

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

April 1– County-sponsored blood drive at Beck Recreation Center, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 3 – County offices and facilities closed for Good Friday.

April 11 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Midway Fire Rescue, 9 a.m.-noon

April 14 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

April 16 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

April 28 – Ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony for magistrates offices and Sheriff's Office substation at the Litchfield Exchange, 11 a.m.

April 28 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Volume 3, Issue 8

April 2015

Midway receives international award

Midway Fire Rescue received the Heart Safe Community Award, presented by the International Association of Fire Chiefs' EMS section, in Nevada on March 23. The award is presented to only two communities annually — one large and one small. Midway won the award for small communities (those with populations under 100,000).

The award recognizes fire-service-based EMS and other EMS systems that have used creative approaches to implement or maintain public access defibrillation programs within the communities they serve. From 2001-2005, the award considered the establishment of Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) programs by fire and EMS agencies in their communities. In 2005, the award criteria were expanded to reflect the 2005 American Heart Association Guidelines. Now, agencies applying for the award must show how they have also improved the quality of out-of-hospital resuscitation through bystander CPR, AED deployment, advanced notification to the receiving hospital, and other continuous quality resuscitation improvements.

Midway Fire Rescue has implemented a variety of programs to improve its emergency medical service. Midway provides service to a diverse community con-



Midway Chief Doug Eggiman, center, and Battalion Chief Brent McClellan, left of Eggiman, are pictured with association representatives.

sisting of year-round and seasonal residents, as well as tourists. Public outreach efforts have allowed the agency to reach nearly 5,000 people, as well as expand the emergency medical training offered to all Midway Fire Rescue personnel.

Midway also completed an aggressive push to:

- Update its equipment, including the purchase of new LifePak monitors,
- Improve communications with the community's

See "Midway," Page 8

B.A.S.S. Nation divisional heads to Georgetown

Anglers from seven states, including youth anglers, will converge in Georgetown County this month when the B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional Championship comes to town. The event, which is a qualifier for the national championship, is heavily publicized and will have the eyes of sportsmen all over the country on Georgetown County as they tune in for weigh-in broadcasts April 22-24.

Hosting a divisional event for an organization of B.A.S.S. Nation's caliber is a big step for the county in its goal to become a destination for sporting tournaments, said County Administrator Sel Hemingway. Headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., B.A.S.S. Nation has been around for nearly 50 years, has a membership of more than 500,000 and is widely regarded as the worldwide authority on bass fishing.

"To be hosting our first event for B.A.S.S. Nation is

really an honor and we're determined that it will be the first of many more in the years to come," said County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "With this event, it's our intent to show our capability to accommodate this type of event and much larger events, and hopefully host B.A.S.S. Nation here on a regular basis."

This is a method Georgetown County successfully used last year with the Inshore Fishing Association. That group brought its Redfish and Kayak Tour to the county in August, and both the IFA and its membership were impressed enough with the county, its facilities and other attributes that plans were immediately made to come back this year. Georgetown County will host IFA tournament action on May 1 and 2, and Aug. 28-30.

It's an indication that Georgetown County had the

See "Fishing Tournaments," Page 7



Public meeting to focus on Proposed Litchfield roundabout

Conceptual plans for a proposed roundabout at the intersection of Willbrook Blvd. and Wildcat Way in Litchfield will be the topic of a public meeting on April 30. The meeting will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the new Waccamaw Library, located at 41 St. Paul Place, just off Willbrook Blvd.

The meeting will provide a review of the newly completed conceptual plans and offer a chance for the public to ask questions of county staff, as well as provide an opportunity for public input. Public comments will be accepted in person at the meeting or in writing through May 7. Comments may be submitted to Mike Illes, project manager, at P.O. Box 421270, Georgetown, S.C. 29442.

The roundabout is proposed as a solution for traffic concerns at the intersection and would improve access to Waccamaw Intermediate and Middle schools, as well as the library, which opened near the intersection last month. Roundabouts are generally recognized as a safer means than traditional intersections for moving traffic through busy junctions, and have both functioned well and been well received in other parts of the state where they have been utilized.

After the comment period has closed, Georgetown County Council will make a decision about how to proceed with addressing traffic concerns at the intersection.

For more information, call (843) 545-3164.

