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Calendar

Feb. 10 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Feb. 16 – County offices and facilities closed in observance of Presidents Day.

Feb. 16 – Community meeting focusing on Howard Center, 6 p.m. See page 5.

Feb. 19 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Feb. 24 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Feb. 26 – Community meeting concerning recreation plans for the Northwest region, 6 p.m. at Choppee auditorium.

Save the date:

March 19 – Ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony at the new Waccamaw Library, 3:30 p.m.

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Volume 3, Issue 6

February 2015

Midway earns improved fire safety rating

Midway Fire Rescue had cause to celebrate last month when the department was notified that its fire protection rating from the Insurance Services Office will improve to a Class 2 effective April 1.

This change not only means the department's level of fire protection service has increased, according to the ISO analysis, but it could also earn lower property insurance rates for home and business owners in the department's coverage area. With the update, the department's rating drops from a Class 4.

ISO ratings play an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. In fact, most U.S. insurers — including the largest ones — use these ratings as part of their decision-making when deciding what business to write, coverages to offer or prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance.

That makes news of Midway's lower rating exciting for the public, as well as all personnel at Midway, said Midway Chief Doug Eggiman.

"This was not an easy task, as Midway personnel had to work hard to keep up standards and update information on all areas of public safety and fire protection in the approximately 80-square-mile area that Midway provides fire and rescue service to," Eggiman said.



Fire trucks are parked outside Midway's headquarters station in Litchfield.

The inspection process the rating is based on surveys all aspects of what Midway has achieved over a three-year span. ISO officials look at the 911 system, the water system as relates to hydrants and water available for firefighting efforts throughout the fire district, and many other factors involved in providing quality fire and rescue service. Countless hours of preparation went into getting ready for the inspection, Eggiman said.

Of 49,010 departments surveyed in 2014, only 60 achieved a Class 1 ISO rating. Midway Fire Rescue joins

See "ISO rating," Page 7

Chairman, new council members take oath of office

Two new Georgetown County Council members, along with the returning council chairman were sworn into office during a ceremony Jan. 13 in Council Chambers, located at the historic County Courthouse.

Johnny Morant, who represents District 7, was elected to a sixth term last year. Council member terms last four years. Morant was first elected in 1993 and has served as Council Chairman since 2008.

New Council Members Steve Goggans and John Thomas were elected to their first term of office



Goggans



Morant



Thomas

last year and officially took their seats on council at the first meeting of this year, which began immediately after the ceremony.

Oaths for all three council members were administered by Clerk of Court Alma White. Each council member was accompanied by his wife for the ceremony.

Morant and his wife, Janice, are residents of the Plantersville area of Georgetown County. They have two children and two grandchildren. Morant has a bachelor of science degree from Savannah State University and a law degree

from the University of Illinois. He is a partner in the law firm of Morant and Morant, LLC.

Morant formerly served as chairman of the Waccamaw Workforce Investment Board. He presently serves on the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments Board,

See "Council," Page 9

Veterans invited to learn how tai chi can help them, take free lessons

Veterans in Georgetown County will have an opportunity to learn more about tai chi and its physical and mental health benefits this month before deciding if they're interested in taking advantage of free lessons.

Tai chi instructor Dawud Hasan has been talking to veterans at the Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs and answering questions about tai chi and how it can help them.

Hasan will also offer a 13-week series of free introductory tai chi lessons at the Veterans Affairs Office, located at 537 Lafayette Circle, Georgetown. Lessons will be given weekly on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The lessons will introduce veterans and their families to mind-body exercises popular in tai chi.

For information, call the Veterans Affairs Office, (843) 545-3330.

Lecture to explore ancient echoes in Gullah culture

The power of tradition in Gullah culture will be the subject of a lecture at the Georgetown Library on Sunday, Feb. 8, from 2:30-4 p.m.

In a program entitled "Embodied Memories of Africa: Music, Song and Dance of the Gullah-Geechee People of the United States," Dr. Birgitta Johnson of the University of South Carolina will explore the high occurrence of African retentions or "survivals" among the languages, the labor skills, crafts, art and religion still practiced by Gullah-Geechee people in the Southeast coastal areas of the U.S.

