



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

Sept. 19 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. This meeting was rescheduled from Sept. 12 due to Hurricane Irma.

Sept. 21 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

Sept. 21 – The Waccamaw Library hosts Exploring Religious Cultures at 10 a.m. See page 8

Sept. 23-24 – IFA Redfish and Kayak tours at the Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex

Sept. 26 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Oct. 7 – Third annual free Fall Festival at the Andrews Library, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A family-friendly event featuring bake sale, yard sale, book sale, face painting, games and more. See page 5

Volume 6, Issue 1

September 2017

Hurricane Season at its peak. Are you ready?

Residents of the South Carolina coast got a small taste this month of what they can expect if a major Hurricane heads our way. As Hurricane Irma appeared to be on a track directly for the Palmetto State, grocery store shelves were empty, generators were in short supply, and gas stations from the coast to the Midlands started experiencing shortages.

We all breathed a huge sigh of relief when the powerful storm shifted away from us. While it was hard to feel good knowing our fortune could mean devastation for people in Florida, folks here started taking down their hurricane shutters and went back about their daily lives.

Georgetown County saw only tropical storm force impacts from Hurricane Irma, but even those caused significant flooding in coastal and low-lying areas, destroyed beach accesses and wiped out dunes on sections of beachfront that had only recently been restored following Hurricane Irma.

“Even without having completed damage assessment, we know this storm caused significant damage,” said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County Emergency Manager. “If this storm had hit Georgetown County as a Category 3 or 4, the impacts would have been devastating.”

Hodge said he hopes residents will think about that and that it might encourage more people to prepare and heed any evacuation orders that may be issued



Beach sand covers a road in Pawleys Island after Hurricane Irma.

for future storms. Many who tried to buy supplies in advance of Irma saw how quickly items such as water, canned goods and plywood disappear from stores when a storm is already approaching. He hopes this will convince residents to start their hurricane season preparations before a hurricane is headed our way.

“After a storm is out there and we know it’s headed our way, it can easily already be too late,” Hodge said. “The time to start making those preparations — to make sure you have your emergency kit ready and know where you’re going and where your pets are going — is right now.”

Emergency Management officials encourage resi-

See “Hurricane Season,” Page 3

Boat package to be given away at Georgetown tournament

One lucky Georgetown County resident could take home a brand new boat on Sept. 23, when the IFA Redfish Tour returns to the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex.

The boat will be the grand prize for the tournament and, with no qualifying event to enter, it could go home with anyone, said County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

“All you need is a boat, a partner and a little bit of luck,” he said. One really good fish could be enough to make the difference and take home the prize.

Georgetown County has hosted spring and/or fall tournaments for the Inshore Fishing Association annually since 2014. Hemingway’s goal is to have 100 boats registered this year, and he’d like to see a lot of local faces in the crowd, he said.

Boat launch for the Redfish Tour is at dawn Sept. 23. The public is welcome to watch and is invited to come back that afternoon for weigh-in. The IFA Kayak Tour will take place the following day, with a kayak being offered as the grand prize. The weigh-in location for that event is to

be announced at a later date.

For those interested in participating, a \$30 membership to the Inshore Fishing Association is needed to sign up, and can be purchased at registration Sept. 22 at the Campbell Marine Complex from 5-7 p.m. A captains dinner will also take place there that evening. Entry fee is \$250 per team for the Redfish Tour. Kayak tournament registration is \$50.

Get a registration form at www.ifatours.com. The marine complex is located at 101 River Walk Dr., Georgetown.

Firefighter renders assistance to Harvey victims

Henry Hulit, a master firefighter/paramedic with Midway Fire Rescue, was deployed Aug. 22 to Texas, where he assisted with emergency response efforts related to Hurricane Harvey. The storm caused record flooding in areas including Houston.



Hulit at Midway Fire and Rescue.

