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Calendar

Jan. 25 – Public meeting regarding proposed landfill expansion, 5 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Jan. 27 – Community cleanup at Rocky Point Forest, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learn about progress at the site and help it get ready for reopening this summer.

Jan. 29 – Wacca Wache Landfill to close temporarily for utilities work.

Feb. 9 – Friends of the Library Volunteer Fair. See page 4.

Feb. 13 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. Council only meets once in December.

Feb. 15 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Feb. 19 – Georgetown County offices and are closed in observance of Presidents Day.

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Volume 6, Issue 5

January 2018

County staff trains at FEMA campus in Maryland

More than 50 Georgetown County staff members recently underwent a week-long training course at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Md.

It was a rare and exciting learning opportunity, as a limited number of local governments get to participate in community-specific courses, designed around their needs. After a lengthy application process, the trip to FEMA's campus took place in December.

All course materials were created specifically for Georgetown County, based on a probable emergency situation for the county's geographic area. In this instance, the class' focus was on recovery following a major hurricane that brought significant flooding. It was a continuation of the scenario enacted on Georgetown County's first group trip to the Emergency Management Institute in 2012

The course emphasized recovery and mitigation activities and planning. Course methodologies of classroom instruction, planning sessions and a recovery symposium allowed for structured decision-making in a learning environment that was nonetheless realistic. Mitigation activities to prevent or reduce the future



Cindy Grace, Georgetown County's Emergency Management Coordinator, addresses students as they begin training at the Emergency Management Institute. Lessons were taught by local and national experts.

impact of a similar disaster were also identified during this session.

The exercise the county participated in is designed **See "Emergency Management," Page 8**

Don't think winter's over just yet; more cold likely

We missed a white Christmas by just over a week, but Georgetown County saw a snowfall the first week of January like residents said they hadn't seen in well over a decade.

Not only did some areas of the county report upward of six inches of snow, but extremely cold temperatures allowed snow and ice to linger for several days. While this may have delighted many school children (along with children at heart), it also created a traffic nightmare.

Despite around-the-clock work by the S.C. Department of Transportation, roads were hazardous as slowly melting snow would refreeze every evening over the course of several days. According to the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, dispatchers received more than 250 accident calls from the time sleet started on Jan. 3 through the time the last of the snow melted the following Monday. The bridges were kept clear and open for the duration of the event, except a closure of the Santee bridge on the Charleston County line.

While it's anyone's guess whether more snow and ice is in the future for



A snow plow travels down Church Street on the afternoon of Jan. 3, while snow continued to fall. Some areas of Georgetown County saw upward of 6 inches of snow.

See "Winter Weather," Page 2

Public meeting to focus on landfill expansion

Georgetown County is proposing an expansion of its landfill on Highway 51. A public meeting to provide information about this proposal and accept public input is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 25, from 5-7 p.m. in Georgetown County Council Chambers. Chambers is in the historic county courthouse at 129 Screven Street, Georgetown.

Public Meeting

When: Jan. 25, 5-7 p.m.
Where: County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St., Georgetown.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Issues which may be discussed as part of the process include: operational issues, such as hours of operation; recycling efforts that may be implemented; protection of property values; traffic routing and road maintenance; and establishment of local advisory committee.

For more information, contact Georgetown County Environmental Services, (843) 545-3463.

Garden City beach access to close temporarily

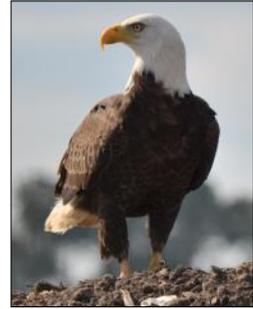
Garden City Beach Access No. 1 at Yucca Ave. will be closed for approximately three weeks, beginning Jan. 23, while work on the sand dunes in that area is completed.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be performing the work, said officials with Georgetown County Public Services. Plans are to replace fencing along the dunes and perform planting to help retain the dunes.

This work is part of the Reach 3 project being conducted by Horry and Georgetown counties.

Bald Eagle sighting tours offered at Georgetown Landfill on Feb. 14

After Georgetown County posted photos of some of the bald eagles regularly seen at its landfill on Highway 51, staff received numerous requests from birdwatchers and photographers requesting access to the site.



As a result, the county's Environmental Services Division schedule a one-hour birdwatching tour at the site in January. The tour filled up in a day and a second tour was scheduled. Due to high demand, a series of tours will be offered throughout the day, Feb. 14.

Tours are free, but registration is required. Tours are currently available at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Signup is available online at <https://gtcounty-environmentalservices.ticketleap.com/february-eagle-tour/>.

