

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

June 10 – Free lunch program for youth begins at three county recreation facilities. See Page 5.

June 11 – Distribution of free farmers market vouchers to senior citizens takes place at Beck. See page 5.

June 19 – Dr. Jeanette Myers will show kids how to use the new library telescope to observe space in their own backyard, 2:30 p.m. at the Andrews Library. See Page 8.

June 20 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse on Screven St.

June 25 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse on Screven St. (Council only meets once per month in June, July and August).

July 4 – County offices and facilities are closed in observance of Independence Day.

Volume 7, Issue 7

June 2019

County administrator, finance director to retire at year end

Georgetown County government will start 2020 with two new individuals in key leadership positions. County Finance Director Scott Proctor announced on May 28 that he plans to retire on Dec. 31. Just one day later, County Administrator Sel Hemingway announced plans to retire at the end of the year as well.

“It’s something I’ve been thinking about for a couple of years now,” Hemingway told staff. He said he has put it off, as there was always another project he wanted to see through. But he has realized there will always be more projects and the perfect time to retire will never come. As a grandfather of 14, he is ready to spend more time with family and be able to attend more of his grandchildren’s ball games and special events.

Hemingway, a CPA and experienced businessman, has served as County Administrator for 11 years. Prior to being hired to lead the county, he served on County Council for more than a decade and was its chairman when he retired in 2008 to take the administrator job. He has seen the county through four federal disaster declarations in the last six years, as well as a long range capital improvement plan that saw construction of numerous needed facilities, including a new judicial center and recreational facilities across the county.

In his time as administrator, he has earned staff’s respect and admiration as a capable and fair leader. His experience and vast knowledge of and dedication



Sel Hemingway, right, and Scott Proctor are pictured during a budget workshop in 2013.

to Georgetown County will be irreplaceable.

Proctor has served as the county’s finance director since 2004. Prior to that, he spent nine years as Finance Director for the City of Georgetown, and was in public practice as a CPA specializing in governmental accounting before that.

In his time with the county, Proctor has done exceptional work, using his experience and expertise to ensure Georgetown County’s financial records and accounting are exemplary and see Georgetown County through one of the most difficult financial periods in recent history with the Great Recession. He also implemented a new online system that improves financial transparency and public accountability by making

See “Retirement,” Page 9

Two will seek District 5 County Council seat; election in Sept.

Thomas Alford, a Democrat, and Raymond Newton, a Republican, will compete for a vacant County Council seat this fall. The two are seeking to fill the District 5 seat that was left open in May, when Council Member Austin Beard resigned.

Voters will go to the polls to elect their new representative on Sept. 10.

A primary election was originally scheduled for July to decide between two Republican candidates, but



one candidate, Mark Mercer, withdrew from the race on May 31. He was the second candidate to withdraw from the race. Truitt Owens also filed to run as a Republican, but withdrew his name on the same day, May 25.

Voters in Georgetown County will also vote in the following elections this year:

- June 11, City of Georgetown Primary (3 seats)
- Nov. 5, Town of Andrews (mayor and 3 seats)
- Nov. 5, Town of Pawleys Island (mayor and 4 seats)
- Nov. 5, City of Georgetown General (see above)

Residents wishing to check or update their voter registration, or who need to register to vote, can do so at www.scvotes.org, or call (843) 545-3339 for info.

James ‘Kin’ McKenzie sworn in as new Murrells Inlet magistrate



James Kinley “Kin” McKenzie Jr. was sworn in as Georgetown County’s newest magistrate during a ceremony at 11 a.m. on May 20. Judge McKenzie will serve the Murrells Inlet community, replacing former Judge John Benso, who retired on April 30, after eight years.

McKenzie, an Inlet resident, worked in law enforcement for 34 years, including 27 years with the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED). For the last 14 years with SLED, he was a captain over criminal investigations.

The oath of office was delivered to Judge McKenzie by Judge Tony Love, the associate chief magistrate and magistrate in charge of central traffic court. McKenzie’s wife Vicki stood by his side during the oath. McKenzie was also joined up front by Chief Magistrate Isaac L. Pyatt Sr. and Johnny Abraham, a friend and colleague, who is a current SLED captain for the Pee Dee region.

McKenzie was appointed to the position by S.C. Sens. Stephen Goldfinch and Ronnie Sabb.

