

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Inside this Issue

- FY2017 budget available for public review, Page 2
- New 701 bridge under construction, Page 2
- Study to look at options for steel mill site, Page 3
- Public Services employees bring home awards, Pages 8 & 9
- Library offers computer skills workshops, Page 11

Calendar

June 11 – Storyteller Donna Washington performs. See page 4

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

June 16 – Music in the Park brings a free performance by Jericho Creek to Front Street, 6 p.m. See page 4

June 20 – Tot basketball begins at recreation centers, 5:30 p.m. See page 7

June 21 – County Council special work session on outdoor shooting ranges, 5 p.m. in the historic courthouse

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

July 4 – County offices and facilities closed for Independence Day

Volume 4, Issue 10

June 2016

Plans progressing for Rocky Point property

Georgetown County officials recently had their first meeting with a steering committee put together to help guide plans for 662 acres known as Rocky Point. Through a partnership between the county, The Nature Conservancy, Winyah Rivers Foundation and the Open Space Institute, the land is being redeveloped into coastal South Carolina's first public-use community forest, featuring hiking and biking trails, and improved boat launch areas.



The Nature Conservancy has enlisted someone to create a master forest plan and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources is working on engineering improvements for an existing boat landing on the site.

"Hopefully by August or so we'll be able to kick off the

boat landing project and the forest management plan, and will also have a management plan in place between the Nature Conservancy and the Winyah Rivers Foundation," said Beth Goodale, Director of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, which will manage the boat landings. "It's pretty exciting. From a public standpoint, having that boat landing open again will be huge."

With Rocky Point landing having been closed for a number of years, "it has really put a damper on use of the river through there," Goodale said. "People call daily pretty much, wanting to know about when they're going to get that ramp back."

See "Rocky Point," Page 6

County breaks ground on new recreation center in Choppee

Georgetown County officials and residents had cause to celebrate last month as they gathered for a ceremonial breaking of ground at the site of the future Northwest Regional Recreation Center. The construction company, FBI, began work May 31.

Located in Choppee, the new \$4.9 million facility is expected to be complete in May 2017 and will serve residents in all communities in the northwestern portion of Georgetown County. The facility will be nearly identical to the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center that opened in Pawleys Island in 2013 and will have the same amenities, including a gymnasium, aerobics room, cardio and weight room, rock climbing wall and indoor walking track. The 24,000-foot center will also house a catering kitchen, locker



From left are Celeste Pringle of Georgetown County School District, Linda Canteen of Choppee, County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, Parks and Recreation Commission Member Marvin Neal, Council Members Lillie Jean Johnson, Ron Charlton and John Thomas, and Clerk of Court Alma White.

rooms, and program and meeting rooms, as well as recreation staff offices. Several outdoor recreation components at the site have already been completed, including athletic fields and tennis courts. All components are part of the county's long-range Capital Improvement Plan, now in its final phase.

"This is a long, long awaited day," County Administrator Sel Hemingway told a crowd including several alumni of the former Choppee High School, which previously occupied the site. "We've been planning for this day for a number of years and I know members of the community have been anxious for this day."

County budget available for public review

Georgetown County's proposed \$76.9 million Fiscal Year 2017 budget is now available online and in all county library branches for review by members of the public.

Georgetown County Council members are scheduled to consider third reading of the budget at their next regular meeting, June 28. Though a public hearing on the budget took place in May, there will be an opportunity for public comment at the meeting.

The proposed budget includes a countywide millage increase of 0.6. Additional increases of 0.4 mills in the county fire district, 0.2 mills in Midway fire district and 0.1 mills for recycling and garbage collections are also called for. For the owner of a \$100,000 primary residence, these increases would equate to an additional \$4.40 per year in taxes in the county fire district and \$3.60 per year in Midway fire district.

The increases are part of a plan County Council embarked on several years ago to bring pay for county

employees — particularly firefighters and paramedics — more in line with pay offered by neighboring counties.

In preparing the budget, the county saw deficits in several areas, including the fire service and law enforcement. This is due in part to a continuing recovery of revenues following the recession. The county used funds from an emergency reserve to balance the budget, but maintained the \$8 million reserve minimum called for under county policy.

In regard to revenues, the county continues to see numbers trending upward in real estate related fees, such as building permits and document stamps, as well as in accommodations taxes, which are related to tourism and short-term rentals.

