

# The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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## Calendar

**Dec. 4** – Gingerbread house building party for kids at the Waccamaw Library, 2:30 p.m.

**Dec. 6** – Georgetown Library Yuletide Home Tour fundraiser, 1-6 p.m. See page 4.

**Dec. 9** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. Council only meets once this month.

**Dec. 18** – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

**Dec. 24-26** – County offices and facilities closed for Christmas holiday.

**Jan. 1** – County offices and facilities closed for New Year's Day.

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## Renovations on historic courthouse nearing completion

Over the last four years, Georgetown County's Facility Services Division has been chipping away at an extensive renovation project at the historic Georgetown County courthouse on Screven Street.

"Work is now in the final phase and should be complete within the first few weeks of 2015," said Herb Puckett, the county's superintendent of facility services. "It's definitely been a job. There were some interesting challenges, but the work we did here is something our guys can be really proud of."

By doing the work in-house and utilizing the skills of the division's eight full-time employees, assisted by 16 County Detention Center inmates assigned to the division, the county saved about \$1.5 million on the project. Even better, the savings was achieved without any sacrifice of quality, Puckett said.

Renovations on the 44,000-square-foot building began just after all the county's judicial functions moved out of the courthouse into a new facility on Cleland Street. That freed up space in the once overcrowded courthouse to bring in the planning and zoning departments, putting under one roof all the offices that regularly deal with the public.

Space in the courthouse had to be reconfigured to accommodate the shift of departments and meet the needs of staff that would occupy each area of the facility. County Council's chambers, for example, moved into what was once the grand courtroom,



Workers use a bucket truck to replace soffit and molding material around the eaves of the historic courthouse.

which is able to comfortably accommodate larger crowds. The former chambers were converted to

**See "Courthouse," Page 8**



A scene from last year's Georgetown Christmas Parade, set this year for 11:30 a.m. Dec. 6.

## Celebrating the season

*Looking for fun ways to celebrate the holiday season with your family? Here's a list of upcoming holiday events in Georgetown County.*

### Georgetown Christmas Extraganza, 12/6

The Georgetown Business Association hosts a full day of events beginning with a chance for kids to have breakfast with Santa from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the S.C. Maritime Museum on Front Street.

Right after, at 11:30 a.m., is one of the season's most anticipated events, the Georgetown Christmas Parade down Front Street. After dark, a lighted boat parade will take place beginning at 6 p.m. and may be viewed from the Harborwalk.

**See "Holiday Events," Page 4**

# Economic Development Alliance gets new members, officers

In addition to its recent election of new officers, the Georgetown Economic Development Alliance has approved a significant change to its makeup. The Alliance, a private non-profit that supports Georgetown County government's Economic Development Department, will now include a list of "strategic partners" on its board of directors.

Since merging with the County Economic Development Board last year, the 17-member Alliance Board includes seven individuals appointed by Georgetown County Council and an unspecified number of private sector representatives. Five positions will now permanently belong to representatives of specific agencies identified as key to economic development in the county. Those agencies include: Santee Cooper, Santee Electric Cooperative, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Georgetown County Water and Sewer District, and Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments.

The move creates a more cohesive economic development structure and better positions the agency to work effectively, said Brian Tucker, Georgetown County's economic development director.

"We now have appropriate representation from our true strategic partners and, as always, having everybody in the same room at the

## New Economic Development Alliance Board Lineup

### Council appointees:

- Dan Scheffing, Sabine & Waters
- Will Howard (Treasurer), First Citizens Bank
- Jerry Rovner, retired
- Sean Flynn (Secretary), Thomas & Hutton Engineering
- Ed Green, Arcelor Mittal
- Barbara Huell, Wilds Funeral Home
- Herbert Dennison, retired

### Strategic Partners:

- Ray Gagnon, Georgetown County Water & Sewer District
- Sam Bennett, Santee Cooper

- Stan Williamson, Santee Electric
- Sarah Smith, Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments
- Neyle Wilson, Horry-Georgetown Technical College

### Private Sector Representatives:

- Tim Tilley (Immediate Past Chairman), EnviroSep
- Perry Collins (Chairman), Winyah Properties
- Emerson Gower (Vice-Chairman), retired
- Larry Mercado, Mercom
- Russ Campbell, SGA Architecture

same time having the same conversation leads to greater chances of success," Tucker said. "This current board configuration is one I think everybody is very pleased with."