“I’m looking forward to this job and I can tell from the very beginning that the staff here is excellent,” McKenzie said. “We’re going to work together wonderfully and carry out the duties of this office.”

Judge Pyatt encouraged him not to be afraid to lean on his fellow magistrates when necessary.

“I promise you we will be there for you at any time,” he said. “The worst question is the question that has never been asked. We work together as a team here, and we push forward for justice and justice alone. We don’t have any special friends to honor, nor any enemy to punish. We’re here to seek justice, and I know for sure that’s your aim as well, because if it wasn’t you would not be standing here today.”

McKenzie said he was very active in the Boy Scouts, both as a child and an adult. He and his son were Eagle Scouts.

“There is a part of the Scout oath that says ‘on my honor, I will do my best,’ and that is my promise to the citizens of Georgetown County,” McKenzie said.

McKenzie officially began his new job at 1 p.m. on May 20.

Garden City beach access to close temporarily during renourishment

Georgetown County’s Beach Access No. 1, located at Yucca Ave. in Garden City, along with associated parking areas, will be closed temporarily for part of this summer to accommodate beach renourishment performed by the S.C. Corps of Engineers.



The closure is expected to last approximately three weeks, and was scheduled to begin June 5. However, the work had to be delayed, the Corps announced that day, due to mechanical issues with one of the dredges. Georgetown County Public Services hopes to be able to announce the new closure date the week of June 10. Check www.gtcounty.org for updates as they become available.

The Corps plans to complete renourishment on the Georgetown County portion of Garden City Beach, from approximately Beach Access No. 8 to the county line. Contractors will work as quickly as possible to replace sand in the areas most affected by last fall’s tropical storm season and get Access No. 1 reopened to minimize the inconvenience to the public.

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 in 2012. 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

Everything you need to know about the **“F Words”**

Film, Foam and Food

Recycling is undoubtedly a mainstream activity these days. But even though most of us have been doing it for years, people still have questions about how to do it right.

Most of those questions involve three main items. Our environmental services staff calls them the F Words: Film, foam and food. These are the three most common items folks don't know what to do with, said Alexandra Litz, environmentalist and training coordinator for Georgetown County Environmental Services.

Film can include items such as plastic bags and bubble wrap, while foam refers to Styrofoam and food is, of course, food waste. So, if you've ever wondered about the best, most environmentally friendly way to dispose of one of these F words, here's a handy guide.

Plastic Film

Plastic film is typically defined as any plastic less than 10 mil. thick. This can include plastic bags, bubble wrap, and packaging that wraps around water bottles or other items.

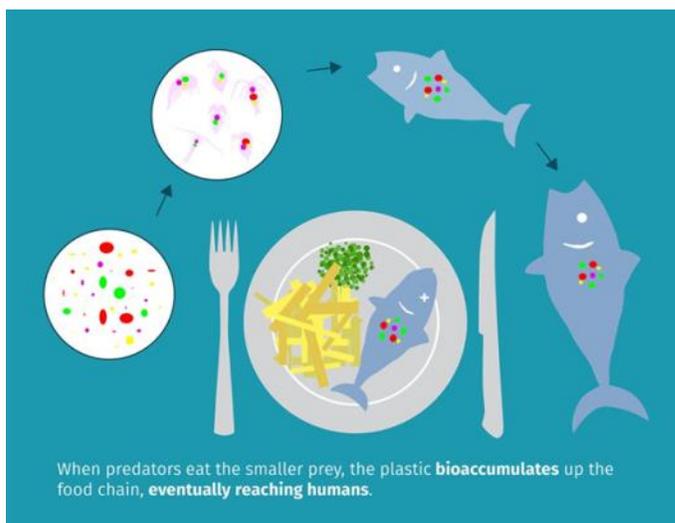
“If I am being 100% honest, plastic film is just a big ol' pain in the behind,” Litz said. “Let's talk about the most common form of plastic film: your plastic bags. We find plastic bags everywhere they shouldn't be. We find them in your mixed recyclables and in your cardboard recycling. We find them in yard waste. We find them in trees, on the sides of roads, in ponds and rivers. Worst of all, we find them in our oceans, which eventually leads to finding them in our bellies. They are a go-to for everyone who has anything to carry, even if it's just one item.”

