



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

Feb. 11 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Feb. 17 – County offices and facilities are closed in observance of Presidents Day.

Feb. 20 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Feb. 25 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

For more upcoming events, visit www.gtcounty.org/calendar.html or hammockcoast.com/calendar.

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February 2014

Public safety exercise puts emergency responders through paces

A multi-agency public safety exercise that took place in Georgetown and Horry counties on Feb. 1 gave emergency responders an important opportunity to test their skills and interagency communication and cooperation.

The full-scale exercise, known as Operation Coastal Response 2014, took place in and around the Bucksport area, Sandy Island, Wacca Wache Marina and the Reserve Marina. It was designed to train and assess the ability of Georgetown and Horry counties to respond to a mass casualty/fatality incident — in this case, a commercial airline crash near the border between the two counties. Led by the counties' emergency management divisions, the exercise also allowed an opportunity to coordinate and integrate multi-agency and multi-discipline assets from local, state and federal agencies that would likely provide support and assistance in a large-scale incident.

Agencies participating in Operation Coastal Response included Georgetown County Emergency Management, Georgetown County Fire/EMS, the Georgetown Sheriff's Office, Georgetown County School District, Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire Department, Midway Fire Rescue, Georgetown County Public Information, Georgetown County Public Services Department, Georgetown Memorial Hospital, Waccamaw Community Hospital, the S.C. Helicopter



Jesse Morgan, a firefighter/EMT with Midway Fire Rescue, works on removing a mannequin from a tree on Sandy Island. Mannequins were used to simulate casualties in the Feb. 1 exercise and help emergency responders practice how for an incident involving mass casualties.

Aquatic Rescue Team, The Salvation Army, Myrtle Beach International Airport, Horry County Emergency Management and various supporting agencies.

Under the scenario acted out for the operation, a commercial flight bound for Myrtle Beach International

See "Coastal Response," Page 11

Winter storm keeps responders busy in Georgetown

A winter storm that brought a rare coating of snow and ice to Georgetown County last month was also responsible for a partial activation of Georgetown County's Emergency Operations Center on High-market Street.

In response to the storm, the county elevated its operating condition (OPCON) level to 3, a "standby" status, during the worst of the winter weather event.

While residents hunkered down, county employees worked to make sure the area and residents were

See "Winter," Page 10



Free financial fitness workshops: Library offers tips to save in 2014

The Georgetown County Library system will offer a bevy of workshops this month to help residents save money, create a household budget, avoid scams and use credit wisely.

Workshops last one hour and feature entertaining experts, helpful handouts, giveaways and delicious cookies from Kudzu Bakery.

"If you want to improve your financial fitness, this is a great place to start," said Heather Pelham, library public services manager. "And after the workshop, if you're looking for more details, we've got all the latest books on personal finance."

The workshops are sponsored by a Smart investing@your library® grant provided through a partnership of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association. The Smart Investing grant has made possible financial festivals, job fairs, workshops and interviews with local residents who have faced financial obstacles and overcome them.

The workshops are free and signup is not required. If you'd like more details, call Pelham at the library, (843) 545-3327, or visit the library's website at georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

Financial Fitness Workshop Schedule

At the Georgetown Library
405 Cleland St.

Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m.

Feb. 12
Feb. 19
Feb. 26

At the Andrews Library
105 North Morgan St.

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to noon

Feb. 11
Feb. 18
Feb. 25

Registration Extended for Hershey's Track and Field

presented by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation

Registration is now open until Feb. 21!

This program is for boys and girls ages 5-14
(age control date is Dec. 31, 2014)

Registration fee is \$10 per child.



Call (843) 545-3275
for information
or visit www.gtcounty.org.



Homes tour sets new record

Rain may have poured down on the beautifully decorated residences that were part of the Friends of the Georgetown Library's Yuletide Tour of Homes in December, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of attendees.

The annual event set a new record with more than 250 tickets sold and more than \$5,000 raised for library programs.