"We'll engage one of the most vibrant and visible aspects of Gullah-Geechee culture still practiced today," Johnson said. "The music, songs, and dance of the Gullah-Geechee not only represent the expressive arts of the culture, but they embody the power of memory,



Birgitta Johnson

tradition and cultural aesthetics to endure across the passage of time and space, regardless of social conditions and oppression."

Dr. Johnson will provide an ethnomusical overview of the Afro-American musical aesthetics that Gullah-Geechee music-cultures exemplify in sight, sound and sense. The discussion will also reflect upon how music has sustained communities and represented Gullah-Geechee identity in various mediums such as live performances, rituals, re-enactments, recordings, film and outreach programming by culture-bearers and scholars dedicated to preserving and nourishing Gullah-Geechee traditions into the 21st century.

This is the fourth lecture in the library's "Out of the Ricefields" grant series, and also features a display of Lowcountry artwork and delicious Gullah-inspired appetizers.

These programs are made possible by a major grant from the Humanities Council SC, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to enrich the cultural and intellectual lives of South Carolinians. For more information, contact the Georgetown Library on Cleland Street, (843) 545-3300.

Adult Soccer League 7V7



Opening Day: Feb. 21

Where: Stables Park, Pawleys Island

Game Days: Saturday mornings

Registration Deadline: Feb. 14, 10 a.m.

League Fee: \$250 per team (subject to change)

Call (843) 520-9621 for information

Or email jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

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

New Waccamaw Library slated to open on Valentine's Day

There's good news for Waccamaw Library patrons who have been waiting to get their first look at the new branch on Willbrook Boulevard. The library is on target to open to the public on Feb. 14.

The Waccamaw branch closed its doors last month to begin the process of moving books to the newly completed building in Litchfield. Those who rely on the library for computers, books and more were understandably disappointed, but an interruption to service was unavoidable. Library staff members worked tirelessly to get the move completed and are still working hard to make sure the library is ready to open and begin serving the public again by the end of the second week in February.

Getting furniture and shelving set up in the new facility were the focus as January drew to a close. Landscaping was also well underway.

While the Waccamaw branch is expected to be open and serving the public again on Feb. 14, the county will celebrate the opening of this great new facility with a ribbon cutting on March 19 at 3:30 p.m. Mark your calendars and please plan to join us. Look for more information about the new library and the ribbon cutting in next month's newsletter.

Until the library reopens, patrons can visit the Bookmobile at the old library parking lot from noon to 4 p.m. each Monday, or visit the Georgetown library branch on Cleland Street. The library's website, georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov, offers great online services, including access to e-books and audio books.

For more photos and updates between now and the opening, check out the Georgetown County Library's page on Facebook.

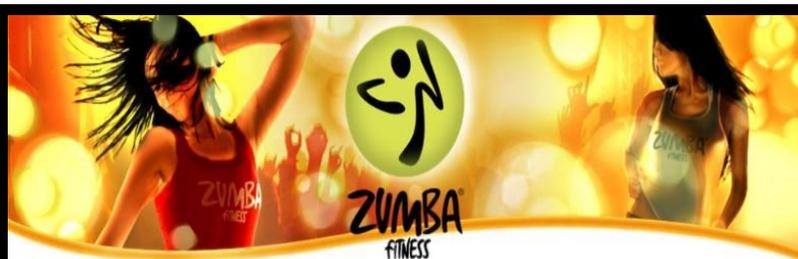
Workers have been busy inside and outside the new Waccamaw Library branch, getting ready for a Valentine's Day opening. A ribbon cutting celebration for the new facility will be the following month on March 19.



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.



**Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. and Fridays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
at the Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown**

Classes for women and men of all ages.

- Instructor: Monique Hill
- Cost: \$5 per class.

**Call (843) 545-3275 or e-mail
moehill1978@gmail.com**

\$2 million in federal funds allocated for work at Georgetown Port

Georgetown County government was pleased to receive a call from Congressman Tom Rice’s offices on Feb. 3 informing county officials that \$2 million in federal funds will be allocated to the Army Corps of Engineers—Charleston District for use at the Georgetown Port.