Plastic bags are meant for single use, meaning we use them once, maybe twice, and then we discard them.

“So not only do we find them everywhere they shouldn't be, but they are a complete waste of resources,” Litz said. “Recycling facilities don't want them in your recyclables, because they get wrapped up in parts of the very expensive machinery that sepa-

rates and bails recyclables, and can ultimately break the machines. We don't want to see them in your yard waste or holding your leaves, because they end up getting put through a shredder and turning into a million little pieces of plastics that are impossible to get out, which then in turn, makes that mulched yard waste unusable.”

So, what's the solution? Reduce
“If we go back and remember in school



when we were first taught about recycling, the first of the three Rs we learned about is 'reduce,'” Litz said. “But it seems oftentimes that option gets neglected. Sometimes the best option is to stop using an item, or at least try to use it less. Take your reusable grocery bags to the store with you or if you only bought a couple items, ask your cashier not to bag them.

“But as much as I preach 'reduce,' it's hard to be consistent, especially when plastic bags are such an easy quick solution to you forgetting your 55,000 reusable grocery bags at home or in the car. So now what? If you have to use plastic bags, recycle them. Even though you shouldn't put your plastic film with your mixed recyclables, plastic bags can be recycled.”

Most municipalities do not accept/recycle plastic bags for a number of reasons, but, most grocery stores do. Additionally, you can also recycle plastic bags at some recycling convenience centers in Georgetown County. Plastic bag recycling is currently available at Pawleys Island, Murrells Inlet, Johnson Road, and the Landfill centers.

As for some of the other plastic films, such as plastic bubble wrap and packaging, Litz reiterates: first and foremost, reduce. If you must use it, you can put it in plastic bag recycling bins.

Styrofoam

Is Styrofoam recyclable? You've probably been told both yes and no. The correct answer is: Sometimes.

“Of course, the cheapest eggs are packaged in Styrofoam. For someone like me, trying to be as environmentally friendly as I possibly can, but also keeping in mind that I have to stay on a budget so I can buy enough food to feed my family, choosing which eggs to buy is one of the hardest decisions I make on my weekly trips to the grocery store,” Litz said. “Ultimately, I buy the eggs in the cardboard packaging. Why? Because the key to getting rid of our Styrofoam problem, just like the plastic bag problem, is to reduce.”

Again like plastic bags, most municipalities do not recycle Styrofoam, but it is another one of those items that you can usually return to the grocery store to recycle. If your local store doesn't recycle these items, unfortunately the next best place for them is in your household trash.

If you find Styrofoam packaging inside other packaging, such as with electronics, please take a minute to remove the Styrofoam, then recycle the cardboard box without it. Styrofoam is one of the biggest contaminators in cardboard recycling and can cause the value of the county's cardboard recyclables to plummet, which hurts the county's bottom line and can factor into the necessity for fee and tax increases.

Food

Food can be split into two categories: the food residue on your recyclables and how it affects their value, and food waste in general, such as banana peels or leftovers.

So, what is a correct way to recycle an empty can of tomato soup? Can you recycle it if it still has soup bits on the inside? Or

See “Recycling,” Page 4

Recycling

Continued from Page 3

should you rinse it out? If you don't rinse it out, will it just be thrown away?

"Cans with small amounts of food residue on the inside are still recyclable and processed at our facility. However, a clean can without food residue is worth more — and ultimately, that worth and money are your tax dollars," Litz said.

What about a greasy pizza box? Can that be recycled with all your other cardboard? Unfortunately no. In fact, a greasy pizza box can actually contaminate the rest of the clean cardboard and cause an entire batch of once recyclable and valuable cardboard to be put in the landfill. The best thing to do with those greasy boxes is to compost them, Litz said. Which takes us to the best way to dispose of food waste, which is, of course, composting.

Did you know the number one thing we throw away in South Carolina is food? According to SCDHEC, each year up to 40 percent of the food supply in the US is never consumed, equaling an annual loss of \$218 billion. How do we fix this? Again, the answer is to reduce. "Only buy as much food as you need. If you buy extra, try freezing it or

storing it for later," Litz said. "Sometimes though, your bread starts to mold before you expected, or your healthy salad you planned for dinner turns into Chinese takeout and those salad makings go to waste. In those cases, try composting. Composting is easy, fun and can really pay off when you need a natural fertilizer so your roses grow bigger and better than that one neighbor you are always competing with."