Council gets mid-year budget review, early look at what to expect in FY 2016

After factoring in \$3.5 million in federal reimbursements, \$475,000 will be the county's total cost for expenses related to last year's ice storm, Pax. Luckily, savings achieved in recent months as a result of low fuel prices should help offset storm costs.

The rest will come from the county's reserve. The county works to maintain about \$10 million in reserve for emergencies, such as clean-up and recovery after a hurricane or other disaster.

In the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, Georgetown County anticipates revenue growth from accommodations and hospitality taxes, vehicle fees, landfill fees, and real estate related fees including building permits, County Administrator Sel Hemingway told council members during a budget preview last month. He listed state funding for local governments as an area of concern, along with cost increases for workers compensation, health plan rates and retirement contributions system rates. The county also plans to move forward with an initiative implemented in 2013 to incrementally increase employee pay to be better in line with wages offered in neighboring counties.

Council is expected to review a draft of the budget during a work session on April 28. A public hearing and second reading of the budget ordinance is scheduled for May 26, with final reading on June 23.

Council also reviewed capital projects slated for fiscal years 2016 through 2018, the last year in the 20-year plan's first phase. Projects include a new Northwest Regional Recreation Center among other items. View the current version of the county's Capital Improvement Plan at www.gtcounty.org/Capital_Improvement.

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. announces

Spring Break Camp 2015



Spring Break Week — April 6-10

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.

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

Line dancing classes offered at Waccamaw Regional Rec. Center

Instructor Janet Parris is now offering line dancing classes for adults on Thursdays at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center, 83 Duncan Rd., Pawleys Island.

The classes are from 6-7 p.m. and the fee is \$18 for a series of six classes. For information, contact Parris, (843) 838-4970.

Spring break basketball camp in Pawleys Island will teach tactics

Boys and girls ages 5-16 can spend their spring break week, April 6-10, learning basketball techniques, tactics and strategies at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center.

The county's basketball camp will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$99 for the first participant and decreases to \$60 for each sibling if parents sign up more than one child. The camp is hosted by Sports by the Sea. Call (843)545-3275 to sign up or visit www.gtcounty.org.



Georgetown County officially opened a new Waccamaw Branch Library with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 19. County officials, Friends of the Waccamaw Library members and the general public packed the new library's auditorium for the special event, which included remarks from several individuals who were invaluable in seeing construction of the library completed. S.C. Rep. Carl Anderson also participated in the program, presenting branch manager Carlethia Rudolph and Library Director Dwight McInvaill with a flag that has been flown over the State House. Rudolph reported that since the library's soft opening on Feb. 14, a total of 319 people, including 132 children, had signed up for library cards at the new facility. The library has also stayed busy, with adults, teens and children utilizing the new facility and its many services on a daily basis. These things should serve as assurances to county officials that they made the right decision in building this new branch, which the public so clearly wanted and values, she said. The new library is at 41 St. Paul Place. Those who haven't already stopped in to check it out are encouraged to do so.

Join us for Eggs in the Park

Four free Easter egg hunts for kids ages 5-12

Presented by Georgetown County Parks and Rec.

March 30, Andrews Recreation Center, 6 p.m.

March 31, Choppee Recreation Center, 6 p.m.

April 1, Morse Park in Murrells Inlet, 6 p.m.

April 2, Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown, 6 p.m.

Collect Easter eggs filled with toys and candy, plus expect a special appearance by the Easter Bunny!

For information, call 545-3275



Georgetown County Parks and Rec. hosts

SUMMER 2015 BRITISH SOCCER CAMP

July 20-24 at Stables Park Field Complex, 2400 Petigru Rd., Pawleys Island

Contact Greig Munro, 1-800-739-9441 or sign up at www.challengersports.com

Georgetown County EMD, Goodale take state emergency management honors

Georgetown County Emergency Management Division has been named the 2015 Agency of the Year by the S.C. Emergency Management Association. A county director was also named Volunteer/Citizen of the Year. That honor went to Beth Goodale, Georgetown County's director of parks and recreation. Both awards were presented during the association's annual workshop, held last month.