To view the budget online, visit www.gtcounty.org/finance/budget.html. Any individuals who have special needs or require special assistance and will be attending the June 28 public meeting may contact our Title VI Coordinator, (843) 545-3325.

New 701 bridges under construction

A long-awaited project by the S.C. Department of Transportation to replace three bridges on Highway 701 in the Yauhannah area is now under way.

The bridges, built in the 1950s, run over the Great Pee Dee River, the Great Pee Dee River Overflow and Yauhannah Lake. Construction on three new bridges — each with two 12-foot wide traffic lanes and 10-foot wide shoulders — started on May 20. There will also be a new public boat landing with access from Highway 701 to the Great Pee Dee River, according to SCDOT.

The new bridges are being built west of the existing roadway with extended span lengths to provide greater protection for wildlife within the Waccamaw Wildlife Refuge. Completion of the project is expected to occur in the spring of 2019. A complete closure of Highway 701 requiring a detour should not be needed, SCDOT officials said. Traffic will be maintained along the existing right-of-way and bridges with only short-term single-lane closures as required. The contractor has agreed to maintain access to either the existing Great Pee Dee River boat ramp or a new boat ramp at all times during construction.

SCDOT will provide project updates and traffic notifications throughout the construction process. To sign up to receive updates on this project, send an email with your name and the subject line "US 701 Bridge Replacement Updates" to Paul Rader with PCL Civil Constructors at prader@pcl.com

Georgetown County
Department of Public Services
Environmental Services Division

COMPOST BIN SALE

ONLY \$50.00

At 201 Landfill Drive Daily from 8:00 - 4:30
 For information call James Coley 843-545-3443



- 80 gallon/ 10 cubic ft.
- 33" diameter
- Easy snap-together assembly takes only minutes
- Manufactured from recycled material
- Twist locking lid
- Vertical and horizontal columnar ventilation, no corners for materials to dry out

If 250 residents from our community actively compost, we would divert 50 tons of organic debris from our landfill every year...

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

Urban Land Institute to offer redevelopment strategies for former steel mill site

Determining how to transform the former steel mill site and adjacent industrial waterfront in the City of Georgetown into a catalyst for economic development will be the goal for a group visiting the county this fall.

Comprised of nationally renowned experts in the fields of land use, real estate development, design and urban planning, the group was formed by the Urban Land Institute. It will be looking for economic development possibilities for the site that would benefit not only the City, but the greater Georgetown Region, said Tee Miller, economic development director for the City.

ULI's Advisory Services program is designed to help communities find strategic, practical and innovative solutions for difficult land use issues. ULI will convene a panel of industry leaders from its diverse membership, including developers, planners, financiers, market analysts, designers, economists, architects and public officials. These leaders will be specifically matched to the panel based on the needs of the Georgetown assignment. Panels bring outside points of view to help kick-start critical conversations, gain fresh insights and discover innovative solutions to the most complex real estate challenges.

The intended result of the study is to create a plan that recognizes the redevelopment opportunity and potential of the industrial waterfront to create a sustainable vision to guide the community forward, Miller said. The panel recommendations will set the stage for future growth, determining which types of public investment and incentives will best catalyze private investment.

The ULI Panel is being sponsored by an ad hoc community working group coordinated by the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation. This group includes representatives from the City, County, Santee Cooper, S.C. State Ports Authority, Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and local business leaders that came together to develop a path forward for the community. The group considered several options for community planning, and chose the ULI Advisory Panel Service because it followed an unbiased and candid approach, with a broad community input component, to recommend market-based solutions.

"We are excited about the opportunity we have with the ULI," said Georgetown Mayor Jack Scoville. "The waterfront is core to our history and is an important part of our local economy. The City has a once in a lifetime opportunity to reposition this asset into a sustainable use that will enhance and benefit the entire City for future generations."

Prior to the onsite study, which is scheduled for September, the panel will review an extensive situation analysis of Georgetown, including data and trends for growth, jobs, housing, economic development, infrastructure and transportation, and will be privy to all local plans, strategies and public policies.

"Georgetown County recognizes the value of a vibrant waterfront in the City extends far beyond the City limits," said County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "We support this study as we believe the ULI initiative will be an objective way to obtain input from a cross section of our population and give great insight into the site's potential."



The site of the now closed steel mill sits along Georgetown's waterfront.