The Friends offer their thanks to the hospitable homeowners who graciously opened their homes for touring: Peggy and Tom Barr, Kay and Tez Bonnoitt, Betty and Teddy Kohn, Diane Kludt, Nathalie Matthews, Mary Paige and Bill Murray, Louise Ullman, and Emily and Tuck West (whose historic outdoor kitchen provided the perfect place for cranberry punch and an assortment of holiday refreshments).

Appreciation is also extended to the churches that offered their beautiful sanctuaries to the tour: Bethel AME, Bethesda Missionary Baptist, Duncan United Methodist and Prince George-Winyah Episcopal.

Additionally, guests were treated to the stately Stewart-Parker House, beautifully decorated by the ladies of the Georgetown Garden Club and overseen by two of its former residents, Martha Parker Allison and Sarah Parker Lumpkin.

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

Recycling center offers paint with a re-purpose

From paper and plastic to outdated electronics, a wide range of materials are given new life beginning at Georgetown County recycling facilities. What many people don't know, is that latex paint is among those items. Not only that, but once the recycling process is completed in-house, the product is available for sale to the public at a price that's hard to beat — up to 90 percent off the price of new paint.

The average household stockpiles one to three gallons of unused paint per year, said Ray Funnye, Georgetown County's director of public services. Post-consumer paint disposed of in landfills can pose significant risk to soil, water and air quality due to the fact that most paints contain hazardous substances known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). To minimize the environmental risk, conserve on landfill space and reap the economic benefits from emerging recycling industries, the county's Environmental Services Division established a paint recycling facility located at the Landfill Convenience Center on Highway 51.

Unwanted latex paint is collected at recycling centers throughout the county, then brought to this facility to be processed into a new product, after which it is quickly purchased by consumers for as little as \$6 for a five-gallon container.

The paint recycling process is divided into five main steps beginning with collection, Funnye explained. After paint is received, it is evaluated for recycling suitability. Then paints of similar shade are combined in 55-gallon drums, where they are mixed for several hours to achieve optimal viscosity. The final step is



Above, Bennie Mitchell, a county employee, consolidates latex paints in a 55-gallon drum at the paint recycling facility at the landfill.

packaging for sale. Since 2012, the county has sold 680 gallons of recycled latex paint generating revenue and saving the county \$15,000 per year in disposal costs.

For more information about the county's recycled paint operation and how to purchase recycled paint, contact Marlon Jackson, assistant recycling supervisor, (843) 545-3447 or mjackson@gtcounty.org.



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



Emergency access at Garden City improves with opening of new ramp

Georgetown County has finished construction on a new emergency vehicle ramp at Beach Access #2 at Garden City Beach.

The new wooden ramp, positioned adjacent to a pedestrian walkway, was installed to address a lack of access to an existing vehicle entry point at the south end of the beach due to continuing and severe beach erosion, said Paul Battaglino of the county's Capital Projects Division.

The county's Department of Parks and Recreation Department, through director Beth Goodale, applied for and received a \$20,000 accommodations tax grant to build the ramp. The structure will serve the needs of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Murrells Inlet/Garden City Fire Department to provide access for both routine beach patrol and emergency medical response needs along a two-mile beachfront within Georgetown County.

The county's capital projects team, under the supervision of David Gantt, provided initial planning for the project and obtained all necessary permits, including a Critical Area Permit and Coastal Zone Consistency Certification from DHEC-OCRM. Preparation of final plans and engineering assistance were provided under contract by Walsh-Krowka Architects, and survey services by Cunningham Land Surveying.

Construction of this essential vehicular structure was undertaken by Herb Puckett's county facility services team, supervised by Gary Davis, and was accomplished under budget.

First responders have indicated this new beach ramp, engineered to support vehicle weight up to 8,500 pounds, will improve their response time to beach emergencies, within a controlled access area.



The new emergency access ramp at Garden City Beach.

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Announces

Spring Break Camp 2014



Spring Break Week — April 21-25

at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown
and the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Fee is \$60 per child.

Call (843) 545-3275 for information
or visit www.gtcounty.org.

Scholar's Forum

**Upcoming
programs
at the
Georgetown
Library**

February 11

Tommy Howard, editor of the Georgetown Times, will talk about the newspaper and its long history, as well as other newspapers in the area which are closely connected to the Times.

