Inside this Issue

- Summer book sale nears at Waccamaw Library, Pages 2 and 5
- Be aware of beachfront fireworks prohibited zones, Page 6
- Library offers free lunches for kids and teens, Page 7
- Free teen tech workshops offered at library, Page 8
- Weather Service urges residents to take lightning threats seriously, Page 7

Calendar

July 4 – County offices and facilities are closed for Independence Day holiday
July 7 – Start of the Waccamaw Library summer book sale. See pages 2 and 5
July 8 – Teen pregnancy and STD prevention workshop at Andrews Library, See page 6
July 12 – Public meeting to discuss assistance available for Oct. 2015 flood victims. See pages 3 and 5
July 21 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse
July 26 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse (Council only meets once this month.)
July 27 – County-sponsored community blood drive at Beck Recreation Center. See page 2.

Practice fireworks safety this July 4th

Exploding brilliant colored fireworks, backyard barbecues and roasting marshmallows are highlights of every summer. Emergency responders in Georgetown County want every resident and visitor to have a fun and safe summer, and ask that those using consumer fireworks be extra careful while doing so.

Burns are a common cause of injury during the summer months and especially in July, said Todd Blomdahl, a fire marshal with Midway Fire Rescue. Fire and burns are the third leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths

See “Fireworks,” Page 5

Why you should be composting

Hint: It helps your garden, your wallet and the planet

Of all waste that goes into South Carolina landfills, a whopping 30 percent is comprised of yard debris and food waste.

That’s waste that could easily be diverted from landfills and turned into useful material, said James Coley, environmentalist with the Georgetown County Department of Public Services. That’s why he and the department are partnering with DHEC this summer to urge more families to start composting at home. If just 250 families in Georgetown County start actively composting, the result would be 50 tons of organic debris diverted from the county landfill each year.

“That would be a strong start and I think if you can show people how easy it is and how many benefits there are to composting, people will do it,” Coley said.

The Division has proven before

See “Composting,” Page 4

Local July 4th activities

Happy Fourth of July to all our residents and visitors! If you’ve opted to celebrate Independence Day in Georgetown County, you made the right choice. There are a number of patriotic activities going on and we’re sure you’ll enjoy your holiday here. Check out one (or more!) of these local events:

- The 33rd annual Murrells Inlet Boat Parade is always subject to the tide, and this year that means that for the first time, the parade will take place on a day other than Independence Day. The parade will be Saturday, July 2, at 5 p.m. This patriotic display leaves from Garden City Point and heads south down the Murrells Inlet shoreline to Morse Park. The annual Marsh Walk fireworks show will be on July 4 as usual, beginning at 10 p.m.
- The 50th annual Pawleys Island Parade will kick off at 10 a.m. July 4. Visitors and locals parade down the island in floats that use local issues and current events to make fun, creative statements. All are welcome to watch or participate. Cost to enter a float in the parade is $15 in advance or $20 on the day of the parade. For information, call (843) 237-1698.
- The seventh annual Salute from the Shore military flyover will take place at 1 p.m. July 4. This tribute to America’s armed forces and their families will feature F-16s and vintage aircraft. Participants are asked to display red, white and blue as they view the flyover. The flyover begins at the N.C. border and should be visible from any spot on the beach.

See “Events,” Page 3
Bibliophiles rejoice as summer book sale nears

For book lovers, one of the most highly anticipated events of every year is the Friends of the Waccamaw Library’s annual summer book sale. Residents and visitors to Georgetown County start lining up an hour or more before doors open to make sure they’re among the first in line for the sale’s opening night and get first shot at the selection.

The Friends’ 26th annual sale is set for July 7-9 in the Waccamaw Library’s DeBordieu Auditorium, located off Willbrook Blvd.