The ULI Advisory Services panel will spend five days touring the subject study area, as well as meeting with stakeholders and members of the local community. After carefully analyzing the area and interviewing up to 100 individuals, the panel will then spend two days framing its recommendations and drafting a report that will be presented to the public.

The Georgetown steel mill first opened in 1969 and had seven owners in the four and a half decades following. Since 2001, the mill had experienced multiple shutdowns, layoffs and a bankruptcy that reduced its community impact to a fraction what it once was. The most recent owner, ArcelorMittal, announced on May 14, 2015, that it would permanently close the mill. Local officials plan to work with ArcelorMittal to find the best use and value for the property, benefitting the interests of all involved.

"With the closing of this facility, our community and the broader region stands at a crossroads," said Brian Tucker, director of economic development for Georgetown County. "The direction of this community will be significantly impacted by the future use of this site."

County Council, along with the broader group, believes that ULI's panel program provides the best opportunity to objectively determine the highest and best use of the property to maximize the quality of the community and offer the greatest economic impact for everyone."

Now in its 68th year, the ULI advisory services panel program assembles to participate in panels worldwide, offering recommendations for complex planning and development projects, programs and policies. Panels have developed more than 600 studies for a broad range of land uses, ranging from waterfront properties to inner-city retail. The strength of the program lies in ULI's unique ability to draw on the substantial knowledge of its 34,000-plus members, said Thomas Eitler, vice president of ULI's advisory services program.

"The independent views of the panelists bring a fresh perspective to the land use challenge," Eitler said. "The advisory services program is about offering creative, innovative approaches to community building."

Nationally-known storyteller to share spine-tingling tales at library

As summer bursts upon us with its searing heat, the Georgetown County Library system will offer an event sure to bring chills down your spine and a smile to your face.

Nationally-known storyteller, author and recording artist Donna Washington is coming to town to share scary stories during three exciting, free performances on Saturday, June 11.

Her first show, titled "A Little Shiver," is family friendly and appropriate for ages 4 and up. This collection of folktales and tongue twisters will have all ages laughing and the scare meter is dialed down.

"My son likes ghost stories, but not really, really scary stories, and my daughter doesn't like scary stories at all," Washington said. "I've put together some versions of scary stories that they both enjoy — a little bit spooky but mainly entertaining."

"A Little Shiver" will be performed at 10:30 a.m. at Winyah Auditorium in Georgetown and at 5:30 p.m. at the Waccamaw Library in Pawleys Island.

For the older crowd, Washington will perform "Cup of Blood," which she warns is "creepy, scary and unfit for human consumption if you are prone to nightmares." This performance,



Donna Washington

for ages 14 and up, is replete with graveyards, cursed lovers, and folkloric monsters from Russia, Ireland and right here in

the Lowcountry.

"Cup of Blood" will be performed at 7 p.m. at the Waccamaw Library.

"We're so excited Donna Washington is coming to Georgetown County," Children's Librarian Shelia Sullivan said. "She's a riveting storyteller and has won awards and honors around the world. Thousands of festivals, schools and libraries vie for her to come perform each year, and we can't believe it's our turn!"

If you have any questions, please call Sullivan at (843) 545-3310 or Amy King at (843) 545-3349.





Thursday evenings
Francis Marion Park
Broad and Front
Downtown
Georgetown
6:00pm - 9:00pm

seaportgeorgetown.com

LIVE MUSIC ON EVERY 1ST & 3RD THURSDAY KARAOKE ON EVERY 2ND THURSDAY MAY-JUNE & SEPT-OCT	 Bruce Teréo 05/05	 Will Ness Band 05/19
 Sand Sharks 06/02	 Jericho Creek 06/16	 Dan & Sallylu 09/01
 Carolina Midnight 09/15 & 10/20	 John Lammonds 10/06	

#29440





GEORGETOWN
COUNTY, SC



ANDERSON
BROTHERS BANK



Going
Coastal
Realty



BUD LIGHT

Announcing summer operating hours for the Georgetown County Landfill

The Georgetown County Landfill, located on Highway 51, will operate on the following schedule through Sept. 10:

- Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, noon until 2 p.m.

Registration is now open for Fall League Sports



Tackle Football
(ages 8-12, 3 divisions)



Flag Football
(ages 5-7)



Cheerleading
(ages 7-12)



Soccer
(ages 5-12)

Registration ends Aug. 19.

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

Teens win national contest — again!



