

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

- Nov. 10** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. Council only meets once this month
- Nov. 11** – All county offices and facilities are closed in observance of Veterans Day
- Nov. 13-14** – Lowcountry Redfish Cup Championship. Weigh-ins at 3:30 p.m., Carroll Campbell Marine Complex
- Nov. 14** – Andrews Library Fall Festival, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. See page 7
- Nov. 19** – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse
- Nov. 26-27** – All county offices and facilities are closed in observance of Thanksgiving
- Dec. 2** – Blood drive at Beck Recreation Center.

Volume 4, Issue 3

November 2015

Disaster Recovery Center locations remain open

Two Disaster Recovery Centers set up in Georgetown County continue to operate seven days a week, connecting local flood victims with state and federal resources.

The centers are open at Beck Recreation Center (2030 Church Street in Georgetown) and at Potato Bed Ferry Community Center (531 Big Dam Swamp Drive in Andrews).

Both centers are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. until further notice.

Disaster Recovery Centers offer a location where flood-affected residents can go to meet with representatives from the S.C. Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other agencies about disaster assistance programs and how to apply for aid.

Members of the public are asked to register with FEMA before going to a Disaster Recovery Center. Reg-



S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley packs boxes during a recent Team South Carolina event that took place at the Disaster Recovery Center located at Beck Recreation Center.

istration can be handled online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling (800) 621-3362. Help is available in most languages and phone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Disaster survivors who are deaf, hard of

hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY should call (800) 462-7585. If survivors use 711 or VRS (Video Relay Service) or require accommodations while visiting a center, call (800) 621-3362.

See "Recovery," Page 2

Make sure you have necessary permits before beginning flood repairs

Permit fees cut in half for flood-related work

Building permit fees for flood-related construction will be offered at a reduced rate for at least the next year, Georgetown County Council Members decided last month. Council approved a temporary 50 percent reduction to building permit fees for all qualifying flood-related projects.

The Georgetown County Building and Zoning Department reminds residents that it is extremely important they obtain the appropriate permits for construction work when making repairs to a flood-damaged home or business. This provides several benefits to property owners, including ensuring structures are properly inspected for safety.

A permit also helps ensure that only licensed contractors are working on your home or business and that the

Important reasons to get a building permit

- Codes are adopted as minimum construction standards to protect your safety, the safety of your family and guests, and the safety of future owners.
- The law requires it. Permits are required by the Building Code, Plumbing Code, Electrical Code and Gas/Mechanical Code.
- Failure to obtain required flood-repair permits could cause problems settling future home insurance claims.
- Failure to obtain required permits could also cause problems if you want to sell or refinance your home later.

work meets all codes and standards for safety.

"We understand that residents will want to begin repairs and reconstruction as soon as possible, but it's definitely to the property owner's benefit to make sure they take the time to get a permit," said Boyd Johnson,

See "Building permits," Page 9

Severe erosion closes many beach accesses

More than a half-dozen Georgetown County-maintained beach accesses remain closed due to severe erosion caused by rain and flooding, as well as extremely high tide events in October.

All beach accesses were affected. Litchfield Beach access Nos. 60-66 were closed and are currently under repair, along with Garden City Beach access No. 44. Erosion was so severe at some beach access points that supports on the structures were left hanging in the air as sand washed away, rendering the accesses unsafe and unusable. County staff worked to repair and reopen the accesses as quickly as possible, but they hadn't yet finished when king tides during the last week of October caused one additional closure and redamaged some of the accesses that had been repaired.

Residents are cautioned to heed signs, tape and other markings that declare beach accesses closed and to under no circumstances attempt to utilize closed access points. Accesses are closed due to structural damages, which may not be visible when approaching accesses from parking areas.

Beach accesses that are not closed should still be used with caution as there can be a drop of up to three feet in some areas between the access and the sand. While open structures should be stable, getting down onto the beach could be difficult. Please use good judgement.



High tides, rain and flooding caused severe beach erosion in Georgetown County in October.

Recovery

Continued from Front Page

Federal disaster assistance for individuals and families can include money for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs for primary residences not covered by insurance.

Low-interest disaster loans from the Small Business Administration are also available to help with busi-

ness, homeowner and renter uninsured losses.