Composting is a simple process she added. "To make good compost you need two ingredients: Browns, such as leaf litter, grass clippings, saw dust, wood chips, paper or cardboard shreds; and Greens, which are comprised of food waste." For the best compost, a ratio of 60/40 is recommended. That means compost should be made up of 60 percent browns and 40 percent greens.

Another rule of thumb is if you are composting in your backyard, don't add meat, dairy or grease. Although all three of those things will eventually breakdown, they take

a long time and can lead to some unwanted smells and animals visiting your yard.

"The more stuff you add to your compost, the hotter it will get, and the hotter it gets, the faster it will breakdown and the sooner you can boast about your beautiful roses," Litz said.

If you don't have a backyard, you can still compost. Try starting a worm bin. Worm bins are small and easy to make. Worms are also awesome pets that are really easy to keep alive and happy, according to Litz.

"Worm castings make the absolute best natural fertilizer," she said. "Use the same concept as the back yard compost, but make sure you are only feeding your worms as much as they can eat. Also, the smaller the particles are you add to your worm bins, the faster they will be able to break it down."

Anyone who would like to learn more about how to make a worm bin or backyard compost, or anyone with recycling questions, should contact Litz at (843) 545-3452, or send an email to recycle@gtcounty.org.



For the protection
of our sea turtles &
other wildlife please

LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS ON GEORGETOWN COUNTY BEACHES!



All items must be picked up off the beach at the day's end, including chairs, tents, toys and, of course, any food packaging or other litter. Litter laws are strictly enforced. Any items left on the beach at the end of the day are considered abandoned and may be removed.



LIGHTS OUT!

SEA TURTLES DIG THE DARK

- Turn out beachfront lights after dusk
- Close blinds, curtains in beachfront homes
- Do not disturb nesting females or hatchlings by using flashlights, flash photography or lanterns at night
- Fill in any holes in the sand at day's end



See more local beach regulations at www.gtcparks.org



County, school district partner to help keep kids from going hungry this summer

When schools let out for the summer, it's a sad truth that some children lose the only regular daily meal they get — the one they have in the school cafeteria. But hopefully, fewer kids will go hungry this summer thanks to a partnership between Georgetown County Parks and Recreation and the Georgetown County School District.

Youth age 18 and under can get a free summer lunch and snack at any of three county recreation facilities through the USDA Summer Nutrition Program, which is administered by the school district. Food will be available to students Monday-Friday from June 10 through July 26. Locations and times are as follows:

- Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church St. — snacks available from 9-9:30 a.m., lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

- Choppee Recreation Center, 8259 Choppee Rd. — snacks available from 9-9:30 a.m., lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

- Howard Recreation Center, 1610 Hawkins St. — 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reservations are not required for youth to take advantage of the program.

The Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to have been approved to participate in the program. Staff has completed all training and will be ready to begin serving food on June 10.

The school district continues to seek partners, such as churches and community groups to serve as host sites, or to help transport groups of kids who may have difficulty reaching a food distribution site.



Georgetown County FARMERS MARKET



Find fresh produce and more!

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

**at 122 Screven St., Georgetown
across from the historic courthouse**

County budget up for final reading at June 25 meeting

Third and final reading of Georgetown County's fiscal year 2020 budget is on the agenda for Georgetown County's June 25 meeting. The meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the county's historic courthouse at 129 Screven St.

The budget is available for public review at www.gtcounty.org/finance. Printed copies are also available at each of the county's library branches. Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the budget prior to final reading at the council meeting.

The upcoming budget year is one of the most difficult the county has seen since the Great Recession a decade ago. To balance the major operating funds in the \$90.5 million budget, which come to about \$66 million, the county will need to appropriate nearly \$3.4 million from an unrestricted reserve in the general fund. Council has a self-imposed rule that it maintain at least \$8 million in the fund, for emergencies such as disaster recovery. The fund will still have in excess of \$8 million after the transfer to balance the budget.

The deficit is the result of several issues, including revenues that are still recovering from the Great Recession and rising costs that the county has no control over, such as workers compensation and health care.

The budget also calls for a countywide tax increase of 1.7 mills, as well as an additional 1 mill in the County Fire District and .4 mills in Midway Fire District.