February 18

Bob Checkneck will discuss two of his favorite causes — SCORE and the Friends of Huntington Beach State Park

February 25

Chief Joey Tanner of the City of Georgetown Fire Department will give a firefighter's perspective on the Front Street fire and discuss plans in place to prevent or minimize the damage from future fires in the City.

March 4

Debbie Hacker of the Chicora Foundation brings us up to date on activities of the nonprofit heritage project, which specializes in cemetery preservation

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

Project eases flooding in Georgetown community

As part of a planned multi-phase drainage improvement project, drainage work was recently completed for a portion of the Parsons Garden neighborhood in Georgetown, near Kensington Park.

The work included a piped drainage system along Lily, Iris and Garden avenues from Highway 701 to Halloween Ditch. The work effort was led by Georgetown County's Capital Projects Division, in close coordination with the county Stormwater Division.

The project consisted of about 1,600 linear feet of storm piping. Catch basins were placed strategically to intercept drainage from the adjacent roadways. With the construction of this system, along with future planned improvements, this area of the neighborhood will see significantly improved drainage able to stand up to a major storm event bringing up to 9 inches of rainfall over a 24-hour period. Before the design and construction, the area experienced flooding if 4.5 inches of rain fell in the same 24-hour period.

The project was originally estimated to cost about \$186,000. The construction work was awarded to R.H. Moore Company out of Socastee with a price of \$166,000. Work was completed on time and under budget.

The second phase of improvements, from Garden Avenue to the ultimate outfall at Highway 701, is currently in the bidding phase. Phase 2, which is estimated to cost approximately \$150,000, will be paid for through monies generated by the Stormwater fee. It is expected that construction will begin in the spring upon approval of award by County Council.

Additionally, there are future improvements planned within the neighborhood and the watershed. As many of the improvements are expected to occur on private property, their success is dependent on receipt of drainage easements to facilitate the construction and future maintenance of these systems.



Drainage work was recently completed in Parsons Garden community as part of a four-phase project.

We Need Your History Help!

The Georgetown County Library is collecting information and scanning photos and materials about these churches:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Prince George Episcopal | St. Cyprian Episcopal |
| Bethesda Baptist | Mt. Olive Baptist |
| Bethel AME | Wesley A.M.E. |
| Duncan Methodist | Temple Beth Elohim |
| St. Mary's Catholic | |

If you have any materials you'd like to add, please contact Julie Warren at 545-3316. All documents are returned after scanning.

Have questions or comments about this newsletter?

**Contact Jackie Broach,
jbroach@gtcounty.org or (843) 545-3164**

WINYAH BAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL Kickoff Event



Hobcaw Barony Kimbel Lodge

Sunday, February 9, 2014

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Featuring

Local Celebrity Chefs & Live Music

Tickets are Limited

Tickets on sale at the Museum beginning January 22
or by phone 545-7020

Tickets Price

Advance: \$30 Door: \$35

Beer and Wine available for purchase

Benefiting the Georgetown County Museum



Get ready! Mardi Gras is coming to Georgetown's Front Street

Downtown Georgetown's second Annual Mardi Gras parade and party is set for Fat Tuesday, March 4, on Front Street.

The event is sponsored by the Georgetown Business Association, the Cultural Council of Georgetown County and the S.C. Maritime Museum. Anyone who wants to participate in the parade should join the lineup at Georgetown's historic Town Clock on Front Street at 6 p.m.

The parade begins at 6:15 p.m., led by last year's Mardi Gras King, Kevin Jayroe. The procession will travel down the sidewalk from Screven Street to King Street, then turn around and walk the opposite side of the street back to Screven.

Groups or individuals who would like to participate are asked to adorn themselves with colorful and eye-popping Mardi Gras attire, such as beads, boas, feathers, masks, sequins, hats, umbrellas and balloons. Start scouring your closet, local thrift shops and discount stores for these items and more, said Lauren C. Joseph of the Georgetown County Tourism Commission.

Joseph also suggests getting together 10 friends or co-workers to form a Krewe. If you do, contact Kevin Jayroe at Bienvenue Home, 814 Front St., (843) 318-1439, and he'll see that your group gets recognized, she said.