With the help of the Georgetown Library, two local teens recently turned their love of books into a riveting mini movie, and won a national video contest for the fourth time. Wyatt Hester and Sean England Morris shot an action-packed zombie video in which two intrepid teens saved themselves and others after finding some great post-apocalyptic how-to books. The video was made for the Collaborative Summer Library Program, which hosted a contest urging teens to make a video celebrating summer reading. This video competition is in its sixth year, and one winning video is chosen from each state in the nation. Hundreds of teens participated in the contest. See the video on the library's website. From left are Sean England Morris, Blake Parker, Wyatt Hester and Harrison Pelham.

Know what to do if caught in a rip current

Through Labor Day, Georgetown County Sheriff's deputies assigned to the Beach Patrol Unit will patrol the beaches of Garden City and Litchfield to ensure the public is utilizing the county's natural resources in a responsible manner. In addition, deputies will talk to residents and visitors on the beach about rip currents and hand out brochures detailing what to do if caught in a rip current. The brochures and more information on rip currents may be viewed at ripcurrents.noaa.gov.

The Sheriff's Office is assisting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with heightening awareness about the dangers of rip currents. Rip currents are powerful, channeled currents of water flowing away from shore. They typically extend from the shoreline, through the surf zone, and beyond the line of breaking waves. Rip currents can occur at any beach with breaking waves. The greatest safety precaution is to recognize the danger of rip currents and swim at beaches with lifeguards on duty. Beachgoers should also never swim alone.

If caught in a rip current, remain calm. Never fight against the current; instead swim out of the current in a direction parallel to the shoreline. When out of the current, swim at an angle away from the current toward shore. If unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water, until out of the current, then swim toward shore. If you see a swimmer in trouble call 911 and throw them something that floats. Do not attempt to swim out after the victim as you may also be trapped.

Georgetown County FARMERS MARKET



**Find fresh produce,
baked goods and more!**

**Saturdays
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**at 122 Screven St.
in historic Georgetown**



Sign up now

for the Georgetown County Parks and Recreation

2016 Summer Camp

at Georgetown and Pawleys Island
recreation centers

For boys and girls ages 5-11

Cost: \$60 per child per week
Plus a one-time \$15 registration fee

Camp Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Summer Camp starts June 6 and ends July 29

This year's theme is "Time Travel!"

**Call (843) 545-3275 to register
or visit www.gtcounty.org**



Rocky Point

Continued from Front Page

Many Georgetown County residents fondly recall Sunday picnics and fishing trips at Rocky Point, which was managed as a public park by International Paper and Georgetown County for nearly 70 years. After IP sold the property in 2007 to a timber investment management organization, the new owners closed the park and the landing.

"Losing Rocky Point was a big blow to the community," said Jimmy Greene, Chair of the Choppee Community Association. "This was where we hiked, we fished, we celebrated birthdays and had holiday cookouts. There's nothing else like it nearby."

Both SC DNR and Georgetown County heard significant public outcry over the park's closing. SC DNR engaged The Nature Conservancy to develop a plan to purchase the property and reopen it to the public. In response, the Conservancy formed the Rocky Point Community Forest partnership. Reclaiming Rocky Point was more than a two-year process after the partnership was formed. Once the landing is reopened and a

forest management plan is in place, one of the next steps will be to begin looking at additional improvements, including the potential for camping trails and more water access, Goodale said.

"There are so many opportunities out there with these partnerships. We'll be able to see an educational component, working with schools for a learning lab, as well as land management education for private land owners. It can also be used to teach proper burning as part of forest management, and there will be some conversion of the forest back to longleaf. It's going to be an interesting learning library that will benefit a lot of different groups of people."

In repairing the landing, Goodale said a new floating courtesy dock will be constructed and parking improvements will also be completed.

More about Rocky Point

While the Winyah Rivers Foundation will hold title to the property, Georgetown County will serve as the primary managing entity.