The Finance page on the county website also offers an interactive financial portal that allows residents to look in-depth at the county's finances.



SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM VOUCHER DISTRIBUTION

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 - 9am-1pm

**Beck Recreation Center,
2030 Church St., Georgetown**

This program is open to all eligible Georgetown County Seniors (must be 60 years of age or older). Please bring proof of identity, age, and household income.

In accordance with Federal Law and U. S. Department of Agriculture policy, the Department of Social Services is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

For More Info, Please Call (843) 545-3275

County celebrates National Public Works Week with rodeo and awards

The Georgetown County Public Services Department hosted the 25th annual Lowcountry Backhoe “Rodeo” in May as part of its celebration of National Public Works Week. The event was an opportunity to recognize hard working employees responsible for tasks including constructing and maintaining roadways, safeguarding the environment, designing infrastructure, monitoring stormwater runoff and more.

“The work we do is important work that matters to every resident of Georgetown County, in ordinary and extraordinary times,” said Public Services Director Ray Funnye. “Public Works employees are first responders. In any natural disaster — and unfortunately, we’ve experienced a few — Public Works employees are among the first on the scene, and the last to leave.”

The department recognized some of its outstanding employees with an annual awards ceremony. Awards were presented by Tracy Jones, Georgetown County Stormwater Manager. Award recipients included Vicky Smith, Janet Combs and Rob Burriss.

Vicky Smith received the Green Earth Award for setting an example in environmental awareness and dedication to recycling. Jones said Smith routinely encourages others to recycle and is always eager to discuss and educate anyone who will listen on the matter.

The Team Player Award was presented to Janet Combs, who is Funnye’s executive assistant. She “exemplifies the idea of a strong team player,” Jones said. Combs believes in working as a team for a quality outcome, and is often involved in interdepartmental projects, ensuring good communication and problem solving.

“While her job in itself is extremely demanding, she manages to routinely assist various county departments, as well as residents, with numerous issues. She continually demonstrates exceptional levels of customer focus, quality and teamwork, while saving time and resources. She goes above and beyond to ensure that Public Services operates smoothly and is an invaluable resource to the department,” Jones said.

Rob Burriss, a tradesman/technician, received the 2019 Leadership Award. In three years of employment with the county, he has developed a reputation for hard work, great problem solving skills and an ability to handle challenging jobs. He recently found himself in a situation where there were no supervisors available to run an operation. He stepped up and dispatched employees to immediate service requests, covered incoming work orders, updated statuses in the work order system and answered all on the job questions to keep crews moving forward. He kept the department working smoothly without any interruptions, Jones said.

In the 2019 Backhoe Rodeo, there were 19 competitors from Georgetown, Horry, Charleston and Berkeley counties, as well as the cities of Georgetown, Charleston, North Charleston and Myrtle Beach. This year’s winner was James Harris of Horry County. Rodney Prince Jr. of the Town of Summerville won second place, and Willie Myers of Surfside Beach won third place.



Smith



Combs



Burriss

Herb Puckett, Chip Balthis retire



Georgetown County lost two long-time employees to retirement this spring. Facility Services Manager Herb Puckett, pictured at top with his wife Ann, retired on May 31 after 16 years with the county. He has been responsible for many of the county’s building projects over the years, including the renovation of the historic county courthouse on Screven Street. He is known for his excellent workmanship. “It’s the best job I’ve ever had,” Puckett told his colleagues. “I don’t care what anyone says, it’s all about the people you work with. I will miss you — not right away, but I will miss you!” Ann is employed in the county’s Purchasing Department and says she has no plans to follow Herb into retirement. Chip Balthis, pictured above, center, with Planning Director Boyd Johnson, left, and County Administrator Sel Hemingway, retired May 10 after 34 years with the county. He was in charge of the county’s GIS division. Among his many achievements, he undertook an effort that led to county staff being able to more efficiently collect, manage and share data. Though officially retired, Balthis has agreed to remain part-time until the county can find a replacement for his position. We wish these two outstanding employees all the best in their retirements.

County's tennis pro receives certification

David Bromberg, who is in charge of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation's tennis programing, was recently awarded a Level I Certificate of Achievement from the U.S. Professional Tennis Association. The certificate is for earning 12.5 credits in the Association's 2018 Career Development program.