Survivors and businesses should first register with FEMA and may obtain information on SBA disaster loan applications by calling 800-659-2955. Residents in Georgetown County who need assistance with immediate needs, such as water, cleanup kits, etc., are asked to dial 211 from any working phone to be put in touch with service agencies.

Library to show WWII documentary

The Waccamaw Library will present a documentary and lecture by noted historian Kevin Duffus on Friday, Nov. 13, from 6:30-8 p.m. The event is free and open to all.

Titled "War Zone: WWII Off the Carolina Coast," the documentary tells the story of how the enemy entered America's front door unhindered, when the U.S. suffered but overcame the German U-boat menace, inflicting one of the nation's worst defeats of World War II.



Kevin Duffus

For seven months, towering columns of black smoke and orange flames from torpedoed merchant vessels filled the skies from New England to New Orleans. Explosions rattled window panes and the nerves of startled coastal residents. Ocean waters and beaches were awash with wreckage, oil, empty lifeboats and bodies.

Learn about the men and women who defended America in little boats and in small planes; the truth behind the famous phrase "Sighted sub, sank same;" and the children who spied on German spies.

Registration is not required, but for concerns about available space, email sbremner@gtcounty.org.

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

Fall Sports End-of Season



Cookout



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation will host a cookout in each region of the county this month for all who participated in fall sports including football, soccer and cheerleading. Each event will take place from 6-8 p.m. and feature, food, music and fun. Dates are as follows:

Choppee – Nov. 16 • Andrews – Nov. 17
Waccamaw – Nov. 18 • Georgetown – Nov. 19

Curbside flood debris removal underway in affected areas

Following severe flooding in Georgetown County in October, the county contracted with the S.C. Department of Transportation for removal of flood-related debris. As part of this contract, curbside pickup of flood-related debris will be available on public roadways in unincorporated areas of the county that were impacted by flooding.

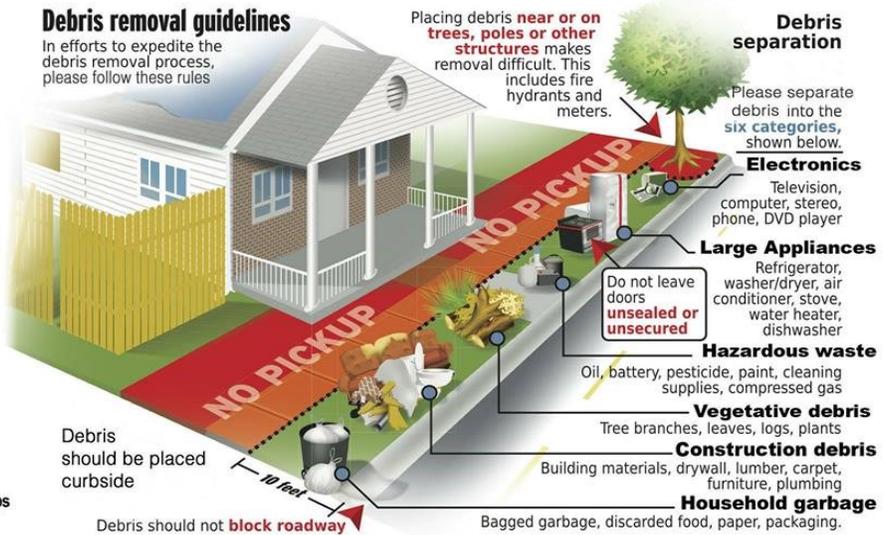
Collection began in late October and should continue at least through November.

County officials would like to stress that curbside pickup will be offered only in flood-affected areas of the county and only flood-related debris is eligible for pickup. Additionally, debris will not be picked up from along private roadways (those with blue street signs) and residents receiving insurance funding to pay for private disposal should not put out debris for this collection.

For debris to be picked up along public roadways, it must be separated into the following six categories: electronics, large appliances, household hazardous waste, vegetative debris, construction debris and household garbage.

SCDOT's contractors are prioritizing debris removal based on which areas can be accessed safely for debris removal operations. Areas where floodwaters receded more slowly may not be or have been immediately accessible.