After the parade, the party starts at 7 p.m. at the Maritime Museum, 729 Front Street. Admission is \$20 per person, except for members of any Krewe. Krewe members are admitted for \$15 per person.

Admission fee covers cajun chicken and sausage gumbo, a variety of delicious food from area restaurants, the traditional king cake and Moon Pies, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages.

Everyone at the party will cast their ballots for this year's Mardi Gras King and Queen, best Krewe and best costume.

Participation in the parade is free to all.

Tickets to the party can be purchased at the following locations: Bienvenue Home (814 Front St.), Cultural Council of



Participants in the 2013 Mardi Gras parade in Georgetown are pictured.

Georgetown County (922 Front St.), Clock Tower Books (105 Screven St.), or the S.C. Maritime Museum (729 Front St.). Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

For more information, contact Debby Summey, (843) 446-4777 or djsummey@gmail.com, or Lauren Joseph, ljoseph@hammockcoastsc.com.

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!!



ZUMBA
fitness

Relay for Life community kickoff set for Feb. 6

A community kickoff for anyone interested in getting involved with the 2014 Georgetown area Relay for Life is set for 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6. The kickoff will be at Georgetown Presbyterian Church, located at 558 Black River Road. Refreshments will be served.

The meeting will include general information about Relay for Life, which is a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. There will also be opportunities for teams and cancer survivors to sign up to participate in the 2014 Relay, information on sponsoring luminaries, and a list of volunteer positions available. Anyone who is interested in learning more about Relay for Life or getting involved in any way is asked to attend the kickoff, but survivors in particular are being sought, said Sheila Spinks, this year's Georgetown area Relay for Life chairwoman.

"This event is all about celebrating the survivors and raising money to finish the fight against cancer so every person diagnosed can be a survivor," Spinks said.

"Finish the Fight" is the national theme for Relay for Life events this year in recognition of the American Cancer Society's 100th year of saving lives, the advancements that have been made and the fact that the fight isn't over yet. Local volunteers will combine that message with their own theme of "Georgetown Strong" for the Georgetown area event.

This year's Georgetown Area Relay for Life will be May 2 at

Georgetown High School. The goal is to make it bigger and better than ever, and bring back the level of enthusiasm and community involvement the event enjoyed in the past, Spinks said.

She's added some new fundraising activities, which she thinks the community will be excited about, including a Mister Relay for Life pageant and a Georgetown's Got Talent show. In the pageant, Spinks is hoping to enlist prominent men in the community to strut their stuff on stage in support of a cure, and said she's happy to take nominations for candidates. She's also interested in hearing other suggestions for fundraisers that could be carried out by Relay teams leading up to and during Relay for Life. The Relay begins at 6 p.m. and lasts until 2 a.m.

Duties for volunteers have also been simplified and spread out this year, so volunteers aren't overburdened and can still have fun with the planning and organizing of the event. And Spinks said she wants to put more emphasis on getting folks from the Waccamaw Neck area involved this year.

"I want this to be the loudest, most successful event we've ever had, because silence won't finish the fight against cancer," Spinks said. "Today, two out of three Americans diagnosed with cancer survive to celebrate more birthdays. We want that to be three out of three."

Anyone who wants to get involved with Relay for Life but can't make the kickoff is asked to contact Spinks at (843) 455-5121 or visit www.facebook.com/GeorgetownRelay.



County recognizes retiring employees



At its last meeting, Georgetown County Council recognized two recently retired employees for 25 years of loyal service. Gwenevere R. Tucker-Anderson retired on Oct. 11 as a bookmobile librarian. She also served as a public services librarian and circulation desk clerk during her years with the county. James R. "Smoky" Elliott retired on Dec. 22 as a lieutenant with Midway Fire Rescue. He was also honored last month by Midway when he received the Meritorious Service Award for contributions to the department throughout his career. Pictured from left are Library Director Dwight McInvaill, Tucker-Anderson, County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, Human Resources Director Greg Troutman, Elliott and Midway Chief Doug Eggman.

Tree giveaway weekend

Churches, schools, community groups and individuals can pick up free trees in Murrells Inlet from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 15 and 16 at Murrells Inlet Seafood on Business Highway 17.

