upcoming loggerhead sea turtle nesting season.

- **April 10** — A local historian will be on hand to offer some insight into the history of our area.

- **May 1** — Mike Bivona and Pat Doherty of the Murrells Inlet Community Theater will discuss theater life and new theater space at the Murrells Inlet Community Center. Also, the Second Stage Players will perform.

## Get the Chronicle

At Georgetown County, we want our residents and property owners kept abreast of what’s going on inside their local government. That’s why we created the Georgetown County Chronicle. It’s a vehicle for information about county services and events, important messages from county officials and behind-the-scenes glimpses at how government works.

You can find the Chronicle on our website at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org) or through our Facebook page. If you’d rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org) with the subject line “send me the Chronicle.”

That’s also the place to send questions and comments about this newsletter and its content. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org)

## Waccamaw Library gets big gift from Pawleys pediatrics

Pawleys Pediatrics and Adult Medicine recently made a generous donation to the new Library Center Waccamaw, which will be constructed in Litchfield this year. The practice's gift will fund the building of a children's room and story-time room at the new library.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of these doctors," said Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County's library director. "Donations like this allow us to build a truly state-of-the-art community and learning center that will serve the area for generations to come."

Pawleys Pediatrics and Adult Medicine – which includes doctors Larry Kelly, Scott Nicol, David Haseltine, Julia Wren and Mary Beth Ross – said they chose to contribute to the library project because they believe the library is an integral part of a community and wanted to contribute to the building.

"Our local families and children have enabled us to make a living here in Pawleys Island, and we wanted to be able to give something back to them," said Haseltine. "Literacy is highly important for our community, as it allows our children and adults to understand their health issues better, to be able to take their medicine properly, and to provide a good foundation for a healthy and successful life."

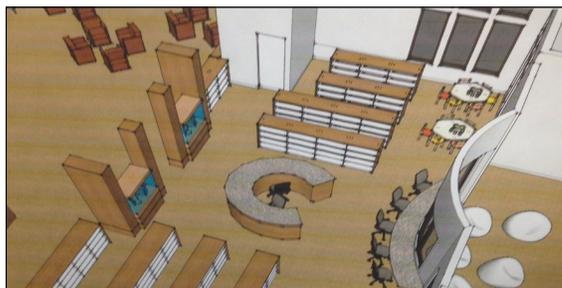
The Library Center – Waccamaw has been 12 years in the planning and fundraising stages, and now things are moving forward quickly, according to McInvaill. A contractor will be approved early this month, construction is expected to begin by the end of the month, and it is hoped that the doors of the new library will open by the end of 2014.

The new library and community center will be 16,762 square feet and include an auditorium, meeting rooms, exhibit areas, study and reading areas, a Heritage Center, technology center, mini-business center and special spaces for adults, teens and children.

"The population growth on the Waccamaw Neck has made this space crucial," McInvaill said. "Residents need access to resources and technology, and spaces to meet, study and plan. The Library Center-Waccamaw is going to be at the heart of our community, providing a comprehensive, community-focused service."

There are other naming opportunities available for generous local businesses and groups, including the auditorium, adult read-

ing room and two conference rooms. There are also opportunities to purchase personalized walkway bricks, a shelf of books, garden benches, computer work stations and decorative plantings. For more information on the library, visit the TLC-Waccamaw web pages on the library's website: <http://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov/aboutus/LibraryCenter/Pages/default.aspx>



Above is an architectural rendering of the inside of the new library, to be constructed this year.

"So many wonderful individuals and companies have donated to this cause," McInvaill said. "Best of all, it's a gift we can all benefit from."

**NEW!!**  
**ZUMBA & YOGA**  
**CLASSES!**

.....

*Where:* Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center @ Parkersville Park

**ZUMBA**

*When:* Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 9:00am—9:50am

**YOGA**

*When:* Wednesdays ~ 5:30pm—6:30pm

*Certified Instructor:* Darcy Kent  
 (darcyckent@yahoo.com)

*Cost:* \$5.00 per class per person  
*All Ages Welcome!!*

## Museum will open in county building on Jan. 10

The Georgetown County Museum moved to its new home at 120 Broad Street over the holidays and will host its ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on Jan. 10 at 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend and see the new location, enjoy refreshments and view two special new exhibits.