Residents who would like to take advantage of curbside flood debris collection should place any flood-related debris in the public right-of-way (the area that extends from the street to the sidewalk, ditch, utility pole or easement). Residents should not place debris on the right-of-way if they have



Don't...

- Put out debris that is not flood-related or for which you will receive insurance funds for disposal
- Put debris out on private roads
- Bag yard waste
- Block fire hydrants/other utilities

Do...

- Separate debris into the six categories shown in the image above
- Place separated debris in the right of way on public roadways
- Secure doors on all appliances put out for pickup

or will receive insurance funding to privately dispose of household debris covered by their insurance policy. Again, SCDOT will only collect flood-related debris for which residents are not receiving insurance funding for private disposal.

For debris to be picked up, it must be separated into the categories listed above and must be unbagged (with the exception of waste in the household garbage category, which should be bagged). Other than house-

hold garbage, only loose debris will be collected. Residents should not place debris near a water meter vault, fire hydrant or any other above-ground utility, and should avoid placing it directly under power lines.

Contractors will make multiple passes through impacted areas. If residents cannot safely set out debris at this time, or if contractors cannot safely enter submerged areas, additional debris removal passes will be scheduled.

Saturday, November 7th 8 am - noon
405 Cleland Street, Georgetown

Got something to sell? Come get your space at the library for \$10!

Want to find some deals? Entrance to the sale is FREE!

Georgetown Library
YARD SALE

Benefits library children's programming. Questions? Call Shelia (843) 545-3310



GOING WILD photo contest

Georgetown County is accepting images of wildlife for its latest photo contest. This contest focuses on mammals of Georgetown County. Wild animals only. No pets. Deadline for entries is Nov. 15, 2015.

Send entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org.

Details and contest rules at www.gtcounty.org.

Public Services Department earns APWA re-accreditation

The Georgetown County Public Services Department was recently awarded a prestigious American Public Works Association (APWA) re-accreditation. The department was only the 74th agency in North America to receive accreditation when the county received its original accreditation in 2011, and remains one of just three agencies in the state of South Carolina to do so.

The APWA accreditation program recognizes public works agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry. Georgetown County's re-accreditation indicates the department has met all applicable Accreditation documentation and practices over time.

"The awarding of the APWA re-accreditation shows we have dedicated ourselves to concepts of improvement and in-depth self-assessment of department policies, procedures and practices," said Ray C. Funnye, director of Georgetown County Public Services.

"The heroes of this prestigious APWA award are the county's public services staff, whose mission is to provide public works services and programs that contribute to making Georgetown County a great community."

The Public Services Department is responsible for Georgetown County's street and road maintenance, drainage systems and stormwater, the landfill, recycling and collections, building maintenance for county facilities, airport operations and capital projects



Members of the county's public services team are pictured with the re-accreditation review team.

management. The department's mission is "to effectively serve the public by enhancing our transportation and facility infrastructures, preserving our environmental resources, and planning for the needs of the community and future generations.

For the department's re-accreditation review, a team of public works professionals from Miami Beach, Fla.; Lenexa, Kan.; and Kansas City, Mo.; completed a thorough evaluation of operations during a September site visit.

"It's great to have the Georgetown County Public Services Department reach full compliance with their practices again. I commend their continued and renewed commitment to the detailed review of the agency's policies and procedures to qualify for re-accreditation," said Ann Daniels, APWA director of accreditation.

NEW!

Georgetown County
Parks and Recreation presents

Start Smart Tot Basketball

Parents and kids will learn
the basic fundamentals
of basketball while kids
develop motor skills,
have fun and get active.



Each child receives
a free T-shirt!

**For kids ages 3 & 4
Tuesdays in December
5:30 - 6 p.m.**

at Beck Recreation Center, Andrews Gym,
Choppee Gym and Waccamaw Regional Rec. Center
Cost is \$10 per child. Deadline to register is **Nov. 30.**

Call (843) 545-3275 or register online at
www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation

Come Experience a Taste of Georgetown
FROM SHRIMP TO STEAK ART TO MUSIC
AND MINI-PARKS TO MUSEUMS...