Bromberg

The Association maintains the industry's highest standards for tennis-teaching professionals.

As the first and only USTA-accredited association under the USTA Accreditation Program, the USPTA's purpose is to provide certification to members worldwide after they demonstrate ability in a variety of areas. USPTA also offers

continuing education opportunities for its members on topics such as tennis-teaching and playing, training, sport science, tennis club management, and business and professional development.

"USPTA's educational programs ultimately benefit clubs, players, local communities and everyone involved in tennis. That is why we are proud to recognize members like David, who continue to improve their skills, and we commend them for their active involvement in career development," said John Embree, CEO of the USPTA.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is rolling out a number of summer tennis programs for youth and adults this month at its courts at the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center in Pawleys Island and East Bay Park in Georgetown. For information, view Current Programs at www.gtcparks.org, or call (843) 545-3450.

Field of Dreams



Nearly 1,000 local kids and teens will have played approximately 500 league baseball and softball games in Georgetown County parks this year when the season wraps up shortly. These kids and teens come from across the county and have a great time competing. With out limited staff, there is no way we could run a program of this size without our amazing booster clubs and volunteers. We would like to offer a huge thanks to those groups and individuals for making another successful season possible. Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is always in need of volunteer coaches and instructors to make our programs happen. To volunteer, or for more information, call (843) 545-3275.



K-9 Officers in training

A litter of bloodhound puppies born at the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office for its K-9 program is 3 months old and continuing to train. Deputies are working with the puppies to see which have the best tracking instincts and will eventually join the department as K-9 officers. Pictured at top, the Department's Lt. Chris Geno runs in front of the pack. At left, Cpl. Brian Delval and Geno hold puppies after their run.

Be smart with water use this summer

Summer is still weeks away, but we've already seen some scorchers. The Georgetown County Water and Sewer District is asking residents to be conscious of their water use in the coming months.

During the hottest months of the year, GCWSD customers use 2.5 times the average amount of water, the agency said. This increase is mostly due to watering lawns and gardens. Residents who irrigate their lawns with water delivered by the district can play an important role in preserving and protecting our precious natural resource by limiting the amount of water used outside and changing when use occurs. This will ensure enough drinking water for everyone. Residents are asked to consider changing irrigation timers to start between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., when demand for water is lowest, and water no more than every other day.

For more information, email customerservice@gcwsd.com or call (843) 546-8404.

Library offers fun summer tech programs for teens

Waccamaw Neck teens looking for something to do this summer should check out the great new free tech activities at the Waccamaw Library.

"Participants get hands-on experience with modern fabrication tools, like a Glowforge laser cutter and a Taz 6 3D printer, as well as classic crafting techniques so they can make fabulous items," said Teen Services Librarian Donald Dennis. "Our instructors love to play with technology, and we can't wait to see what folks will create." The classes are fun and fast-paced, and participants will depart with cutting edge skills and actual finished products.

"If you have a 3D printer, or you are thinking about a career as a YouTube crafter, this is a super place to start," said instructor Chris Bell. "We're going to record interviews, shoot on scene, even try our hand at a music video or movie trailer."

These free classes are suitable for ages 10 and up. Classes start at 11 a.m., open gaming starts at 1:30 p.m., and structured game activities start at 2 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- June 10-13, laser cutting class and Magic: The Gathering game play;
- June 17-20, Art Week and featured game Keyforge;
- June 24-20, Videography and space games;
- July 1-3, Escape rooms and game Mice and Mystics;
- July 8-11, Digital art and story games;
- July 15-18, 3D printing and space games;
- July 22-25, Arduino/ Flora and role playing games;
- July 29-Aug. 1, Cosplay and terrain, miniatures games;
- Aug. 5-8, Rocket science and featured game Hero Quest;
- Aug. 12-15, Escape Rooms V2 and space games.

Class space is limited. To sign up for find out more about the program, call (843) 545-3343.

Coming to the Andrews Library



Sub Zero Ice Cream Science in a Scoop!

A cool kick off to our summer of space events! Join us for ice cream and learn about nitrogen - one of the building blocks of life!

Wednesday, June 12 at 2:30 pm
All ages!