Hulit was deployed for one week as part of a National Disaster Medical System team. The NDMS is a federally coordinated healthcare system and partnership of the Departments of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Defense, and Veterans Affairs. It consists of doctors, nurses, paramedics and other rescue professionals who work to support State, local, Tribal and Territorial authorities following disasters and emergencies by supplementing health and medical systems and response capabilities.

Hulit has been activated as part of the NDMS on several previous occasions. He was deployed to New York in Nov. 2012 as part of the response to Hurricane Sandy. He spent most of this deployment at

Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y., where he provided medical assistance in two shelters, the first of which was a nursing facility for the displaced elderly and invalid population. There were 80 patients there in need of constant care. The second shelter was run by the American Red Cross and had 843 occupants. Hulit was tasked with helping people obtain necessary prescription medicines, stitching injuries and tending to patients with ailments such as asthma. He also provided a much needed listening ear for people who had just experienced tragedy.

Firefighter earns scholarship from International group

Midway Fire and Rescue Captain Joseph Ruffennach has been awarded an educational scholarship from the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He is one of just 44 firefighters from around the nation to receive one of the scholarships this year.



Ruffennach

“The Foundation is pleased to assist these dedicated men and women in pursuing higher education to further strengthen their careers as fire and emergency services professionals,” said Anthony P. Campisi, foundation president.

The IAFC Foundation provides scholarships that make it possible for fire and EMS first responders to access the advanced learning opportunities necessary to prepare for today’s complex world. The scholarship awards made by the IAFC Foundation impact the fire service and communities by providing first responders with the educational opportunities they need to lead the fire service and serve and protect citizens.

HURRICANE RELIEF FUNDRAISER



The Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Office is collecting money to aid victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

Donations of all amounts are appreciated and will help families impacted by the storms. See page 9 for details.

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

Hurricane Season

Continued from Front Page

dents to always have an emergency kit and plans ready. The first day of each hurricane season (June 1) is a good time to review kits and plans, and make sure everything is still good to go.

County officials heard a number of residents complain they had wasted time and money getting ready for Irma after the storm shifted track. Hodge said no one should feel their efforts were wasted.

"Hurricane season is far from over," Hodge warned. "The season doesn't end until November, and this is actually the peak of hurricane season. Historically, September and October are when we're most likely to be hit by a hurricane. I'd always rather spend some time getting ready and end up not needing those preparations, than to wait until the last minute and be sorry. We don't want anybody to find themselves in that situation."

Hodge recommends every family, individual, business and group in Georgetown County have a disaster plan in place that includes what to do in a hurricane. Residents should also realize that in the event of a major hit by a hurricane, utilities could be out for weeks and it could take months for life to get back to normal. There's no avoiding that sort of threat on the coast, so the best thing to do is be as prepared as possible, Hodge added.

For planning information, visit www.gtcounty.org/emergency_management or www.scemd.org. Residents can also call (843) 545-3273.

Midway receives fitness award



Midway Fire Rescue was recently presented with the inaugural Fitness in Action Award for 2016 from the S.C. State Firefighters' Association. The award was presented for "combination departments" or departments with both career and volunteer firefighters. The award recognizes departments that have made significant contributions to improving the health and lifestyles of members as a whole.

Sheriff's Office to host Coffee with a Cop at Inlet

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office invites members of the public to Chick-fil-A restaurant in Murrells Inlet for a free cup of coffee on Thursday, Sept. 28, between 8 and 10 a.m.



A deputy having coffee with a resident during a recent Coffee with a Cop event in Georgetown.

The event is part of the Sheriff's Office's Coffee with a Cop program and offers residents a chance to sit down with deputies to ask questions, discuss community issues and get to know their local law enforcement officers. The events take place in restaurants across the county.

Coffee with a Cop provides time for law enforcement officers and community members to have relaxed one-on-one conversations, deputies said.

