

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

Dec. 3-4 – Holiday book sale at the Waccamaw Library

Dec. 5 – Georgetown Christmas parade, tree lighting and other holiday activities

Dec. 6 – Murrells Inlet Christmas parade

Dec. 8 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. Council only meets once this month

Dec. 10 & 17 – Classic Christmas movie night at the Georgetown Library

Dec. 13 – Andrews Christmas parade

Dec. 24 & 25 – All county offices and facilities are closed in observance of the Christmas holiday

Dec. 31 – Fireworks on the Marshwalk in Murrells Inlet

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2015

School boat now ferrying Sandy Island residents

Sandy Island residents' long wait for public transportation across the Waccamaw River came to an end on Nov. 21, thanks to a partnership between Georgetown County government, Georgetown County School District and the state Department of Education.

A state-owned school boat used to transport students from the island to Sandy Island Landing on the mainland made its first trip for non-students on the weekend before Thanksgiving. It transported 10 people on its first day, — a Saturday — 15 on the following Sunday and six non-students on Monday morning during a regular school trip. That was the first day the school boat started making extra weekday trips.

Under an agreement between the



The school boat docked at Sandy Island Landing.

County and the School District, the school boat will make roundtrips at 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays, in addition to the school trips which take place at 6:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sandy Island residents may ride on the school trips if there is space available. Weekend trips will take place at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The school boat will operate every

See "School Boat," Page 2

Disaster Recovery Center closes in Andrews

A Disaster Recovery Center set up in the Andrews area after severe flooding in October closed its doors permanently on Nov. 21. The center, located at Potato Bed Ferry Community Center, was closed due to lack of visitors.

A center at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown remains open six days a week to assist residents throughout the county. Beck is located at 2030 Church Street. The center is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Representatives from the S.C. Emergency Management Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Small Business Administration and other agencies are stationed at Beck and other Disaster Recovery Centers

See "FEMA," Page 8



A scene from last year's lighted boat parade in Georgetown. This year's lighted parade will be at 6 p.m. on Dec. 5 and is part of a full day of Christmas events including the Georgetown tree lighting and a meet and greet with Santa.

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.

A Very Fashionable Christmas, through Dec. 30

The Kaminski House Museum presents "A Very Fashionable Christmas," its annual holiday design showcase throughout the month of December.

Local designers have dressed the museum in holiday décor ranging from traditional Christmas decorations to seasonal glitz and glamor.

Guided tours are offered daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Candlelight tours will be on Dec. 3, 10 and 17 from 5-7 p.m. and are \$5 for adults, \$3 for youth and free for children under 10.

For information, call (843) 546-7706 or visit www.kaminskimuseum.org.

See "Holiday Events," Page 3

Library's Yuletide Tour of Homes will return in 2016

The Friends of the Georgetown Library's annual Yuletide Tour of Homes has been canceled this year, but will return in 2016, organizers promise.

Recent flooding led to a drop in homes able to participate this year, making this only the second time in 15 years the tour did not take place. However, a number of homeowners have already indicated they are on board for next year's event, which is planned for Dec. 7, 2016.

The tour of homes is a fundraiser that supports children's programming at the Georgetown Library and has grown annually in popularity.

School Boat

Continued from Front Page

day except for state and federal holidays, and days when weather makes travel unsafe, according to the agreement. The boat captain will be responsible for determining whether it is safe to operate the boat.

The County and the school district have agreed to review the schedule for trips and make any needed modifications to it after January 1, 2016, based on average ridership on each trip.

The Sandy Island community is situated on a true island and, with no bridges, is accessible only by water or

air. The County has been searching for some time for a safe, efficient and financially feasible means for helping residents of the county travel between the mainland and homes on the island.

Allowing use of the school boat for these trips required action by the S.C. General Assembly, in addition to cooperation between the county and the school district.

In order to take advantage of this ferry service, all riders 18 and older must sign a waiver. All riders under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult (with the exception of students engaged on school-related trips.)

'One SC' fund to help flood victims

Funds donated to the One SC Flood Relief Fund will help victims of recent flooding in South Carolina repair or rebuild their homes. Gov. Nikki Haley recently endorsed the fund, encouraging residents to support the initiative.