Offered by Trees for Tomorrow, the trees are ready for planting and will be given out on a first-come basis. Arborist Todd Stephenson will be on hand to offer tree planting and care instructions with the trees.

The event will also feature chicken bog and clam chowder for \$5 a cup. Proceeds will be used to purchase more trees.

This year's tree giveaway is made possible by a Palmetto Pride grant and private donations. For more information, visit www.lowcountrytrees.org.

Bike tour at state park

The public is invited to take a free bike tour of Huntington Beach State Park guided by a park ranger on Feb. 7, 14 or 21. Tours begin at 10 a.m. and will cover the entire road system inside the park.

The tour leaves from the gift shop and stops at the north end parking lot, Nature Center, old entrance gate and Atalaya. The tour will be set at a casual pace. Participants must bring their own bike. Program is free with park admission. Call (843) 235-8755 for information.



Tennis pros receive honors

David Bromberg, head tennis professional at the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park, has been elected to the US Tennis Association SC Junior Team Tennis Committee for 2014. Additionally Matt Mitchell, assistant professional at the center, recently passed all his courses at the highest level and attained a P1 status with the US Professional Tennis Association. Starting in 2014, the P1 classification is now referred to as Elite status. With Bromberg, the tennis center at Stables Park now has two USPTA Elite tennis professionals on staff. So, whether a beginner or advanced player, young or old, or somewhere in between, the tennis center staff is more than ready to help players improve their skills. For information, call (843) 545-3450.

Renowned classical guitarist returns

Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher will return to Georgetown for a performance on Saturday, March 22. The performance will be from 7-8:30 p.m. with the location to be announced.

During the course of his 30-plus-year career, Fletcher has played five times at Carnegie Hall and has been featured in cultural venues nationwide including Lincoln Center, the Chicago Cultural Center, the George Eastman House and on media outlets including National Public Radio and affiliates, Turner Broadcasting System, Fox, and NBC.

For more information, contact the Georgetown Library, (843) 545-3300.



New Orleans-style meal benefits library

A New Orleans-style dinner at Carefree Catering in Pawleys Island on March 11 is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Waccamaw Library. The buffet-style dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$37.50 per person. Reservations are available by contacting Pat Robson, (843) 237-8859 or pvro417@aol.com.

The menu starts with hand-passed appetizers, including: spinach, garlic and two-cheese French bread crostini; as well as Andouille skewers with roasted peppers and onions. The main course features sweet potato and tasso soup; fried shrimp and oyster po boys; kicked-up shrimp jambalaya; roasted pork and tasso gumbo; ham-hock red beans and rice; and fried okra.

For dessert, diners will enjoy Café Du Monde-style beignets with powdered sugar, as well as king cake bread pudding.

Beer and wine will also be served.

For more information about the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and upcoming events and fundraisers, visit www.thefowl.org.

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.



SAVE THE DATE!

**The Friends of the Waccamaw Library
invite you to attend these fundraisers**

Silpada Trunk Show — April 22

Following last year's successful Silpada party, we are once again having an afternoon of fun, good food and jewelry galore

A Musical Evening — May 16

New this year, the Friends are planning an evening of piano music and song with Jackie O'Neil and Gretchen Downer.

Wine and dessert included.

Midway Fire Rescue employees receive awards

Firefighter of the Year, Officer of the Year and commendations for community and meritorious service were just a few of the awards handed out last month as Midway Fire Rescue paid tribute to some of its outstanding employees. The department had its annual awards banquet in January at Pawleys Plantation.

Jeremy Skinner and **Ryan Curtis** received the **Meritorious Action Award** for a rescue they performed in Pawleys Creek in May. They were called out to assist an elderly couple in the area celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple went kayaking in Pawleys Creek, but lost their way and got trapped in the pluff mud when the tide went out. Skinner and Curtis were able to locate the couple, then had to find a route they could use to walk out to them without getting trapped in the mud themselves. It took the two nearly an hour to reach the kayak. When they did, they carried the kayak, with the couple still inside, back to safety. The Meritorious Action Award is one step below an award for valor and is not awarded every year.