Nominees for the annual agency award are judged by their emergency management peers and the award is given to the emergency management agency that has made the most significant improvement or difference in their community during the past year in mitigating, responding to or recovering from a disaster. Georgetown County Emergency Management Division won the award for its initiatives during 2014. Among the agency's winning initiatives were:

- Participation in an Army Special Operations exercise in June to make Sandy Island better prepared for disaster situations.
- Planning and preparations for the large scale Vigilant Guard exercise which took place in the county in March (See page 5).
- Continuing efforts to educate the public on evacuation practices and procedures through the Know Your Zone initiative.
- An overhaul of the county's Community Emergency Response Team program, which led to a revitalized community awareness of and interest in the program.
- Creating partnerships with other county departments, such as the library system, to craft programs, events and activities that put valuable preparedness information into the hands of residents of all ages, from youth to the elderly.

Additionally, division head Sam Hodge and division coordinator Cindy Grace graduated last year from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Emergency Management Basic Academy at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). Hodge is also the only person in the state to have been twice named the S.C. Emergency Management Association's Director of the Year. He received the honor in 2013 and 2011. He was also Georgetown County's 2013 Manager of the Year.

County administrator Sel Hemingway said he is thrilled at the news of this latest honor for the division and couldn't be prouder of the staff.

"This award is a testament to the commitment and dedication of our emergency management staff to preparedness efforts in our county," Hemingway said. "As I have seen during several emergency events in recent years, they are devoted to keeping the citizens and visitors of our county safe in small or large events. It's nice to see their efforts recognized by their peers and also highlighted for the public, who benefit from those efforts."

Midway Fire Rescue Chief Doug Eggiman commended the staff for creating an emergency management culture of "teamwork and cooperation," and for constantly looking for opportunities to build relationships with other divisions and agencies. Vigilant Guard, which brought together state, local and federal agencies and assets, is a perfect example.

The Volunteer/Citizen of the Year Award is presented annually to someone who is active in promoting and supporting their local and state emergency management agency in a non-employee capacity. Nominations are made by agency directors.

Beth Goodale was selected for the award based on her willingness to support the Georgetown County Emergency Man-



From left are County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, Cindy Grace, Beth Goodale and Sam Hodge following the awards presentations on March 4 in Myrtle Beach.

agement Division whenever called upon. She and her department frequently provide equipment, supplies, facilities and staff. During Winter Storm Pax last year, she provided around-the-clock assistance as logistics section chief for the county Emergency Management Division.

She has completed numerous emergency management training courses and is a member of the Integrated Emergency Management Team, Local Emergency Planning Committee and the International Association of Emergency Managers.

"I have known and worked with Beth for more than 20 years and have always found her to be dependable, efficient and ready to assist us in any way during an emergency and on a day-to-day basis," Hodge said. "Her willingness to provide support has repeatedly impressed me over the years."

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

**Saturday, April 11
9 a.m. to noon
at Midway Fire Rescue,
67 St. Paul Place,
Pawleys Island**



**Please join Georgetown County Public Services
and Midway Fire Rescue
in keeping pollutants out of our drainage system!**

*The following materials will be accepted:
Paint, oil, batteries (alkaline and rechargeable),
incandescent bulbs, household cleaners,
non-commercial pesticides and fertilizers.*



**For more information,
call (843) 545-3524**

Vigilant Guard disaster preparedness exercise a success

The last of military and civilian partners participating in Vigilant Guard in Georgetown County left for home on March 11, bringing the large-scale disaster preparedness exercise to a close. The operation, which spanned nine days and involved numerous agencies and three states, proved hugely successful and was an incredible tool for building relationships and putting disaster response skills to the test in realistic conditions, said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County's emergency manager.

"With any type of training event like this, a key element is to find out where your shortfalls are and to build relationships with those agencies you don't normally have a chance to work with," Hodge said. "We were able to achieve both those goals with Vigilant Guard, which works toward further improving our readiness to respond to a real disaster."

Though the exercise took place in counties across the state, the majority of the activity was staged in Georgetown County, attracting thousands of military and civilian participants March 6-11. The scenario for the national exercise, sponsored by U.S. Northern Command, was a Category 4 hurricane, which made Georgetown County a perfect location for this year's exercise.

"That's a threat we face every year and we know it's just a matter of time before one makes landfall," Hodge said.