Taste of Georgetown
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015
12:30PM - 3:00PM
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 SPONSORED BY
Jessie Wilson, Jr. & Friends, John Lammonds/Holly Cervini, Highlines, **HTC 15**, **WV21**, **WVPE.COM**

PARTICIPATING FOOD SPONSORS:
Alfredo Georgetown Bistro, Atlantic House, Aunty's, Beef O' Brady's, Bethel AME Church, Big Tuna & Raw Bar, Boll Weevil Cafe & Sweetery, Butz's Roast, Charco's, Coffee Break Cafe, Dr. Angelo's, Gracchio's, Moo's Original BBQ, Pawleys Island Bakery, Rustic Table, Sabella's, Sweeties, Thomas Cafe, Tom's House, Wild Fish Grill, 700 Modern Grill & Bar

VISIT WWW.TASTEOFGEORGETOWNSC.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, VISIT:
WWW.FJCGEORGETOWN.ORG

Helping flood victims: Where to donate and how to volunteer

For groups and individuals wishing to make donations to Georgetown County residents affected by flooding, the county has set up a donations drop point at 184 Wire Drive in Andrews. The facility is open to accept donations from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays until further notice.

Individuals and groups wanting to give to residents affected by flooding can leave donations of food, clothing and other materials at the drop point. The items will be distributed by charitable organizations to residents from affected areas throughout the county for the duration of recovery phase of this event. Only reputable charitable groups working with the county will be able to take supplies from this location. This drop point is currently the only location where county officials are accepting donated goods.

Charitable organizations say the best way to help flood victims is through monetary donations, which enable agencies to purchase items needed by flood victims that are not available in the warehouse or from other sources as needs arise. Monetary donations can be made through the United Way at <https://uwmidlands.wufoo.com/forms/flood-relief-fund-black-river-united-way/>. No administrative fees will be taken out of donations.

The United Way is also coordinating volunteers. To sign up to be a volunteer in flood relief efforts, visit <http://getconnected.uwasc.org/drm/>.



Charitable groups working in the county pull supplies from the donations warehouse (shown at left) on an as-needed basis to assist flood victims.



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

Youth ages 5-17 are invited to register for the 2015 Youth Basketball League. 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.

Georgetown County Parks & Rec. presents

Hershey's Track & Field

Registration now open! Don't miss out!

The program is open to boys and girls ages 5-14. Contact the Recreation Dept. for further details.



Call (843) 545-3275 for information, or visit gtcounty.org/parks_recreation



Island Jazz Quartet to play at Waccamaw Library



The Island Jazz Quartet will play a free concert at the Waccamaw Library on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 7-8:30 p.m.

The quartet is comprised of musicians who started playing when they were just kids, and loved it so much they never stopped.

Clair Fancher is on bass, but also had plenty of bookings as a cornet virtuoso. "I played gigs almost continuously for 35 years in groups ranging from duos to 16-piece big bands," he said. "For a while, I even backed a 5-piece banjo band."

Guitarist Ben Clark is originally from North Carolina, but moved here in 1995.

"I've been playing stringed instru-

ments since I was 12 years old," he said. "All attempts to stop me have been futile."

Jack Seibert played drums in high school and college and continued playing through his teaching career of 40 years in New York State. Saxophone player Barry Lieberman began playing instruments at 8 and could play all wind instruments by the time he arrived at Ithaca College. He taught for 32 years as a band director and performed every chance he could get.

The concert is sponsored by the Waccamaw Library and Friends of the Waccamaw Library. Registration is not required. For information, contact sbremner@gtcounty.org.

Library author talks scheduled for November

The Waccamaw Library's Author's Table series will give readers a chance to hear from two authors in November. The free series gives readers a chance to learn about local authors and their works.

**Nov. 10, 5:30-7 p.m.,
Dr. Pamela Martin**

The first featured author for November is Dr. Pamela Martin, a professor of politics and international relations at Coastal Carolina University. Martin will discuss the newly edited volume "Ending the Fossil Fuel Era."

This book details six case studies that reveal how individuals, groups, communities and an entire country have taken first steps out of the fossil fuel era, with experiments that range from leaving oil under

the Amazon to ending mountain-top removal in Appalachia.