Though the museum is not operated or funded by Georgetown County government, the museum's new facility on Broad Street is owned by the county. The building once housed the county's planning and building departments. The museum leased the building when those offices moved into the historic courthouse. Extensive renovations have since been performed.

The Georgetown County Museum, formerly located on Prince Street, has dubbed its new home as The History Center, as the building will also house its parent organization, the Georgetown County Historical Society, the Society's mission-focused gift shop, the organization's Winyah Bay Heritage Festival headquarters and a visitor center that will serve as a history gateway to Georgetown County.

"It is going to really enhance the visitor experience to be able to visit the museum and leave armed with all sorts of good information about what else to do and see in

historic Georgetown County," said Jill Santopietro, museum director.

The Historical Society and its Winyah Bay Heritage Festival have raised more than \$400,000 that has gone into the renovation of its new home. Board president Rene King has long said the ultimate goal was to see the museum be more accessible to residents and tourists. The new space is three times larger, offering new exhibit and display opportunities.

"I think Georgetown County is going to become an even greater destination for history tourism over the coming years," King said. "We will be here to promote and support that."

The History Center will offer new exhibits that showcase the Historical Society collection.

A large first floor changing gallery will provide flexible space that can house programs and changing exhibits. More than 100 people took part in the Society's annual meeting there in late November. The gallery is surrounded by a room-sized timeline of Georgetown history and it adjoins a visitor center and hospitality space with cater-

ing kitchen and coffee service.

The Rice Trunk Gift Shop — just inside the front door — will feature an expertly curated selection of local treasures and support the Society's mission of preserving Georgetown history.

New heating and air conditioning has been installed allowing the Museum to provide climate control for exhibits and storage. Artifacts in the collection, most donated to the Society by area residents over its 60-year history include a letter written by Francis Marion in 1792, the silver bowl presented to W.D. Morgan upon his retirement as mayor of Georgetown in 1906 and about 3,000 other artifacts representing 300 years of local history, many of which will be on display for the opening.

### S.C. residents eligible for free identity protection services

South Carolina taxpayers impacted by last year's security breach at the S.C. Department of Revenue are again eligible to enroll for up to one year of identity and credit protection coverage.

Coverage is available through CSID by visiting [www.scidprotection.com](http://www.scidprotection.com) or calling (855) 880-2743. Enrollment is open through Oct. 1, 2014.

"Eligible individuals are encouraged to enroll with this state-provided service to take advantage of the comprehensive array of identity and credit protections provided," said Bill Blume, director of the Department of Revenue. "CSID has a dedicated team working to ensure an overall successful enrollment process for the taxpayers of South Carolina."

South Carolina taxpayers, their dependents and businesses who filed an electronic S.C. tax return between 1998 and 2012 may be eligible for this coverage and are encouraged to enroll with CSID.

### Is your community StormReady?

Georgetown County offers help for communities interested in becoming better prepared for disasters. For information, call (843) 545-3213 or email [shodge@gtcounty.org](mailto:shodge@gtcounty.org)

## Scholar's Forum

January programs at the Georgetown Library

#### January 7

Be enchanted by the beautiful Gullah dolls of local artist and historian Zenobia Washington. Washington will discuss her dolls and their historical significance.

#### January 14

Hear about the wonderful things S.C. Cares is doing for abandoned, neglected and wounded animals in our area.

#### January 21

Ray Funnye of the Village Group will discuss this very active nonprofit in the Plantersville community and its wonderful accomplishments, as well as plans for the future.

#### January 28

Natalie Bankowski of the Alzheimer's Association will provide information on signs for early detection of this disease.

Programs are free and begin at 10 a.m. in the library auditorium. To receive weekly program notices, e-mail [pburns@gtcounty.org](mailto:pburns@gtcounty.org)

# Tucker

Continued from front page

to telling the world about the opportunities that exist in Georgetown County.