The Chick-fil-A restaurant in Murrells Inlet is located at 4400 Highway 17 Bypass.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR WINTER YOUTH SPORTS BASKETBALL
Ages 5-8
 FEE: \$25
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13

Ages 9-17
 FEE: \$25
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 27

CHEERLEADING
Ages 5-12
 FEE: \$20
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 27

AGE CONTROL DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

REGISTER TODAY!

f t i @GTC Parks

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation • 2030 Church St. • Georgetown, SC • 843-545-3275 • www.gtcparks.org

The Boys (and girls) of Summer



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation's adult soccer and co-ed softball teams wrapped up their summer seasons last month. The Soccer League season came to a conclusion on Aug. 19. The championship game pitted the No. 4 seed, "The Squad," pictured at top, against the No. 2 seed, "Prestige Worldwide." Both teams fought hard with the score at halftime at 2-1 in favor of The Squad. Prestige Worldwide came up just short in the second half. The Squad claimed the championship title with a final score of 5-2. The co-ed softball league season ended Aug. 17 with the No. 4 seed sponsored by King Street Bar & Grill, pictured at top, earning the championship in a hard-fought victory over the No. 1 seed Bad News Bears. King Street defeated the Bears 8-4 in game one to force a decisive final game. The Bears fought hard, but lost the championship by just one point with a final score of 9-8. For more information about fall leagues, which are co-ed and welcome players 18 and up, email bakers@gtcounty.org or call (843) 359-6419. Pick-up players are always needed.

Find Georgetown County updates at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc

Don't know where to go for help? Dial 211

On a daily basis, thousands of individuals and their families in South Carolina and across the nation search for emergency financial assistance, food and shelter.



From finding an after-school program to securing adequate care for a child or aging parent, looking for help means finding dozens of phone numbers, then searching through a confusing maze of agencies and services.

SC 2-1-1 can help. By dialing 211 from any telephone, callers are connected for free to trained professionals who can help them find important health and human services information. This easy-to-remember number also connects volunteers and donors with opportunities to serve and give.

While services offered through SC 2-1-1 vary from community to community, callers receive information about and referrals to human services for everyday needs and in times of crisis.

For example, SC 2-1-1 can offer access to the following types of services:

- Response to urgent needs for information in the wake of terrorist activity or other catastrophic events.
- Support for children, youth and families, such as child care, after school programs, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring and protective services.
- Basic human needs resources, such as food banks, clothing closets, shelters, and rent and utility assistance.
- Physical and mental health resources.
- Employment help and job training.
- Volunteer and donation opportunities, and much more.

The Georgetown County United Way is an administrator of the 211 system for Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties.



Tai Chi

Classes in Pawleys Island

**Mondays and Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
at Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
83 Duncan Rd., Pawleys Island**

\$5 per class (introductory rate)

Call (843) 545-3202 for details

Waccamaw Library to have free Friday movie showings

The Waccamaw Library and the Friends of the Waccamaw Library will host a fall Friday Night Film Series in October. The movies will be shown on in the library's DeBordieu Colony Auditorium at 41 St. Paul Place in Pawleys Island starting at 6:30 p.m.

The schedule is as follows. For more information, email Steele Bremner at sbremner@gtcounty.org.

October 6: "National Treasure" (2004: Thriller/Action 2 hour 11 minutes – PG). Historian and code-breaker Ben Gates (Nicolas Cage) has been searching his whole life for a rumored treasure dating back to the creation of the United States. Joining an expedition led by fellow treasure hunter Ian Howe (Sean Bean), Gates finds an ice-locked Colonial ship in the Arctic Circle that contains a clue linking the treasure to the Declaration of Independence.

October 13: "Golden Coast" (2007: Fantasy/Drama 1 hour 54 minutes – PG 13). The Golden Compass is a 2007 British-American fantasy and adventure film based on Northern Lights, the first novel in Philip Pullman's trilogy His Dark Materials.

October 20: "Hook" (1991: Fantasy/Action 2 hours 24 minutes – PG). When his young children are abducted by his old nemesis, Capt. Hook (Dustin Hoffman), middle-aged lawyer Peter Banning (Robin Williams) returns to his magical origins as Peter Pan. Peter must revisit a foggy past in which he abandoned Neverland for family life.

