



The Georgetown County Chronicle

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



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Calendar

Nov. 5 – Election Day.

Visit gtcounty.org/elections for more information.

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day (county offices and facilities are closed).

Nov. 12 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse (council only meets once this month).

Nov. 28-29 – County offices and facilities are closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.

Nov. 30 – Last Day to register for youth basketball (more information on Page 5).

For more upcoming events, visit www.gtcounty.org/calendar.html or hammockcoast.com/calendar.

Volume 2, Issue 3

November 2013

Detention Center program helps change lives

For a number of years now, the Georgetown County Detention Center has gone above and beyond its role of simply housing inmates.

Since the introduction of the Georgetown County community re-entry program in 2007, the detention center serves as a place where inmates can learn the kinds of skills they'll need to get a fresh start after their sentences have been served and avoid the pitfalls that lead so many back to jail.

The program tracks participants for one year after their release date and, so far, officials have observed no recidivism — a major problem around the nation — of its graduates.

"They're all working in jobs, getting married, having families and living their lives," said Debbie Barr, re-entry program director.

In more than 20 years as Georgetown County Sheriff, A. Lane Cribb said he has observed many times how hard it can be for someone getting out of jail to make a fresh start.

"What happens is they get out with no training to get a job and no self-esteem," he said. "That's what we're trying to fix with this program. It lets them know they can do something and then it helps them do it."

More than 120 inmates have completed the program. Only seven were eliminated from the program for not following rules. The program is completely voluntary and to remain enrolled, inmates are re-



Auto body work, top, and construction, above, are among the skills participants can learn in the Community Re-entry program at the Georgetown County Detention Center.

See "Re-entry program," Page 8

County to recognize Korean War veterans at ceremony

A ceremony planned for Friday, Nov. 8, in Georgetown will pay special tribute to veterans of the Korean War. The program, for veterans and their families, will include a small reception afterward, so all guests are asked to RSVP by Nov. 4.



"The Korean War is often called

'the forgotten war,' but we want these men and women to know they are not forgotten, even 60 years later," said Natrenah Blackstock, the county's veterans affairs officer. "We are honored to recognize these veterans."

The program has been in the works since June when Blackstock started asking veterans to come forward and sign up to be recog-

nized. About 30 Korean War veterans responded and will be presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Department of Defense. A proclamation from the governor will also be read.

Plans were originally to have the ceremony on Veterans Day, but it was moved to the Friday before, so as not to conflict with other pro-

See "Veterans," Page 2

Credit cards now accepted in more county departments

Those who need to pay fees in the county Building, Zoning and Stormwater departments can now do so using their credit card. It's an ability those who do business with the departments have long been asking for.

"It just took effect and it's the first part of a two-part deal," said Murray Presley, a plans examiner in the Building Department. "We can accept credit cards in the office for any of these vendor fees, permit fees, etc. Now, the next part is to get it integrated with our website so people will be able to pay online and not have to come into our office. That's what I think people are going to be most excited about. Contractors will love being able to handle it all from their office or home."

Departments should have the ability to accept payments online early next year.

Other municipalities are using the same thing to accept credit card payments to great success, Presley said.

There is a fee to process credit cards, though none of the money collected through the fee goes to Georgetown County. The fee is 2.76 percent and has a \$3 minimum.

For more information, contact the Georgetown County Building Department, (843) 545-3115.



Murrells Inlet Community Center

Walls are up at the new Murrells Inlet Community Center and workers started putting up plywood in the rafters on Nov. 1. Construction is on schedule to be complete this winter. Plans are to start demolition on the existing center before the middle of this month, said Beth Goodale, Georgetown County's director of Parks and Recreation.

Tour of homes benefits library

The Friends of the Georgetown Library's annual Yuletide Tour of Homes will feature nine beautiful locations in Georgetown's Historic District, as well as several lovely churches.

Proceeds benefit children's programming at the library. The tour will be Saturday, Dec. 7, from 1-6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for Friends members and \$25 for non-members. Most of the homes featured this year are new to the tour.

Buy tickets at the Georgetown and Waccamaw libraries or by mail before November 22. For more information, call Trudy Bazemore, (843) 545-3303.