Opening night, for Friends members only, is from 5:30-8 p.m. July 7. Special pricing is in effect for Friends: hardbacks and trade paperbacks will be only 50 cents. Bring your FOWL postcards to facilitate admission to the sale, and also bring your own shopping bags. For those wishing to become Friends members, signup will be available on site and costs $15 for individuals and $25 for families.

The sale opens to the public on Friday, July 8. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The sale continues on July 9 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Organizers promise this year’s sale will offer “a tremendous number of newer, high-quality books of all genres,” so bring your shopping bags and prepare to take home a summer’s worth of great reading.

Friends members are actively involved in promoting, enhancing and expanding the presence of the library for the benefit of the Waccamaw Neck community. Friends activities raise funds for books, computers and programs for children and adults at the Waccamaw Library, located at 41 St. Paul Place in Pawleys Island.

Literacy program seeks tutors

The Growing Great Readers AmeriCorps program anticipates receiving funding on Aug. 1 that will be used to implement a reading program in Georgetown and Williamsburg counties for children in kindergarten through second grade.

Before third grade, students are learning to read. Then, for the rest of their lives, they are reading to learn. This heavy reliance on reading skills after third grade makes early elementary literacy crucial for future success. The Growing Great Readers program is a partnership between the Black River United Way, Georgetown and Williamsburg county school districts, and local nonprofits. It aims to equip every child with educational tools needed to reach their full potential.

The program will impact 180 students in five schools across both counties. The 30 AmeriCorps members who will work with Growing Great Readers will tutor children in small groups and one-on-one settings throughout the school year, host two parent workshops to provide reading support strategies for the home, and recruit additional volunteers from the community. Five full-time AmeriCorps members with college degrees are needed as team leaders at each school, and five high school graduates and 20 high school seniors are needed as tutors. All AmeriCorps members will receive a living allowance and education award for their service. For information, call Donna Anderson, (843) 546-6317.

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
Georgetown County residents are advised that a Town Hall meeting regarding a program to repair and refurbish homes damaged by the October 2015 flood has been scheduled in Georgetown by the S.C. Disaster Recovery Office.

The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at the Howard Recreation Center, located at 1610 Hawkins St.

This meeting is open to all residents and will discuss the details of the program, which has $96 million set aside for recovery efforts in 22 S.C. counties. Members of the public will have the opportunity to review the proposed action plan, offer feedback and ask questions.

What you need to know:
- This program will focus on the needs of the most vulnerable citizens in the state, including elderly, disabled and low-income residents.
- The action plan is designed to serve as many residents as possible.
- The S.C. Disaster Recovery Office will concentrate on meeting the needs of the least resilient members of the population first.
- Public response at this Town Hall meeting may instigate changes to the current action plan.
- Program goals include the repair and refurbishment of homes based on eligibility and priority need.
- There is potential for home replacement service for households with substantial damage.

You may be eligible for assistance if:
- Your home is in Georgetown County and was damaged by flooding last October.
- You have documented damage from the October flood.
- You can prove you lived at the location at the time of the flood.
- At least one person on the application has an ownership interest in the property.
- You are a US citizen or lawful permanent resident.

Anyone with an interest in this meeting is encouraged to attend. For more information, visit www.sccommerce.com/south-carolina-disaster-recovery-assistance or send an email to ContactSCDR@scdr.sc.gov.

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 ends July 29

This year’s theme is “Time Travel!”

Call (843) 545-3275 to register or visit www.gtcounty.org
Composting
Continued from Front Page

that a good program can make a difference. Just three years ago, paper was the item that made up most of waste taken to the landfill. The county saw a huge decrease in the amount of paper thrown away after introducing a commercial recycling program that offers free weekly pickup of paper and cardboard for businesses countywide. So far, 230 Georgetown County businesses participate in the free program.

To help people get started with composting, the county is currently offering 80-gallon compost bins for sale at the landfill in Georgetown. The bins are a $120 value and are being sold for $50, thanks to a Backyard Composting Grant from DHEC that helped the county purchase 250 of the bins. To get them in use at as many homes as possible, the county is selling at cost.

