



Georgetown County Government

NEWS RELEASE

May 13, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County to celebrate Public Works Week with virtual activities May 17-23

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, S.C. – Every year, for as long as many can remember, Georgetown County has celebrated National Public Works Week in a big way. That’s the plan for this year too, though COVID-19 has necessitated some creativity in how celebrations are happening.

Public Works Week 2020 will take place May 17-23. The centerpiece of Public Works Week in Georgetown County is normally the Regional Backhoe Rodeo. Unfortunately, that event was cancelled this year due to health concerns surrounding the spread of the new coronavirus. However, the county is introducing several new activities that can be conducted safely to highlight the importance of Public Works in our communities.

“The men and women in Public Works really have such a huge impact on our communities,” said Ray Funnye, director of the Georgetown County Department of Public Services, which houses Public Works. “There isn’t a person out there who doesn’t benefit in some way from the work our Public Works employees do. That’s why I really do think it’s very important for us to take some time at least once a year to recognize and thank the men and women involved in providing these kinds of services in our counties and municipalities.”

Funnye said he also wants to highlight the fact that Public Works employees are first responders. They’re often among the first on scene during a disaster, and the last to leave, but they don’t generally get recognition as first responders.

Georgetown County Public Services will host a virtual kickoff ceremony for Public Works Week at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 18. The ceremony will be streamed live at [Facebook.com/gtcounty](https://www.facebook.com/gtcounty). Funnye will talk about the critical work done by Public Works staff, and County Council Chairman John Thomas will present a proclamation declaring Public Works Week in Georgetown County. County Administrator Angela Christian will be on hand to provide a welcome and remarks. The ceremony will also feature presentation of annual awards for outstanding Public Services staff members.

One of the key activities of this year’s Public Works Week celebration will be production and release of a short video featuring Public Works employees explaining the broad range of activities encompassed by Public Works. The video will be posted at gtcounty.org and shared via social media.

The county will also host a coloring contest to get local youth involved in the celebrations. The coloring page can be downloaded at gtcounty.org. The contest will be open to all elementary-age children in Georgetown County. To enter the contest, parents can email a scan or photo of their child's completed page, along with the child's name, age and school, to Gina Speight at gspeight@gtcounty.org by 5 p.m. May 20. The winner will be announced online on May 22. The winning entry will be put on display in a county facility, and the young artist will receive an art kit and a \$20 Walmart gift card.

Look for more Public Works Week activities on the County's social media pages.

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