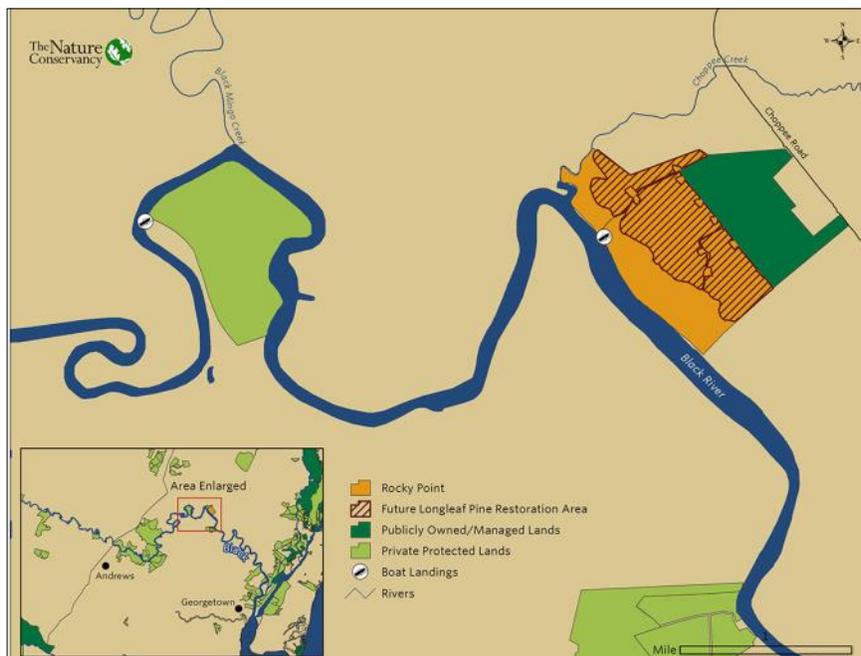
"This partnership is a great thing for Georgetown County and areas beyond. It will create numerous opportunities for outdoor activities and recreation for the public," said County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "The county looks forward to working with the Conservancy and other stakeholders in developing the plan to make this property as accessible as possible, both to county residents and to visitors who love our natural resources as much as we do."

The property will be a draw for groups including birders, kayakers, hikers and students of all ages, said Maria Whitehead, Winyah Bay/Pee Dee project director for The Nature Conservancy.

The future Rocky Point Community Forest will be managed for three primary objectives: public use and recreation, forest restoration and education and outreach. Details for plans in each of those three categories are as follows:

Recreation:

The property will serve as the first large, public, passive recreation



Above is a map of the property provided by The Nature Conservancy. At right is an example of a longleaf pine.

park of its kind in Georgetown County. It will have trails for hiking and biking, a picnic area, a boat landing, and potentially camping.

"Choppee Creek along the western boundary on the property winds a narrow path through emergent wetlands and bluff forest. This is a great place for novice kayakers to have an intimate experience with a black-water creek," said Richard Laurent, owner of Black River Outdoors.

Restoration:

The onsite forest will be managed to restore and maintain native, threatened mature tidal forested freshwater wetlands, mature upland hardwood bluff forest and longleaf pine forest. Timber products harvested during and after the longleaf pine restoration will help fund ongoing management and maintenance needs.

Education:

The size, location and diverse forest communities on the property also make it ideal for local environmental education initiatives, colleges and universities and private landowners.

"Rocky Point's close proximity to our school and frontage on the Black River make it an excellent outdoor lab site for us," said Brian Clark, chair of the Forestry Management Technology Program at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. "It's a great resource to instruct our students in plant identification, timber measurement, multiple-use recreation and forest ecology."

We look forward to bringing you more updates about this project as work progresses.



County employee helps lead robotics team to victory



Fred Davis, superintendent of Georgetown County's Environmental Services Division, center, serves as a mentor to Carvers Bay High School's first robotics team, the CB Bearbots. The team recently competed in the FIRST Robotics Palmetto Regional Event in Myrtle Beach and won the Rookie All Star Award. This award celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young but strong partnership effort, as well as implementing the mission of FIRST to inspire students to learn more about science and technology. By winning this award, the team got a chance to compete in the National FIRST Robotics Competition in St. Louis, Mo.

The team was mentored by several local professionals, including Davis. During the FIRST Robotics competition, under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team brand, hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get, Davis said. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Each season ends with an exciting FIRST Championship. Please join us in congratulating the Bearbots!

County elections director joins state executive committee

Donna Mahn, Georgetown County's director of Elections and Voter Registration, has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the S.C. Association of Registration and Election Officials.

Mahn was appointed to fill the unexpired term for District 7 Director, the Association announced last month. In her role, Mahn will be responsible for contacting and representing counties in the District 7 region on a state level.

The Association is a professional organization with a mission of studying, discussing and recommending improvements to voter registration and election laws. It promotes and encourages the education of county registration and election officials, as well as collecting, analyzing and distributing information about registration and election laws.