October 27: "The Legend of Tarzan" (2016: Drama/Action 1 hours 50 minutes – PG-13). It's been nearly a decade since Tarzan (Alexander Skarsgård), also known as John Clayton III, left Africa to live in Victorian England with his wife Jane. Danger lurks on the horizon as Leon Rom (Christoph Waltz), a treacherous envoy for King Leopold, devises a scheme that lures the couple to the Congo.

**The Inshore Fishing Association
Redfish and Kayak tours**

**Register
online now!**



**Sept. 23 and 24
in Georgetown**

Atlantic Qualifying Events

Registration fee is \$250 per team for the Redfish Tour and \$50 for the Kayak Tour.

Events offer 100% payback. Redfish Tour boat launch and weigh-in at the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex, 101 River Walk Drive.

**For information and registration,
visit www.ifatours.com**

Friends of the
GEORGETOWN
LIBRARY

Community
YARD SALE

October 14, 8 am - noon
405 Cleland Street

SELLERS: \$15 single space, \$20 double
Available at the Georgetown Library

Questions?
Call Shelia at (843) 545-3310

3rd ANNUAL
FALL Festival

A FUNDRAISING EVENT by
THE FRIENDS OF ANDREWS LIBRARY

FREE AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

SAT. OCT. 7, 2017
10 AM - 2 PM
ANDREWS LIBRARY

BOOK SALE | BAKE SALE
YARD SALE | RAFFLES | GAMES
CAKE WALK | FACE PAINTING

County receives Palmetto Award from Commission on Disabilities

The S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) presented Golden Palmetto awards to Georgetown and Williamsburg counties recently at the S.C. Association of Counties' 50th Annual Conference.

The award recognizes South Carolina counties that provide exemplary support to people with disabilities.

"Georgetown and Williamsburg counties have each done an exemplary job," said Gary Lemel, DSN Commission Vice Chairman, when presenting the awards. "Significant improvements have resulted from their commitment to people with disabilities, and these two counties richly deserve this honor. Meaningful jobs, having friends and earning money are very important to people with disabilities, just like everyone else.

Georgetown and Williamsburg counties' enthusiasm and commitment to individuals with disabilities are transforming peoples' lives daily through jobs, essential services and increased community involvement."

Lemel highlighted some of Georgetown County's accomplishments:

- The county's Parks and Recreation Department hired two individuals with disabilities to work as facility attendants.
- The county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff went above and beyond the call of duty during Hurricane Matthew, and the EOC's guidance saved lives. The county's Disabilities and Special Needs Board's primary evacuation site is in Florence, but that location was devastated by inland flooding and water interruption. County EOC staff played a critical role in determining where the safest place was to shelter 40 vulnerable people with disabilities



Pictured from left to right are: Elizabeth Krauss, executive director of the Georgetown County Disabilities and Special Needs Board; Thomas Williams Sr., Georgetown County Disabilities and Special Needs Board chairman; Gary Lemel, SC Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs vice chairman; Georgetown County Council Member John Thomas; Georgetown County Council vice chairman Ron Charlton; and Georgetown County Council Member Everett Carolina.

and 20 dedicated staff members who remained with them to provide care and support.

- The Georgetown Disabilities and Special Needs Board operates the HUGS for HORSES Therapeutic Riding Program, which serves more than 60 children and adults year-round. The county's Parks and Recreation staff members help with the Annual Horse Show, which draws hundreds of people and raises funds vital to the program.

- Members of the county's Fire Department teach fire safety and 911 training, and volunteer to serve food at the annual FUN DAY Event.

"The many different ways we work with the Disabilities and Special Needs Board demonstrate how natural it is to include people with disabilities in all aspects of our community," said Georgetown

County Council Member John Thomas.

SCDDSN is the state agency that provides services to people with severe, lifelong intellectual and related disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and similar disability.

DDSN has presented the Golden Palmetto Award annually since 1975 to the most deserving counties in South Carolina.