The fictitious Hurricane Zephyr followed a track similar to that taken by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, leaving widespread destruction and havoc in its path. From damaged bridges and stranded victims to hurricane-related building collapses, the hurricane scenario created opportunities for all agencies and groups participating to hone their particular skills. Georgetown County Fire/EMS and Midway

Fire Rescue practiced search and rescue skills as they worked to extricate "victims" (portrayed by actors and mannequins) from an actual rubble pile created at the Northwest Regional Recreation Complex at Choppee. The S.C. National Guard set up mobile tower operations at the Georgetown Airport, practiced a method for ferrying large equipment over water, and aided county officials in conducting damage assessment using Blackhawk helicopters. Additionally, Carolinas MED-1 set up a mobile hospital unit to treat patients, SC-HART, the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, practiced airlifting victims; and the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief provided support to emergency responders and victims alike.

"This truly was a massive operation, and we're grateful for the opportunity to have been the site of such a large part of this year's exercise," said County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "The opportunity for our staff to work alongside the National Guard and other agencies that participated, and to improve relationships and skills, was invaluable."

Hemingway and Hodge offer their thanks to every agency and person who participated in Vigilant Guard. Special thanks go to the National Guard, S.C. Emergency Management Division and Georgetown County Parks

and Recreation Director Beth Goodale and her staff. County Parks and Recreation went to great lengths to help plan for and to accommodate the operation and its participants in Georgetown County.

One highlight of the exercise was a visit by the National Guard's chief, Army Gen. Frank Grass, who is also a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Grass visited multiple venues in Georgetown County during the exercise to get an up-close look at joint training between National Guard, emergency management and first responder personnel.

"I saw a lot of great coordination between local, state and federal government agencies," Grass said.

He called the operation one of the best he has seen. And seeing him on site during the operation was a treat for the county and its



A firefighter approaches an actor portraying a victim at a rubble pile created to simulate conditions from a building collapse.



Above left: SC-HART practices helicopter lifts. Center: County Council Members Leona Myers-Miller and Ron Charlton prepare for a ride in a Black Hawk helicopter as part of damage assessment simulations. Above right: the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade of the Army National Guard presents Georgetown County Emergency Management with a plaque in appreciation of its efforts for Vigilant Guard. From left are Major Gen. Gregory Batts, Beth Goodale, Sam Hodge and Lt. Col. Jeffery Jones.

See "Vigilant Guard," Page 10

Former teacher has startup initiative's first fully-funded business

A mom of three and former elementary school teacher who resides in Murrells Inlet now holds a new title as co-founder and CEO of the first business to become fully funded and ready to scale under the wing of Startup.SC.

Startup.SC recently announced that KidsCanGiveToo.com, a website that pairs children's birthday parties with charities, has raised \$325,000 from angel investors, allowing it to hire its first three employees and scale to host 1,000 parties per month. At this number, the company could raise \$1 million for charities within its first year.

Barb Royal, the teacher turned CEO who dreamed up the idea for the website four years ago, couldn't be more pleased.

"I'm thrilled about closing this first round of investment, so KidsCanGiveToo.com can finally have the resources to become what I always knew it could be," Royal said. "Together, with the support of these talented investors, we are ready for huge growth."

When Royal came up with the idea for KidsCanGiveToo.com, her children were going to a different birthday party just about every weekend, she recalled.

"I noticed the waste and frustration surrounding the modern birthday party gift giving experience — not to mention the cultural shift of no longer opening presents at the party," she said. Instead, kids bring presents home to open later "in a fury, with no opportunity for eye contact and a thank you for the giver."

It was her own son's birthday party that really sparked the idea for KidsCanGiveToo.com.

"When my son got three pairs of Incredible Hulk hands — \$90 worth — with no receipts, I knew there was an opportunity for charities and a teachable moment for kids," Royal said. "Kids Can Give Too, Inc., was born and Startup.SC has brought me to the next level."

Though the idea started with Royal, her sister and co-founder Joan Buehler supported her efforts with some early funding and business insight.

KidsCanGiveToo.com is designed to partner children with their favorite charities and collect funds rather than gifts for birthdays. The children give to their choice charity while getting a VISA gift card with a portion of the funds to purchase meaningful gifts. The website makes planning, inviting and collecting "gifts" easy on the parents and party guests.