Mahn has headed Georgetown County Voter Registration and Elections for the last 10 years. She previously worked as the assistant elections director in Florence.

The Library Summer Reading Program

**ON YOUR MARK,
GET SET...
READ!**



Check out our action-packed, FREE summer reading programs at all four Georgetown County library branches!

Registration is open now.
Call (843) 545-3300 for information.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation presents

Tot Basketball



Parents and kids will learn the basic fundamentals of basketball while kids develop motor skills, have fun and get active.



**For kids ages 3 & 4
Mondays beginning June 20**

5:30 - 6 p.m.

at Beck Recreation Center, Andrews Gym
and Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center

Cost is \$10 per child.

Call (843) 545-3275 or register online at www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation

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.



Exemplary Public Services employees honored during Public Works Week

The Georgetown County Public Services Department presented employee excellence awards to four members of its staff May 19 as part of National Public Works Week celebrations.

Among the honorees was Dan Eckis, who was named Public Services Employee of the Year. Eckis, who works in the Stormwater Division, could not attend the ceremony due to illness, but Public Services Director Ray Funnys had glowing things to say about him.

“Dan has worked for the department for only three years, but from day one he has proven to be an asset to the Stormwater Division as he brings years of experience in his field of civil engineering,” Funnys said. “Not only does he know what he’s doing, it is apparent that he loves his job. Dan goes above and beyond in every task he is assigned.”

As an example, he recounted how Eckis was recently hospitalized for an extended period, yet still routinely took work related calls and even performed plan review for development projects from his sick bed.

“All who work with him appreciate his level of expertise, his exceptional organizational skills and his keen sense of humor,” Funnys said.

Other award winners include:

- **Terri Davis, Green Earth Award.** An employee of the county’s



Eckis



Cummings



Davis

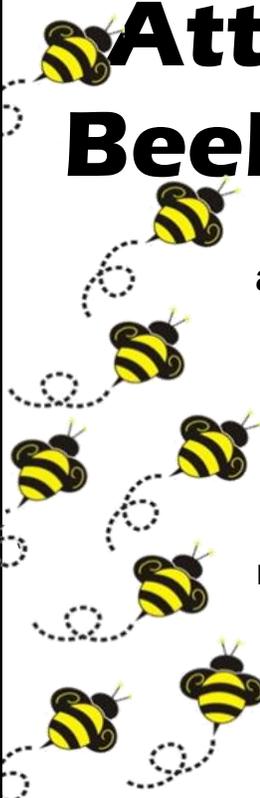


Githens

Stormwater Division for four-and-a-half years, Davis’ dedication to the environment shows in everything she does, said Jennifer Dirks, Public Services Department administrative assistant, who presented the award. Davis works tirelessly on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection events the county hosts twice a year, ensuring that word of the event spreads and more people show up each time. She has organized numerous events to encourage school-age children to keep area waters clean, recycle and prevent pollution. Davis was also instrumental in getting the application process for land disturbance permit reviews to go paperless. The processing of electronic submittals can be daunting as it consists of many steps that must be performed in a timely manner. Davis “works tirelessly to reduce her environmental footprint in every aspect of her job. Her positive work ethic and personal motivation to recycle make her an ideal candidate for this award,” Dirks said.

- **Donnie Cummings, Leadership Award.** A long-time employee and volunteer with the county, Cummings recently provided a great deal of assistance to the county in its hosting of the Bassmaster Elite Series tournament in April. His service was so instrumental that the County Administrator remarked he wished he could clone Cummings. In presenting the award, Dirks said Cummings took the lead for the department in the Bassmaster event. His work included not only coordination within his department, but also with the County Administrator and all county departments. “He had to smooth over many rough spots and gave his best effort to keep the preparations moving along,” Dirks said. He also helped in an effort to relocate the county’s records archive. “Donny has a unique ability to motivate his crews to work hard even during crunch time when the work isn’t fun,” Dirks said. “He is able to get work completed on time and sometimes in the nick of time when almost impossible deadlines are set. He knows how to lead his team to a successful and completed project.”

- **Monroe Githens, Team Player Award.** An employee of the Public Works Division for seven years, Githens supervises one of the department’s most challenging areas. His job requires a considerable amount of face time with residents. He meets the challenges of his job professionally and in a timely manner, treating all residents with respect and courtesy. “He is always courteous, patient and works efficiently to get projects completed, so he and his crew can move on to other duties,” Dirks said. “He is very dependable and committed to helping out throughout the department whenever he is needed.”