BACKYARD ASTRONOMY

Learn how to find stars, comets, planets and more in the night sky! Dr. Jeannette Myers, director of the Dooley Planetarium at FMU, will show you how to use the new library telescope to observe space in your own backyard.

Wednesday, June 19 at 2:30 pm
All ages!



USE THE FORCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26 AT 2:30 PM
ALL AGES!

Roper Mountain Science Center is coming to Andrews! Challenge the laws of physics, and explore gravity, air pressure, inertia and friction in this high energy and interactive presentation. All these concepts will be tied together at the end as we launch a small rocket across the stage.



Music IN THE Park

georgetownseaport.com

First Fridays 6 pm-9 pm
Francis Marion Park
Downtown Georgetown
VIP seating available
Bring a chair, no coolers

COME EARLY TO SHOP, DINE & TOUR

July 5 THE TAMM

August 2 BLACKWATER BAND

September 6

News from our Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

Greetings, everyone! This month the U.S. Army will celebrate its 244th birthday on June 14. Let us give them a well-deserving salute and thank you for their service. Remember, June 14 is also Flag Day. **The Lowcountry Veterans Group** will host a Flag Day Ceremony with details to be announced. Below are some more upcoming events and news you may be interested in.

There will be a ceremony to celebrate and recognize the **Women Veterans** in South Carolina at the State House (North Lawn), 1100 Gervais Street, Columbia, on June 12 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Commander Ed Jayroe and **American Legion Post 69** hosted a Memorial Day Observance at the Town of Andrews Memorial Cemetery. The theme of the program was the Centennial of World War I. The names of World War I veterans buried there were read aloud with honor. The graves of veterans were decorated with flags by the Andrews High School NJROTC, which also posted Colors at the start of the ceremony. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Russell of the **Lowcountry Veterans Group**. Among those who made remarks during the ceremony were Commander Franklin E. Rutledge of the Lowcountry Veterans Group and Chairman Thomas Alford of the Andrews Veterans Association. The names of local heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation were read aloud. Among them were Herbert Dudley Haselden of the U.S. Merchant Marine, World War II, and Earle O. Knight, Korean War, U.S. Army. Assisting Jayroe were Legionnaires David Redick and Greg Bennett.

Among the **Andrews Veterans Association** members who attended the Andrews Memorial Day Observance to honor our fallen war heroes were Archie Hanna, Teon Singletary, Lee McClary, William Green, David Redick and Greg Bennett. During the program, Alford made remarks to honor our fallen war dead and for veterans to come together to help one another. Two members of the Andrews Association who passed away recently were remembered. They were Leon Parson, USAF, retired and Aubery "Tex" George Nauret, USN, retired. Parson was a founding member of the Andrews Veterans Association and held the position of secretary for many years.



Murphy

During the ceremony, Lowcountry Veterans Group Commander Franklin E. Rutledge made remarks calling for unity among all veterans to assist our brother and sister veterans, especially veterans experiencing homelessness. Not one veteran should be left behind. With honor, Rutledge recited the names of Low Country Veterans Group members who passed away this year. Among them was James "Junior" Merdy, USMC, who was a Montford Point Marine who served in World War II. Mrs. Selena Merdy was presented with memorial poppies to honor the memory of her husband. As Taps sounded, a memorial wreath was presented by Rutledge and Sergeant at Arms John Russell to honor our fallen heroes.

Veterans are invited to join the AVA, which meets at the American Legion in Andrews on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For information, call (843)833-3267.

The Andrews Veterans Association and American Legion Post 69 have partnered to erect the **Andrews Veterans Memorial Park**, on land owned by American Legion Post 69. Donations may be mailed to AVMPC, P.O. Box 584, Andrews, SC 29510.

An estimated 3 million veterans and active duty service members are eligible to join the **VA Burn Pit Registry**. The VA reports that just over 173,000 veterans have joined the registry since April 1. The VA requires eligible veterans to undergo a medical evaluation and questionnaire. Most veterans who deployed after 1990 to Southwest Asia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti and Africa, among other places, are eligible for the Burn Pit Registry. For information, call the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Help Desk at 1-877-470-5947 or Google VA burn pit registry.

American Legion Post 69 **Ransom Hinnant Scholarships** were awarded to seniors Joseph W. Blake and Karsyn Lee Kellahan, of Andrews High School. The scholarships were presented by Legionnaire Linda Wolf, a decorated USAF nurse who served two tours during the Vietnam War. Ransom Hinnant is a Legionnaire who served in the United States Navy during World War II and Korea.