Formerly the SC Flood Relief Fund, the fund collects private donations to help fill the gap between



available resources and the unmet home repair needs of flood victims in 24 declared counties, including Georgetown. The fund will administer grants for purchasing building supplies to nonprofits and other groups capable of the labor and skills for home repair, among other housing-related needs. The goal is for all South Carolinians affected by the flood to live in safe, habitable homes.

Donate to the fund online at www.onescfund.org, or by texting "onesc" to (843) 606-5995. Donations can also be made by calling the Central Carolina Community Foundation, (803) 254-5601, or by mailing a check made payable to Central Carolina Community Foundation/One SC to 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213, Columbia, SC 29204.

The Governor's Original Six Foundation has donated \$50,000 to underwrite administration of the funds so all money donated can go to local organizations helping those in need.

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



This holiday season...

Give something that means something



Wednesday, Dec. 2

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.
Use the sponsor lookup code **GeoCounty**.

This event is co-sponsored by Georgetown County government.

Holiday Events

Continued from Front Page

Nights of a Thousand Candles, starts Dec. 3

Brookgreen Gardens' popular Nights of a Thousand Candles returns on Dec. 3 to celebrate its 16th year. See Brookgreen in the soft glow of thousands of hand-lit candles and sparkling Christmas lights on the following dates: Dec. 3-5, 10-12 and 17-19. New this year is an outdoor glass sculpture exhibit in Anne's Garden.

For ticket prices and more information, visit www.brookgreen.org or call (843) 235-6021.

Andrews Tree Lighting, Dec. 3

The annual Town of Andrews Christmas tree lighting program is set for Thursday, Dec. 3, at 5:30 p.m. The festivities will take place in front of Town Hall at 101 N. Morgan Ave. The parade is Dec. 13. Details in separate entry.

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 5

The Georgetown Cultural Council presents Breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 in the former Rice Paddy restaurant building at 732 Front Street in the City of Georgetown. Admission is \$7 (free for children age 2 and under) and includes breakfast, art activities and photo opportunities with Santa.

Tickets are available at the Cultural Council building at 922 Front St., Doodlebugs at 918 Front Street, or online at www.yapsody.com. Call (843) 359-1078 for information.

There will also be a meet and greet with Santa at this location from 1-5 p.m., following the Georgetown Christmas Parade.

Georgetown Christmas Parade, Dec. 5

The City of Georgetown Christmas Parade will travel through the historic district beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. The parade starts on Front Street and community members are encouraged to promote their organization, school or business by participating in the parade. Prizes will be awarded for best holiday theme, best children's float, best band and most creative.

Download an application to participate in the parade at www.cogsc.com. For information, call Katie or Aimee at (843) 527-8413.

Georgetown Lighted Boat Parade, Dec. 5

The highly anticipated Georgetown Lighted Boat Parade will take place on Saturday,



Atalaya at Huntington Beach State Park decorated for the holidays. The annual holiday celebration is Dec. 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dec. 5, beginning at 6 p.m. and may be viewed from the Harborwalk.

Organized by the Georgetown Business Association, the parade will leave from the Georgetown Drystack Marina. Awards will be given for best crew and best in show. Download an application at cogsc.com. For information, contact Michele Overton, (843) 546-8212 or micheleoverton@gmail.com.

Georgetown Tree Lighting, Dec. 5

The annual Georgetown Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place at 6:45 p.m. in Francis Marion Park on Front Street, immediately following the lighted boat parade. Bring the whole family and cap off a festive day of holiday activities on Front Street.

Atalaya Holiday Celebration, Dec. 5

See the rooms of Atalaya, the historic castle-like former home of Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington, decorated for the holiday season. Live music, food and crafts will be part of the festivities. Admission is \$3 plus park admission.

Atalaya is located at Huntington Beach State Park. The event is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.friendshbsp.com for details.

Murrells Inlet Tour of Homes, Dec. 5

View Murrells Inlet homes beautifully decorated for the holidays in the Christmas in the Inlet Holiday Home Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 5. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance or \$30 the day of the tour. Call (843) 357-2007 for tickets. Visit www.murrellsinletsc.com for details.

Georgetown Kringle Krawl, Dec. 5

Dress in a Santa hat or full Santa gear for the Kringle Krawl in Georgetown from 5-10

p.m. Dec. 5. Participating restaurants will offer holiday drink specials. Register from 4-5 p.m. at Eddy Chacon's restaurant. Entry fee is \$5 per person. For information, visit www.seaportgeorgetown.com.