Veterans

Continued from front page

grams going on that day, including a Veterans Day Parade down Front Street in the City of Georgetown beginning at 4 p.m. and a program being co-sponsored by the Low-country Veterans Group and the Georgetown Housing Authority.

Other upcoming area events honoring veterans include:

- A Veterans Day Parade through the town of Andrews on Nov. 2 at 1 p.m. The parade is sponsored by the Andrews Veterans Association

and will travel down Main Street ending at the Andrews Armory.

- A ceremony at 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at American Legion Post 178 in Murrells Inlet.
- A Salute to American Veterans at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11 at Coastal Carolina University's Wheelwright Auditorium. This event is free and features the "Lions in Blue and Gray."

For more information about the county's Veterans Day program or the Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs, call (843) 545-3330.

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

Friends of Front Street items benefit relief fund

"Friends of Front Street" can wear their support for Georgetown and the victims of the Front Street fire with merchandise being sold through a partnership between Georgetown County, the City of Georgetown, the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce and Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments.

T-shirts are available in two styles: short-sleeve shirts in light gray are available for \$15 or long-sleeve shirts in white can be purchased for \$20.

Both have blue print and are 100 percent cotton (these shirts are not pre-shrunk).

Additionally, car magnets are available for \$7. They are blue and feature the Friends of Front Street logo in white.

Purchases can be made with either cash or check and all items ordered will be available Nov. 20.

The Friends of Front Street campaign was introduced by Holley Causey, Georgetown County's risk manager. To read more about why she started this campaign, see Page 10.

To order Friends of Front Street T-shirts and car magnets, or for more information, contact Causey at (843) 545-3097 or hcausey@gtcounty.org.

Donations to the Front Street Fire Relief Fund can also be made at any branch of First Citizens Bank or online at georgetownfirerelief.com. Gov. Nikki Haley reminded the

public during a visit to Georgetown on Oct. 29 that the fund is still open. It has so far collected about \$150,000.

The fire that ravaged the 700 block of Front Street on Sept. 25 destroyed seven historic buildings and damaged an eighth. It left 13 people homeless and about 130 out of work, but thankfully no human lives were lost.

Removal of the debris was started, but had to be put on hold due to asbestos. Several of the businesses that were shut down by the fire have already reopened in new locations and Georgetown is on the road to recovery.



Gov. Nikki Haley shows off a Friends of Front Street T-shirt during a recent visit to Georgetown.

White L/S T \$20

Magnet \$7

Light Steel Gray S/T \$15

Back Design
 Friends of Front Street
 Georgetown, SC
 Rise, Rebuild, Recover

Front Left Chest Design
 Friends of Front Street
 Rise, Rebuild, Recover
 September 25, 2013

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. We love hearing from you and try to be accessible through as many avenues as possible.

Visit our website at www.gtcounty.org. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.



The Friends of the Waccamaw Library present a FREE performance by the Hampstead Stage Company!



A Christmas Carol

November 14 at 6 pm
Waccamaw High School Auditorium

Details: 545-3623

New Airport Commission chairman outlines visions

Don Quattlebaum, a licensed pilot and a resident of Prince George, was named Chairman of the Georgetown County Airport Commission on Oct. 1.

A native of Florence, Quattlebaum joined the commission last year and said he has some very specific ideas about what he would like to see accomplished at the airport.

"I'd like to work together with County Council to maximize the benefits of what the airport can bring to the county. Business aviation is very important if we want industrial growth. Companies want a place to keep their planes," Quattlebaum said.

He noted that there has been an extensive waiting list for hangar space at the airport for "quite a long time." The airport in Georgetown has 31 T-hangars leased to aircraft owners in addition to a corporate hangar. There are 44 aircraft permanently based at the airport, and about 80 aircraft operations occur per day.

"We're trying to come up with a way to build additional hangars for people who want to come into this area; they want to start a business here or buy a second home here, but they need a place to house their planes," Quattlebaum said.

"Airplane owners pay a lot of property taxes, not just on their planes, but on second homes and such. I want to work hand in hand with the county to try to maximize what they're doing without spending a lot of money."

Quattlebaum praised the county for the recent improvements made at the airport, including a new terminal building opened under the county's Capital Improvement Plan and a runway extension.