Attention, Beekeepers!

If you are a beekeeper and live in Georgetown County, please call (843) 545-3619.

In an effort to protect the local bee population, the Georgetown County Department of Public Services’ Mosquito Control Division keeps a list local beekeepers and their contact information. This allows the Division to give beekeepers advance notice of aerial spraying in their region, which could harm hives. Beekeepers will then be able to cover and protect their hives during the spray. For further information, call the number above.

County celebrates National Public Works Week with Backhoe Rodeo

As part of its celebration of National Public Works Week, the Georgetown County Department of Public Services was host to the 22nd annual Backhoe Rodeo, a regional American Public Works Association competition.

The competition took place today and involved 12 backhoe operators from jurisdictions including Georgetown County, Charleston County, the City of Charleston and Berkley County. In addition to giving the competitors an opportunity to showcase their skills, the event is intended to put the spotlight on all public works employees and how vital they are to communities. Competitors show off their skills by completing three separate timed tasks.

Kevin Brown of Charleston County took first place in this year's Backhoe Rodeo, with a total time of 177 seconds for all three events. Second

place went to Mark Dirks of Berkley County, with a time of 198 seconds.

Third place went to Harold West of Georgetown County with 280 seconds. West is a special projects supervisor with the Georgetown County Public Services Department and has won or placed in the Backhoe Rodeo several times. He went on to the state Backhoe Rodeo in 2014, where he placed second. He said he's glad to have won a trophy this year especially, because he promised to gift it to his 5-year-old son Luke.

In addition to the Backhoe Rodeo, Georgetown County hosted a Truck Rodeo and a Zero Turn Radius competition.

Sandra Drayton, a recycling center attendant with Georgetown County, won first place in the Truck Rodeo, becoming the first woman to win the event. Leroy Davis won the Zero Turn Radius event.



Harold West, right, placed third in the Backhoe Rodeo.



Left: Sandra Drayton, winner of the truck rodeo, is pictured with award presenter Fred Davis. Below: Leroy Davis, center, who won the Zero Turn Radius event, is pictured with Public Services Director Ray Funnye, left, and County Council Vice Chairman Ron Charlton.



Georgetown County Parks & Rec. announces
2 great opportunities
for young soccer players



**BRITISH
SOCCER
CAMP**

July 18-22 at Stables Park

First kicks, 9-10 a.m., \$93	Ages 3-4
Mini Soccer, 10:15-11:45 a.m., \$107	Ages 4-6
Half Day, 9a.m. to noon, \$142	Ages 6-16
Golden Goal, 1-3 p.m., \$50	Ages 7-16

* Golden Goal bonus session only available to registered half-day campers. June 3 is deadline for free jersey.

**BRAZILIAN
SOCCER
CAMP**



**June 13-17, 9 a.m. to noon
at Stables Park**

Ages 7-9 and 10-14, \$150.
There will be a \$10 late fee after June 3.

Register at www.challengersports.com
or contact Justin,
jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Palombi is department's Employee of Quarter

Master Firefighter Joe Palombi was named Georgetown County Emergency Services' Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of this year.

An employee of Midway Fire Rescue for five years, his leadership abilities have a positive impact on all who work with him, his supervisors said.

"He is the go-to person for the officers on his shift," said Battalion Chief Jeff Pifer.

Palombi takes direction well in the station and on incident scenes and is a "go-to" staff member whether responding to a water rescue, fire call or a call for emergency medical services, Pifer said.

"He can be counted on to safely and effectively perform any duty assigned."

During down times at the station, Palombi takes time with probationary firefighters to show them the ropes. He makes it clear to less senior firefighters what they are expected to know. As a Master Firefighter on Midway's C-shift, Palombi is responsible for training less senior firefighters how to drive and operate fire engines and ladder trucks. When they go through the process with Palombi,



Palombi, left, with County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

officers can count on firefighters being well trained and ready.

Palombi came to Midway with a wealth of experience, which he tactfully shares.

One of Palombi's latest initiatives was Project Prom. He spearheaded the event to teach high school students the dangers of drinking and driving. He coordinated with school officials, Carlos Car Care, Air Reach, law enforcement and the senior staff at Midway to set up an event where the students got to see the aftermath of a drunk driving incident.