Commander Ed Jayroe asks our community to support American Legion Baseball. The Post 69 Andrews Yellow Jackets will soon begin their season. For information, call (843)325-7740.

If you are a veteran and have questions or want more information about services that may be available to you, please contact my office at (843) 545-3330.

David Murphy is manager of the Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs.

Teen Video Production Classes

July 15-18
10:30—12:30 am

Questions/registration:
hpelham@gtcounty.org or (843) 545-3327

Retirements

Continued from Front Page

it easier for county residents to view county finances in depth. Additionally, under his leadership the county finance department staff was presented last year with the international Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Like Hemingway, Proctor said he looks forward to spending more time with family — especially his grandchildren — and has garnered the respect and admiration of staff. He too will leave behind big shoes to fill. Look for more information on the search for a new county administrator and finance director as the process advances. Find more retirement news on page 6.

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



Is your family prepared?

It seems like Georgetown County should be due a break for hurricane season this year, right? We have had a rough go of it the last few autumns. Unfortunately that's not how it works.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting an average Atlantic hurricane season for 2019. Although we prefer that to predictions for an active season, the truth is it only takes one storm to bring chaos and destruction to our community. That's why it's imperative that families be ready and have a plan before a storm heads our way, said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County Emergency Manager. And recent storms have shown just how unpredictable hurricanes can be — causing severe flooding by stalling out or taking a sudden turn that devastates a community that thought it would be in the clear.

"We can have just one storm all season, but if it's strong enough and the trajectory is right, that could still be a devastating hurricane season," Hodge said.

Though the season officially started June 1, the year's first named storm, Andrea, had already come and gone before the end of May. NOAA predicts eight to 14 more named storms this season, with four to eight developing into hurricanes and two to four becoming major hurricanes.

A storm doesn't have to be a Category 4 or 5, or even a 3, to be deadly. Although storm surge and wind are what people most often fear in a hurricane, tropical systems can also bring heavy rains that can be seen well inland from a storm's landfall. During landfall, it's not uncommon to get 5-10 inches of rain. This is what our area experienced in 2015 with Hurricane Joaquin, which brought historic flooding.

Intense flooding can also occur from tropical depressions and storms that do not reach hurricane strength. In a county that boasts five rivers, that's a concern for every resident.

Every home and business in Georgetown County should have an emergency plan that includes hurricanes, Hodge said. He encourages those who don't have one to make one now and review it with family members and employees to make sure everyone is familiar with what to do.

"The time to do that is really now and not when a storm is already out there and on the way," Hodge said. "It's never too early, but it can be too late."

Residents should start by making sure they know what evacuation zone they're in. Thanks to an Eagle Scout project completed in 2015, residents can easily identify their zone by looking for a color-coded band on street signs in their neighborhoods. Families should also consider where they'll go if evacuation orders are issued, how they'll get there, what to do with pets and what they'll need to bring with them (necessary medications, important documents, etc.)

Now is also a good time to review home insurance policies and make sure you have the coverage you need before a storm hits.

There's a lot more to consider than most people think and now is the time to get started. Find more planning and preparedness information at www.ready.gov or www.scemd.org.

Don't forget to plan for your pets, too!

When making an emergency plan for the family, it's not just two-legged family members who need to be taken into consideration. But often people don't think about what they'll do with their pets until it's too late.

Pet owners need to be aware that animals are not allowed in regular public emergency shelters. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for you and your pets.

Just as people have emergency supply kits for themselves and other family members, they should also have one ready for pets, whether they decide to evacuate to a safer location in an emergency or stay put. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. This may include developing a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

An emergency supply kit for pets should include:

- At least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- Water for at least three days (in addition to that needed for yourself and family).
- Medicines and medical records in a waterproof container.
- A pet first aid kit.
- A collar with ID tag and harness or leash, along with registration and vaccination information. Micro-chipping pets is also advised.
- Crate or other pet carrier.
- Sanitation supplies, such as cat litter and litter box, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and chlorine bleach.
- A photo of your pet in case you are separated.
- Your pet's favorite toys, treats, bedding, etc.

For more information, visit www.ready.gov or www.scemd.org.