"I am honored and eager to accept the position as director of economic development for Georgetown County. This is a unique opportunity to build on the relationships with the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce and the Alliance for Economic Development, and operate as a team with a common mission — a prosperous and progressive Georgetown County," Tucker said. "I have developed a great respect for Georgetown County's place in history, as well as the quality of life we currently enjoy. I also recognize the tremendous opportunities that we have. We have abundant resources including a proven workforce, solid infrastructure and our unique natural resources."

Dredging the Georgetown port will be a top priority for Tucker, along with diversifying the county's economic base.

"We have to press forward while addressing these issues," Tucker said. "Georgetown County is a prime candidate for a number of projects from existing industries as well as new companies looking to invest and create jobs."

Jenna Jordan, board chair for the Chamber, said she and the rest of the board fully support Tucker's new role as economic development director, though they are sad to lose him at the Chamber.

"He has done a wonderful job with the Chamber and he will do a wonderful job promoting Georgetown County and recruiting jobs that will put our residents to work," Jordan said. "We were aware that he was being considered for the position and encouraged him to apply. During Brian's time at the Chamber, he worked very hard to build strong partnerships with the county, the Alliance for Economic Development, and all of the various community stakeholders. Brian understands the power of working together toward a com-

mon goal, and we are excited about the future of Georgetown County. With us all working together there is so much that can be accomplished."

Tucker was previously employed as president and CEO of the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce for four years, during which time he was able to increase revenue, membership and attendance at chamber events. He also increased member communication and engagement through direct contact and a new website, and created annual sponsorship packages, which increased sponsors and sponsorship revenue by 20 percent.

A life-long South Carolinian, Tucker grew up in Lancaster and is a 1997 graduate of Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in financial management. He worked in mortgage loans before joining the North Augusta Chamber.

He and his wife, Margaret, have two daughters, Margaret Ann, 12, and Lily, 9.

## Find us online!

Whether you're looking for jobs, the latest news or to contact a specific department, online is a great way to stay updated or get in touch with us. We love hearing from you and try to be accessible through as many avenues as possible.

Visit our website at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org). You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.



## Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center at Parkersville Park

### Weight and Cardio Fitness Center Monthly Rates

<b>Adult 18-59</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Additional adult in same residence</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Senior 60+</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Additional senior in same residence</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>Daily rate for adult walk-in</b>	<b>\$4</b>
<b>Daily rate for senior walk-in</b>	<b>\$3</b>

### Ask about our climbing wall!

*\*Proof of age and/or residency is required. No one under 18 allowed in the weight/cardio rooms.*

### Facility Hours

<b>Monday – Thursday</b>	<b>8 a.m. – 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8 a.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>**NEW WINTER HOURS** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>

*\*Please note our new winter hours on Saturdays!*

## Have questions or comments about this newsletter?

Contact Jackie Broach, [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org) or (843) 545-3164

# Hodge named Georgetown County Manager of the Year

It was a busy year for Sam Hodge, emergency Manager for Georgetown County. In the midst of his usual preparations for hurricane season and any other disaster that might befall the county, he was named the S.C. Emergency Management Association's 2013 Director of the Year. It was an award he also received in 2011, making him the only person in the state to have received the honor twice. But those closer to home also made their appreciation for Hodge known.

Hodge's supervisor, County Administrator Sel Hemingway nominated him for Manager of the Quarter this summer. Having won the honor, he was entered for and chosen by county directors as Georgetown County's 2013 Manager of the Year. The award was announced in a surprise presentation on Dec. 12.

Hodge has been an employee of the county for 22 years. He began his employment with Midway Fire Rescue in October 1990 as a firefighter/paramedic and was later promoted to the rank of battalion chief. While with Midway, he received numerous awards, including a Community Service Award, a Meritorious Action Award, and Officer of the Year four times.