"This is our way of thanking county governments for making the lives of people with disabilities a priority in their communities," Lemel said. "Increasing demands, limited resources and balancing competing needs reinforce the importance and necessity of strong partnerships. County government efforts in partnership with their local disabilities and special needs boards are greater and more valuable than ever before. The

Disabilities and Special Needs Commission applauds the leadership and dedication of all county governments across South Carolina."

SAVE THE DATE

Household
Hazardous Waste
Collection & Paper
Shredding Event

Oct. 28,
9 a.m. to noon
at Ace Hardware
in Pawleys Island

Toxic.Free.Home.



Safely dispose of items including paint, used oils, auto batteries, rechargeable batteries, chemicals, antifreeze, pesticides and unwanted products labeled "poison," "warning" or "caution."

Help us keep these items out of our water system with safe disposal!

Economic development director addresses proposed rezoning

By **Brian Tucker**

Director of Economic Development

As has been reported and referenced in several articles and opinion pieces recently, Georgetown County has obtained an option on 948 acres along Pennyroyal Road and we are proceeding through the process to rezone the property, as well as perform related due diligence.

Our request to County Council is to rezone the property from "Forest and Agriculture" to "Heavy Industrial." These steps have created much anxiety among the residents closest to the property. I understand the reaction, and I would like to address several common concerns as well as offer an explanation as to why the county is moving in this direction.

For starters, we need jobs! I don't think any resident in the county would argue that point. Even though our unemployment rate has dropped from 10 percent to 5 percent over the last four years, we still have more than 60 percent of our workforce leaving the county every day for work. We have more than 6,700 residents that drive more than 100 miles per day for work, and more than 28% of our full-time workforce still live below the poverty line.

While we have more people working today than in recent history, our residents are spending hours a day in the car, and many of them still aren't able to make ends meet. We need more jobs locally that offer good wages with companies in stable industries. Even those opposed to the rezoning admit that we need jobs in Georgetown County. This site offers our best shot at recruiting those jobs!

Over the last couple of years, we have been approached by consultants working to locate companies, and by our economic development partners across the state (S.C. Department of Commerce, the North East-

ern Strategic Alliance, Santee Cooper and the South Carolina Power-Team), interested in showing this site to prospective companies. After doing some preliminary due diligence, we agree with them that this property

offers the county an advantage over, not only other counties in SC, but over much of the south east. This site has better access to combined infrastructure than any other site in the county and among only a handful of similar sites in the south east. Finding a site that is in close proximity to water, natural gas, electricity, rail, and existing potable water and sewer infrastructure is very rare.

We compete globally for projects and we need every tool and competitive advantage possible to recruit these companies. The lack of Interstate access eliminates us from consideration for a majority of projects. Due to the location and the available infrastructure, this site is unique and offers us a great chance to compete for good jobs with quality companies.

Most all of the common concerns related to the rezoning are valid. We do not have a committed project and we cannot say for sure what specific companies may be interested in this site. That said, we cannot recruit companies to a site that is not zoned properly. This is the standard practice in economic development. Having competitive sites and buildings are the first thing that companies and consultants look for when deciding where to locate. Without good sites or buildings we miss opportunities to compete for projects.

Before we can commit to a specific project, County Council will have to go through



Brian Tucker

a number of public meetings and public hearings. We cannot sell or lease the property without further action by county council and we cannot offer a company any incentives without further action by county council. At that time the public will have more information and can have a more informed opinion with just as much opportunity to voice objections or support as they have had during the rezoning process. That is why the process exists.

Most of the concerns voiced are in regards to the possible impact a company may have on our environment, natural resources, property values and traffic congestion. Again, these are all valid concerns, and all of those concerns will be fully addressed prior to the county selling the property. We have a long list of due diligence to perform on the site prior to the county even purchasing the property. The rezoning request is one part of the process.