Murrells Inlet Christmas Parade, Dec. 6

The annual Murrells Inlet Christmas Parade is set for 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6. It will start at Booty's Outdoors at Willcox Ave. and head to Wachesaw Road.

All floats will be judged by a panel of child judges, so make sure your float has kid appeal! Email info@murrellsinletsc.com for a registration form. For more information, call Murrells Inlet 2020, (843) 357-2007.

Live Nativity and church fair, Dec. 6

St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Litchfield will host a live nativity and Night in Bethlehem for families on Dec. 6 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.

A One-Man Christmas Carol, Dec. 10-12

Georgetown native Bill Oberst Jr., accompanied by musicians Patrick Hutchison and Lisa Paige, will give one-hour performances of "A Christmas Carol" at Brookgreen Gardens — and he'll be the only member of the cast. The show is a faithful, frantic and frequently funny telling of the 1843 classic. Performance's will be part of Brookgreen Gardens' Nights of a Thousand Candles and will take place at 6 and 8 p.m. Dec. 10-12. Free with Brookgreen admission.

Hobcaw Christmas Oyster Roast, Dec. 12

Celebrate Christmas the old-fashioned

See "Holiday Events," Page 4

Sheriff's Office offers tips to avoid holiday fraud, keep your family safe this Christmas

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office wants the holiday season to bring cheer, hope and joy for residents. The following tips from Sheriff Lane Cribb are intended to help ensure families avoid becoming a victim of holiday fraud.

- Shred financial documents.
- Protect your Social Security number. Never give it to anyone over the phone; ask to use another identifier.
- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the internet unless you know with whom you are dealing.
- Never send money or pay fees to collect lottery or sweepstakes winnings.
- Never click on links sent in

unsolicited emails.

- Do not use obvious passwords.
- Keep your personal information in a secure place at home.

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office would also like to offer holiday tips to keep your purchases safe.

- Lock all motor vehicles.
- Lock all windows and doors, even if you're just going to be away for a few minutes.
- Lock up or secure valuables.
- Be aware of your surroundings and if anyone may be lingering when you leave or arrive.
- When you are away from your home, leave a television or a radio on in your home for background noise.



- Never leave valuables in plain view or in unlocked cars.
- When returning to your car or home, have your keys in your hand, ready to open the door.
- When returning to your car or home, if you have a remote alarm for your vehicle, have it in your hand in case you need to

activate the alarm. The sound can be a deterrent to criminals.

Sheriff Cribb encourages all residents to utilize these tips to discourage any potential criminal activity. If you notice something which seems suspicious, please alert law enforcement so it can be investigated.

Holiday Events

Continued from Page 3

way with a visit to the house and grounds of Bellefield Plantation at Hobcaw Barony. The barony will host a Lowcountry oyster roast, replete with side dishes, wine and beer. Tours and interpretation include Southern customs and symbolism of Christmas greenery, plantation preparations in the 19th century and the Baruch family's hunting parties of the 20th century.

Reservations are required. The event is from noon to 3 p.m. and tickets are \$50. Visit www.hobcawbarony.org for information.

MarshWalk Santa Crawl, Dec. 12

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. and participants are encouraged to dress in their finest Christmas-themed attire as they celebrate on the MarshWalk. Each of the seven MarshWalk restaurants and bars will feature holiday drink and dinner specials, along with live holiday music. A \$1,000 cash prize will go to the individual with the best holiday outfit. New unwrapped toys will be accepted for Toys for Tots.

Andrews Christmas Parade, Dec. 13

The annual Town of Andrews Christmas parade is set for Sunday, Dec. 13, and will begin at 3 p.m. in front of the Exxon gas station at 430 E. Main St. Lineup begins at 2



p.m. The parade will end at the National Guard Armory. Deadline for entries is Dec. 7. For more information, call Town Hall, (843) 264-8666.

Bells for Christmas, Dec. 18-20

Experience laughter and the joy of Christmas at the Winyah Auditorium with this three-act family play that contains comedy, mystery and romance, all culminating with traditional Christmas carols. Doors open one hour prior to show time. Shows are at 7 p.m. Dec. 18 and 19, and at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 20. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. For information, call (843) 344-3312 or visit www.winyahauditorium.com.