Those interested are advised to sign up soon, as space is limited and seats may fill up quickly. Plans are to offer another tour in March. Details will be announced as soon as they are available.



Please join us for the upcoming

1st Thursday Program for February

Thursday February 1

@10 AM

Debordieu Colony Room

Waccamaw Neck Branch Library

Featured Guest
Phil Wilkinson

*American Alligator in
South Carolina*



Retired senior researcher shares details of work done with Yawkey Wildlife Center as part of the longest continuous study of alligators in the world.

1st Thursday is a free Adult Education series open to the public.

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 or through our Facebook page. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail 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



The historic county courthouse on Screven St.

Winter Weather

Continued from Front Page



Falling snow along Front Street and the Harborwalk made for a picturesque scene.

Georgetown County, more freezing temperatures are expected before winter officially ends on March 20.

If one gives credence to the Farmer's Almanac, it calls for snow and very cold conditions the first week of February. This is the same prediction it had for the first week of January, and has been a talking point for many area residents.

Regardless, it's a good idea for residents to be prepared. Residents are encouraged to download the S.C. Emergency Management Division's free Severe Winter Weather guide at www.scemd.org. Residents should, for example, keep supplies such as rock salt on hand each winter, know how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts, and place a winter emergency kit in every vehicle. Kits should include a windshield scraper and small broom, flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, water, snack food, matches, extra warm clothing and mittens, and a first aid kit.

Residents should also remember to always bring pets in during freezing weather. To make sure you see notifications from local government, please like and follow Georgetown County and Georgetown County Emergency Management on Facebook and Twitter.

Is getting in shape part of your new year's resolution?



Georgetown County Parks and Rec. has plenty of programs to help!

- *Weight and cardio rooms • League sports • Zumba*
- *Barre Fit • Line dancing • New programs added regularly*

Call (843) 545-3275 for information

Find Georgetown County updates at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc

Warm-up party to benefit Bike the Neck

An afternoon filled with food, music by Cody Sifford, an art and book fair and raffle baskets will raise money for Bike the Neck next month.

The event, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 10 from 2-5 p.m., is being called a "Valentine Warm-Up Pre-Party. Admittance is free, though donations are gratefully accepted. Money raised through chance drawings and other fundraisers will go toward bike trails along the Waccamaw Neck. The event will take place at the Litchfield Exchange, 14363 Ocean Highway.

Bike the Neck volunteers promise many of the art books available will make perfect Valentine's Day gifts, and authors will be on hand to personalize books with a signature. Additionally the raffle baskets are "chock full of items you actually want!" Raffle tickets are \$5 each, three for \$10 or seven for \$20.

Anyone who would like to reserve a table to sell their artwork or published books, should call (843) 235-9600. The fee to set up is \$20.

Souper Bowl fundraiser returns to Pawleys Island

The 20th annual Souper Bowl, a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity of Georgetown County, will take place Saturday, Jan. 27, at Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church from 5:30-8 p.m. The church is located at 1633 Waverly Rd.. Participants will get to enjoy 40 soups from local restaurants and choose a handcrafted bowl. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door.

Wacca Wache Landing to close Jan. 29-March 2

Residents are advised that Wacca Wache Landing will be temporarily closed beginning Jan. 29 through March 2.

This is to accommodate work by Georgetown County Water and Sewer District, as they make utilities repairs in the area. Anyone with questions or concerns is asked to contact the districts Customer Service line at (843) 546-8408.

Friends of the Library to host volunteer fair in Litchfield

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library will host a "Know the Neck, Come Connect" volunteer fair at the library on Friday, Feb. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is intended to help Waccamaw Neck residents become familiar with local nonprofits and their missions, and learn how to get involved.

"Folks who live on the Waccamaw Neck know that it's important to keep our community clean, healthy and creative," said Diane Stern, president of the Friends of the Waccamaw Library. She encourages everyone to attend the event and connect with local nonprofits. Light refreshments will be served.

Community nonprofits scheduled to be in attendance at the fair include: All 4 Paws Animal Rescue, the American Red Cross, Back Pack Buddies, Brookgreen Gardens, Bike the Neck, the Family Justice Center, Freedom Readers, the Friends of the Waccamaw Library, Habitat for Humanity, Hobcaw Barony, the Long Bay Symphony, Miss Ruby's Kids, Neighbor to Neighbor, Pawleys Island American Legion Post 197, the Pawleys Island Festival of Music and Art, Smith Medical Clinic, the S.C. Maritime Museum, Tara Hall Home for Boys, Teach My People, Tideland Community Hospice, Tideland Respite Care, Winyah River Foundation/ Waccamaw Riverkeeper.

Visit www.thefowl.org for more information.

