

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 – Georgetown Christmas parade, tree lighting and other holiday activities

Dec. 6 – Murrells Inlet and Andrews Christmas parades

Dec. 9-10– Holiday book sale at the Waccamaw Library. See page 11

Dec. 10– Library Yuletide Home Tour fundraiser. See page 9

Dec. 13 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. Council only meets once this month

Dec. 17 – Parks and Rec. Dept. hosts Breakfast with Santa. See page 5

Dec. 22-26 – County offices and facilities closed for the Christmas holiday

Dec. 31 – Fireworks on the Marshwalk in Murrells Inlet

Jan. 2– County offices and facilities closed in observance of New Year's Day holiday

Volume 5, Issue 4

December 2016

County bids farewell to longtime Probate Judge

After 36 years and nine elections, Georgetown County Probate Judge Waldo Maring is looking forward to having a clear calendar and plenty of time to spoil his grandkids.

Maring, who chose not to seek re-election this year, will retire in January, leaving his office to Leigh Powers Boan, who won the job in the Republican Primary election in June. She was unopposed in the general election.

Since announcing his retirement plans about a year ago, Maring said he's had quite a few people ask if he thinks he'll have regrets. Though he has found the job fulfilling and is grateful for having been allowed to continue serving for three and a half decades, he said regrets are one thing he's not worried about.

"I've had this job for most of my adult life," said Maring, 65. "If I had retired eight or even four years ago, I might have had some questions, some regrets. But now I'm just excited. There comes a time and for me, that time has come. I'm ready for something different in life."

For the immediate future, Maring said that's probably



Judge Waldo Maring pictured in his courtroom at the Judicial Center.

going to include a lot of rest, relaxation and time spent with family.

"I have four grown children and five grandchildren. If I just went to all my grandchildren's sporting events, that

See "Judge Maring," Page 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.

A Very Fashionable Christmas, through Dec. 30

The Kaminski House Museum presents "A Very Fashionable Christmas: Having a Ball!," 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 Monday through Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Cost is \$12. Candlelight open house events will be on Dec. 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Dec. 17 from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$15.

Family Night will be Dec. 17 with admission set at \$5

See "Holiday Events," Page 3



The Kaminski House. Photo courtesy of Julie Warren.

Meeting will help residents find ways to reduce flood premiums

Georgetown County recently helped residents qualify for an additional savings on flood insurance rates by improving its rating under the National Flood Insurance Program. Now, it's going a step further in its efforts by co-hosting a public meeting to help residents better understand their flood risk and learn about ways they may be able to further reduce flood insurance premiums on their homes.

The meeting is set for 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building, 715 Church Street, Georgetown.

The meeting will start with a brief explanation of recent changes made under the National Flood Insurance Program and how those changes may affect premiums locally. There will also be a review of mitigation steps homeowners can take to help save them money.

The second portion of the meeting will offer attendees an oppor-

tunity to sit down one-on-one with a certified floodplain manager to review individual flood insurance policies and look for areas where savings may be achieved. Residents who would like a free one-on-one session should bring a copy of their current flood insurance policy, as well as their elevation certificate. Residents can reserve a spot online at

georgetownoutreach.eventbrite.com or by calling (866) 599-7065.

Not only will this event assist residents who may be unclear on their coverage options and federal flood insurance requirements, but it will also help the county move toward an additional improvement of its National Flood Insurance Program rating. The County was just notified last month that its rating improved to a Class 7. Staff in the Building Department has already starting working toward improving to a Class 6, and offering this meeting will assist in the effort, said Mike Young, county building official.

What: Community Outreach Meeting/Q&A about flood insurance premiums. Residents can also book a free session with a certified flood plain manager

Where: VFW Building, 715 Church Street, Georgetown

When: Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m.



This holiday season...

**Give something
that means something**



**Wednesday, Dec. 7
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.***

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

Holiday Events

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for adults and free for children 12 and under. Family Night will feature the Swamp Fox Tours trolley, hot cocoa, cookies and activity sheets. For information, call (843) 546-7706 or visit kaminskimuseum.org.

Nights of a Thousand Candles, starts Dec. 1

Brookgreen Gardens' popular Nights of a Thousand Candles returns on Dec. 1 to celebrate its 17th year. See Brookgreen in the soft glow of thousands of hand-lit candles and sparkling Christmas lights on the following dates: Dec. 1-3, 8-10 and 15-18.

New this year, a limited number of tickets will be available for each night, and attendees will have to select a specific date when tickets are purchased, due to the tremendous popularity of the event.