Martin will talk about these cases, their successes and failures, and what we can learn from them that can be applied to our region, state and nation.

**Nov. 17, 11 a.m. to noon
Maureen O'Brien**

Maureen O'Brien's "Waggin' Tales" is a heartwarming, and often humorous account of 6-month-old Bogey, a sweet dog who finds himself living at the local Humane Society. O'Brien is a Myrtle Beach resident who played professional basketball with the Texas Cowgirls and toured with The Harlem Globetrotters in 1959. An avid golfer, she is a two-time SC Senior Golf Champion.

Community yard sale set for Nov. 7

For anyone with "household treasures" they're looking to sell, the Georgetown County Library's Community Yard Sale is the place. From antiques and kids' clothes to any number of items, this event offers all the benefits of a giant yard sale without the hassle of setting up a sale at home.



The yard sale will be Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. until noon in the Judicial Center parking lot on Cleland St. in Georgetown. Set-up for the sale begins at 7 a.m. and selling spaces are available for \$10 each. Reserve your spot at the Georgetown Library, 405 Cleland Street. Sellers should bring their own tables. There is no admission charge to browse and shop at the sale. Proceeds from space rentals go to library children's programming. For more information, call the library, (843) 545-3300.

~ RESCHEDULED ~

Waverly Road Bike Path and Sidewalk Sweep!

Join volunteers from our community as we clean from Kings River Road to Highway 17 in Pawleys Island.

Bring your rakes, brooms & hand tools. Litter collection supplies to be provided.

Meet: Waccamaw Elementary School

**When: Saturday, Nov. 14
9 a.m. to noon**



Rain Date: Saturday, Nov. 21

Bike the Neck

PalmettoPride
Litter Trashes Everyone



Redfish Cup headed to Georgetown

The Lowcountry Redfish Cup Championship will bring anglers from across the Carolinas and Georgia to Georgetown County this month.

The two-day tournament will launch from the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex on the Sampit River on Nov. 13 and 14. Though only anglers who qualified for the tournament may fish in the event, weigh-ins are open to the public and spectators are welcome to come out and see some big fish.

Weigh-ins are scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. both days. Boat launches are at dawn. Big fish prizes will be handed out each day and the grand prize is a \$35,000 boat package that includes a new

custom 2015 East Cape Skiffs Caimen powered by Mercury Marine on a custom Ramlin trailer.

Ashley Lowder, assistant tournament director, said the group is excited about fishing in Georgetown.

"We love everything about the Campbell Marine Complex and the staff in Georgetown, especially County Administrator Sel Hemingway, has been unbelievable to work with," Lowder said.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Lowcountry Redfish Cup Tournament Fishing Series and how to fish in future qualifying events is invited to attend the Captains Meeting at the marine complex on Nov. 12 at 5 p.m.

Interested anglers can also find more information online at www.lowcountryredfishcup.com.



Animal rescue organizations assisted four-legged victims during flood event

The National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition was on the ground in Georgetown County last month, taking care of the needs of animals affected by flooding.

The Coalition took in dozens of cats and several dogs. Some were reunited with their families and others were adopted to new forever homes.

Georgetown County set up a Disaster Animal Call Center, which residents in flood-impacted areas could call to report lost or found animals and see if their missing animal had been taken to the Coalition's sheltering location. The operation was a huge success.

The National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition was asked to assist in Georgetown County by Georgetown County Emergency Management through the S.C. Emergency Management Division and the state's Emergency Preparedness Veterinarian Charlotte



Kayla Hodge, center, is pictured with her new family pet and members of the animal rescue team at the county's disaster animal shelter. Kayla and her family adopted a cat rescued from flooding.

Krugler. The Coalition's partners in Georgetown County included the ASPCA, RedRover, the IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) and the American Humane Association. Supplies for the Coalition were donated by Pet Smart. The coalition also worked with local animal centers, including Saint Frances and All 4 Paws.

FRIENDS OF ANDREWS LIBRARY

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR
SUMMER PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY!

Book Sale ✦ GIFTS

CRAFTS ✦ Bake Sale

STORY TIME ✦ GAMES

All Ages!

Carvers Bay Library invites donations!