Of representatives from the new Strategic Partners category, Sarah Smith of Waccamaw Regional, Ray Gagnon of the Wa-

**See "Alliance," Page 10**



*This holiday season...*

**Give something that means something**



**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**Wednesday, Dec. 3  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
at the Beck Recreation Center,  
2030 Church St., Georgetown**

**Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).  
Use the sponsor lookup code **GeoCounty**.**

*This event is co-sponsored by Georgetown County government.*

## 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](http://www.gtcounty.org) or through our Facebook page. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto: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](http://www.gtcounty.org)

## Holiday events

Continued from Front Page

Following the parade, head on over to Francis Marion Park to finish off a festive evening with the Georgetown Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at 6:45 p.m.

Georgetown will also have live entertainment every Saturday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Francis Marion Park through Dec. 20.

### Yuletide Tour of Homes, 12/6

While you're in town for the Georgetown Parade and Tree Lighting, make sure to check out some historic homes decked out for the holidays and support the Georgetown Library.

The Friends of the Georgetown Library's annual Yuletide Tour of Homes will take place from 1-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and will feature beautiful locations throughout Georgetown's Historic District, as well as several lovely churches and other buildings.

Proceeds benefit children's programming at the library. Tickets are \$20 for Friends members and \$25 for non-members and may be purchased at the Georgetown or Waccamaw libraries. For more information, call Trudy Bazemore, (843) 545-3303.

### Christmas at the Kaminski House, 12/6 and 12/11

Christmas décor showcasing three fashionable eras in history will be featured in a holiday exhibition and candlelight tour entitled "A Very Fashionable Christmas at the Kaminski House Museum." The event is set for Dec. 6 and Dec. 11 from 5-8 p.m. at the Museum on Front Street.

The dining room, the library and the drawing room of the Kaminski House will all be decorated to showcase décor from particular periods in history.

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the museum gift shop. Visit [www.kaminskimuseum.org](http://www.kaminskimuseum.org) for more information.

### Murrells Inlet Community Christmas Parade, 12/7

The annual Murrells Inlet Christmas Parade is set for 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7. It will start at Booty's Outdoors at Willcox Ave. and head south down Business 17 to the Brookwood Inn at Pendergrass Ave.

All floats will be judged by a panel of child judges, so make sure



The Kaminski House Museum will be decked out with period décor.



Brookgreen Gardens during Nights of a Thousand Candles.

your float has kid appeal! For more information or to sign up to be part of the parade, call Murrells Inlet 2020, (843) 357-2007.

### Live Nativity and church fair, 12/7

St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Litchfield will host a live nativity and Night in Bethlehem for families on Dec. 7 from 4-7 p.m. The public is invited to visit the little town of Bethlehem for an evening of crafts, music and food. There will also be a petting zoo. For information, call (843) 237-2795.

### Andrews tree lighting and parade, 12/11 and 12/14

The annual Town of Andrews Christmas tree lighting program is set for Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5:30 p.m. The festivities will take place in front of Town Hall at 101 N. Morgan Ave.

The town will have its annual Christmas parade the following Sunday. The parade, on Dec. 14, will begin at 3 p.m. in front of the Exxon gas station. Lineup begins at 2 p.m. For more information, call Town Hall, (843) 264-8666.

### Nights of a Thousand Candles, weekly dates through Dec. 20

Brookgreen Gardens' popular Nights of a Thousand Candles returns on Dec. 4 to celebrate its 15th year. See Brookgreen in the soft glow of thousands of hand-lit candles and sparking Christmas lights on the following dates: Dec. 4-6, 11-13 and 18-20. For ticket prices and more information, visit [www.brookgreen.org](http://www.brookgreen.org) or call (843) 235-6021.

### A Plantation Christmas, 12/19 and 12/20

Christmas in the Lowcountry is celebrated the old-fashioned way at an afternoon party hosted by Hobcaw Barony volunteers at Hobcaw House from 2-4:30 p.m. Dec. 19 and 20. Tickets are \$25. Includes tours, refreshments and remarks by Lee Brockington. Call (843) 546-4623 to register.

At right is an image from the annual lighted boat parade, which takes place in the City of Georgetown. This is one of two parades which will take place in Georgetown on Saturday, Dec. 6.