These funds are an important step toward the goal of dredging Georgetown Harbor. They will be used specifically for environmental coordination and to begin the necessary maintenance of designated disposal areas.

These vital steps make it possible for the Corps to update information on the specifics of what will be required for completion of the dredging project, including the amount of funding that would need to be requested from the 2016 federal budget to complete dredging.

Georgetown County offers its profuse thanks to all of our state and federal delegation members who have steadfastly supported efforts to achieve dredging at the port and fought long and hard to secure funding. The county is immensely grateful for these efforts and for the continued commitment of our delegation members to this project going forward.

The county recognizes and appreciates the investment that the federal government is making in Georgetown with this allocation of funding.

The state has already committed \$18.5 million to dredging at the Georgetown Port. Additionally, the county will put \$6 million toward dredging. The funds will be generated through a 1 percent capital project sales tax that was approved by Georgetown County voters last November.

The capital project sales tax will begin being applied to taxable purchases made in the county on May 1 and will remain in place for four years, disappearing on April 30, 2019. For more information on the capital project sales tax, visit www.gtcounty.org.

The county, along with the Corps of Engineers, is committed to the development of a viable plan that addresses Georgetown Harbor’s challenges as we pursue economic goals related to dredging at the port. We look forward to seeing future progress as this project gets under way and will keep you posted on future developments. Check our website and our Facebook page for Georgetown County updates in between newsletters.



Plans are to dredge the channel at the Georgetown Port to a depth of 27 feet. A recent allocation of \$2 million in federal funds will be used for environmental coordination and to begin necessary maintenance of designated spoil areas, while the Army Corp of Engineers continues to work through the planning stages of the dredging project.

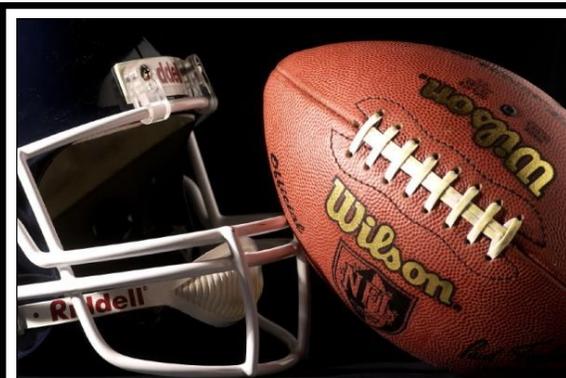
Introducing...



**ZUMBA
GOLD**

Zumba Fitness classes
customized with lower
intensity moves for active
older adults.

Tuesdays and Saturdays
10-11 a.m.
at the Murrells Inlet Community Center
\$3 per class



Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Announces registration for

Adult 7v7 Flag Football League

Where: Stables Park, Choppee, South Island

When: May 9 (Registration ends April 24)

Age Groups: 15-17 and 18+

**Call Justin, (843) 545-3319 for information,
or email jblomdahl@gtcounty.org.**

Library to offer 'Lunch Money' workshops

The Georgetown County Library system will offer fun, fast-paced Financial Fitness Mini Fairs at three of its branches in February.

The fairs last 90 minutes and feature entertaining experts, helpful handouts and a free lunch from Kudzu Bakery for participants.

"Drop by at any point during the fair and visit booths to talk one-on-one with financial experts," said Heather Pelham, public services librarian. "We'll have information on saving for retirement, getting ready to invest, creating a budget, reading your credit report, financial red flags, your money and your legal rights, and talking to your kids about money."

Each booth will also have topical handouts to take home and the library will also exhibit some of the great books, videos and financial games that are available for patrons to use.

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.

Mini fairs will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Georgetown Library, located at 405 Cleland Street on Tuesday, Feb. 17; at the Andrews Library, 105 Morgan Ave., on Wednesday, Feb. 18; and at the Carvers Bay Library, 13048 Choppee Road, on Thursday, Feb. 19.

No registration is required to participate. Mini fairs are open to residents throughout Georgetown County.