Families can compost without bins, Coley said. However, bins keep the waste contained, help keep away scavenger animals and “they make it all look a little nicer in your yard,” he said.

For a household that adds material regularly and makes the effort to turn their compost and prevent it from getting too dry, they can start reaping quality compost, which makes an excellent fertilizer, in as little as four to five months. For those who take a more passive approach and do nothing to material once it goes into the bin, it takes longer for material to break down and can take seven or eight months for compost to be ready for use.

“If you buy compost by the yard or bag, it would cost you $8-$10 every time,” Coley said. “By composting, you’re making your own out of food waste and yard debris. Leaves and grass clippings break down super fast and have lots of nitrogen so they make great compost.”

Not only does compost contain valuable nutrients that feed plants, it also helps suppress plant disease and pests, Coley said.

Additionally, composting save money by keeping disposal related fees down for county residents. The longer it takes for the existing landfill to become full, the longer it will be before the county needs to begin the process of seeking permission to open a new landfill or send waste to another county — either of which would come with a significant cost to taxpayers.

“It’s something that comes with a lot of benefits and no downsides,” Coley said.

To start composting at home, residents need a bin or a pile for composting material. If using a bin, Coley recommends one with a lid and air vents, that is rodent-resistant, holds heat well and has a bottom door for easy removal of finished compost. (The bins sold at the landfill meet all those requirements.)

Compost bins or piles should be placed in a dry, partly shady spot near a water source. The location should also be at least two feet away from structures such as homes or fences.

“The easiest stuff to compost is fruits and vegetables. Stay away from meats and dairy products, as those are the things that attract bugs,” Coley said.

After getting familiar with what items should and should not go into compost, active composting is as easy as adding materials and rotating compost regularly to help air reach materials underneath the top layer, allowing bacteria to break down the material faster. It is also helpful to keep compost damp, but be careful of adding too much moisture as that can cause the material to stink.

For more information about composting and how to get started, download our free brochure at www.gtcounty.org.

If you’d like to purchase a compost bin, a limited number of bins are available at the Georgetown County Landfill scalehouse for $50. The landfill is located at 201 Landfill Drive, Georgetown.

The bins are designed for easy snap-together assembly, feature a twist-locking lid, have vertical and horizontal columnar ventilation and no corners for materials to dry out in. Additionally bins are made from recycled materials.

For information about compost bins, the county’s commercial paper recycling program, or other services offered through the Georgetown County Environmental Services Division, call (843) 545-3443 or send an email to jcoley@gtcounty.org.
Residents affected by flooding in Georgetown County during the October 2015 rain event are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss a program to repair and refurbish homes. The meeting has been called by the S.C. Disaster Recovery Office, which is in charge of the program.

**When:** Tuesday, July 12

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Where:** Howard Recreation Center
1610 Hawkins St., Georgetown
Sheriff’s Office warns about fireworks prohibited zones
While Georgetown County does not have any ordinance against fireworks, there are a number of Fireworks Prohibited Zones in effect, as allowed under state law. Under the law, a property owner may apply to County Council for such a zone.
The majority of residences along the beachfront in North and South Litchfield are fireworks prohibited zones. The Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office warns that anyone who knowingly and willfully discharges fireworks in one of these zones may be charged with a misdemeanor and, upon conviction for a first offense, may be fined or imprisoned.
For more information, call Lt. Jim Edwards, (843) 436-6091.

Firefighters collect 1,000 Teddy bears for kids
A Teddy bear drive Midway Fire Rescue organized during the month of May resulted in just shy of 1,000 stuff animals being collected for children.
Midway had the drive in honor of Emergency Medical Services for Children Day. Members of the community were encouraged to drop off new stuffed animals at any Midway fire station. The toys will be distributed to child patients by the department’s medic units. Stuffed animals are given to child patients to help comfort them during pediatric medical transports and traumatic events.