## Quicken class back by popular demand

Two free classes on using Quicken software filled up quickly when they were offered last month. For those who weren't able to get a spot in one of the previous classes, the Georgetown Library is giving you another chance.

On Wednesday, Dec. 10, the library will offer a free class in Quicken Starter 2015 that can set you on the right path with your personal finances. The class begins at 10 a.m. Attendees receive a free copy of the software, valued at \$75, to take home.

"This is a great way to start the new year — with the knowledge and tools to track your spending," said George Leyendecker, who teaches the class.

Advance registration is required. Sign up by visiting the library or calling (843) 545-3300. Sessions are limited to 16 participants. Attendees must have a computer running Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7 or 8 to use the software at home. Exact requirements are available at the library.

## Library branch storytime schedule

Storytimes are offered weekly at Georgetown County library branches. Storytimes include games, songs and crafts, in addition to stories, and are always free.

Wee Wiggles storytime for children up to age 3 begins at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at the Georgetown library and every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Waccamaw Library.

At the Andrews library, storytime is for ages 2-5 and begins at 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday. Storytime at the Carvers Bay Library is also for ages 2-5 and begins at 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday and Thursday.

The Waccamaw Library also has the Bookworm Club after school for older children. The club meets at 3 p.m. on Thursdays.

## Waites to sign books at Carvers Bay library

Kelvin Waites will sign copies of his book, "Hit 'Em Before They Hit You," at the Carvers Bay Library on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The book's motivational stories and passages of courage, sacrifice and determination, show readers that success and happiness can be found, no matter what adversities individuals are confronted with, Waites said.

"'Hit 'Em Before They Hit You,' is about having the will to accomplish goals while possessing a quiet confidence that demands respect," according to the author. "It's about meeting new challenges head-on and finding the courage to press on even when you cannot clearly see your way."

For more information, call the library at (843) 545-3515. The library is located at 13048 Choppee Road.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR KIDS: Library schedules children's programs

### Gingerbread house making, Dec. 4

Kids of all ages are invited to spend an afternoon building gingerbread houses at the Waccamaw Library on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Bring the entire family to participate!

For information, call the library, (843) 545-3623 or e-mail [aking@gtcounty.org](mailto:aking@gtcounty.org).

### 'A Charlie Brown Christmas,' Dec. 20

The Andrews Branch Library will show "A Charlie Brown Christmas" during its holiday program on Saturday, Dec. 20. Kids will also enjoy snacks and a fun take-home project.

The program is free and runs from 10-11:30 a.m. For information, call the library, (843) 545-3621.

### The Magic of Renzi, Dec. 11

The Waccamaw Neck Branch Library will host a magic and comedy show featuring Renzi at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11. This family-friendly show is free and open to all ages.

For information, call (843) 545-3623 or email [aking@gtcounty.org](mailto:aking@gtcounty.org).

### Read with a canine friend, Dec. 9

Dogs make great listeners, so bring kids to practice their reading with furry friends from Canine Angels. The program runs from 3-4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the Waccamaw Library branch. Children of all ages are welcome.

For information, call (843) 545-3623 or email [aking@gtcounty.org](mailto:aking@gtcounty.org).

It's here! The Georgetown Friends of the Library...

# @Yuletide Home Tour

Saturday, December 6th  
1—6 pm

Discover the elegant interiors of homes,  
churches & buildings in historic Georgetown!

Tickets: \$25 Only \$20 for Friends

Available at Georgetown & Waccamaw Libraries.  
Call (843) 545-3303 with questions



## Retirement planning workshop is Dec. 4

The Georgetown Library will host a Lunch Money workshop on retirement planning at noon Thursday, Dec. 4. The popular Lunch Money workshops last one hour and feature entertaining experts, helpful handouts and a delicious lunch from Kudzu Bakery.

“Come get tips on saving for retirement at any age, and after the workshop, if you’re looking for more details, we’ve got all the latest books on building your nest egg,” said Heather Pelham, public service librarian.

The workshops are sponsored by a Smart Investing @ Your Library grant provided through a partnership between the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association. The Smart Investing grant has made it possible for the Georgetown County Library system to have financial festivals, job fairs, workshops, and even interviews with local residents who have



Lunch Money workshops at the Georgetown Library offer free financial tips along with an afternoon meal.

faced and overcome financial obstacles.