"They've done a tremendous job," he said, "but we've got to stay on top of it and not just rest on our laurels."

Quattlebaum is retired from New Castle Imports, a company that imports French wine and sells it around the country. After his retirement, he said, he decided to pursue his dream of being a pilot, and has been flying his own plane, a single-engine turboprop, since 2010. He is the husband of Hayden Quattlebaum and has three children: Paul, a New York musician; Andy, 16, who attends boarding school out of state; and daughter Rett, who recently graduated from Tuft's Medical School.



Don Quattlebaum is pictured at the Georgetown County Airport with his single-engine turboprop.

Georgetown County Library invites you to the...

Fall Festival

...of Financial Fitness!

Saturday, November 9th, from noon—2
Beck Recreation Center, Church Street

Enjoy pizza, cookies, popcorn, face painting, a jumpy castle, live band, balloons, games, fire truck rides, art contest and more, along with great advice for adults on protecting your family's finances! And everything is

FREE!

Made possible by a "Smart Investing @ your library" grant from the FINRA Foundation and the American Library Association, and help from Georgetown County departments.

NEW!!
ZUMBA CLASSES!

Where: Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center @ Parkersville Park

When: *Tuesdays @ 9:00am
 Wednesdays @ 5:30pm
 *Tuesdays classes are Zumba Gold and are a slower paced class.

Instructor: Darcy Kent
 (darcykent@yahoo.com)

Cost: \$5.00 per class per person

All Ages Welcome!!

Register online at www.gtcounty.org or at a local recreation office.

Fall festival will feature tips on financial fitness

A fall festival at the Georgetown County Library will offer food, fun and important learning opportunities for people of all ages.

The festival will be Saturday, Nov. 9, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Beck Recreation Center on Church Street.

"It's going to be so much fun for everyone," said library director Dwight McInvaill. "Best of all, absolutely everything is free!"

Among the free offerings are pizza, ice cream, a jumpy castle, a live band, fire truck rides, face painting, balloons, soda, popcorn and more. The festival is sponsored by a "Smart Investing @ Your Library" grant from the American Library Association and the FINRA Foundation, and the party will also offer great advice on protecting family finances.

"We'll have fair booths filled with great information and giveaways," said McInvaill. "Whether you're looking to stretch your dollars, find a new job, repair your credit, or save for the future, our experts have some great, unbiased advice."

Even kids will have a chance to learn about finances with some fun money activities including decorating their own piggy banks and playing finance-related games. Continuing the theme, there will be a gallery featuring entrants in the library's "Design Your Own Piggy Bank" contest. "Smart Investing @ Your Library" tote bags will also be given away.

"Gather a few financial fitness tips, and save money at a fantastic free afternoon of festivities," McInvaill said.

Midway teaches fire safety



Midway Fire Rescue conducted 108 programs during 22 events and provided more than 50 hours of fire and life safety education to nearly 3,000 people during Fire Prevention Month. Annually during the month of October, Midway visits every school in its fire district to spread their message to kids.



**Georgetown
County
Parks and Rec.
announces
open registration
for**

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Participants must be between the ages of 5-17
as of Sept. 1, 2013.
The last day for registration is Nov. 30.

Fee is \$25 per child.
Check with staff to see if you qualify
for a discounted rate.

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



**Fall
programs
at the
Georgetown
Library**

November 12
"Travels in Africa and Adventures in Writing"
 Werner Hoppe will illustrate how a globe-trotting past from Germany to West Africa to the U.S. has colored and informed his work as a novelist.

November 19
"Adventures with Technological Toys"
 Library staff member Donald Dennis will dazzle with some great technological resources that are easy to access and use.

December 3
"Holiday Baking and Food Safety"
 Staff from Clemson Extension will share tasteful tips for holiday cooking.

December 10
"Initiatives to Empower Lifelong Health"
 Marilynn Lance Robb will enlighten us about the power of medical knowledge to transform lives in rural Georgetown County.

Programs are free and begin at 10 a.m. in the library auditorium. To receive weekly program notices, e-mail pburns@gtcounty.org

Exercise stations at park will be courtesy of Pawleys Island Rotary Club

The Pawleys Island Rotary Club, with a matching grant from Rotary International, will install outdoor fitness stations along a running and walking trail at Stables Park.