Instructors wanted!

Do you have a talent or hobby that you would feel confident teaching to others? Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is always searching for instructors to offer classes on a variety of topics at its facilities throughout the county. From the arts to sports and fitness, there may be an audience eager to learn from you.

Anyone interesting in becoming an instructor should call (843) 545-3532 for an appointment. Have your résumé, course plan and any necessary materials ready to showcase.

Howard Center is topic of Feb. 16 meeting

A community meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16 will include a presentation on plans for the Howard Center, also known as Howard Gym. The meeting will take place at Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church St., Georgetown.

All members of the public interested in plans for the Howard Center are encouraged to attend this meeting with county staff.

For information, call (843) 545-3275.

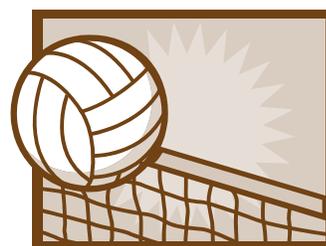
French film series returns to Library

The French film series returns to the Waccamaw Library this month for its 11th year. The series runs from Friday, Feb. 27, through Sunday, March 1 and is sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

All films are in French with English subtitles and are rated PG-13.

Passes to see all five films are \$10 for members and students under 25 and \$15 for others; or \$5 per film.

Films to be shown include: "Avis De Mistral" ("My Summer in Provence") at 7 p.m. Feb. 27; "Paris A Tout Prix" ("Paris or Perish") at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 28; "En Solitaire" ("Turning Tides") at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 28; "Jappeloup" at 7 p.m. Feb. 28; and "Comme Un Chef" ("The Chef") at 2:30 p.m. March 1.



Registration is open through March 13! Adult Co-ed Volleyball League

Games are 6v6 format
(three men and three women per team)
Max Players: 10

Sign-up fee is \$10 per person for teams
or \$15 for individuals (no team)

Contact Justin at (843) 545-3319
or jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Sign up now for

Co-ed and Men's Softball Leagues!

A program of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation

Men's League

Registration ends:
Feb. 13.

Opening Day: Feb. 23
Games on: Monday
and Wednesday nights
Location: Retreat Park



Co-ed League

Registration ends:
Feb. 13

Opening Day: Feb. 24
Games on: Tuesday
and Thursday nights
Location: Retreat Park

Contact Justin at (843) 545-3319
or jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Midway firefighter receives Medal of Valor, annual awards presented

Shane Kingsford, a firefighter with Midway Fire Rescue, was presented with a Medal of Valor and recognized by Georgetown County Council for his accomplishment last month.

Kingsford was first notified of the award during Midway's annual awards banquet at Pawleys Plantation. The Medal of Valor is not an award given every year, but only when someone "goes above and beyond, and places their life in extreme danger to make a rescue," Chief Doug Eggiman told County Council members.

Kingsford received the medal for actions last year, when he rescued two people from drowning in the ocean while off duty on Sept. 17. He was having lunch in Litchfield with his girlfriend when he heard roofers working at the Litchfield Inn call out to people around the pool. They yelled for someone to dial 911, because they had spotted two people struggling in the ocean below.

Though off duty and without equipment to aid in the rescue, Kingsford responded immediately, running toward the two victims, an elderly couple who were some 250 feet off shore. The wife had gotten caught in a rip current and when the husband went to her aid, he became a victim as well.

If not for Kingsford's rapid response, the victims may not have survived.

"Although I'm sure Firefighter Kingsford doesn't see his actions as anything more than the line of duty, his actions that day saved two people and it was clear to the other firefighters who were called to the scene that the outcome would have been very different if not for his act of bravery," Eggiman said. "That there was no official duty to act only adds to the significance."

Kingsford got a standing ovation from council and the audi-



Shane Kingsford with his Medal of Valor.

ence when he was presented. Asked to say a few words, he offered recognition to three bystanders who went into the water with him and on-duty responders from Midway, who arrived within minutes of a 911 call being placed.