Named **Career Firefighter of the Year** for 2013 was **Ryan Crowley**, a master firefighter/emergency medical technician who has been employed with the county since 2006. This was his first time receiving the award. Midway Chief Doug Eggiman said Crowley was selected because he's a "solid asset" to the department. He described Crowley as well rounded, dependable, highly regarded by his peers and an excellent mentor to younger staff members.

"He's kind of a silent leader," Eggiman said. "He doesn't talk a lot about his accomplishments, but you always know if you put him on it, it's going to get done."

Joseph Anderson received the **Tom Boyd Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year Award**. He joined the department in 2012. The award is given to someone who has proven to be an asset to both the fire and rescue components of the department. Anderson was selected based on his performance in the department, as well as in the field, where he regularly demonstrates an excellent ability to relate to and care for patients. Anderson also won the 2013 **Excellence in Fitness Award**.

Officer of the Year is **Jerry Liberatore**, a Lt. paramedic who joined the department in

2004 and worked his way up the ranks.

"He's usually the first on the scene, so his actions help determine how the whole incident response is going to go," Eggiman said. "He immediately takes charge of the set up and makes sure everything goes smoothly. Someone in that role has

to make a lot of very tough decisions with very little room for error."

James Elliott received the **Meritorious Service Award** for contributions to the department made throughout his career. He retired last month after 25 years with Midway. **Joseph Williamson** and **Ian Edmonds** also received the award for contributions made over the last year.

Nancy Crawford was named **Member of the Year for Midway's Support Services Division**. Members of this group are comprised of volunteers who provide a variety of services to aid firefighters, whether that means being on the scene to offer water to firefighters or answering phones at the station. A full-time nurse, Crawford, who is the wife of Assistant Chief Jim Crawford, joined the group in late 2010 shortly after her husband was hired and "jumped in with both feet," Eggiman said. She helps organize department events, takes photos for the department and volunteered her time to give flu shots to department employees last year.

A Midway volunteer, **Frank Seitz**, received the **Fire and Life Safety Educator Award** for his work assisting the department with public safety efforts. Annually during Fire Prevention Month, Seitz provides much needed assistance teaching children about fire safety in the kitchen and in the home.

"Frank joined Midway in May of 2007 and since that time he has been one of our most active and most dedicated volunteer members," Eggiman said.

For his service, Seitz was also recognized by Georgetown County Council last month as the county's Volunteer of the Year.

Community service awards went to **Niki Crippen**, **Mark Mercer**, **Joseph Palombi** and **Brian Michna**. Crippen received her award for a service project that sold Midway T-shirts in October to raise breast cancer



Midway's Paramedic of the year is pictured with dept. officials

awareness and support the Children's Organ Transplant Association's efforts to aid a local teen, Matt Rucker. Palombi and Michna were awarded for organizing a special day for a 5-year-old boy with cerebral palsy who wanted to tour the department. Mercer's award was a result of his work with the Boy Scouts, which also recently earned him national recognition in the form of the George Meany Award.

Jesse Morgan received the **Special Projects Award** for work on a practice burn building at Station 82.

Mark Mercer received the **Excellence in Training Award** for achieving 150 hours of approved training beyond what is provided by Midway. This is his eighth time receiving the award since it was introduced in 2003.

Other recognitions included:

- Ronald Montgomery, Most Improved Fitness Award
- Brent McClellan, 10 Years of Service
- Jesse Morgan, Ryan Gougeon, Jeremy Skinner, Joseph Williamson and Stefeny Wackerly, Five Years of Service
- Michael Morris, South Strand Optimist Public Safety Officer Award
- Unit citations were presented to first responders for three calls, including the Front Street Fire, the Windsor Green fire and a medical call involving a cardiac arrest victim who required beyond usual aid. Receiving citations were Josh Carney, Ryan Crowley, James Duley, Joe Ruffennach, Pete Copeland, Eric Daubenspeck, Ryan Gougeon, Howard Lutz, Niki Crippen, Jason Dennis, Scott McGuire, Carr Gilmore, Jeremy Skinner, Adham Dumont, Kevin McLaughlin, Ian Edmonds, Ryan Matthews, Eric Daubenspeck, Joseph Anderson, Joseph Palombi, Mike Hessler, Ronald Montgomery, Mark Mercer and William Dougan.