Georgetown Library Book Club

February Selection:

"Scarlet Sister Mary"

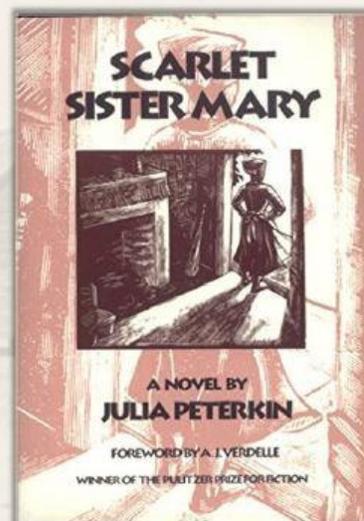
By Julia Peterkin

Book Discussion: February 22nd at 11 am

Georgetown Library, 405 Cleland Street

For a copy of the book, see Patti Burns at the library

Julia Peterkin pioneered in demonstrating the literary potential for serious depictions of the African American experience. Rejecting the prevailing sentimental stereotypes of her times, she portrayed her black characters with sympathy, understanding, and complex human emotions. Her 1929 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel follows Mary, an orphan raised on an old cotton plantation by Maum Hannah, one of the pillars of the small plantation church.



Library Branch Manager Lance-Robb named county's Employee Volunteer of 2017

Marilynn Lance-Robb, branch manager for the Carvers Bay Library, was recognized this month as the County's 2017 Employee Volunteer of the Year for outstanding volunteer service rendered to library patrons and her community.

The Employee Volunteer of the Year award is presented at the end of each year to recognize one county employee who also volunteers their time and service to one of the county's many departments and divisions outside the course of their regular job.

Lance-Robb has been employed with the county for 20 years and has been volunteering for more than 10 years. Every week on her day off, she coordinates a food ministry, visiting a bread distribution center in Conway. She looks carefully for the very best quality, then loads it into her personal vehicle and brings it back to the Carvers Bay area, where she distributes it to needy individuals.

She also stocks an area at the Carvers Bay Library, so community members can pick up bread there for free. This is a win-win for the county, as it draws people into the library so they can talk with staff and learn about services and materials available to them through the library. Many of them end up taking advantage of these services, from children's programs to use of public access computers and checking out books and movies.

Lance-Robb applied for a grant on her own time, which allowed her to set up a computer training center in a hair salon. On her days off, she often goes there and teaches elderly people how to access medical information online through reputable sources.

In addition to her full-time work at the library, she works tirelessly in her off time to help the neediest and most vulnerable citizens in one of the county's poorest areas, enriching their bodies and their minds.



Marilynn Lance-Robb, center, is pictured with Library Director Dwight McInvaill, left, and County Council Member Austin Beard.

If that's not enough, Lance-Robb works diligently with the Carvers Bay Friends of the Library to raise money for programming related to the library's summer reading program, helping students maintain literacy skills during summer break. She has also distributed meals to children during the summer in conjunction with local service agencies, and persuaded a local business to provide special meals to all youth during the grand finale summer reading program at her branch.

She also organizes a toy drive for underprivileged children in her community during the holiday season.

Midway Fire's Ed Mills is County Volunteer of the Year for 2017

Ed Mills, a longtime volunteer with Midway Fire Rescue, has been named 2017 Volunteer of the Year.

At the end of each year, Georgetown County recognizes one volunteer from within its various departments and divisions that has stood out above the rest in their commitment and service. This year, the county selected Mills, who has given more than 40 years of service to Georgetown County Emergency Services and Midway Fire Rescue.

On a daily basis, Mills takes time to help firefighters solve problems, make repairs, and shuttle vehicles back and forth to First Vehicle Services. His first question when he comes into the station is always, "What do you need?" He often makes repairs to equipment before anyone else even realizes there is an issue, and brings in personal equipment and tools to fix the problem, staff said.

Mills is also a huge contributor in the community helping friends make repairs, cut their grass or run errands when he sees a need, and without being asked.

He is a role model for younger firefighters and fills in on tasks so firefighters can train and handle other duties and responsibilities.

Though no longer a firefighter, Mills is still known as BC (Battalion Chief) Mills. He helped found, run and maintain Midway Fire Rescue, all because it needed to be done, said Midway Chief Doug Eggiman.

Eggiman said Midway is grateful to have a volunteer like Mills who has given so much to the station.



Ed Mills, center, is pictured with members of his Midway family. He was unable to accept his award at the Jan. 9 County Council meeting where he was recognized, because he was volunteering at the station. As such, his award was presented to him later that evening at Midway.