In addition to the Medal of Valor, the following awards were presented last month at Midway's annual banquet:

- Career Firefighter of the Year — **Justin Lenker**
- Special Projects Award — **Will Tayloe**
- Tom Boyd Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year Award — **Adam Maag**
- Officer of the Year — **Jeff Pifer**
- Support Services Division Member of the Year — **Steve Kelsey**
- Fire and Life Safety Educator Award — **Frank Seitz**
- Community Service Award — **Niki Crippen**
- Meritorious Service Award — **Ed Mills**
- Excellence in Training Award — **Mark Mercer and Gerald Liberatore**
- Excellence in Fitness Award — **Joseph Anderson**
- Meritorious Action Award — **Daniel Weihert, Scott McGuire,**



From left, Brent McClellan, Niki Crippen, Chief Doug Eggiman and Assistant Chief Jim Crawford are pictured during Midway's annual awards banquet at Pawleys Plantation last month. Check out Midway's Facebook page for more photos.

Matt Smittle and Erik Noel

- 20-Year Service Award — **Peggy Green-Jessup**

- 15-Year Service Award —

Mark Mercer and Michael Hessler

- 10-Year Service Award —

Gerald Liberatore, Gary Cracknell, Shane Kingsford and Justin Wackerly

- 5-Year Service Award — **Will Tayloe and Niki Crippen**

- South Strand Optimist Public Safety Officer Award — **Frank Seitz**

The following unit citations were also presented last month at Midway's annual awards banquet. These citations are presented for response to incidents that occurred throughout 2014:

- Unit Citation for Public Assistance and Welfare — **Gerald Liberatore, Niki Crippen, Ryan Mathews, Michael Mounts and Todd McClellan**
- Unit Citation for Kayak Rescue — **Brent McClellan, Jesse Morgan, Scott McGuire, Daniel Weihert and Adam Maag**
- Unit Citation for Firefighter Rescue — **Brent McClellan, Jesse Morgan, Scott McGuire, Daniel Weihert, Matt Smittle, Henry Hult, Will Tayloe, Joe Palombi, Erik Noel, Travis Motsinger, Ryan Mathews and Niki Crippen**
- Unit Citation for MVA/Extrication — **Jim Crawford, Carr Gilmore, Gary Cracknell, Josh**

Hercane, Justin Wackerly, Ryan Crowley, Shane Kingsford, Josh Carney, Ric Matyas and Justin Lenker

- Unit Citation for MVA with Extrication — **Doug Eggiman, Jim Crawford, Jeff Pifer, Joe Anderson, Scott McGuire, Joe Ruffennach, Paul McNabb, Steven Morales, Adam Maag, Niki Crippen, Will Tayloe, Joe Palombi and Eve Eggiman**

- Unit Citation for MVA with Lost Dog — **Jeff Pifer and Paul McNabb**

- Unit Citation -- Officer-Involved Shooting — **Joe Ruffennach, Ryan Crowley, Paul McNabb, Gary Cracknell and Joe Anderson**

- Unit Citation -- Seaview Inn Deck Collapse — **Doug Eggiman, Jeff Pifer, Joe Anderson, Joe Ruffennach, Paul McNabb, Steven Morales, Will Tayloe, Eve Eggiman, Mark Mercer, Ryan Crowley, Ryan Gougeon, Ronald Montgomery, Mike Hessler, Howard Lutz, Brian Uhl, Bill Dougan, Adam Bender, Ryan Curtis, Jesse Morgan, Matt Smittle, Michael Morris, Joseph Williamson, Eve Eggiman, Joan Noble, Rick Myers and Frank Seitz.**

Please join us in congratulating these valuable members of our team for their accomplishments and their willingness to put their own safety at risk for others on a daily basis.

Rec league coaches recognized as 2014 Volunteers of the Year

Scott Stecz and Donny Cummings have been named Georgetown County government's Volunteers of the Year for their service to the county's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Georgetown County introduced the award last year in recognition of the fact that volunteers are imperative to the operation of certain programs and functions, including youth sports and the fire service. In appreciation of those who give their time and talents to make these programs possible, Georgetown County at the end of each year recognizes a Volunteer of the Year and an Employee Volunteer of the Year.