November 2 - December 12

**13048 Choppee Road
Hemingway, SC 29554**

Get your picture taken with your toy for our wall of fame!

Our goal is 100 more toys than last year.
Call 545-3515 for more details

Flooding left more than 160 roads in need of repair

In the days immediately following flooding in October, the Georgetown County Public Services Department identified 189 problem areas needing repair on about 160 county-maintained roadways. Problems identified included washouts, missing materials on slag roads, potholes, drainage problems and other issues.

As of Oct. 30, the number was down to 116. A total of 58 damaged county roads have been stabilized with either permanent or temporary repairs, said Ray Funnye, director of Georgetown County Public Services.

The first repairs started almost immediately after the rain abated, assisting residents who were left isolated from the rest of the county by road damages, and move swiftly to major thoroughfares. Public Services staff received assistance from the S.C. National Guard in making road repairs. Funnye said it may take several months to complete all flood related road repairs.



An example of a road washout in western Georgetown County.

Public Services employees bring home APWA honors



From left are Ray Funnye, director of the Georgetown County Public Services Department, Herb Puckett and Tim Chatman.

Georgetown County Public Services employees Herb Puckett and Tim Chatman were presented with top honors during the S.C. Chapter of the American Public Works Association's annual conference on Nov. 3.

Puckett, manager for the department's Facility Services Division, was recognized as 2015 Outstanding Public Works Manger. He has worked for Georgetown County for more than 13 years. He and his division are currently completing remodeling of the 44,000-square-foot historic county courthouse. They saved the county more than \$1.5 million by completing the renovations in-house.

Chatman, compliance inspector with the department's Stormwater Division, was presented the 2015 Outstanding Public Works Employee award. He has been employed with the county for more than seven years, beginning as the county's mosquito control supervisor.

We congratulate these outstanding employees and thank them for their dedicated service.

PUBLIC MEETING

Residents affected by recent flooding in Georgetown County are invited to attend a community meeting to receive information on topics including federal assistance that you and your family may be eligible for.



Thursday, Nov. 12
6:30 p.m.

at Browns Ferry Elementary School
7292 Browns Ferry Rd.

Any resident affected by recent flooding and who has questions or concerns is encouraged to attend this meeting. County, FEMA and Emergency Management officials are schedule to be present.

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.



McGuire named employee of the quarter

Scott McGuire, a master firefighter/paramedic with Midway Fire Rescue, has been named the County Emergency Services Department's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2015.

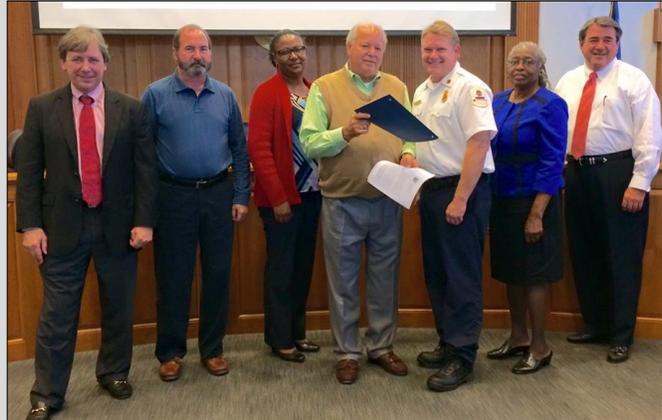
An employee with Midway for eight years, McGuire was described by his battalion chief, Brent McClellan, as a leader on his shift who "performs his role every day without losing sight of the organization's vision.

"As a master firefighter, you often feel as if you don't have the kind of influence as, say, a company officer. However, Scott is different and it shows," McClellan said. "He is often the centerpiece of his shift, handling situations well before they get to the level that a company officer would need to address. He doesn't realize that the things he does are even noticed, but all of his superior officers do notice. He's making their jobs much easier."



McGuire, left, is pictured with County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

Council recognizes Fire Prevention Month



October was Fire Prevention Month and Georgetown County Council members acknowledged the occasion with a proclamation and by offering their thanks to the county's firefighters who work hard all year for the safety of those in their communities. Midway Fire Marshal Todd Blomdahl is pictured with council members. From left are Steve Goggans, John Thomas, Leona Miller, Ron Charlton, Blomdahl, Lillie Jean Johnson and Austin Beard.