Marshwalk Fireworks, Dec. 31

A New Year's Eve fireworks show is planned for the Murrells Inlet Marshwalk this year. Marshwalk restaurants will offer



Top: Nights of a Thousand Candles at Brookgreen Gardens. Above: A Very Fashionable Christmas at the Kaminski House.

holiday drink and dinner specials throughout the evening, along with live music, culminating in a midnight "fireworks extravaganza." Details at www.marshwalk.com.

The end of an era

Robert Cox retiring after 26 years in County Building Department

It was just weeks after Hurricane Hugo that Robert Cox joined the staff of the Georgetown County Building Department in 1989. The area was just beginning its recovery and Cox remembers there were homes still sitting in the middle of streets while others had been reduced to nothing more than piles of wood and nails.

"The first eight weeks were spent really just trying to figure out insurance and things, so it wasn't until after I was hired in early December that rebuilding really started," Cox recalled. "It was an initiation like I've never had on any other kind of job, and really, it was the very beginning of the building boom that lasted all those years and didn't end until the Great Recession."

Though the county had some near misses over the years, Cox thought he'd finish his career without seeing another disaster the likes of Hugo. With Dec. 18 set to be his last day on the job, he almost made it. Then came October and a "thousand-year flood."

"I came in on the tail of a disaster and it turns out I'm going to leave on the tail of one too," Cox said. "This was a totally different kind of storm. The Waccamaw neck didn't really get much of anything off of this one like it did Hugo. But countywide, I'd say the damage assessment totals are comparable. These were both devastating events for our county."

When all is said and done, Cox will have spent a total of 26 years and 15 days in the county's building department when he retires this month. He started out as a plans examiner and was made flood plain manager in 1992 when the county briefly fell out of compliance with national flood regulations. It was Cox's job to get the county back in good standing. He did it in a year and became chief building inspector, advancing to building official after Don Harrelson retired from that position in 1995. He's held that position ever since.

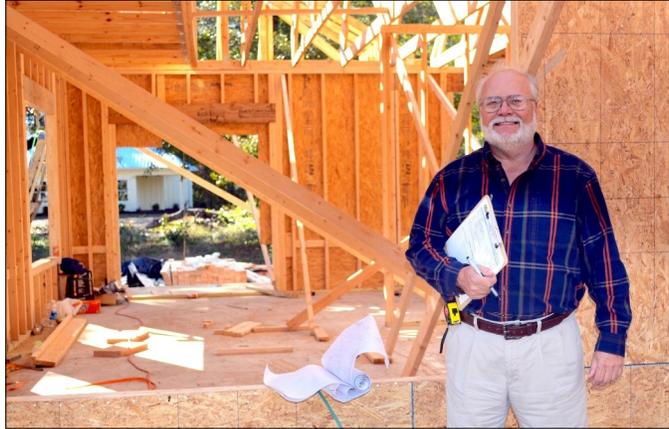
"I've seen a lot of changes and a lot of people come and go," Cox said. When he started in 1989, county staff was still handwriting permits on carbon paper and all the offices were still using typewriters. "I don't remember ever seeing a computer here until the 90s or so," he said.

Now, inspectors take their laptops into the field on a daily basis and technology makes the process for contractors and inspectors easier and more efficient.

"I've seen probably 20 employees come and go" from the building department, Cox noted. His administrative assistant, Sanda Carter, is the only remaining employee in his department who was on staff when Cox started. He has worked under four county administrators and numerous County Council members, and alongside five zoning administrators and three planning directors.

"I've stuck around and seen just about every other position change," Cox said. "It's something I'm proud of, that I've stuck around all these years. I've had other opportunities outside this organization that I could have advanced in, but I've really loved working for Georgetown County. It's been a good run."

He gets a little emotional as he talks about closing that chapter of his life. "Your family at home is one thing, but you also have a work family that you see every day. Sometimes you see those people more than some of your real family. I'm going to miss that. I'm



Robert Cox on the site of a building inspection last month, top, and as part of the County Boys Band, a band comprised of county employees, in 2012. The County Boys provided the entertainment at county holiday events for several years. Cox played percussion.

going to miss a lot of the people I've worked with and come to call friends," Cox said.