The stations are expected to be installed by spring and will increase the number of options available for exercise at the park. Rotary will provide about \$6,000 for the project and members of the Pawleys Island club will do the installation once the equipment arrives.

The club contacted the county earlier this year in search of a service project and county officials worked with James Mueller, a club member, and Diana Evans, club president, to help them pick a project that worked for them. The club wanted to take on a project that would have a significant impact on the community, and tackling the national issue of obesity seemed like a good way to help, Evans said. They also wanted a project they could get hands-on with, and installing the equipment themselves allows that.

Beth Goodale, director of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, said she's very excited about the partnership and hopes to see more community partnerships formed in the future. Find more information about community partnerships at www.gtcounty.org/about/communitypartnership.html.

Ponds at Stables Park get new residents



Ponds on the grounds of Stables Park in Litchfield were stocked with fish last month, thanks to the generosity of a volunteer with the county's Parks and Recreation Department, Richard Cullerton. He lives adjacent to the park and has been a friend and supporter of the park since before construction began. About 200 baby bream, donated by Cullerton, were released into four ponds on the park property. Plans are to stock bass and catfish in the ponds in the spring for a more complete ecosystem. The fish will eventually be used for youth and senior fishing programs run by the county. Cullerton, right, is pictured during the release along with Adam Payne, left, who works for the department. Cullerton also maintains the duck boxes located throughout the park property and counts hatchlings each year.



Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center at Parkersville Park

Weight and Cardio Fitness Center Monthly Rates

Adult 18-59	\$25
Additional adult in same residence	\$20
Senior 60+	\$20
Additional senior in same residence	\$15
Daily rate for adult walk-in	\$4
Daily rate for senior walk-on	\$3

Ask about our climbing wall!

**Proof of age and/or residency is required. No one under 18 allowed in the weight/cardio rooms.*

Facility Hours

Monday – Thursday	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday	**NEW WINTER HOURS** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

**Please note our new winter hours on Saturdays!*

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. introduces

B2B

~ Back to Basics ~

Make your own Green, Non-Toxic Cleaning Supplies (Bathroom & Laundry Room Highlight)

Instructor: Amber Bradshaw
(843) 359-0987

lchealthyiving@yahoo.com

When: Saturday, 11/16/13 @ 10:00am

Where: Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center

*Fee: \$25.00

(Fee includes 4 products for you to bring home and a Recipe Book)

**Please bring 4 recycled clean glass jars with lids. Jelly jar size or bigger. Jars available for purchase as well.*

Register online (www.gtcounty.org) or at a local recreation office.



Kids in the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club try out the new rock climbing wall at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown.

Rock climbing wall introduced at Beck Recreation Center

A new rock climbing wall was installed in the gymnasium at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown last month. Staff members decided the wall would be a good addition to the facility after seeing the success of a similar wall at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center.

The wall at Waccamaw is open from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and users pay \$3 for 30 minutes of climbing time. Demand has been high from children and adults, said Adam Payne, one of the staff members trained to assist climbers.

"This is something that kids who don't necessarily excel at other sports, such as basketball or soccer, they can do this and be good at it. And as adults find out how good of a work out it is, they want to do it too," Payne said.

Cost to use the wall at Beck will be the same as at Waccamaw, but hours of use haven't been determined yet. Payne said plans are to experiment with different times and see what the community is most receptive to.

The wall at Beck will also be available for parties, but rental fees and group rates haven't been set yet.

Unlike the wall at Waccamaw, which is made of fiberglass and fashioned to resemble a real rock face, the wall at Beck is flat and offers a wider range of difficulty levels.

"It's more flexible. We can change it up a lot more," Payne said.

At present, Beck has routes on the rock climbing wall that are "easier than the easiest one at Waccamaw and harder than the hardest one there."

For more information about the rock climbing wall or other programs at Beck, call (843) 545-3275. For information about the rock climbing wall or other programs at the Waccamaw rec. center, call (843) 545-2330.

5Bs program continues

Bids will soon go out for construction of a new Waccamaw Library, to be known as the Library Center — Waccamaw. As friends of the library prepare for this big leap in progress, they're preparing to ramp up fundraising efforts.