It's just the kind of idea Startup.SC is designed to nurture and grow. With support and encouragement from Georgetown County's Economic Development Department, Startup.SC opened in the Litchfield Exchange last year with a focus on scaling technology startups to a revenue of \$10 million or more within the first five years. It provides the resources for people in the idea phase to grow their dream into a reality. It looks for entrepreneurs, like Royal, who are passionate, mission-driven and relentlessly resourceful.

"We are really pleased to see how far Barb has come, but we are even more excited to see the tremendous impact she will have on this region in the very near future," said Ryan Smith, executive director for Startup.SC. "We love having KidsCanGiveToo.com on our team as we push forward with our goal to create resources to diversify the economic landscape of the Grand Strand."

For More Information about KidsCanGiveToo, including bios on the cofounders visit KidsCanGiveToo.com or www.facebook.com/kidsgive. Startup's website is located at <https://startup.sc>.



Georgetown County PHOTO CONTEST



Georgetown County is seeking photo contest entries.

The theme is:

"Rural Life in Georgetown County"

Deadline for entries is May 31, 2015.

Entries should be sent to jbroach@gtcounty.org.

This contest is open to all ages.

Visit www.gtcounty.org for details.

It's safe. It's simple. It saves lives.

Blood DRIVE

**Wednesday, April 1
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Beck Recreation Center,
2030 Church St., Georgetown**

Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org. Use the sponsor lookup code **GeoCounty**.

This event is co-sponsored by Georgetown County government.

Local Jr. LEGO and robotics team awarded spot in World Expo

The Georgetown County Library is proud to announce its Super Master Builders robotics team and coaches have been awarded a spot at the 2015 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) World Expo in St. Louis, Mo.

This is a huge honor as only 60 Jr. FIRST LEGO League teams from the nation are chosen to attend. The expo will take place from April 23-25.

Georgetown County's six-member team consists of Patrick Gallagher and App Hutto of Coastal Montessori School; Ellie Keesee and Colby Fretz of Waccamaw Elementary School; and Dane MacMillian and Nate Campbell of Waccamaw Intermediate School. The team will exhibit the model they built for this year's challenge — a model of a library with a robot librarian and a motion sensor activated book return.

The team practiced at the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library and were coached by Shelia Sullivan, head of children's services for the Georgetown County Public Library System, and Amy King, children's librarian at the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library.

Super Master Builders are supported by grants from the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, FIRST and STAR Library.



Jr. FIRST LEGO and robotics team members show off some of their work to a group of very impressed adults.

Please join us in congratulating this team and their coaches on this exceptional accomplishment.

Fishing Tournaments

Continued from Front Page

right idea when it built the Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex to be able to accommodate large tournaments, as well as daily use by local and visiting families, said Beth Goodale, Georgetown County's director of Parks and Recreation. The facility on the Sampit River, which opened in 2010, will be the base for the B.A.S.S. Nation and IFA tournaments, serving as the launch point for boats and the location for weigh-ins as fishing wraps up each day.

For the B.A.S.S. Nation event, the county will also host the Georgetown Boat Expo at the marine complex, featuring boats and other products from local businesses. That event will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 23 and 24.

The B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional is

scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, through Friday, April 24, but anglers should start arriving by the first of that week as April 20 and 21 are designated as official practice days.

With many anglers bringing spouses and families with them for the trip and staying for the week, the economic impact for local restaurants, hotels and businesses should be significant. The Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce will be working with local businesses to measure that impact. Anglers in last year's IFA tournament reported spending more than \$1,000 each in the county over a weekend, including fuel purchases, food and drinks, shopping and more.

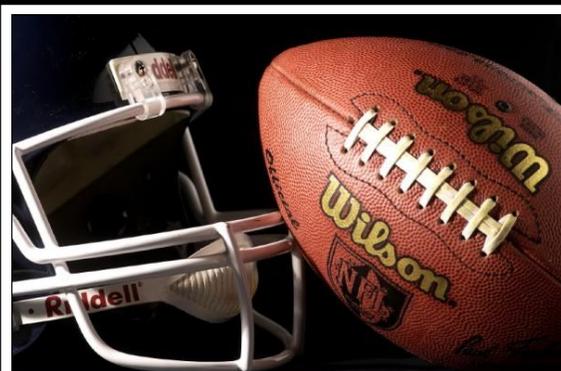
B.A.S.S. Nation officials have said they are looking forward to exploring an area where they haven't previously had an event.