Though Cox is retiring, he said he isn't leaving the professional world entirely behind — not by a long shot. At 55, he's still a young man and plans to start a consulting business, as well as devote more time to teaching, he said.

In the decades since Cox joined the county building department, requirements for that profession have become much more stringent. Inspectors now have to be licensed, must maintain numerous certifications and complete continuing education hours every year.

"That has really opened up a field for retired code enforcement officers who want to continue working," Cox said. "Somebody has to teach all these continuing education courses."

Cox has taught contractor certification courses on the weekends for many years and discovered teaching is something he enjoys and wants to do more of.

Between those ventures, two grandchildren and coaching youth baseball, Cox won't have any trouble keeping busy without a 9-to-5, he said. He has coached baseball for 30 years and plans to continue devoting time to that effort. He said he spent 10 months out of this year coaching between the regular season, All Stars and travel ball.

He's looking forward to being able to spend more time with his grandchildren, Maddux, 4, and Emma, 1, as well as his wife of 29 years, Zonda. The couple will continue to reside in Georgetown, where Cox was born and raised, but they do hope to travel more.

"Georgetown County has been a great place to work and I have no regrets," Cox said. "I've worked with the greatest coworkers and administrators. I'm going to miss the people and being able to help people as a public servant. But the timing is right to retire."

Holiday card contest winners announced



Gracyn Potwin, a 5th-grader at Waccamaw Intermediate School, was chosen as winner of the annual Georgetown County holiday card contest. Her drawing (top) will be used on the county's 2015 holiday card. Madison McCants, a 4th-grader at Sampit Elementary, won 2nd place (above) and Brooks Gibson, a 6th-grader at Waccamaw Intermediate won 3rd place. The students will be recognized by County Council Dec. 8.

Feeding local families for the holidays



The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office and Murrells Inlet Elks Lodge 2797 teamed up to help feed families in need for Thanksgiving. On Nov. 23, the Elks Lodge delivered Thanksgiving food boxes to the Sheriff's Office to be distributed to families who would not otherwise have been able to celebrate Thanksgiving with a traditional meal. It's a tradition the Elks Lodge and the Sheriff's Office have undertaken together for a number of years. Deputies delivered the meals to about 50 families throughout the county. Families were chosen based on need by the Georgetown County School District. Pictured (from left to right) are Lt. Amy Glover of the Sheriff's Office and Bill Yerkey and Joe Deloreto of the Elks Lodge. This month, the Sheriff's Office will help families in need again with its annual Shop with Santa program, funded by a donation from Dead Dog Saloon.



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

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**

Firefighters run 5K in full turnout gear



A team of firefighters with Midway Fire Rescue didn't just finish the Bridge 2 Bridge Run in Georgetown last month — they finished it while wearing about 30 pounds each of firefighter turnout gear. They ran the 5K in their gear to promote the importance of firefighter fitness, a spokesman for the department said. Firefighters who participated in the race (pictured above) include battalion chiefs Jeff Pifer and Brent McClellan, master firefighter Joe Palombi, firefighter/paramedic Niki Crippen, firefighter Luke Voglar and firefighter Aaron Bostic. They said they hope to encourage other firefighters to join them in next year's race and continue the awareness campaign.



Midway battalion chief wins regional award

Brent McClellan, a battalion chief with Midway Fire Rescue, is this year's recipient of the Pee Dee Firefighters Association's prestigious Jim Flannigan Excellence in Service Award. The award is presented annually to one individual for faithful service and going



Brent McClellan, right, is pictured with Jason Dennis, president of the Pee Dee Firefighters Association.

above and beyond to improve, train and inspire firefighters and departments throughout the Pee Dee region.

McClellan received the award for his accomplishments in the region, but also for accomplishments at the state level that will benefit departments all over South Carolina, said Jason Dennis, association president. McClellan has worked for about two years with the State Firefighters' Association EMS Committee, and his dedication didn't go unnoticed, Dennis said.

Named for a former captain and training officer for the City of Florence Fire Department who died during a mock training exercise in 1985, the Flannigan award is reserved for firefighters who demonstrate a passion and dedication to the fire service, as Flannigan always did.

The S.C. Firefighters Association recognized the need to implement an EMS Committee as many departments are beginning to respond to more EMS-related calls. McClellan has overseen this initiative and, as a result, much has been accomplished under his leadership as committee chairman. The committee put together a program now in place at the S.C. Fire Academy for departments all over the state to use as a resource in responding to EMS-related calls.