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library's special 5Bs program continues and will raise money for particular items needed for the library: Books, bytes (computers and technological equipment), bricks, benches and bushes. The bricks, benches and bushes will be used in landscaping around the entrance to the library and the flagpole.

For more information about the campaign, contact Jean Cross, who is in charge of the 5Bs campaign. Information about this and other plans for the new library, as well as current library events and programs can be found on the Friends of the Waccamaw Library website, www.thefowl.org.



**Wednesday mornings
at the Georgetown Library**

FREE and always fun!

Call Donald Dennis at 545-3343 or email ddennis@gtcounty.org for details.

Basics 10:30 — 11:00

We talk about everything you need to get started with your iPad. Come learn how to find or add apps, what apps are essential, and what you can command your iPad to do.

Topics 11:00 — noon

Once you've learned the basics, there is so much more to explore! Photography, art, news, weather, games, social networking, email and cloud apps are all at your fingertips.

Re-entry program

Continued from front page

quired to follow stringent behavioral guidelines. They have to be willing to work hard and show commitment to the program.

It's the only program of its kind in the state, though Charleston is trying to start one and Barr regularly fields calls from other cities and states interested in doing the same.

The program was introduced by Cribb with the aid of a grant. He recruited Barr to implement the plan and manage the program, and has been extremely pleased with the results.

"The numbers show it's been very successful and it has kept growing," Cribb said. "We've had so many of the ones who have gone through the program to come back and thank us for doing it. It's a good program and we've got a lot of good people that make it possible."

Participants in the program do assigned labor all day, just like all other inmates. But in the evenings they go to class learning valuable trades such as construction, welding, barbering, HVAC repair, small engine repair and automotive skills. The program also provides WorkKeys training, which helps jobseekers make career decisions and compare their skills to those required by in-demand jobs.

In short, the program tackles head-on a major cause of recidivism: difficulty finding work after being released from jail, especially if the jobseeker has a felony on his or her record.

"It's so wonderful; these guys are coming out of jail after five- to 25-year sentences and they're getting very good jobs because of the skills they're learning here," Barr said. "Some of them are even getting jobs lined up before they're released. We work with them to set up interviews with employers and help them get their résumés ready. A lot of times they'll be released from jail on a Monday and start work on a Wednesday or Thursday."

A number of inmates who complete the program actually go on to find work with Georgetown County's Public Services Department. The department utilizes inmate labor for a number of tasks, from sorting recyclable materials at the county landfill to construction.

"We couldn't do the amount of work we do without the inmates," said Ray Funnye,

the county's director of public services.

"We've got a great paid crew, there's no doubt, but every day we get new assignments and the list gets longer and longer."

Over the years, he's found that many of the inmates are already skilled and more are willing to learn. Those who prove themselves valuable to the department have made the transition to paid employees very successfully and have become valued members of Funnye's team.

"We are hiring them and we're hiring them with great satisfaction," Funnye said.

"That kind of faith means a lot to someone who has been in trouble. When you leave, you feel confident, like nothing can hold you back."

— Program graduate

"These guys are committed to their jobs. They demonstrated that as inmates and continue to do so as employees. I go to a job site and inspect what's being done and they are fully engaged. They're very inquisitive and often offer suggestions on how to improve the process."

Program graduates say the self-confidence and strong work ethic they build in the program make as much a difference as the trade skills. John (whose last name is being withheld to preserve his privacy) finished the program three years ago and now works in a job he loves, which he's had almost since he was released.

"When I was 19, I started getting into drugs and selling drugs," John said. "I got lost and mixed up in that whole lifestyle," he said.

He was sentenced to five years and spent more than two years in the community re-entry program.

"I think one of the biggest things about the program is the way (Barr) treats everybody," John said. "She doesn't take no for

an answer; she just believes you can do something, and that kind of rubs off on the guys. That kind of faith means a lot to someone who has been in trouble. When you leave, you feel confident, like nothing can hold you back."

That was a feeling John needed during those early weeks after his release.