Registration is not required to participate in the workshop. However, anyone with questions should contact Pelham at (843) 545-3327.

For more information about other programs and activities at Georgetown County library branches, visit [www.georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov](http://www.georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov) or check out our Facebook page.

## Carvers Bay library accepting Toy donations until Dec. 13

The Carvers Bay library branch is participating in the annual Toys for Tots collection drive.

Donations will be accepted at the library, located at 13048 Choppee Road, through Saturday, Dec. 13. The library collected 78 toys last year and hopes to improve on that number by at least 100 this year.

A project of the Marine Corps Reserve, Toys for Tots collects new, unwrapped toys each year during the holiday season for distribution to children who might not otherwise receive any toys for Christmas. Toys are distributed within the communities where they are collected.

Donors who drop off a toy at the library can have their photo taken for the “wall of fame.”

For information, call (843) 545-3515.



## Adult Soccer Tournament



Open Men's 16+ and Open Co-ed 16 +

January 24 & 25  
at Stables Park in Pawleys Island

Fee is \$250 per team  
Deadline to register is 5 p.m. on Jan. 2

Tournament is 7v7. Registration is also open for a 7v7 Adult Soccer League.

Call Justin, (843) 520-9621  
or e-mail [jblomdahl@gtcounty.org](mailto:jblomdahl@gtcounty.org)

## Adult Co-ed and Men's Softball Leagues!

A program of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation

### Men's League

League Fee: \$400  
(subject to change)  
Games on: Monday  
and Wednesday nights  
at Retreat Park



Deadline to register  
is 5 p.m. on Jan. 23!

### Co-ed League

League Fee: \$350  
(subject to change)  
Games on: Tuesday  
and Thursday nights  
at Retreat Park

(843) 545-3319 or [jblomdahl@gtcounty.org](mailto:jblomdahl@gtcounty.org)

Need Help  
with your Medicare  
Plan Comparisons  
for Open Enrollment?



All individuals who qualify for Medicare  
are eligible for free, individualized help  
in navigating your plan options!

For a free appointment,  
Call 546-8502.

## Georgetown County Fire/Rescue teaches dangers of driving under the influence



First responders with Georgetown County Fire/EMS and the Coroner's Office gave members of the public a clear picture last month of how bad the consequences of driving under the influence can be. A Community Safety Awareness Day at Station 8 in Plantersville included a simulated wreck between a four-wheeler and a car operated by a drunk driver. Spectators watched as firefighters, paramedics, law enforcement officers and Coroner Kenny Johnson enacted response to the wreck. *Photos courtesy of the Georgetown Times/Chris Sokoloski.*

## More airport hangars on the way at 2 sites

Georgetown County Council recently approved borrowing funds for construction of new hangars at the county's airports, located in Georgetown and Andrews. Factoring in an expected 20 percent rate increase for hangar space in 2018, revenue brought in by the new hangars will more than make up the cost of the loan over their lifespan.

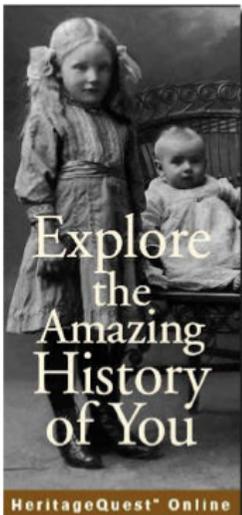


The hangar development plan calls for construction of 10 new T-hangars and a new corporate hangar with room for seven aircraft at the Georgetown airport. Four new T-hangars would be constructed at the Andrews airport. All are scheduled for completion by Fiscal Year 2017.

There has been a demand for new county airport hangars for some time. There is currently a waiting list for hangars, so many of the new hangars should be filled immediately upon completion.

As for the planned increase in rental fees, rates will still be competitive with neighboring counties, and the aeronautics community is already aware the increase is on the way.

There are currently 44 aircraft permanently based at the Georgetown airport and about 80 aircraft operations per day occur there, totaling approximately 29,200 operations per year. The county's airports are an attraction for new businesses, as well as providing a direct economic output of more than \$1 million per year.



### The Georgetown Library can help you explore your past!

We offer the popular HeritageQuest on our website at [georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov](http://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](http://www.gtcounty.org). You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.