McClellan is described as "focused and a pleasure to work with" by EMS Committee members. He sets achievable goals that, when reached, have beneficial impacts, others said. The EMS Committee has also developed a reputation as one of the hardest working committees.

"I can attest that there aren't many more individuals in the fire service that have the passion that he does," said Dennis, who once worked under McClellan at Midway. "Presenting this award has always been special to me, but this year was extra special."

Andrews Library

Teen Game Time

Teen Game Time

Ages 13 - 17
Thursdays at 3:30

SOUTH CAROLINA'S
HAMMOCK COAST™

HAMMOCKCOAST.COM
GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SC

BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES™

WINYAH BAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Georgetown, South Carolina

Tournament & Heritage Festival
April 7-10, 2016

South Carolina Just right.

Coley named County's Employee of the Quarter

James Coley, environmentalist with the Georgetown County Public Services Department, has been named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2015.

Though employed with the County for just one year, Coley quickly proved himself to be a great asset to his department, according to Ray Funnye, Public Services Department director. While his primary job function is to serve as the County's environmentalist, Coley is always willing to fill in wherever he is needed, Funnye said.

As an environmentalist, Coley runs the education program at the County's landfill, writes grants and sets up community events to encourage activities such as recycling. He also serves as training coordinator for the entire Public Services Department, manages department training and certificates for all department employees, and sets up education and training events for department staff to improve their skills.

"Not only is James hard working, but he's willing to pitch in and help out, and even put in hours and hours of nonpaid time to get a job done. He works effi-



James Coley, center, is pictured with County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, right, and Greg Troutman, the County's human resources director.

ciently and uses his experience, intuition and strong work ethic to create solutions to long standing problems in the department," Funnye said. "James shows up every day with a great attitude that is contagious. His energy and enthusiasm are a wonderful asset. He is a pleasure to work with and be around, and we are fortunate to have him on our team."

Coley also proved himself to be invaluable to his department during the recent flood and recovery period following that event, Funnye said in his recommendation of Coley for the award.

Coley was recognized by Georgetown County Council for his excellent job performance at Council's Nov. 10 meeting.

Pickup of flood debris now over

Nov. 30 was the final day for curbside collection of flood-related debris by Georgetown County contractors. Any remaining flood-related debris will have to be picked up privately or taken to either one of the county's community recycling convenience center or the County Landfill (located on Highway 51.)

Items accepted at community recycling convenience centers include: Small appliances (all food must be removed prior to disposal); select construction and demolition debris (volumes less than a pickup truck load and/or 8x5x3 trailer load); electronics scrap; lead acid batteries; used motor oil/oil filters; used fuel (gasoline, diesel); passenger tires; yard trimmings; antifreeze; cooking oil; and dry textiles (clothing, sheets, etc.).

The following items must be disposed of **at the landfill only**: Large appliances (all food must be removed prior to disposal); construction and demolition debris (volumes greater than a pickup truck load and/or 8x5x3 trailer); asbestos; wet textiles; off-road tires; yard trimmings; landclearing debris; clean wood (lumber); soil/mud.

For more information, including recycling center locations and phone numbers, operating hours and more, visit www.gtcounty.org/recycling or call (843) 545-3463.

FEMA

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to answer questions about disaster assistance and low-interest loans. Applicants can also get help by calling 1-800-621-3362 or TTY 1-800-462-7585. Lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. For the latest information on S.C. flood recovery operations, visit www.scmd.org and www.fema.gov/disaster/4241.

Is getting in shape part of your new year's resolution?



Georgetown County Parks and Rec. has plenty of programs to help!

- *Weight and cardio rooms* • *League sports* • *Zumba*
- *Barre Fit* • *Line dancing* • *New programs added regularly*

Call (843) 545-3275 for information

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.



Public Services Department presents annual employee honors

Georgetown County's Department of Public Services and Director Ray Funnys 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. 18 during a ceremony at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center in Pawleys Island.

"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," Funnys 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."