Be Proud, Be Responsible!
Teen Pregnancy and STD Prevention Workshop
(For ages 14-18)
Friday, July 8
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
at the Andrews Library
Each participant will receive a $20 gift card.
Lunch and snack will be provided.
Topics include teen pregnancy, STD prevention, self-esteem and decision making.
For information, visit www.chrsc.org, or call Giany Guedjo, (843) 359-3143 or Allyson Ladd, (843) 458-9747.

Glover recognized for work with county’s youth
Georgetown County Sheriff’s Deputy Amanda “Mandy” Glover was honored on June 16 at the South Strand Optimist Club’s “Recognition of Law Enforcement Officers” program.
The purpose of the program is to recognize law enforcement officers who have provided exceptional service or aid to local youth.
Glover was nominated for the award by Sheriff Lane Cribb, who praised her 22 years of service to Georgetown County.
Glover is the School Resource Officer at Rosemary Middle School and an advocate for the children at the school. When she recognized a need for clothing and shoes for some children, which their families were unable to provide, Glover created a “clothes closet” to provide necessities for children in need.
“Deputy Glover’s ‘clothes closet’ has really grown over the past three years and has made a huge impact on the children and their school environment,” Cribb said. “She is a true asset to the community and tirelessly works for the betterment of our future, which is the children of Georgetown County.”

Buildings & Architecture of Georgetown County

GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO CONTEST

Georgetown County is accepting images of buildings and structures for its latest photo contest.
Buildings can be old or new, easily recognizable or forgotten gems. The only requirement is they be located within Georgetown County.
With this contest we want to spotlight some of our county’s amazing architecture.
Deadline for entries is Aug. 1, 2016.
Send entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org.
Details and contest rules at www.gtcounty.org.
Lewis helps effort to aid to Flint residents

Earlier this year, a group of residents from Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties came together to send a truckload of bottled water to residents of Flint, Mich. Among the group was Ollie Lewis, center, who works in the Georgetown County Administrator’s office as an administrative assistant. A number of Lewis’ family members, including her son, a tractor-trailer driver, were also involved in the effort. Donations of water were collected from individuals, stores and area AME churches. Lewis’ son then drove the water to Flint, which was still in the midst of a water crisis at the time. The water was then distributed by churches there to people in need.

Take lightning threats seriously

Lightning strikes the United States about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck by lightning at any time of the year.

This year alone, there have already been at least six documented lightning fatalities in the U.S. All six victims were taking part in outdoor activities.

“Lightning awareness is an extremely important topic,” said Sandy LaCorte, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Wilmington. Accordingly, the NWS has just rolled out a variety of new materials highlighting lightning safety. Among those is a new safety campaign geared toward the deaf and hard of hearing.

In addition to the long-standing slogan, “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”, this campaign introduces “See a Flash, Dash Inside!”

The National Weather Service’s website also offers tips for what to do in the event of lightning when working outdoors, and lightning safety plans for specific locations, such as stadiums and golf courses. For more information, visit www.weather.gov/lightning.

Lunch at the Library

Free summer meals and reading program for all kids and teens 18 and under

Available Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 21, 11 a.m. - noon at the Andrews Library

Registration is required. Call (843) 545-3621. Parents/guardians welcome to bring their own lunch.

Georgetown County Parks & Rec. announces

BRITISH SOCCER CAMP

July 18-22 at Stables Park

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

* Golden Goal bonus session only available to registered half-day campers.
Walker trains on Panthers’ home turf

Randy Walker, athletic coordinator for Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, recently participated in the second annual Carolinas Youth Football Summit at Bank of America Stadium, the home of the Carolina Panthers.

Youth football program administrators from around South and North Carolinas gathered at the stadium in Charlotte for an afternoon of presentations focusing on successes achieved by various programs and challenges faced in the field. The aim was to create discussion among football administrators to help generate ideas for working together to find effective ways to grow and support successful youth football programs in the Carolinas.