Want to work for Georgetown County?
We have a range of positions open.

http://www.gtcounty.org/Human_Resources/employment.html

Stormwater Manager Tracy Jones is 2017 Manager of the Year

Tracy Jones, manager of Georgetown County's Stormwater Division, has been named Georgetown County's Manager of the Year for 2017. The Manager of the Year Award is presented at the end of each calendar year to recognize county department/division managers and first line supervisors for excellence on the job.

Jones has been employed in this position for nearly a decade. In 2017, she showed exemplary management skills in leading the county's Mosquito Control Division through a difficult time. The division lost its most experienced employees. Through Jones' effective training and leadership, two new employees were quickly brought up to speed and made able to serve the public. Not only that, the division had record response times in the 2017 season and received excellent public response due to positive changes made in the division.

Additionally, with no dedicated staff in Stormwater Management for plans review and inspection, Jones continually marshals a yeoman's effort to secure the resources necessary to progress and complete stormwater capital improvement projects. She also collaborated with local partners to complete an important Constructed Wetlands grant project.

Every year for the past five years, Jones has coordinated and presented — along with her director — the annual employee awards program for the entire Public Services Department at its annual holiday luncheon and the Backhoe Rodeo. This involves coordination with other managers, as well as considerable research on her own time to create meaningful presentations.

Jones takes time to volunteer at local high school career days throughout the year, seeking to inspire students in STEM studies and to talk to young people about the importance of public services.

She also helps her community in her off time, using earned annual leave to volunteer at local soup kitchens with her family.

Jones is an effective steward of the Stormwater Management Division's \$1.6 million operating budget, along with a \$4 million capital improvement budget.



Tracy Jones, center, is pictured with Public Services Director Ray Funnycy, left, and County Council Member Austin Beard.

According to Public Services Director Ray Funnycy, Jones consistently and professionally stands up under intense public scrutiny and accompanying criticism to defend and promote environmental and public safety issues that occur on a daily basis with contractors, developers and residents in the stormwater arena.

"In this way, she is a model of advocacy for the county's mission to protect our unique environment, foster an atmosphere of understanding, and encourage and support local business," Funnycy said.

In his nomination letter, Funnycy said Jones is "an excellent communicator who builds bridges and professional relationships across divisions that benefit the county in all projects. For example, her interaction with the Capital Projects Division has resulted in several countywide drainage improvement projects. Her positive, solutions-oriented attitude has a ripple effect among all who work with her.

Jones is a registered professional engineer and also serves on the Watershed Management Committee, and as project manager for the Public Services Department Re-accreditation Committee.

AN AFTERNOON IN THE FOREST
At Rocky Point Community Forest

Join us **Saturday Jan. 27th 2018 - 10am-2pm**
Rekindle your connection with the woods and river!
Learn about the progress and plans to come!
Tackle some trash to help us refresh the site for reopening Summer 2018!

Visit winyahrivers.org for details

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.

Visit our website at www.gtcounty.org. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.



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



Participants in the Georgetown County specific course last month at the Emergency Management Institute.

Emergency Management

Continued from Front Page

to take a whole team of professionals from a city or county for in-depth resident training. Group members must work closely together as a team to accomplish community emergency management objectives.

All students in the class were Georgetown County staff, or staff from community partner agencies, such as the City of Georgetown, Santee Electric, Tideland Hospital System and the Black River United Way. Representatives from Dorchester County Emergency Management, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and Mount Pleasant Emergency Management were also able to participate in the course.

County participants included department heads, County Council members, Emergency Services staff, law enforcement, and representatives from Public Works and IT, among others.

The sessions gave staff from these agencies an opportunity to work together in a large scale exercise, practice and work out any kinks in the system prior to a real life scenario. This type of training is imperative, as there is little room for error during a real world event.

"It's top-notch training that is provided at no

cost to the county, and it's an excellent learning experience for everyone who goes on this trip," said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County's Emergency Manager. "We have all levels of government involved, and this is an excellent way for us to come together and work out all our plans and make sure we have everything ready."

The best part, he said, is that by traveling to FEMA's campus for the training, staff can focus wholly on the exercise without – or at least with less of – the distraction of their day-to-day tasks back home. It also provides a bonding opportunity for staff who have to work closely and rely on each other for the benefit of the County in an emergency situation.

"This lets us go learn in Maryland, before a real disaster occurs, and we can bring that back home to Georgetown County to make it a much safer place," Hodge said.

With three hurricanes over the last three years, and a snow and ice event already in 2018, Georgetown County's emergency management team has already had plenty of real world practice lately. But the message Hodge spreads to residents is that one can never be too prepared. Georgetown County Emergency Management always strives to lead by example and believes in practicing what it preaches.



Pictured at left: Instructor John Pennington, left, and Georgetown County Emergency Manager Sam Hodge address the class. Above: Students participate in an open discussion at the Emergency Management Institute.