## Georgetown County Senior Center's oldest attendee celebrates 100th birthday

Rosa Lee Nelson, a regular at Georgetown County's North Santee Senior Center, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 8 with friends, family and a party. The celebration came on a Saturday, two days after her actual birthday.

"She told me years ago she was going to live to be 100," recalled Emma Drayton, Nelson's goddaughter. "She has had a full, blessed life. And just think about all the things she's seen from 1914 right on up to today. I wish she could tell us."

Drayton said one of her biggest regrets is not having heard and recorded all Nelson's stories before dementia took away the clarity of Nelson's memories. Like many who have the disorder, Nelson has good days and bad. Leading up to her party, Nelson had a good day where the significance of her upcoming milestone really registered. She was excited and thankful, Drayton recounted. She was looking forward to marking a century of life and having loved ones around her to help her celebrate.

On the day of the party, Mt. Zion AME Church's fellowship hall was packed with well-wishers, and Nelson put on her finest, including a tiara, for the special day. She always has liked to look her best, Drayton said.

"She's always been a very classy lady. When she was younger, she loved her jewelry and her makeup and her false eyelashes," Drayton said.

As a young woman in New York, Nelson worked as a housekeeper for wealthy families and every day when she stepped on the subway to commute to work, she was fashionably dressed with full makeup on, Drayton recalled. "She'd go to work and put on her work clothes, then change again before she went home. Somebody who saw her walking down the street would have thought she worked in an office somewhere."

Nelson was born in Charleston County and was the only child of the Rev. J.C. Williams and Minnie Dennis Williams. Her father was preacher at a church in Georgetown and she grew up in the Santee community before moving to Andrews, where she met Ben Nelson, the man who would be her husband. He died in 1959, when Rosa Lee was only 45, but she never remarried.

Rosa Lee spent most of her adult life in New York, returning to Georgetown County in 1998. She now resides with Drayton and



**Rosa Lee Nelson, above turned 100 in November. Nelson is pictured at top right on a cruise ship as a younger woman and at right with her goddaughter, Emma Drayton, during a party celebrating Nelson's 100th birthday.**

her family. Though Nelson is her godmother, Drayton said she grew up calling her Aunt, and the two have always been very close, despite living far apart. Drayton was born and raised in Andrews. Nelson was already living in New York, but she still managed to have a strong influence on Drayton's life.

"I was probably the first one of my friends to have a black baby doll, and it was because of her," Drayton said. "It was one she sent to me."

Drayton was a young woman when her mother died. "On her deathbed, she told Aunt Rosa Lee to take care of her two children," Drayton said. After that, Nelson became like a second mother to her and was part of the reason she left for New York when she graduated. She was the first to move back to Georgetown County and was thrilled when Nelson eventually agreed to come back too.

"She was good to me as a child and now I'm taking care of her," Drayton said.

Drayton said she has a small celebration for Nelson every year on her birthday, taking a cake to the senior center where Nelson likes to spend every morning. The center, just down the road from her home, gives her a chance to get out of the house and spend time with people in her own age group. She likes to play Bingo there, read the newspapers and do what exercises she can. Drayton is the oldest attendee at any of the county's senior centers (though, the Bureau of Aging Services' oldest client is actually Hestell Grate, who at 101, receives services at



home.)

Nelson continued her birthday tradition at the center this year, but the occasion also called for a much bigger party, Drayton said.

"I knew if the Lord spared her life and she saw 100, I would have a big celebration," Drayton said.

One of the highlights of the day was a certificate from the House of Representatives presented to Nelson in recognition and honor of her lifetime of commitment to enhancing the lives of others. The certificate was requested by S.C. Rep. Carl Anderson.

"She is caring and devoted to all who know her, and she is well respected in the community," the certificate reads. "She is a woman of many talents, never hesitating to help those in need."

Nelson and the Draytons would like to send their thanks to everyone who played a part in Nelson's milestone celebration. Everyone at the North Santee Senior Center and the Georgetown County Bureau of Aging Services wishes Rosa Lee well in her 100<sup>th</sup> year and looks forward to seeing her turn 101.

For more information about services offered by the Georgetown County Bureau of Aging Services, please call (843) 545-3185.

## Courthouse

Continued from Front Page

house the Stormwater Division of the Public Services Department.