Sam later transferred to Emergency Management and has been the county's emergency manager since 2008. Among his recent accomplishments, he has worked to revamp the Community Emergency Response Team program and has completed three classes for



Sam Hodge, left, is pictured with County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

county staff and the public. He has worked tirelessly to educate the public on the Know Your Zone evacuation initiative, Hemingway said. Additionally, Hodge played a leading role in response and recovery efforts related to the Front Street fire in September.

## Great Georgetown Grant Grab!

Is your organization interested in seeking private grants?





**The Georgetown Grant Grab**

Is a great way to discover grant opportunities available at the library and online. Learn about the new Foundation Directory Online, a source available FREE only at the Georgetown Library!

**When:** January 15, 2014

**Where:** Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation

**Time:** 3:00-5:00

This free event is sponsored by The Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation and the Georgetown County Library.

For more information or to RSVP contact Patti Burns 545 3388  
[pburns@gtcounty.org](mailto:pburns@gtcounty.org)



## Are You Ready to Start Your Own Business?



Friday, January 10th  
3—5 p.m.

**Georgetown Library Auditorium**

To succeed, small businesses need more than just a good idea—they need a plan. This workshop will guide you through the major planning issues needed to successfully launch your new business.

**To sign up for this class, call the library at 545-3327, or email [hpelham@gtcounty.org](mailto:hpelham@gtcounty.org)**

This class is a **FREE** offering of **SCORE**  
Counselors to America's Small Business

SCORE is a national volunteer organization that mentors small businesses to help them start, grow and manage their small business.

Sponsored by:



## Council recognizes Seitz, Ziegenhorn for volunteer service

Two Georgetown County volunteers were recognized for their outstanding service in 2013 with the county's inaugural volunteer awards. The awards were presented to Frank Seitz of Midway Fire Rescue and Keith Ziegenhorn of Georgetown County Fire/EMS at the Dec. 10 County Council meeting.

Seitz, a volunteer with Midway for four and a half years, was named 2013 Volunteer of the Year. He volunteers his services to Midway as an ambulance driver, fire inspector, public education officer and division of fire and life safety clerical assistant, and is part of the department's fire support team in addition to other volunteer duties.

"Frank joined Midway in May of 2007 and since that time he has been one of our most active and most dedicated volunteer members," said Midway Chief Doug Eggiman, who nominated Seitz for the award. "He has been instrumental to our EMS operations as an ambulance driver and has worked diligently with our Division of Fire and Life Safety."

Over the years, Seitz has responded to hundreds of emergencies and spent hundreds of hours assisting Midway's life safety division and others in the department, Eggiman said. Annually during Fire Prevention Month, Seitz provides much needed assistance teaching young people about fire safety in the kitchen and in the home.

"His efforts reflect great pride upon himself, his family, our department and the communities we serve," Eggiman said.

Ziegenhorn, a firefighter/EMT with



From left are Georgetown County Fire/EMS Chief Mack Reed, Employee Volunteer of the Year Keith Ziegenhorn, County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, Volunteer of the Year Frank Seitz and Midway Fire Rescue Assistant Chief Jim Crawford.

Georgetown County Fire/EMS for two and a half years, was named 2013 Employee Volunteer of the Year for his efforts above and beyond his job duties. Last spring, Ziegenhorn volunteered his time to organize a fundraiser to aid child burn victims. He coordinated with the Medical University of South Carolina's "Camp Can Do" and sold T-shirts to raise awareness about pediatric burns.

Through his efforts, Ziegenhorn was able to sponsor two children to attend Camp Can Do over the summer. Additionally, Ziegenhorn and his family volunteered a day to attend the camp and were able to witness firsthand the effect the camp had on the kids.

"Keith's compassion and concern for chil-

dren who have experienced burns was the driving force behind his promotion of this project. He should be admired for his compassion and for volunteering his time to such an important and great cause," said Assistant Chief Tony Hucks, who nominated him for the award.

The Volunteer of the Year awards were created in 2013 by the county's leadership to draw attention to the many wonderful individuals who donate their time and talents for county programs ranging from the fire service, to youth sports to working in senior centers.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, call (843) 545-3164 or e-mail [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org).