Sprinkler system saves motel

Early notification, early containment and early response. These are three key parts to saving lives and property from the devastating effects of fire, and all three worked together recently in Pawleys Island.

On May 9 at 6:56 a.m., a fire occurred in the linen dryer at a local motel. The alarm system activated after a sprinkler head discharged, providing early notification to Midway Fire Rescue. The fire sprinkler head located in the laundry room activated due to the excessive heat, providing early containment. And due to the early notification, firefighters arrived with a full complement within minutes of receiving the alarm to provide an early response.

Upon arrival, Midway units discovered the fire and firefighters were able to complete the extinguishment without any further spread.

Because all three parts worked together the fire and water damages were kept to a minimum, the occupants were safer, the area where firefighters had to work was safer, and the building did not suffer any extensive fire and water damages, firefighters reported.

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. presents

Free Movie Nights

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
all summer long, through July 27



Showings begin June 13
at the newly renovated Howard Center

Mondays, 6 p.m. — Movies rated PG-13

Tuesdays, 1 p.m. — Movies rated G

Wednesdays, 1 p.m. — Movies rated PG

Call (843) 545-3275 for details



Summer Sports for Kids and Teens!

Football Skills and Drills

FREE!

For ages 8-12

July 25 at county recreation centers

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Sports Fun and Games

FREE!

For ages 8-12

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in June

Time: 2-4 p.m.

Basketball League

\$15 per person

For ages 5-14

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

June 13-July 21 at county recreation centers

Time 6-8 p.m.

Call (843) 545-3275 for information

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



Library offers 'Summer of Skills' free technology workshops

Whether applying for a new job, starting a business or trying to move up the corporate ladder, computer and office skills are a must. The Georgetown Library wants to make sure residents keep their abilities sharp, and will host a series of free workshops this summer on everything from computing basics to job interview skills.

"These days, nearly every job requires basic computing, keyboarding and Microsoft Office skills," said Public Services Librarian Heather Pelham. "Our drop-in classes let you pick and choose which areas you want to work on. Give us an hour, and we'll get you up to speed."

The classes all run from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Georgetown Library, 405 Cleland Street. Registration is not required, but



anyone with questions may call Pelham at (843) 545-3327. For more details, visit the library website at georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

The class schedule is as follows:

Keyboarding Classes

Monday, June 13 – Thursday, June 16

Instructors will use fun and effective online typing tutorials to train students to touch type and improve speed.

Computer Basics

Monday, June 20

Everything you need to know about using the mouse and keyboard, setting up email, online searching and more.

Job Interview Skills

Tuesday, June 21

Learn how to make a great first impression and stay cool no matter how tough

the questions.

Microsoft Word

Wednesday, June 22

Writing is just the beginning with Word. Instructors will show you how to give your documents a professional look, back-up your work and save in formats that are easy to share.

Microsoft Publisher

Thursday, June 23

It's simpler than you think to create professional, personalized newsletters, brochures, post cards, flyers and more.

Local school achieves International Baccalaureate status

Lowcountry Preparatory School is now an officially authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, according to IB's Chief Schools Officer. School officials pursued authorization over the standard three-year transition period. Lowcountry Preparatory School will offer the IB Diploma Program starting in the coming academic year.

The IB Diploma Program is for students aged 16-19. Its curriculum includes six subject groups, as well as Theory of Knowledge (TOK); Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS); and the Extended Essay. The program is recognized and well respected by the world's leading universities.

IB Coordinator David A. Suber is proud of the authorization. "A lot of hard work has gone into this accomplishment over the years," he said. "The quality of the education that we will be providing our students has just increased substantially. Our students will be doing college-level researching and writing before they get to college where they will have a clear edge."

Suber's decade of experience with IB elsewhere was a key factor in his recruitment in Academic Year 2013-14. Head of School Scott Gibson III made tentative plans with Suber to pursue the transition to IB during the hiring process.

"IB is the most rigorous college preparatory



The school's senior staff celebrates.

curriculum available. Making the transition was the obvious choice," Gibson said. "Ours is now only the second independent IB school in South Carolina and the only IB school in Georgetown County."

Board Chair "Woofie" McClary celebrated the news and noted, "This marks a truly strategic step forward for our school—better college preparation for our students and better professional development for our teachers. We can be proud that our small community now offers this world-class educational option!"

Lowcountry Preparatory School is a K3-12 college preparatory school located in Pawleys Island.