"It's really exciting to get to go to new places for the B.A.S.S. Nation divisionals," said Jon Stewart, director of B.A.S.S. Nation. "It's

one of the many things that make the Nation unique. You never know what might happen on these new waters."

The Southern Divisional Championship will bring anglers from the Carolinas, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee. As is the case for tournaments of all kinds that come to Georgetown County, the hope is that participants who haven't experienced the county before will not only encourage their organizations to bring future tournaments here, but will want to return for family vacations or possibly even purchase a home.

Boat launch time for anglers participating in the B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional Championship is 6:30 a.m. (or safe light) April 22-24. Weigh-ins will begin at 2:30 p.m. on those days at the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex and are open to the public. Weigh-ins will also be live streamed on B.A.S.S. Nation's website.



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.

Magistrates move into Exchange bldg.

Ribbon cutting ceremony set for April 28



The courtroom in the new Magistrates complex at the Litchfield Exchange.

Magistrate's Offices for Pawleys Island and Murrells Inlet relocated to the Litchfield Exchange in March, shortly after renovations to the building were completed. The county purchased the mall complex about a year ago with the intent of remodeling it and having it house magisterial operations for the Waccamaw region, in addition to other uses that may arise over time.

Judges Dan Furr of Pawleys Island and John Benso of Murrells Inlet both now have their offices in the Exchange. The magistrates complex is in the rear portion of the building, where the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office will also have a substation. Renovations to the space were handled in-house by the county's Public Services Department. This area of the building is approximately 10,000 square feet and previously housed a restaurant and shops. Staff gutted the building before beginning any construction work.

A ribbon cutting celebration for the section of the building housing the magistrates' offices and the Sheriff's Office substation is set for **Tuesday, April 28, at 11 a.m.** The public is encouraged to attend, check out the renovated facility and meet county officials.

The Exchange still houses several businesses, which rent space from the county, and is also home to Startup.SC, an incubator that helps entrepreneurs get tech-based startups off the ground (see more information about that on page 6).

Midway

Continued from Front Page

hospital system; and

- Decrease "door-to-balloon time" — the interval between when a heart attack patient arrives at the hospital and the time he/she receives percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), such as angioplasty.

"This is an incredible honor," said Midway Chief Doug Eggiman. "We've had state honors before and different things like that, but to actually win something on an international level like this, it's kind of stunning."

It also says a lot about the community as a whole, Eggiman said.

"We're really blessed in the sense that we have wonderful people here who are proactive and aggressive in doing things to make our community safer. We're also very lucky to have a supportive administrator and County Council that allows us to get the equipment and policies we need to have in place to do what we do. They also helped earn this award, as did the community and the hospitals that receive our patients. We're very much a team and every member of this team is key and played a part in our receiving this award."

Midway's efforts have succeeded in improving survival rates of patients throughout the community and the department should be lauded not just for this most recent recognition, but for their efforts every day to save lives and create a safer community for residents in Georgetown County.

Albuquerque Fire Department is this year's other Heart Safe Community Award recipient. "The Heart Safe Community awards recognize the Albuquerque Fire Department and the Midway Fire Rescue Department for their dedication and work to promote a better and safer community," said David Becker, chair of the association's EMS section. "They demonstrate and serve as role models for other communities to follow in protecting their citizens through their programs."

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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.



Partnership hoped to bring more participants, wider selection to county farmers markets

The Georgetown County Farmers Markets are expected to return in April, but a little later in the month than they have in previous years.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is entering into an agreement with Clemson Extension to have the county's two farmers markets join the Extension's Waccamaw Market Cooperative this season. As part of the cooperative, the county's farmers markets will benefit from the Extension's relationship with local farmers, collaborative advertising and the services of a full-time professional market manager. The county will also receive a thorough review of all aspects of its farmers markets, including locations, schedule, fees and more.

The farmers market times and locations will remain the same for this season. The Georgetown market will remain at East Bay Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, while the Pawleys Island market will remain at Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The main change for this season will be a delay of start date to late April to make certain local produce is readily available when the farmers markets open.