### Midway's Matyas is Employee of the Quarter

Master Firefighter/EMT Ric Matyas of Midway Fire Rescue was named the Emergency Services Department's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2013. He has been employed with the county for six years.

At the department's recent annual MDA boot drive, Matyas volunteered without hesitation to oversee the campaign, said Battalion Chief Brent McClellan, who nominated Matyas for the award.

"Once given the assignment, he spent time on the phone with the MDA representative and our local grocery stores to schedule collection times. He was thrown a couple of road blocks with some of the establishments, but he was able to keep his focus on moving forward. His only goal was to ensure that Midway gave an honest effort to assist those in need," McClellan said.

"When all was said and done, we didn't collect as much money as years past, but Ric was happy to report to everyone that, thanks to the efforts of Midway Fire Rescue, we were able to provide a child



Ric Matyas, left, is pictured with County Administrator Sel Hemingway. Matyas was presented with the Employee of the Quarter award during a departmental luncheon on Dec. 3.

in need with the opportunity to attend camp this year. I believe that Ric has proven firefighters care about folks all of the time. Not just when the alarm bell sounds," McClellan continued.

### Jones named manager of the Quarter

Tracy Jones, Georgetown County Stormwater Division manager, has been named the county's Manager of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2013. She has been employed with the county for four and a half years.



**Tracy Jones**

In the last fiscal year, Jones has accomplished many of the division's goals, including obtaining wetlands permits without spending project money on a consultant for all stormwater improvement projects. She also helped to keep the county's 319 grant from having to be refunded after complications arose, incorporated low impact development techniques into new county parks and integrated the Stormwater Division with the Mosquito Control Division.

Jones also volunteered to be on the technical and steering committee for the Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan.

"This opportunity will be beneficial to the county as the goal of the plan is to identify sources of bacteria contributing to the degradation of the waterbodies of the inlet and therefore identify possible solutions to be implemented," Funnys said.

Jones also serves on the County Watershed Management Committee, Emergency Operations Plan Review and Update Committee, the state MS4 Focus Group Committee and is a Southeast Stormwater Association board member.

### Morris recognized for work with youth

Michael Morris of Midway Fire Rescue was recently honored by the South Strand Optimist Club for his superior performance as a public safety officer in Georgetown County.



**Michael Morris**

The Optimist Club introduced awards this year to recognize individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to their community's youth. Morris helped develop Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a program presented to schoolchildren, as well as a water safety program run in conjunction with the YMCA.

## Students recognized for holiday artwork



Georgetown County Council Members recently recognized winners of the county's 2013 holiday card contest. More than 280 entries were received from students throughout the County. First place went to Shanice Hurdle, a senior at Georgetown High School, for her drawing of a dove. She is pictured at top with County Administrator Sel Hemingway. Her artwork was used for the county's official 2013 holiday card. Second place went to Graciela Maradiaga, a 7th grader at Georgetown Middle School, for her drawing of a penguin. The third place winner was Dakota Grate, a freshman at Carvers Bay High School, for a picture of Santa.



# SAVE UP TO 90% OFF Latex Paint

## Recycled Paint

**FOR SALE** Only \$6.00 For 5 Gallons

**While Supplies Last!**



**VISIT US**  
Georgetown County  
Paint Recycling Facility  
201 Landfill Drive, Georgetown, SC 29440

**CALL US**  
(843) 545-3447



# Heritage Corridor signs go up on Highway 17

Two wayfinding signs recognizing Georgetown County as part of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor went up on Highway 17 recently. The signs are located on 17 southbound between Brookgreen Gardens and Wesley Road, and on 17 northbound about two miles north of the Santee River bridge.

Provided by the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, previously chaired by Ron Daise, the signs are an easy way for travelers to quickly identify that they are within the corridor.

Georgetown County Council Chairman Johnny Morant said the signs are “a great marketing tool to alert tourists and residents to the rich Gullah Geechee history and culture that are a part of Georgetown County.”