Stecz was nominated for the award by Beth Goodale, director of parks and recreation. Stecz, who resides on the Waccamaw Neck, has coached youth soccer, football, baseball and basketball. He is described by Parks and Recreation staff members as "always understanding and helpful," and is a "go-to coach" for youth sports, sometimes coaching multiple sports in a season.

A father of three, he got involved with the program because his sons participated in county youth sports. His youngest son, Preston, 8, plays soccer and basketball in county programs. His older sons now play school sports. Brandon, 13, plays football and baseball at Waccamaw Middle School, and Car-



From left: Human Resources Director Greg Troutman, Scott Stecz, County Council Chairman Johnny Morant and Donny Cummings.

son, 17, plays soccer at Waccamaw High School.

Cummings is employed with the county's Public Services Department and was nominated by Director Ray Funnye. The nomination was supported by Goodale. Cummings has been employed with the county for 15 years and has been volunteering with county youth sports for 14 years. According to staff, "he distinguishes himself by the extreme amount of time he spends each fall" supporting youth sports.

He, too, got involved with the program, because his son, Sinjin, played on a county team. Sinjin was 9 when he started playing youth football. He is now 23, but Cummings continued coaching.

Cummings has also been involved with the Georgetown High School football program, and worked on a recreational program to help kids get ready for high school football.

Both of these volunteers are instrumental to the county's youth sports programs. Please join us in thanking them.

Johnson recognized as Manager of the Year

Deborah Johnson, a battalion chief with Georgetown County Fire/EMS, has been named Georgetown County's Manager of the Year for 2014.

The Manager of the Year Award recognizes employees at managerial levels in all county departments for outstanding job performance and leadership.

Johnson has been employed with the county for 19 years.

She currently supervises 25 employees and has been instrumental in keeping positions filled within her department.

She assists with fire training for personnel, and is described by supervisors as "always diligent in getting tasks completed in a timely manner." She has worked hard to have a productive and organized shift.

Johnson also volunteered to coordinate the



Deborah Johnson, center, is pictured with Human Resources Director Greg Troutman, left, and County Council Chairman Johnny Morant.

planning for her department's fire prevention open house and family day.

Johnson maintains her state fire marshal certification, even though it is not required for her position.

Please join us in congratulating her.

ISO rating

Continued from Front Page

just 749 other departments in the nation that have achieved a Class 2 rating, putting it in the top 1.6 percent.

"We are very proud of this accomplishment and couldn't have done it without our dedicated personnel here at Midway and the support of our County Administrator, County Council and our residents," Eggiman said.

Insurance companies will be automatically notified of the change in ISO rating. Any policyholder who doesn't see the rating corrected when the new rating takes effect should call their agent.

To download or print a letter from Midway that can be given to insurance carriers to inform them of the new rating, visit Midway's website, midwayfirerescue.org, and click on the "News" tab.

Sheriff's Office recognizes Employees of the Year for 2014

Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb recently awarded three employees for outstanding performance during 2014.

Lloyd McCrea was named Correctional Officer of the Year for his work during 2014. An employee of the county's detention center for 15 years, McCrea is currently a field training officer on his shift. Some qualities attributed to McCrea by fellow officers include a great attitude, ex-



McCrea

treme dedication, and being a joy to work with.

The title of Telecommunicator of the Year was awarded to Ted Felder, an employee of the sheriff's office for a decade. He is described by fellow employees as very dependable and compassionate, as well as a hard worker. Felder has dedicated his life to helping others. His fellow employees say his calming voice at the dispatch center benefits the public and first responders.



Felder

Kenneth Higgins was named Deputy Sheriff of the Year. An employee of the sheriff's office for seven years, he is a member of ICE (Intensified Criminal Enforcement), SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics), the Sheriff's Office Bloodhound Team and the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol. Higgins is described by fellow deputies as a team player and always willing to assist others.



Higgins

Please join us in congratulating these three employees!

Grace graduates from FEMA Institute



Cindy Grace, left, is pictured with Edward Smith, the institute's acting deputy superintendent.