Building Permits

Continued from Front Page

department director. "Also, most insurance companies will require licensed contractors be used and proof that properties passed inspections before they will approve payment for any future claims."

Permits are required by the Building Code, Plumbing Code, Electrical Code and Gas/Mechanical Code. These codes are adopted as minimum safety standards for properties.

The law requires it. Failure to obtain a permit is a violation of the law and could also prove problematic in settling future homeowner insurance claims, and in selling or refinancing a property later.

The Building and Zoning Department will assess buildings and homes as expeditiously as possible, Johnson said.

Any structure that has been deemed uninhabitable and has had notice posted of such cannot be occupied until the status is changed by the Building and Zoning Department. For information, call (843) 545-3116. To assist residents with properties deemed uninhabitable by flood damage, the county will allow temporary occupation of mobile structures, such as trailers and recreational vehicles, on properties where flood-related repairs or construction are taking place.

Anyone who has repaired a flood-

damaged home without permits or inspections should take corrective action now and apply for a permit.

Determining if you need a permit:

Examples of actions that **require a building permit** include but are not limited to:

- Repair or replacement of water-damaged electrical outlets
- Structural repairs
- Replacement of insulation
- Any repair work dealing with mechanicals located underneath the structure.

Actions that do **not** require a building permit include:

- Replacing floor coverings
- Painting
- Repairing wall coverings

Demolition work done as a result of flood damage will also **not** require a permit. However, please notify the Georgetown County Assessor's office, (843) 545-3017, prior to total demolition or removal of a structure including mobile homes. Any new mobile home will require a mobile home permit prior to placement on site.

If there are any questions regarding whether a permit is needed, please contact the Georgetown County Building and Zoning office, (843) 545-3116.

Finance Dept. says goodbye to two valued employees

Georgetown County staff bid a sad farewell to two valued employees in the county's Finance Department in late October.

John Porter, projects and grants accounting coordinator, retired on Oct. 23. Donna Bunn, senior buyer for the department's purchasing division, retired Oct. 30.

Porter had worked for the county for just weeks shy of 11 years. After his wife retired from teaching in June, Porter said he caught "retirement fever" after seeing how much she enjoyed being able to spend more time with their two infant grandsons. They plan to move to Newton Grove, N.C., into the farmhouse where Mrs. Porter's parents once lived.

Bunn worked for the county for a shorter period — just over five years — but made no less of an impact on her department and coworkers. Bunn also is retiring to spend more time with family, she said, but will continue residing in the county.

Finance Director Scott Proctor said both employees will be sorely missed and hard to replace.



Porter



Bunn

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

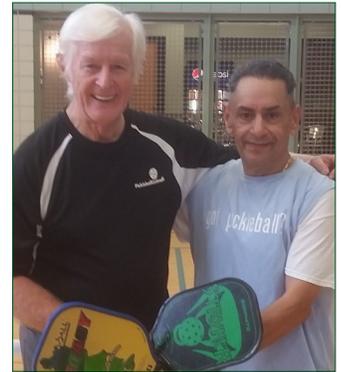
Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven Street
Georgetown, S.C. 29440-4200

Phone: (843) 545-3063
Fax: (843) 545-3292



First county Pickleball League champs named



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation just wrapped up its first Pickleball League season in late October. The champions for women's, mixed doubles and men's divisions are pictured above. From left, they are Fay Mills and Eva Diekmann, Joanne Meglio and Jay Opio, and Paul Robbins and Jay Opio.

Pleasant Hill, Browns Ferry advance to Nov. 14 regionals



Georgetown County Parks and Rec. football teams participated in championship games over Halloween weekend. A photo from each region is featured. The winning teams moving on to regional play are Browns Ferry in the ages 9-10 division and Pleasant Hill in the ages 11-12 division. Photos courtesy of South Strand News.



Trick or Treat

Staff and officials at the Georgetown County Judicial Center were host to their annual Halloween trick-or-treat event on Oct. 30. The event drew hundreds of school-age kids with their parents and was a great success. The event was organized by Clerk of Court Alma White. See all photos from the event at facebook.com/gtcountysc.