Almost four years ago, our Administrator and County Council gave me a job to do. That job was to take the appropriate steps to prepare us and position us to increase the number of quality, local jobs with companies that respect our residents, our community and our natural resources. We have had some wins over the last four years with four announcements totaling 400 new jobs, but we need more. This site offers great potential for significant job creation, and we need good local jobs in Georgetown County.

Brian Tucker is director of Georgetown County's Department of Economic Development. This rezoning issue is scheduled to go before Georgetown County Council for second reading on Tuesday, Sept. 19. The meeting is open to the public and all residents will have an opportunity to address council if they choose at the beginning of the meeting.



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201 Landfill Drive, Georgetown, SC 29440

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(843) 545-3447



Thompson named county's Employee of the Quarter

Candice Thompson, Georgetown County's deputy director of Economic Development, is the county's Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of this year. She was recognized last month by County Council.

The Employee of the Quarter Award was designed to recognize full- and part-time employees at non-managerial levels in all county departments.

This month, Thompson celebrates her second anniversary with Georgetown County Economic Development, and in the two years of her employment she has helped to streamline the department's operations. The department consists of only one other employee, Thompson's supervisor Brian Tucker.

Thompson has managed to overcome a significant learning curve in terms of day-to-day activities required in economic development, as well as the transition from the private sector into the public sector.

In addition to serving on the county's Morale Committee, she is always willing and happy to help in all duties at the Administration building, which houses five one- to two-person departments, including Economic Development. Since joining our team, she has completely revamped the Economic Development website, saving the department more than \$20,000. She has also worked tirelessly with the United Way to develop a "Workforce Hub" where job seekers, employers, nonprofits and

agencies can more efficiently connect our residents with skills to compete for jobs. A roll-out is expected to take place very soon.

Both the website and the "Workforce Hub" are monumental undertakings, and these accomplishments alone were enough to merit her nomination for this award, Tucker said.

However, he added, he decided to nominate

Thompson for recognition due to her extraordinary work on Project Queen. This project has included countless hours of research and due diligence. The project scheduled and rescheduled several times before the county was finally able to confirm a week for the visit, which happened to overlap with a marketing trip Tucker was scheduled to make to Pittsburgh and Cleveland. That left Thompson to manage the visit solo.

"Candice ran point on the project visit and, by all accounts,

could not have done a better job. All the county's partners, including the Georgetown County Water & Sewer District, Santee Electric, SCE&G and the S.C. Department of Commerce commented about how well she represented Georgetown County," Tucker said. "During the visit, she was able to adjust to the company's wishes and be a gracious hostess to foreign visitors. She and the project manager from the Department of Commerce even cooked the company representatives dinner after learning they didn't want to go out.



Thompson, left, with County Council Chairman Johnny Morant.

Georgetown County FARMERS MARKET



Find fresh produce, baked goods and more!

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

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

EXPLORING RELIGIOUS CULTURES

A look at the diverse beliefs and practices found in our area

ECHOS OF AFRICA

Dr. Preston McKeever-Floyd will take an excursion into the cosmology of the West African Bakongo culture. Learn about the mapping of West African influences on the Gullah Religious practices of the S.C. Lowcountry.

**Thursday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m.
at the Waccamaw Library,
41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island**

Sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library

News from our Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Officer, and a fundraiser for hurricane victims

By David Murphy

Hello to all our veterans and their families everywhere! Let's begin by giving a big Happy Birthday shout out to the **U. S. Air Force**. Since 1947, courageous Airmen have refined the Air Force mission to Fly, Fight and Win through their blood and sacrifice, ensuring the unique contributions of Airpower will endure long into the future. As a service with joint origins, the Air Force is the foundation for multi-service, interagency and coalition operations. It provides the joint team the ability and freedom to fight in the air, on the ground and at sea. Please join me in saying thank you for your service and a job well done.