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

Bob Julian, an HVAC technician, was named Public Services Employee of the Year. Julian joined the county staff after eight years in the Navy. He increased his knowledge and experience of mechanical operations while being employed as a technician on the maintenance staff at a college. Immediately after

beginning work with the Facility Services Division of the county's Public Services Department, he started volunteering his free time to share his skills with inmates participating in the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office Re-entry Program. The program teaches inmates job skills to help them avoid recidivism. Julian goes several days a week to teach inmates how to diagnose common problems with HVAC systems and has never requested comp time or any form of reimbursement for his time and efforts.

Julian is described as very self-sufficient and has the ability to complete projects correctly with very little input from supervisors.

The 2015 Professional Achievement Award was presented to **Cassandra Coleman**, administrative assistant for the Facility Services and Capital Projects divisions. Coleman has been employed with the county for nearly 10 years and works diligently to keep the operations in both divisions running smoothly. She also graciously accepted positions on two departmental committees, taking on additional responsibilities. She serves on the department's Watershed Committee and the



Above: Bob Julian, second from right, is pictured with Public Services Director Ray Funnys, far left, County Administrator Sel Hemingway, and Tracy Jones. Right: Mary Hezekiah, Customer Service Award winner. Far right: Cassandra Coleman, Professional Achievement Award winner.



department's American Public Works Association re-accreditation Committee.

"Without her work on both committees, their work wouldn't be as professional or as accurate," said Tracy Jones, Stormwater Division manager, who presented the award.

Mary Hezekiah, scalehouse operator at the Georgetown County Landfill, was the recipient of the 2015 Customer Service Award. She has worked for the county for 20 years and provides outstanding customer

service, while collecting accurate disposal data and tipping fees, and educating her customers on current programs offered by her division, Jones said. Hezekiah has a Class III supervisor certification and continues to increase her knowledge of the solid waste industry through continuing education courses.

"Her charming character and warm disposition with customers allows her to provide stellar customer service," Jones said.

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding employees.

Introducing...



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

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Georgetown County, South Carolina

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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
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Fall tournament has \$800k impact



A tournament that brought 98 youth baseball teams from across the Southeast to Georgetown County last month is estimated to have had a total economic impact of \$815,700.

Georgetown County was host to the 2015 Top Gun Winter Nationals from Nov. 21-22. The tournament had 1,176 youth ages 8-15 play on fields across the county, from Andrews to Litchfield, filling up hotel rooms during a weekend that is traditionally slow for the local tourist industry. The economic impact estimate takes into account room rentals, as well as shopping, dining, etc. Beth Goodale, director of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation said she believes the estimate is a conservative one.

The tournament was cut short by weather on the second day of play, but teams got a full day of play to start off the tournament and stayed the entire weekend.

Among the teams that participated were four

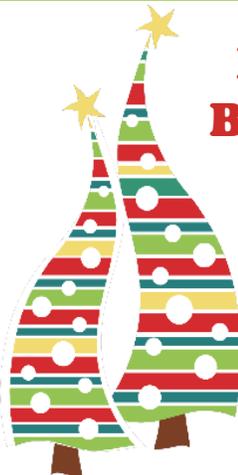
G-Force, a team from Georgetown, was one of four local teams that participated in the winter nationals tournament.

from Georgetown County and about 30 from South Carolina. The rest were from North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia.

Georgetown County currently has 11 Top Gun Baseball events booked for 2016, 10 of which have booked three facilities for each date. The county is also working with Top Gun Softball to schedule dates for 2016.

Anyone who attended the tournament and would like to share their photos can do so by emailing jbroach@gtcounty.org or posting to www.facebook.com/gtcountysc.

Holiday Book Sale



Thursday, Dec. 3
4-7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 4
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at the Waccamaw
Branch Library

*Find popular fiction, nonfiction, humor,
cook books, stocking stuffers,
gifts and more!*

The library is located at 41 St. Paul Place
in Pawleys Island (off Willbrook Blvd.)

Classic Christmas Movie Nights!

Showings from 6-8 p.m.
at the Georgetown Library

Free popcorn will be available
Bring your own drink

Dec. 10: "White Christmas"

Beloved film starring Bing Crosby and featuring the songs of Irving Berlin. A successful song-and-dance team becomes romantically involved with a sister act and team up to save a falling Vermont inn.

Dec. 17: "Miracle on 34th Street"

The 1947 classic starring Natalie Wood. When a nice old man who claims to be Santa Claus is institutionalized, a young lawyer decides to defend him by arguing he is the real Santa.