“Hopefully the signs will be the impetus for other marketing entities to incorporate the Gullah Geechee history into their ongoing efforts to attract tourists to the county,” Morant said. “It is really great that Georgetown County is a part of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. The Gullah Geechee culture is an integral part of the history of our county.

“While the Gullah Geechee culture has not received the recognition that some have hoped for, it is important that we educate



ourselves and others to the significant contribution that the Gullah Geechee people made to the history and culture of America,” he continued.

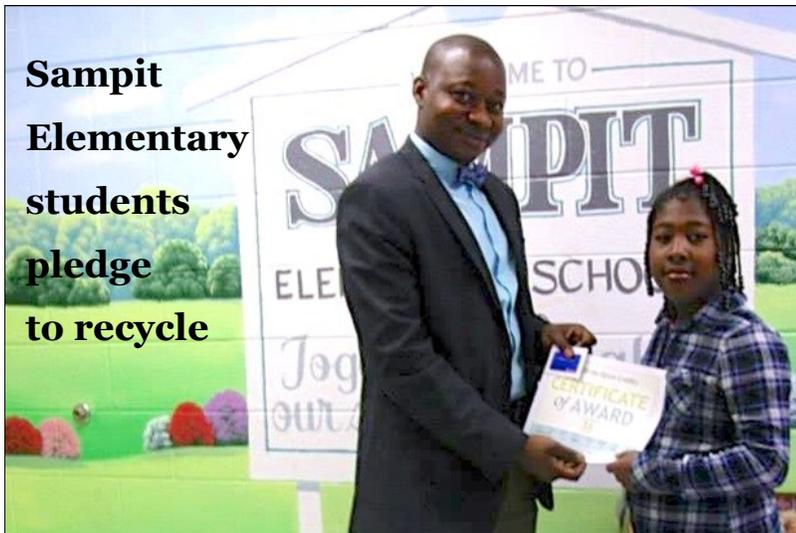
Designated by Congress in 2006, the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor extends down the eastern coastline from Wilmington, N.C., to Jacksonville, Fla. It is home to one of America’s most unique cultures, a tradition first shaped by captive Africans

brought to the southern United States from West Africa and continued in later generations by their descendants.

Michael Allen, corridor coordinator said he is pleased to the new signs placed in Georgetown County, as they have been in other counties across four states.

For more information about the corridor and the Gullah Geechee culture, visit [www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org](http://www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org).

## Sampit Elementary students pledge to recycle



Sampit Elementary School recently participated in America Recycles Day 2013 by submitting 385 pledges to recycle. Principal Sabrina Goff-Mack, pictured at right with Fred Davis, Georgetown County’s superintendent of environmental services, received a certificate of participation for the school. Nevaeh Miller, a fourth-grader, pictured above with Davis, received a gift card as the winner of a random pledge draw.



# Georgetown County, South Carolina

County Government

## Numbers to know

Animal Control, 546-5101

Assessor, 545-3014

Auditor, 545-3021

Clerk of Court, 545-3004

County Council, 545-3058

Coroner, 546-3056

Elections, 545-3339

Finance, 545-3002

Planning and Zoning, 545-3116

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270  
129 Screven Street  
Georgetown, S.C. 29440-4200

Phone: (843) 545-3063  
Fax: (843) 545-3292



## Sheriff's deputies participate in Shop with Santa program

Georgetown County sheriff's deputies took 36 kids shopping last month as part of the office's 13th annual Shop with Santa program.

The day started at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast and entertainment provided by WalMart of Georgetown. The kids were then given \$100 gift cards and a deputy assisted each child in shopping for their Christmas gifts. The gift cards were donated by proceeds raised during the annual 9/11 Local Heroes Benefit at the Dead Dog Saloon of Murrells Inlet.

After shopping, the kids returned to the Sheriff's Office, where volunteers wrapped their gifts and lunch was provided by Chick-fil-A of Murrells Inlet.



Shop with Santa photos provided by Carrie Cuthbertson of the Sheriff's Office.