Cindy T. Grace, Georgetown County's emergency management coordinator, graduated from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Emergency Management Basic Academy at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) on Dec. 18. The institute created the National Emergency Basic Academy to produce a comprehensive curriculum that provides the foundational knowledge and skills needed to support the unpredictable challenges in the field of emergency management. Additionally, for those who are new to emergency management or for those who are transferring from another profession, this Academy provides a unique opportunity to build camaraderie and establish professional contacts.

Grace completed the five courses in the Basic Academy that includes Foundations of Emergency Management, Science of Disaster, Planning: Emergency Operations, Exercise Design, and Public Information and Warning. To graduate, she fulfilled a total of 167 hours of training.

The Basic Academy is the first phase of FEMA's new Emergency Management Professional Program. The program's curriculum is designed to be a lifetime of learning for emergency managers.

For more information on FEMA's training classes through the Basic, Leaders and Executive Academies, or other emergency management courses, visit: <http://training.fema.gov/empp/>.

Law enforcement officers receive honors



The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office recently recognized several employees with challenge coins for outstanding service during the last quarter of 2014. Receiving challenge coins were Correctional Officers Lt. Joanne Clarey, Sgt. James Drye, Cpl. Leatha Grant, Cpl. Jason Howdyshell, Rhandi Arsenault and Dawn Geddis; and Deputies Cpl. Brian Delval, Bryan Gowen and Joseph Kosydar. Additionally, the Department of Health and Environmental Control's Environmental Health Program of the Pee Dee EQC Region nominated deputies Phil Benincasa and Hank Betts for their professionalism and willingness to assist DHEC with its rabies program. Pictured at top, from left, are: Kosydar, Gowen, Sheriff Lane Cribb, Lt. Joanne Clarey, Hank Betts and Assistant Sheriff Carter Weaver. Pictured above, Betts is presented with his award by DHEC representatives Jill Cribb, center, and Vicki Blair. Please join us in congratulating these employees.

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



Recently elected and re-elected County Council members took their oath of office on Jan. 13. Above, Council Chairman Johnny Morant, pictured with his wife, Janice, takes his oath. At top left, Council Member John Thomas, is congratulated by his wife, Peg, after taking the oath, as Clerk of Court Alma White looks on. At left, White administers the oath to Council Member Steve Goggans, who is joined by his wife, Barbara.

Council

Continued from Front Page

South State Bank Advisory Board, and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Goggans lives in the Pawleys Island area with his wife, Barbara. They have two children, Graham and Stevie, both of whom are graduates of Coastal Carolina University.

Goggans has a master's degree in community and regional planning from the University of Alaska and a bachelor's of science degree in pre architecture from Clemson University. He is a licensed architect since 1982, and is founder and owner of SGA Architecture, headquartered in Pawleys Island. He is also a board member for the Vestry of Christ the King-Grace Church, is governmental affairs director for the S.C. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, serves on the board of the Pawleys Island Music Festival, and is former chairman of Citizens for Ocean Highway. He has served on numerous

boards and task forces over the years, many as a council appointee, and is a past recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award presented by the Pawleys Island Rotary Club.

Thomas and his wife, Peg, live in North Litchfield. Thomas has a civil engineering degree from Vanderbilt University. He was a career Naval Intelligence Officer, retiring with the rank of Commander. In addition to his Navy career, he was a traffic engineer for the Tennessee DOT, and for 10 years was a systems engineer for a government agency that develops and operates satellite intelligence systems.

Thomas served as president of the Litchfield Beaches Property Owners Association, and is also a volunteer with SCUTE (South Carolina United Turtle Enthusiasts), a group dedicated to sea turtle conservation in Georgetown and Horry counties.

Bios for all Georgetown County Council members are available online at www.gtcounty.org/Elected_Officials/CountyCouncil.html.



Left: John Thomas is congratulated by Lee Brockington at the Oath of Office Ceremony. Center: Steve Goggans and his wife, Barbara, spoke with well-wishers before the ceremony. Right: Council Chairman Johnny Morant, center, talks with Council Member Austin Beard, left, and Planning Director Boyd Johnson before the ceremony.