Representatives from USA Football, the Carolina Panthers, and the N.C. Recreation and Park Association were on hand for the event. Speakers included Peter Vacho of the Carolina Panthers, Gary Del Vecchio of USA Football and coaches from high schools and colleges across the Carolinas.

Walker said he learned a lot at the summit and looks forward to putting that information to work in Georgetown County.

Library to have teen tech workshops in July

Not only can students enjoy playing video games in the teen room at the Waccamaw Library this summer, they can also learn how to design them. This month, the library will continue its Summer of Teen Tech programming with an array of computer science programs.

A CS First Storytelling program that runs daily at 11 a.m. from July 5-8 will help kids ages 9-14 learn to use computer science for storytelling. The workshop will cover dialogue, setting, premise, characterization and more, encouraging participants to tell a unique story every day.

A series July 25-28 will cover using computer science to simulate extreme sports, and another August 1-4 focuses on fashion and design. Kids can also take video production classes, learn about podcasting, app creation and more. For more information, e-mail Donald Dennis at ddennis@gtcounty.org or visit www.georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

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.

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.
**Tot basketball program teaches basics to county’s youngest players**

Kids as young as 3 have been having a great time learning age-appropriate basketball skills during Georgetown County Parks and Recreation’s Tot Basketball program, taking place at recreation centers throughout the county. Pictured are scenes from one of the sessions at Howard Recreation Center in Georgetown. The program is open to children 3-4 on Monday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at recreation centers in Georgetown, Pawleys Island and Andrews. Cost is $10 per child. Please register in advance. For information, call 843-545-3275 or visit www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation.

**Georgetown County Parks and Rec. presents**

**Free Movie Nights**

*Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays all summer long, through July 27 at the 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.

**Basketball League**

$15 per person

For ages 5-14

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

Through July 21 at county recreation centers

Time 6-8 p.m.

**Call (843) 545-3275 for information**
Proud to Serve
News from our Veterans Affairs Office

From the VA Manager:
This month, I’m proud to introduce a new, regular contribution to Georgetown County’s monthly newsletter. This space will be used to highlight events our local veterans have participated in, as well as important announcements, upcoming events and more.

In this first installment, I would certainly like to thank all the veterans and citizens for all that you do. I have been on board for nine months now, and I’m enjoying serving the residents of Georgetown county. So far I have had the pleasure to meet with several veterans groups and looking forward to meeting more.

Please know that if there is anything I can do to further help our veterans, I can be reached at (843) 545-3330. Enjoy your July 4th holiday. Proud to Serve!

David Murphy, Manager, Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs

June 14 was Flag Day and the Lowcountry Veterans Group, under the leadership of Franklin Rutledge, Post Commander, marked the occasion with a ceremonial flag burning. The group is pictured before the ceremony (top) and during (above.) We thank them for performing this valuable service and ensuring flags are properly retired once no longer suitable for display.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 4th Golf tournament
American Legion Post 114 and VFW Post 6444 will sponsor a golf tournament at Heritage Plantation Golf Course on Monday, July 4. Proceeds will support construction of a veterans memorial wall. Registration is $50 per person. Donations are also accepted.

For more information about the event, visit www.georgetownvets.com.

Monthly meetings
American Legion Post 114 has monthly meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. Meetings take place at 715 Church Street in Georgetown. VFW Post 6444 has its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Headquarters is at 711 Church Street. The Men’s Auxiliary meets on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and the Ladies’ Auxiliary at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday.

Post 197 activities
Pawleys Island American Legion Post 197 will assist with a Salute from the Shore flyover on July 4. Post members will help promote the event and will wave large US flags on the beach during the event at approximately 1 p.m. The public is encouraged to join them on the beach in support of the event. Post 197 will host a recognition banquet on Aug. 25 to honor 10 Boys State graduates and two academic winners.