In addition, the courthouse received new carpet and paint throughout, all the ceiling and ductwork were replaced, the building was completely rewired, a new electrical service entrance was installed, and the heating and cooling system was updated.

"There's not much in there we didn't touch," Puckett said. Essentially, the courthouse was improved from top to bottom. The exterior improvements were the last to be started and there are still some finishing touches needed. The most obvious improvements made to the exterior include new paint and replacement of old molding that had started to rot. The building also received new windows.

The biggest challenge in the project was doing the work while all departments in the building continued to function.

"There were a lot of people who were very patient while we made a lot of noise and dirt," Puckett said. "We moved people and shuffled them around, but everything stayed up and running."

Challenges also came from the building's age. The oldest part — the original section that housed the grand courtroom — is well over 150 years old, and nineteenth century building standards created some interesting irregularities. Some of the walls in that part of the building were 30 inches thick and composed of solid brick, Puckett said.

Puckett said he's glad to see the project finished, but its success has already created some new work for the department. With the demonstration of what Puckett and his staff can do, more projects are being done in-house. While working on the courthouse project, the division also remodeled the county's Elections and Voter Registration Office, and several other buildings, while continuing with other duties. The division is responsible for 134 structures, including buildings, beach accesses and even bike trail bridges.

"I am very proud of the Facility Services team, not just for their willingness and ability to perform in-house projects to save Georgetown County over \$1.5 million, but also of their daily dedication to making Georgetown County a more beautiful place to live," said Ray Funny, Public Services Department director.

## Holiday card contest winners announced



Wing-Yee "Kelly" Cheah, a senior at Waccamaw High was chosen as winner of the annual Georgetown County holiday card contest. Her drawing of a Christmas tree, above right, will be used on the county's 2014 holiday card. Alex Sanders, a sophomore at Waccamaw High, won 2nd place (top left), and Maggie Marsh a freshman at Carvers Bay High was named 3rd place winner (above left).

## Gingerbread House Party



Thursday, Dec. 4, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
at the Waccamaw Library

All ages are welcome! Come enjoy an afternoon of building gingerbread houses with your family.

**Jr. FLL**  
Junior FIRST® LEGO® League

Do you have a 6- to 9-year-old who loves LEGOs or robots?

Sign them up for the LEGO team at the Georgetown or Waccamaw library!

Call (843) 543-3310 to sign up!

Introducing...



**ZUMBA**  
GOLD

Zumba Fitness classes customized with lower intensity moves for active older adults.

Tuesdays and Saturdays  
10-11 a.m.  
at the Murrells Inlet Community Center  
\$3 per class



## Public Services Department recognizes outstanding employees

### Chatman is Employee of the Year; Montgomery, Dirks receive honors for excellence

Georgetown County's Department of Public Services and Director Ray Funnye paid tribute to the department's outstanding employees this month and presented several awards for dedication and hard work, including Employee of the Year. The awards were presented on Nov. 20 during a ceremony at the Beck Recreation Center.

"After all the hard work each of you has put forth this past year, it is important that we stop and take the time to focus on each one of you as individuals," Funnye told his staff during the event. "You are more than our employees. Each of you is a vital part of our team. You give your best every day to make Georgetown County the wonderful place that it is. This past year has been a great success for the Department of Public Services and we could not have had such success without your dedication, hard work and camaraderie."

Among the department's accomplishments for 2014 are:

- Completion of the Andrews airport hangar taxiway project
- Receipt of three environmental services grants from the Department of Health and Environmental Control
- FEMA approval of the 2014 Debris Management Plan (there are only 103 approved plans across the country)
- Approaching completion of renovations at the historic Georgetown County Courthouse
- Great progress in work on the Litchfield Exchange building

#### Award Winners

The department also recognized three employees who stood out this year in their excellence.

**Tim Chatman** was named Public Services Employee of the Year. Chatman has worked for the county for more than seven years and serves primarily in a supervisory position. However, he also demonstrates understanding and willingness to support the overall team, said Tracy Jones, Stormwater Division manager, who announced the awards.

In his supervisory role, Chatman manages the budget and operations of the Mosquito Control staff and fleet. He informs and educates citizens and visitors to the county about ways to minimize the mosquito nuisance, control the mosquito population and protect against diseases carried by mosquitos.