Murphy

By now you have seen on television, heard on the radio and read in our newspapers about Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and their impacts on residents in Texas and Florida. I have made a challenge to all our county veteran affairs officers in South Carolina to have some type of fundraiser in their county during the month of September. All proceeds will go to the to help the veterans and families who were victims of these storms. I'm asking the people of Georgetown County to help in this project, by donating even just \$1 to this cause. We will be accepting monetary donations at our office (537 Lafayette Circle, Georgetown) and also the county finance office (129 Screven St.,

Georgetown). If you want to write a check or money order, please make it out to Georgetown County and mark it for **Hurricane Relief Fundraiser** and mail it to P.O. Box 421270, Georgetown, SC 29442.

At the end of the month we will have the county issue one check for the total amount collected. The Veterans Affairs Service officers of each county will bring all proceeds raised to our fall training session Oct. 10-13. Our South Carolina Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers will total all proceeds and issue a check to the designated organization for the relief efforts of Houston on behalf of the veterans and citizens of South Carolina.

The deadline for donations is Oct. 2.

If you have any questions about this, please give me a call at (843) 545-3330.

On another topic, the following is a brief overview of the **South Carolina Drug Card** and some of its benefits. Our office has some these cards available for pickup.

The Drug Card is a free statewide prescription assistance program available to all residents of South Carolina. It is the only 100 percent HIPAA compliant program of its kind with zero affiliation to mail order pharmacies or any type of marketing whatsoever. It is the only program in the state endorsed by the S.C. Medical Association. It has more than 68,000 participating pharmacies where patients can use the South Carolina Drug Card and receive savings from 20-75% on name brand and generic drugs.

The United way has a program that is very interesting. Have you ever heard of **Dial 211**? Residents throughout the state can dial 211 to connect with a network of more

than 16,000 resources right here in South Carolina. Though this network, residents can find help with:

- Food, Housing and Utilities
- Child Care and Education
- Financial Education/Credit Counseling
- Health Care
- Job training
- Counseling/Support Groups
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Senior Services
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Disaster Services and so much more

For more information Dial 211 or 866-892-9211. Residents can also visit

www.SC211.org

This is Free/Confidential/24 hours/7 Days a Week/Any Language

There is one meeting I have been asked to let you know about this month. Pawleys Island **American Legion Post 197's** next regular meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 27, at The Fish House in Litchfield. Dinner is at 5 p.m. The membership meeting begins at 6 p.m.

Additionally, I have copies of the 2017 Federal Benefits book in our office. If you need a copy, please come by our office to get one.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that, hurricane season is not over. We are actually in the peak of hurricane season. Please let's look out for each other. Make sure you have enough food, flashlights, batteries water, etc. It is good to get these items together before a hurricane approaches. Please be safe!

David Murphy, Manager
County Office of Veterans Affairs

FIGHT the BITE



To request mosquito control service in your area, leave a message at (843) 545-3616.

Protect yourself:

- Wear light-colored clothing. Mosquitos are attracted to darker colors.
- Spray yourself and children with repellent.
- Wear long sleeves and pants if possible.

Reduce breeding sites:

- Drain or eliminate sites that have standing water.
- Reduce and eliminate garbage in drain areas.
- Be sure to repair window and door screens.

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.



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
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County opens new Choppee Rec. Center



Georgetown County officials cut the ribbon on the new Choppee Recreation Center on Sept. 14.

It was a long time coming, but worth the wait to see it done right, Choppee area residents agreed this month, when Georgetown County opened the doors of the new Choppee Recreation Center at Northwest Regional Park.

The \$5 million facility had been years in the making as the county worked its way through

an extensive, countywide Capital Improvement Plan. But with the center now complete, the Choppee community is home to one of the nicest public facilities in the county.

The 25,145-square-foot recreation center houses a 10,560-square-foot gymnasium, program spaces, meeting room and catering spaces.

The center opened for regular hours on Sept. 18. Daily hours for the fall are Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 2-6 p.m.

The next regional recreation center to be constructed under the county's capital improvement plan will be in Andrews. Work should begin next year.



Community members didn't waste any time putting the gym to use during the ribbon cutting event.



The entryway and front desk at the new Choppee Recreation Center.



Community members get their first look at the building.



The facility contains a cardio room. Daily or monthly rates are available.