For those in John's position, now free and trying to rebuild their lives, the program switches gears from education to making sure they have what they need to survive outside the walls of the detention center. Barr works with the Georgetown County Human Services Collaborative to help newly released inmates get assistance, such as funds to pay for their first month's rent while they look for a job. But she's also there to offer advice if they find themselves facing a difficult situation or need guidance with something as simple as what they should wear to a wedding.

"They can call me seven days a week and it means a lot to them to know they have someone they can turn to for help; someone who's on their side," Barr said.

For many relearning how to live independently and make decisions for themselves that kind of support goes a long way toward being successful and avoiding going back to jail.

Barr is extremely proud of her program and every person who has come through it and wants to see it continue to grow and change lives. With approval from the Department of Corrections, the program just recently started working with young offenders.

And as more people learn about the successes of the program its resources and the kinds of help it can offer slowly increase. The program relies entirely on donations and is always in need of people willing to share their individual skills, as well as materials such as computers and accessories (power cords, hard drives, etc.), and other kinds of equipment on which to practice hands-on skills in the classroom.

"We always need volunteers," Barr said. For example, she currently has two participants studying graphic design who need a volunteer to help them create a portfolio.

For more information about the community re-entry program, or to make a donation or become a volunteer, contact Barr, (843) 545-3420 or dbarr@gtcounty.org.

Article by Jackie Broach.

Jones named accreditation manager

Tracy Jones, Georgetown County Stormwater Division Manager, has been appointed as the new accreditation manager for the Public Services Department.

The appointment was made by Ray Funnye, department director. Jones was selected for this position because of her organizational skills and can-do attitude, Funnye said. She accepted the role just in time to complete the first mid-term report for the Department's American Public Works Association accreditation. The report was due Oct. 26.



Jones

APWA accreditation shows recognition for commitment to policies, procedures and processes that promote effective delivery of projects and services. On a daily basis, accredited agencies meet or exceed standards of performance in areas such as street repair and maintenance, engineering, airport management, stormwater drainage, traffic safety, administrative services and vehicle maintenance.

The Georgetown County Public Services Department's completion of the accreditation process in 2011 has increased productivity and effectiveness through critical evaluation of programs and services, Jones said. Support for accreditation came from staff, department directors, the County Administrator and County Council. Since receiving the accreditation, the implementation of policies has not only improved the operations of the Public Services Department, it improved the county as a whole.

Since accreditation in 2011, Georgetown County has continued to maintain and improve its accreditation program.

Some of the changes implemented since 2011 to uphold accreditation include adding new assignments to key personnel, creating an Individual Career Plan Program to improve training, and funding an infrastructure data collection system that updates the data live to the County's GIS database for employees and visitors to the county website. These new programs not only assist in sustaining the accreditation program but have strengthened the work

force of the Public Services Department, as well as improved efficiency.

Efforts to begin the re-accreditation process will begin in January, with the selection of a new accreditation committee. The task to become re-accredited will be daunting as a new set of policies and procedures have been issued by the APWA accreditation committee, Jones said. However, she added, she believes this task is worth undertaking due to the improvements seen from the original accreditation process.

"The standard has been set high by the previous manager and committee, but a lot of hard work has already been done, for which I am, to say the least, grateful," she said. Jones is no stranger to multi-tasking and already has a plan of action to get the re-accreditation process started. The process of re-accreditation will be similar to the original accreditation process in that it will require input from many of departments throughout the county.

"This is a team effort, with great outcomes for all. I am looking forward to working with many individuals across the various County Departments to pull the final package together. I have much to learn," Jones said.

Re-accreditation is due October 2015.

Clerk of Court staff attends fall conference

Georgetown County Clerk of Court Alma White and three staff members recently attended the S.C. Association of Clerks of Court and Registers of Deed Annual Fall Conference in Spartanburg.

In attendance with White were Donna Lippert of Family Court along with Jessica Smith and Sue Wilson from General Sessions Court.

White, who serves as vice president of the state organization, presided over the closing business meeting on Sept. 27. Most of the four-day conference concentrated on training and court updates. Court updates were presented by Chief Justice Jean Toal, Justices Kaye Hearn and Aphrodite Konduros and S.C. Court Administration Executive Director Rosalyn Frierson. Other workshops involved Family Court updates, e-filing and Sovereign Citizens. Other presentations focused on courthouse security.

Representatives from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office facilitated the workshop.

The Spring Conference will be held May 2014 and coordinated by the association vice president.

**Join Georgetown County Public Services,
along with Keep Georgetown Beautiful
and the City of Georgetown in celebrating on Nov. 15**



America Recycles Day

November 15

**Take the
Pledge**

Scan



text
"recycle
pledge"
to 9 10 11

or pledge
online at
www.AmericaRecyclesDay.org



Sponsored By

INTERNATIONAL PAPER

Front Street fire brings out the best in neighbors

The following editorial is by Holley Causey, Georgetown County's risk manager. She is also in charge of the Friends of Front Street campaign.

On the morning of the Front Street fire, I first saw the smoke when I opened the door to let the dog out. I called a friend and together we walked down the few blocks from home to what turned out to be a nightmare scene. We watched firefighters work to control the flames that ravaged the 700 block, eventually destroying seven buildings.

It was devastating to watch people I knew in tears as their homes and businesses burned in front of their eyes. Some people lost everything. That fire also took with it part of Georgetown's history and a part of our community that was very special to residents from throughout the county.

Even for those who don't live within the City limits, Front Street feels like part of their hometown and is a place steeped in memories for many Georgetown County residents and visitors. I think that's part of why the outpouring of support was so strong after the fire.

In the week following the Front Street fire, the community raised more than \$50,000 to help the victims. About three times that amount has now been raised. It

reminded me of one of the reasons why I love living in Georgetown County — because it's a place where people take care of their neighbors. And around here, "neighbors" aren't just those who live next door or across the street. They may not even be in the same zip code, but when someone needs help, people can be relied on to step up. Little things like city limits and which side of the bridge you're on cease to matter.

I think that's something every resident of this community should be proud of and I'm glad to see that support continue.

Georgetown County government fully supports these efforts and all who were affected by the Front Street fire. In addition to the direct actions by our Emergency Services and Emergency Management staff in response to the fire, the county in cooperation with the City and the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce recently launched a Friends of Front Street campaign. As part of this endeavor, Georgetown County Council proclaimed October to be Friends of Front Street Month in the county, encouraging county residents to support locally-owned, independent businesses. It's a small meas-

ure to aid local businesses, including those who have contributed to Front Street relief efforts and some Front Street businesses that were destroyed in the fire and have already reopened in new locations. It's also a reminder that Georgetown is indeed still open for business, going strong and will rebuild.

The Friends of Front Street are also in the process of raising money to contribute to the Front Street Fire Relief fund. Donations are being collected from County and City employees, and we're also getting the public involved by selling Friends of Front Street T-shirts and car magnets, all of the proceeds of which will go to the fire relief fund. T-shirts, featuring the Friends of Front Street logo, are \$15 for short sleeve or \$20 for long sleeve, and car magnets are \$7. Orders will be accepted through Nov. 8 in Room 304 of the Georgetown County Courthouse, and some of our staff will also be out and about, volunteering to sell these items at upcoming events. For more information, call (843) 545-3097 or e-mail hcausey@gtcounty.org.

The fire on Sept. 25 was devastating for all who love Front Street and more so for those who lost homes and livelihoods. But I'm proud of my community for banding together to support their neighbors and I'm looking forward the next chapter for Front Street.



Causey

Autumn in Georgetown County Photo Contest

Georgetown County government invites photographers of all skill levels to enter our latest photo contest. We've selected "Autumn in Georgetown County" as the theme. We're looking for scenic shots that show what a beautiful place Georgetown County is even after the beach season is over and most of our visitors have returned home. Color and black and white photos will be accepted.

You must read the complete rules, terms and legal conditions at www.gtcounty.org before submitting any photos!



For more information, call (843) 545-3164 or email jbroach@gtcounty.org



**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



Halloween Scenes



The Georgetown County Judicial Center hosted another successful Trick-or-Treat event on Halloween. School-age trick-or-treaters came out to collect candy, popcorn and valuable safety information at this event organized by Georgetown County Clerk of Court Alma White.



The Georgetown County Bureau of Aging Services was host to a masked ball for area seniors last month. Seniors showed off costumes and dance moves at the event.