In his inspector role, Chatman performs dutifully, working with contractors to remedy site issues without conflict, and managing all paperwork in a timely manner. In addition, this employee has brought awareness to the team of new structural management control installations, and steps up to assist anywhere, whether it be to supervise during educational camps run by the department, make a presentation to students on the importance of mosquito control or pollution prevention, or make rain barrels for community awareness events.

In his free time, Chatman is an avid gardener and an active participant in local farmers markets, selling fruits and vegetables grown in his back yard garden. He oversees a summer youth program at Optimism Preventive Services, educating kids in farming skills, and also manages a community garden in the west end of Georgetown that generates produce for families in need. Additionally, Chatman is



**Tim Chatman, center, the Georgetown County Public Services Department's Employee of the Year, is pictured with Tracy Jones, left and department director Ray Funnye.**



**Jennifer Dirks, left, received the Customer Service Award. George Montgomery received the Professional Achievement Award.**

working with USDA to finalize a grant program that will help enable small farmers to increase their productivity.

The 2014 Professional Achievement award was presented to **George Montgomery** of the Environmental Services Division. Montgomery is always willing to undertake special projects, utilizing his past experience in construction and his formal training, Jones said. Montgomery is pursuing a degree in construction management to improve his skills. He regularly volunteers for additional training on new equipment and new processes to improve the county's operations.

**Jennifer Dirks**, who works in the department's administrative office, was the recipient of the 2014 Customer Service Award. She joined the staff this year, but in a very short amount of time, her dedication and hard work made her a key part of the team. Dirks "has the ability to come up with solutions on the spot for technical problems, personnel issues and citizen complaints," Jones said. "She has tackled the onslaught of coordinating manager requests, phone calls, balancing finance submittals and other duties. She always welcomes you in the door and offers to assist no matter the task.

# 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



## Elks Lodge, Sheriff's Office feed families in need



On Nov. 24, the Murrells Inlet Elks Lodge delivered Thanksgiving food boxes to the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office to be distributed to families who would otherwise not be able to have a Thanksgiving meal. The partnership is a tradition the lodge and the Sheriff's Office have participated in for many years. WalMart of Garden City helped cover expenses for the turkeys and Sam's Club helped with other items. Food Lion of Garden City and VFW Post 10420 of Murrells Inlet donated 280 food items to add to the boxes, and Elks Lodge members donated 1,050 items to supplement the turkeys. Georgetown County sheriff's deputies delivered the meals to 56 families throughout the county. Pictured from left are Lt. Amy Glover, Joe Deloreto, Bill Yerkey, Bill Pillard and Cpl. Robert Patterson.

## Alliance

Continued from Front Page

ter and Sewer District, and Stan Williamson of Santee Electric Cooperative had never been involved with the Alliance before. Ed Green and Barbara Huell are also new to the board, and Will Howard and Sean Flynn are returning to the board after an absence.

Flynn was voted board secretary, while Howard will serve as treasurer. Perry Collins was elected chairman, replacing Tim Tilley, and Emerson Gower will serve as vice-chairman.

"This is an exciting time for economic development in Georgetown County. The Alliance is looking forward to becoming an even stronger partner for the county in our efforts to create jobs and enhance industry in this region," said Bill Crowther, executive director of the Alliance.

The Alliance will continue in its mission to create economic development in the county and provide support to the county's economic development staff. The Alliance supports the county Economic Development Department's role by:

- Sponsoring activities generally not fundable with

public monies, such as entertaining representatives from businesses being courted by the county;

- Obtaining studies pertinent to specific areas of economic impact;
- Conducting periodic forums and events beneficial to economic development efforts;
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with political leaders to promote legislative actions that would benefit economic development in the county;
- Other tasks that would serve to support and assist the efforts of the county's economic development director.

The Alliance and Tucker work closely together to develop strategies for each individual prospect. "We have an opportunity to bring value to Georgetown County by promoting industry, which would create a better quality of life for our community and its citizens," Collins said. With this new lineup and board structure in place, the next step in the joint efforts of the Alliance and the county will be to engage in a strategic planning process. Look for more details on that process in the near future.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation presents

# Barre Fitness Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center  
Classes are \$10 and run from 8:15-9:15 a.m.

Call (843) 655-0196 or register online at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org)