Sheriff recognizes outstanding employees for work in 2013



Jimmy Smith, left, was named Correctional Officer of the Year for 2013 in a recent presentation by Georgetown County Sheriff A. Lane Cribb. Corporal Smith has been employed by the Georgetown County Detention Center for three and a half years. A native of Georgetown, he started his employment as a floor security officer and was transferred to booking officer. Corporal Smith enjoys working at the detention center and has goals to advance his career and become a Class 1 Officer with the Sheriff's Office.

Henry Betts, right, was recently named Deputy Sheriff of the Year for 2013. Betts, who has been employed with the Sheriff's Office for five years, is assigned to the Animal Control Unit. He is federally certified in animal control by the National Animal Control Association, is currently a member of the National Animal Control Association and the SC Animal Care and Control Association, and is vice president of the Coastal Carolina Shields. Deputy Betts retired from the NYPD Highway Patrol as a Sergeant after 23 years of service.



Work begins on affordable housing project

Ground was broken in January at the site of Winyah Townhomes, where major renovations are under way. Rehabilitation of the 14-unit complex at 1604 Duke Street is the first project to begin under a partnership between Georgetown County government, Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, the S.C. Community Loan Fund (formerly Lowcountry Housing Trust) and the Frances P. Bunnell Foundation. The partnership was formed with the goal of creating quality, affordable housing for working class residents of the county, such as teachers and firefighters. The project will be a model for other projects to come, said Sarah Smith, executive director of Waccamaw Regional. A housing needs assessment performed at the start of the partnership identified affordable rental housing as one of the biggest needs in Georgetown County. The Winyah Townhomes project is a first step in meeting that need. Rehabilitation is projected for completion in four to six months.

Winter weather

Continued from front page

ready for whatever the storm delivered.

Fire/EMS departments and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office brought in extra staff. The public services department made preparations to have equipment ready to assist the S.C. Department of Transportation with clearing of roadways and other tasks as needed.

The county also put out information about closings, preparing emergency kits, and what to do before, during and after a winter storm

to make families and homes as safe as possible during a type of weather event residents of Georgetown County are unfamiliar with.

During any type of emergency event, the county will work to get important safety information out to as many people as possible. One of the best resources for finding this information is Georgetown County's website, www.gtcounty.org. Important announcements will be placed at the top of the home page.

There's also a link near the top of the lefthand side of the home page to take visitors to an Emergency Alert Center. The coun-

ty's OPCON status and other emergency information can also be found there.

Additionally, updates are available on official social media accounts. Find Georgetown County on Twitter — @GtCountySC and @GCEMD. To connect with us on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/gtcountysc and facebook.com/GCEMD.

The S.C. Emergency Management Division's website, www.scemd.org, is also a valuable resource for finding important information during any emergency event affecting the state of South Carolina.

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



Coastal Response

Continued from front page

al Airport crashed near the Georgetown/Horry county border near Bucksport and Sandy Island at 9 a.m. Georgetown County Emergency Management set up its mobile incident command post at the Reserve Marina.

Local emergency responders searched land and water in the rain and cold for victims. The wounded were portrayed by volunteers who donned makeup for the exercise to help simulate injuries. Mannequins were used to represent fatalities, which responders worked to pull from the river or in some cases carry down from trees, putting into practice skills involving ropes and ladders. The S.C. Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team

(S.C. HART) also joined the search, but that part of the exercise had to be called off early due to difficult weather conditions.

The Georgetown County portion of the exercise involved a total of about 140 people and proved extremely valuable as it allowed the county to test and strengthen its response plans and procedures, said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County's emergency manager. Hodge offered thanks to everyone who participated in the exercise and made it a success.



At top, emergency responders get equipment ready to search the woods on Sandy Island. At left, a helicopter aids the search for "victims" during Operation Coastal Response 2014.



Georgetown County Coroner Kenny Johnson, left, along with deputy coroners Chase Ridgeway and Paulette Radcliffe, assess "victims" during Operation Coastal Response 2014.