Midway firefighter Noel recognized for meritorious action

Erik Noel, a firefighter and emergency medical technician with Midway Fire Rescue was recently presented with an award for meritorious actions performed while off duty.

Noel was enjoying some weekend fishing with family and neighbors at a local pond when a 4-year-old boy fell into the pond and was submerged in water about 12 feet deep.

"Noel instantly jumped in and grabbed the child, holding him up for his wife to grab him," said Brent McClellan, a Midway battalion chief.

Noel said the water was frigid and he could barely swim himself because it was so cold. Brett Sparks, another firefighter, was also on scene and helped Noel out of the water.

The child had no injuries and was able to go home with his family.

Noel's quick actions and the assistance from Sparks "most definitely saved this child's life," McClellan said. "The water in January is very cold and had Noel hesitated, this outcome might have been very different."

Noel has been employed with Midway for one year.



Erik Noel, left, is pictured with County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES



FREE!

March through May at the new Waccamaw Library

Through May 15, the Friends of the Waccamaw Library will host free movie nights on Fridays at the new Library, located off Willbrook Blvd. Classic movies will be shown in the library auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and movies start at 7 p.m. Popcorn and drinks will be available for a small donation to the Friends group. Presenter David Zinman, author of "50 Classic Motion Pictures" and four other film books, will lead an audience discussion after each showing.

Upcoming movies include:

April 10

"The Horse Whisperer" (1998) — Captivating film version of Nicholas' Evans powerful novel about a New York girl who loses a leg in a crippling horse-riding accident. Her mother drives her traumatized daughter and the horse to a Montana ranch where a famous trainer tries to rehabilitate them both. Robert Redford stars and directs his first film. With Kristin Scott Thomas and Scarlett Johansson. 128 minutes.

April 24

"A Shot in the Dark" (1964) — The funniest of the films about bumbling Inspector Clouseau who manages to confuse every investigation he works, but, in the end, finds the murderer. Played to perfection by Peter Sellers. 101 minutes.

May 8

"Love Affair" — Charles Boyer plays a suave French playboy who, on an ocean voyage, falls in love with an American singer (Irene Dunne). There is a slight problem. Both are engaged to others. They vow to meet in six months at the top of the Empire State Building. Remade as "An Affair to Remember" (1957) with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr and as "Love Affair" (1994) with Warren Beatty and Annette Bening. Nominated for six Oscars. 87 minutes.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation

Spring Break Sports Camp

Sign up now! For youth ages 8-14.

Locations

Andrews: April 6 and 8

Choppee: April 7 and 9

Time

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Register at any county recreation center
or call (843) 545-3275.



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



Senior centers crown king and queen



The Georgetown County Bureau of Aging Services had its annual King and Queen pageant for senior citizens on March 24. The event had six contestants who showed off talent, casual wear and evening wear before the winners were crowned. At top right are (from left) winners Dan Gasque of Hemingway and Priscilla Cromedy of Georgetown, and first runners-up Lorraine Simmons and Melvin Bromell Sr., both of Georgetown. Bromell is pictured again at right. At far right, Jerlene Wearing brings some sass to the evening wear competition. Above, Alice Young strikes an elegant pose. The Bureau of Aging Services has a variety of great, free programs for senior citizens in all areas of the county. For information, call (843) 545-3197.



National Guard members participate in a ferrying operation on the Sampit River. They were practicing a method that would be used for ferrying large equipment in the case of a bridge outage.

Vigilant Guard

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staff participating in the exercise.

"Having Gen. Grass here was an honor," Hodge said. "He had a chance to see some of the great work happening here and our people were thrilled to welcome him and have their hard work recognized by someone at his level."

A number of county residents turned out at various sites to observe parts of the exercise, but Hodge says he hopes the public will take more away from Vigilant Guard. He hopes the drill serves to raise public awareness about the serious

threat hurricanes pose each and every year, and are motivated to make their own emergency preparations.

"It's never too early to start getting ready, but it can easily be too late," Hodge said. "It's been a long time since South Carolina had a direct hit, but that doesn't mean that this won't be the year. The time to prepare is now and not when a storm is already on its way."

Residents can find resources to help with their emergency planning at www.gtcounty.org/emergency_management or www.sccemd.org. Residents may also call (843) 545-3273. See more Vigilant Guard photos online at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc.