

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

Nov. 1 – Georgetown Library community yard sale, 8 a.m.—noon. See page 2.

Nov. 11 – County offices and facilities are closed for Veterans Day.

Nov. 18 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse. Council only meets once this month.

Nov. 20 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Nov. 27-28 – County offices and facilities closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

Nov. 30 – Last day to register for youth basketball.

Volume 3, Issue 3

November 2014

Residents urged to get details of sales tax referendum

In a series of public meetings that took place throughout Georgetown County in October, County Administrator Sel Hemingway answered questions and laid out the facts of a proposed Capital Project Sales Tax. County residents will vote on the tax in a referendum this Election Day.

The final meeting in the series is at Carvers Bay High School on Thursday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m. Meetings took place in Georgetown, Pawleys Island

and Andrews the week prior. Anyone who didn't attend one of last week's meetings is urged to go to the final meeting in Carvers Bay or to visit the county's website, www.gtcounty.org, to educate themselves on the tax before they head to the polls on Nov. 4.

If approved, the referendum would add a 1-cent local sales tax to the existing state sales tax, raising the tax paid on taxable purchases in Georgetown County from 6 percent to 7 percent for a period of four years. The new tax rate would go into effect on May 1, 2015, and disappear on April 30, 2019. Under state law, it could not be renewed or extended. It could be replaced with a similar tax, but only if residents decided to do so through another referendum vote.

It is anticipated that the tax would generate about \$7 million per year for a total of \$28 million over its



County Administrator Sel Hemingway addresses attendees at a recent public information meeting in Pawleys Island.

four-year life. These funds would be used to pay for projects in three categories: Dredging, countywide road improvements and enhancements to fire and rescue service.

Details of the projects are as follows. Revenue from the tax could only be used to fund these specific projects as described below.

Dredging

The dredging component would include two projects, the first of which would be dredging of the Georgetown Port to a depth of 27 feet. At this depth, the port could accommodate larger ships, an action projected to create new jobs and more local household income in the county. An annual increase in ton-

See "Referendum," Page 7

Sample ballots, precinct locations and other tips to get ready for Election Day

There are no contested County Council races on the Nov. 4 ballot, but voters will have quite a few choices to make on Election Day as they decide on state and local races and issues, including a referendum on a Capital Project Sales Tax proposed for Georgetown County.

Voters are advised to be prepared for long lines at some polling locations throughout the day, but



there are a number of steps that can be taken in advance to make

the voting process smoother and faster:

- Know what's on the ballot.

Voters can view a sample ballot online at www.scvotes.org. Sample ballots are tailored to the voter's address, so voters should be able to see exactly what their ballot on Election Day will look like, which races they'll vote in and how the referendum questions will appear.

See "Election Day," Page 10

County Fire/EMS to host community safety event in Plantersville

Event includes simulated wreck; public invited to observe

Saturday, Nov. 15, will be a busy day for staff at Georgetown County Fire/EMS Station 8 in Plantersville. They already know they'll get a call at around 10 a.m., and if it were a real one, it would be the kind all emergency responders dread.

The department will host a community safety awareness event at the station from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will serve the dual purpose of offering a training opportunity for emergency responders and providing a clear illustration for spectators of the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Station No. 8 is located at 14326 N. Fraser Street, and the public is invited to come watch the proceedings and stay for lunch.

The event starts when responders are called to the scene of a wreck involving a car and a 4-wheeler. Fortunately, the scene will be a staged one, but from the arrival of the first ambulance to calling in the coroner, emergency personnel will move through all the steps as if it were real.

Under the scenario for this event, the driver of the car got behind the wheel while drunk. Passengers in the car are injured and the teen on the four-wheeler was killed in the collision.

Response crews will use hydraulic rescue equipment to cut open the car to reach injured passengers. Crews will then simulate patient care and have the wreckage removed as would normally occur in a real incident. Onlookers will watch as the process moves forward to a field sobriety test administered on the car's driver by



Emergency responders during a past community safety event.

a state highway patrol officer. The officer will then simulate an arrest. Actors portraying victims injured in the wreck will be transported for treatment. A medical helicopter will be used if one is available for the exercise that day.

The coroner will also be on scene to simulate a pronouncement of death for the teen on the four-wheeler and talk to the audience about the many hazards of driving while under the influence.

At the close of the event, all who attended will be invited into the station for lunch. The event will also include drawings for smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, and a child safety seat installation demonstration.

For more information, call (843) 545-3213.

Friends of the Georgetown Library



Saturday, November 1, 2014

Georgetown Library
405 Cleland Street

7-8 am: Vendor setup 8-noon: Yard Sale

Sellers pay just \$10 a spot!

For more information, call 545-3300
or stop by the Georgetown Library at 405 Cleland Street.

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

County offers free, fun and safe Halloween events for children

Georgetown County will offer two opportunities next week for area kids to have some free, safe Halloween fun. The Georgetown Library will host a Pre-Halloween Family Fun Night on Oct. 30, while the Georgetown County Judicial Center will have a fall festival and trick-or-treat event in its plaza on Oct. 31. The library and the judicial center are located on Cleland Street in Georgetown.

The library's pre-Halloween Family Fun Night begins at 4 p.m. on Thursday and includes a magic show by magician Renzi Norris. There will also be a showing of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown."

Drinks and popcorn will be served. The library will host Family Fun Nights every Thursday through Nov. 20 from 4-6p.m., offering free holiday crafts and sharing holiday books.

The Georgetown County Judicial Center's fifth annual fall festival and trick-or-treat event will be from 4-6 p.m. on Halloween. Organized by Clerk of Court Alma White, the event is intended for elementary school-age children and will provide a safe environment for kids to show off their costumes and collect candy, while also picking up some valuable safety information from local law enforcement. A number of county offices and agencies will set up tables to hand out treats. Photos will be posted at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc. There is no charge for either of these Halloween events.



County Council amends November meeting schedule

The date for Georgetown County Council's November meeting has been moved to Tuesday, Nov. 18, to accommodate the Veterans Day holiday.

Council normally meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, which put its regular meeting day on Nov. 11, when county offices and facilities will be closed in observance of the holiday.

Council had already agreed to cancel its second meeting of the month, because of its proximity to the Thanksgiving holiday. As such, the Nov. 18 meeting will be council's only meeting this month. Council will also meet only once in December. That meeting will take place on Dec. 9. Council meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse on Screven Street.

The public is always welcome and meeting agendas are posted at www.gtcounty.org.

Georgetown County holiday schedule

Georgetown County offices and facilities will be closed on the following dates through January in observance of upcoming fall and winter holidays: Nov. 11, Veterans Day; Nov. 27-28, Thanksgiving; Dec. 24-26, Christmas; Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. See a complete listing of county holidays for the current fiscal year at gtcounty.org/about/holidays.html.

Learn more about the proposed Capital Project Sales Tax!



On Election Day 2014, Georgetown County voters will be asked to decide on a proposed 1-percent sales tax to help fund:

- 1. Dredging**
- 2. Road Improvements**
- 3. Fire and Rescue Service Enhancements**

Be prepared when you go to the polls!

Get details about the proposed capital project sales tax now at www.gtcounty.org. Find a description of projects, frequently asked questions, a list of roads to be paved and more!

You can also call (843) 545-3164 or email jbroach@gtcounty.org for information.

Free Medicare signup help available during open enrollment

Free help is available for Medicare beneficiaries trying to navigate the open enrollment period, which started this month and ends on Dec. 7. Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, the dedicated Area Agency on Aging, is offering open enrollment assistance by appointment for any individual who qualifies for Medicare benefits through the open enrollment closing date.

Open enrollment is a once-a-year opportunity for Medicare beneficiaries to review their plan options for the upcoming calendar year and make changes to their coverage. Finding the right plan or figuring out if the plan you have is the one that best suits your needs can be confusing and frustrating for many individuals, said Kim Harmon, Waccamaw Regional's Aging Director. She and her staff can make the process easier.

"There are several parts to Medicare and a myriad of choices to be made for beneficiaries," Harmon said. There are traditional packages, packages designed for people with certain diseases, and of course, Medicare Part D for prescription drugs.

During an appointment, staff will conduct an assessment, talking with the individual about specific health issues and needs and getting a list of all the prescription drugs the person is taking. That information is used to find a list of plans available in the area that

meet the individual's needs. From there, Waccamaw Regional staff can work with an individual to help them determine what plan is the best option for them, factoring in price.

"It's a more specific, person-centered type of assistance than what they get if they call 1-800-Medicare or go online. Those do-it-yourself options work for some people, but for someone who needs a little extra help, we provide that. We offer a better, more in-depth assessment of the person's needs and help them make sure they're getting what they need. We go that extra mile for folks."

Staff can also provide guidance to those looking for financial assistance for Medicare Part D.

Appointments are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 5:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and every other Saturday beginning Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 80 people have already received help through this program this year. Waccamaw Regional normally assists anywhere from 300 to 500 individuals per year with selecting Medicare packages. This free service is available to anyone who qualifies for Medicare.

For more information about this program and other services offered through Waccamaw Regional, visit www.wrcog.org, or contact Kim Harmon at (843) 546-8502 or kharmon@wrcog.org.

**The Georgetown County
Bookmobile
will be at the
Murrells Inlet
Community Center
every other Thursday
from 11 a.m.
to 12:30 p.m.
(effective Sept. 4)**

**Check out books or
bring your drivers license
with a Georgetown County
address to apply
for a library card!**



Trick-or-Treat event for kids

Elementary school-age children
are invited to show off
their costumes, get candy
and receive valuable
safety information!

Cost: Free! (Sponsored
by Georgetown County)

When: 4-6 p.m. on Halloween

Where: Georgetown County
Judicial Center,
Cleland Street, Georgetown

Find event photos at
www.facebook.com/gtcountysc



UPCOMING EVENTS

Free Quicken workshop 11/5

The Georgetown Library will host a free workshop on using Quicken computer software Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 10-11:30 a.m. The workshop will take place at the library, 405 Cleland Street.

Participants will learn to use the software for a variety of home finance and budgeting tasks. Those who complete the workshop will receive a free copy of Quicken Deluxe 2014 for their home PC. This software is valued at \$79.

The class is limited to 20 participants. To sign up, call (843) 545-3300. This program is funded by a FINRA Foundation/ALA grant.

Free legal aid workshop on predatory lenders, 11/18

Illegal practices used by predatory lenders and the rights of those who have been victimized will be the topic of a free legal aid workshop at the Georgetown Library on Tuesday, Nov. 18, from 6-8 p.m.

The workshop is conducted in conjunction with S.C. Legal Services, a statewide nonprofit that provides free legal services in a variety of civil legal matters to eligible low-income residents. Advance registration is required. To sign up or for more

information, contact S.C. Legal Services, (843) 381-8182.

Author discusses area murders and new book, 11/18

Peter Warren is the guest speaker for the Nov. 18 Scholars Forum program at the Georgetown Library. The program is free and begins at 10 a.m.

Warren will discuss his experiences in law enforcement and his book, "Horry County Murders," which is the tale of Paul Waring, a retired state trooper from Connecticut, who is recruited to help solve a series of brutal murders that take place between Myrtle Beach and Georgetown.

Community blood drive, 12/3

Georgetown County government will co-host a community blood drive on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

The American Red Cross will accept blood donations from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day at the Beck Recreation Center, located at 2030 Church St. in Georgetown.

Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org. Use the sponsor lookup code GeoCounty.

For more upcoming events, check our website, www.gtcounty.org, or visit <http://hammockcoastsc.com/calendar/>

Look what our library LEGO League is up to!



The talented, adorable kids in our Library LEGO League have been up to some interesting things, including learning to use a computer program to make their LEGO robots move. The Jr. FIRST LEGO League is open to kids ages 6-9. To sign up or for information, call (843) 545-3310.



"At Work and at Play" Georgetown County Photo Contest

Georgetown County Government is looking for photos of residents going about their daily lives. We want to see people working at their jobs or at home, and at play — whether that means spending a day on our beautiful beaches and waterways, enjoying a ball game with friends at a local park, or out hunting. Photo release forms **must** be provided for any person shown in submitted photos. See

complete rules and details at www.gtcounty.org. Deadline to enter is **Nov. 30, 2014**. Winners receive a prize pack and have their photo displayed in a county facility. Email all entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org.

Introducing Zumba Gold

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is now offering Zumba Gold classes at the Murrells Inlet Community Center. Classes are \$3 and are offered on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10-11 a.m.

Zumba Gold is a modified version of Zumba Fitness that is customized to fit the needs of active older adults. It recreates the original moves that fans of Zumba love, but at lower intensity. Classes focus on all elements of fitness, including cardiovascular, muscular conditioning, flexibility and balance.



For more information, contact Karen Whited, instructor, at (304)549-0226.

Dance classes offered at Waccamaw, Georgetown recreation centers

New Fit 'n' Fun dance classes are now offered for those 15 and up at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center in Pawleys Island. Classes are from 6-7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Cost is \$8. For information, call (843) 655-6734.

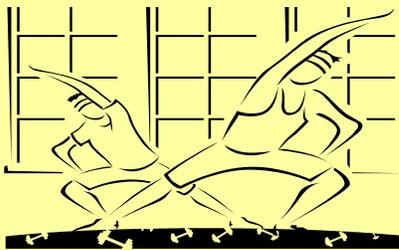
Line dancing classes are offered at the Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown on Mondays and Wednesdays. AOA (Active Older Adult) classes are schedule from 4-5 p.m. and cost \$3. Soul line dancing 101 classes are from 6-7:30 p.m. and cost \$5. Call (843) 359-0840 for details.

Georgetown County Champions!



Congratulations to our championship football teams! Andrews (top) won the County Football Championship in the ages 11-12 division and Georgetown Navy won the ages 9-10 division on Oct. 29. Both teams now advance to regional play.

Fit 'N' Fun Exercise Classes



Strengthening, stretching, toning and core building!

\$8 per class, ages 15 and up

Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.

at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center

Instructor: Lisa Arnold

Call (843) 655-6734 or register online at gtcounty.org

Come Experience a Taste of Georgetown

FROM SHRIMP TO STEAK, ART TO MUSIC AND MINI-PARKS...



Taste of Georgetown

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2014

12:30PM - 3:30PM

FRONT STREET IN GEORGETOWN

A Taste of Georgetown is a fundraiser for the Family Justice Center, a non-profit organization providing collaborative services for victims of domestic violence.

To obtain advance tickets for the Taste of Georgetown contact **FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER: 546-3926**

BANDS

Fourclosures, Highliners, Jessie Wilson, Jr. & Friends, Hi Lo Duo

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

Alfresco Georgetown Bistro
Atlantic House
Aunny's
Beef O'Brady's
Big Tuna

Bistro 217
Buzz's Roost
Coffee Break Café
5 Rivers Tavern
Kudzu Bakery

Lakeside at Sanford's
Land's End
Pawleys Island Bakery
Reflections Grill
Rice Paddy

River Room
700 Modern Grill & Bar
Sweeties
Thomas Café
Wild Fish Grill

VISIT WWW.TASTEOFGEORGETOWNSC.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, VISIT: WWW.FJCGEORGETOWN.ORG

Startup incubator program receives \$20K Bunnelle grant

Startup.SC, a nonprofit startup incubator, in cooperation with Georgetown County Economic Development, has been named a recipient of the Grant for the Common Good, awarded by the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation.

The \$20,000 grant will be used for promotion of economic vitality through workforce development and community wealth-building. The investment will be matched with \$20,000 from an innovation grant provided by the S.C. Department of Commerce Office of Innovation.

Headquartered in Litchfield, Startup.SC is a nonprofit startup incubator with a focus on technology-based businesses with the ability to scale to \$10 million over the next five years.

Startup.SC plans to promote economic vitality of Georgetown County by providing advisement to those with ideas for scalable startups on the Grand Strand. Services include education on choosing co-founders, creating pitch decks, finding investors, taking on investment, and providing a platform to launch their businesses. The incubator is also building an ecosystem of investors, mentors, donors and entrepreneurs to attract tech talent to the area.

"These efforts are crucial for attracting the tech industry and the development of an entrepreneurial environment in our region," said Brian Tucker, director of economic development for Georgetown County. "I'm pleased the Bunnelle Foundation saw the value Startup.SC, their team and their services can offer to Georgetown County and the region at large."

Currently, Startup.SC is supporting five entrepreneurs who are enrolled in their fall cohort. Next cohort is scheduled to begin in January 2015. Applications are currently being accepted for review at <http://startup.sc>.

Capital Projects to be Funded



• Dredging – \$16.3 million



• Road improvements – \$8.9 million



• Fire/rescue service enhancements – \$3 million

Referendum

Continued from Front Page

nage at the port of 500,000 tons would create 42 new jobs and \$1.3 million per year in new local household income, according to a 2010 report by economist Donald Schunk.

Sales tax funds would allow the county to provide a match to secure state and federal funds for dredging.

Additionally, the dredging component includes dredging of Murrells Inlet, which would also bring economic benefits, including from tourism. The inlet is an area that contributes significantly to the county's economy, Hemingway said.

Road Improvements

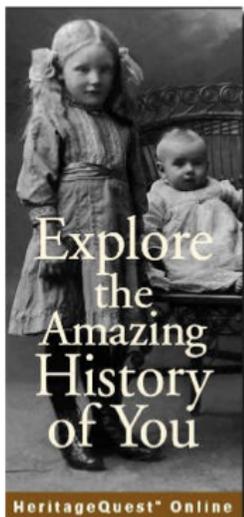
The tax would provide funds for extensive repair and resurfacing of 45 miles of paved roads throughout the county. This covers more than 100 projects in unincorporated areas of the county as well as within municipalities. A complete list of roads to be paved is available at www.gtcounty.org.

Fire and Rescue Service

This component includes construction of a fire station in the Big Dam community and nine rural fire substations throughout the county. The substations would all be unmanned stations. However, this construction would have a direct financial impact on many county residents through decreased home insurance rates.

Funds would also allow for replacement of the 60-year-old building that houses police and fire operations in the Town of Andrews. The town provides support to county fire and rescue departments, so the benefits of this funding would reach well beyond the town limits.

It's up to each voter to make his or her own decision about whether the tax is the right funding solution for these needed projects, but whatever decision voters make, it should be an informed one. Information about the referendum and projects to be funded is available at www.gtcounty.org. Questions about these items can be directed to the Public Information Office, (843) 545-3164.



The Georgetown Library can help you explore your past!

We offer the popular HeritageQuest on our website at georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

Like all our great stuff, it's free for you to use.

HeritageQuest Online is a comprehensive treasury of American genealogical sources — rich in unique primary sources, local and family histories and finding aids.

Discover the amazing history of you with HeritageQuest Online. It delivers an essential collection of genealogical and historical sources — with coverage dating back to the 1700s — that can help people find their ancestors and discover a place's past.



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.



County collects nearly 3 tons of household hazardous waste at event

Georgetown County's Public Services Department received nearly three tons of hazardous household materials in less than four hours during a collection event in Pawleys Island on Oct. 11.

The department, with help from Midway Fire Rescue and Palmetto Ace Home Center, gave residents an opportunity to drop off paint, oil, batteries and other potentially dangerous materials for proper disposal. Educational information from the county's stormwater division was also made available, rain barrels were given to some of the first in line, and food and children's activities added a festive atmosphere.

Collections are scheduled every spring and fall on the Waccamaw Neck to make safe disposal of such items more convenient. Past collections have exceeded three tons, but the goal is to have numbers drop gradually as residents clear out stockpiles of old — often decades old — materials and become better educated about household hazardous waste and the importance of its proper disposal.

Tracy Jones, stormwater division manager for Georgetown County and the lead in organizing the collection, said she saw some familiar faces at this year's event, but also met a number of new attendees.

"This kind of opportunity to talk to the public is phenomenal," she said. "These events are a matter of convenience for residents, but for us, it's not only an opportunity to make sure these materials are being handled the right way, but to share our message and talk to people about recycling and stormwater, and why they should be concerned about these things."

For more information, visit www.gtcounty.org/stormwater or call (843) 545-3524.



Terri Davis, an employee in the county's Stormwater Division, talks with members of the public during the collection event on Oct. 11. The event provides an opportunity to educate the public on stormwater issues.



Paint was one of the most frequently brought in items at the collection. Cans can be seen stacked on pallets in the right of the above photo.

Georgetown County Library's
Family Fun Night
October 16th - November 20th
THURSDAYS IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
4:00PM - 6:00PM
Holiday Crafts
 &
Tis' the Season for Family Reading
Sharing Holiday Book Treats

If you're not into the craft fun come enjoy our Game Room ...

Library Auditorium
Free for ALL

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. announces open registration for
YOUTH BASKETBALL

Participants must be between the ages of 5-17 as of Sept. 1.
 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.

Grace is Employee of the Quarter, will be recognized Nov. 18



Cindy Grace, standing, is pictured with Boyd Johnson and Holly Richardson during a recent hurricane planning exercise.

Cindy Grace, Georgetown County's emergency management coordinator for the last five years, has been named the county's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of this year. She will be recognized and presented with a plaque at Georgetown County Council's Nov. 18 meeting.

Cindy was also named the Emergency Services Department's Employee of the Quarter earlier this year. She was nominated for both honors by Georgetown County Emergency Manager Sam Hodge.

"Cindy approaches every task with great enthusiasm to raise the bar," Hodge said. "She reaches out to our entire department and other county departments to make sure we are better prepared and operate daily in a safer environment."

One of Grace's most recent accomplishments was completion of a required update to the county's hazard mitigation

plan. This is an expansive document and updates are a major undertaking. In the past, Georgetown County, like most jurisdictions, contracted someone to complete the update. Grace volunteered to take on the project herself, saving the county \$20,000.

Grace was also recently in charge of coordinating completion of paperwork required by FEMA following Winter Storm Pax. She spent many evening and weekend hours correcting and reviewing mountains of paperwork to ensure county agencies received the maximum reimbursement from FEMA for extensive storm recovery efforts.

Additionally, Grace was instrumental in the planning of a full-scale hurricane preparedness exercise the county was host to in June. Her work on that project shows her dedication to making the county a better, safer place to live, work and play.

Hodge graduates from FEMA's Emergency Management Institute

Sam Hodge, emergency manager for Georgetown County, recently graduated from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Emergency Management Basic Academy at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

EMI created the National Emergency Basic Academy to produce a comprehensive curriculum that provides the foundational knowledge and skills needed to support the unpredictable challenges in the field of emergency management.

Hodge completed the five courses in the Basic Academy that includes Foundations of Emergency Management, Science of Disaster, Planning: Emergency Operations, Exercise Design, and Public Information and Warning. To graduate, he fulfilled a total of 167 hours of training.

The Basic Academy is the first phase of FEMA's new Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP). The EMPP curriculum is designed to be a lifetime of learning for emergency managers and includes three separate, but closely related, training programs.

An employee of Georgetown County for 22 years, Hodge has been Georgetown County emergency manager since 2008. He was named the S.C. Emergency Management Association's Director of the Year in 2013 and also received the same award from the Association in 2011. He is the only one in the state to have received the honor twice. Also in 2013, Hodge was named Georgetown County's Manager of the Year.

Hodge began his employment with the county at Midway Fire Rescue in October 1990 as a firefighter/paramedic and was later promoted to the rank of battalion chief before transferring to Emergency Management. While at Midway, he received numerous



Hodge, left, is pictured with Matthew Prager, acting integrated emergency management branch chief, during his recent EMI graduation ceremony.

awards, including a Community Service Award, a Meritorious Action Award, and Officer of the Year four times.

Among his recent accomplishments, he has worked to revamp the Community Emergency Response Team program, and has worked tirelessly to educate the public on the Know Your Zone evacuation initiative, and led the county in opening an expanded Emergency Operations Center.

For more information on FEMA's training classes or other emergency management courses, visit <http://training.fema.gov/empp/>.

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



New Waccamaw Library receives donations



Oct. 14 was a big day for the new Waccamaw Library, under construction in Litchfield (shown at top right) and scheduled to open in early 2015. The Friends of the Waccamaw Library presented a \$217,000 check for the library at the Oct. 14 County Council meeting (shown above). The funds are a result of a very successful fundraising campaign. That same night, the Friends accepted a \$5,350 donation from the Waccamaw Neck Council of Property Owners (shown at right) to be used for technology at the new library.



Financial Fitness Festival attracts crowd of 800-plus



The Georgetown County Library System had a hit on its hands with this year's Fall Festival of Financial Fitness at the Beck Recreation Center on Oct. 25. More than 800 people came out to pick up financial planning information and enjoy a festival atmosphere. See more photos at facebook.com/gtcountysc.

Election Day

Continued from Front Page

- Make sure your voter registration information is up to date. Incorrect information, such as an outdated address, can stall you at the polls. You can review and make changes to your information at scvotes.org.
- Know your polling location. Find your precinct and the polling address at scvotes.org.
- Remember your photo ID. Voters must show one of the following forms of photo ID at the polls: SC driver's license or SCDMV-issued ID card, SC Voter registration card with photo,

federal military ID or US passport. If you don't have one of these forms of ID, voting may be allowed under certain conditions. Call the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, (843) 545-3339, for details.

- Voting absentee is an option for many voters, including those who are 65 and older, disabled, or who can't vote on Election Day for reasons of employment. It's not too late to request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be cast in person at the Georgetown County Office of Elections up until 5 p.m. Nov. 3. Paper absentee ballots received by mail can be turned in at the office until 7 p.m. on

Election Day.

- Remember: no campaign materials (such as signs, brochures, T-shirts or buttons endorsing a candidate or issue) are allowed within 200 feet of any polling location. Voters wearing or otherwise displaying such items will be asked to remove or cover them before entering the polling location.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. Find the answers to frequently asked questions at www.scvotes.org. Questions may also be directed to the County's Office of Voter Registration and Elections. Call (843) 545-3339 or stop in at 303 N. Hazard St.