Brookgreen will also offer its New Year's Eve 'Garden by Candlelight' event again on Dec. 31 from 6-9 p.m. Advance tickets are required. For ticket prices and more information, visit www.brookgreen.org or call 1-888-718-4253.

Murrells Inlet tree lighting, Dec. 2

The Murrells Inlet Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be Friday, Dec. 2, from at 5 – 7 p.m. in Morse Park. Mr. and Mrs. Clause will be there, checking their list and talking to kids. There will also be hot chocolate and crafts for kids.

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 3

The Georgetown Cultural Council and Georgetown Business Association present Breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 at D'Angelo's restaurant, located at 929 Front Street. 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.

Georgetown Christmas Parade, Dec. 3

The City of Georgetown Christmas Parade will travel through the historic district beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. 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 chil-



Atalaya at Huntington Beach State Park decorated for the holidays. The annual holiday celebration is Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

dren'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. 3

The highly anticipated Georgetown Lighted Boat Parade will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, 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. 3

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. 3

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 Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.friendshbsp.com for details, or call (843) 237-4440.

Georgetown Kringle Krawl, Dec. 3

Wear your best Christmas attire and "krawl" your way through Georgetown Busi-

ness Association member restaurants sampling special holiday cocktails and delicious local cuisine on Dec. 3. Registration is \$5 and will take place from 4-5 p.m. at Chacon's restaurant. The Krawl will last from 5-11 p.m. For information, visit www.seaportgeorgetown.com/events.

Murrells Inlet Tour of Homes, Dec. 3

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. 3. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance or \$30 the day of the tour. This year's tour includes homes in Sterling Pointe, Shady Oaks, Highwood, Oak Hampton, Collins Creek and the Orchard. Call (843) 357-2007 for tickets. Visit www.murrellsinletsc.com for details.

Andrews Parade and Tree Lighting, Dec. 4

The annual Town of Andrews Christmas Parade and tree lighting program are set for Sunday, Dec. 4. The parade begins at 3 p.m. in front of the Exxon gas station at 430 E. Main St. and ends at the National Guard Armory. Lineup begins at 2 p.m. The tree lighting is set for at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 101 N. Morgan Ave. There will also be an open house and business expo at Town Hall beginning at 4 p.m. For more information, call (843) 264-8666.

Murrells Inlet Christmas Parade, Dec. 4

The annual Murrells Inlet Christmas Parade is set for 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4. 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. For more information or to register, call Murrells Inlet 2020, (843) 357-2007 or visit www.Murrellsinletsc.com.

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

Live Nativity and church fair, Dec. 4

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

'Messiah' at Winyah Auditorium, Dec. 4

G.F. Handel's "messiah," presented by the Elsie Pollock Festival Choir under the direction of Mrs. Elsie Pollock, will be performed at the Winyah Auditorium on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4 p.m. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted.

Singing Christmas Tree, Dec. 9-12

Watch a free Singing Christmas Tree performance at Georgetown First Baptist Church on Dec. 9-12. Performances are at 7 p.m. each night, with a 3 p.m. matinee Dec. 10. Prelude concerts begin 45 minutes before each show. Call the church, (843) 546-5187, for free tickets.

Yuletide Tour of Homes, Dec. 10

The annual Yuletide Tour of Homes, organized by the Friends of the Georgetown Library, will be Saturday, Dec. 10, from 1:30-5:30 p.m., with all proceeds going toward

future library programming. Offered for touring will be eight lovely residences bedecked in their holiday finery, and a beautiful house museum that will serve as a refreshment site.

The tour is self-guided and maps will be provided. Tickets are \$25, (\$20 for Friends of the Library), and may be purchased in advance at the Georgetown Library, 405 Cleland Street or the Waccamaw Library, 41 St. Paul Place. For more information, contact Trudy Bazemore, (843) 545-3303.

Plantation Christmas at Bellefield, Dec. 10

Come to Bellefield Plantation at Hobcaw Barony and celebrate Christmas the old-fashioned way. The barony will host a Low-country oyster roast and barbecue feast, complete with chicken bog, side dishes, dessert, 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 required. The event is from noon to 3 p.m. Tickets are \$50. Information at www.hobcawbarony.org.

Merry Marshwalk Christmas, Dec. 3 & 10

Enjoy a unique shopping experience from



Nights of a Thousand Candles at Brookgreen Gardens.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 3 and 10 at the Murrells Inlet Marshwalk. Santa will be present to visit with children and guests are welcome to have their pictures taken with Santa by bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to Backpack Buddies.

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 17

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation presents a new tradition. Enjoy a continental breakfast with Santa Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at Howard Recreation Center. Details on Page 5.

Marshwalk Santa Crawl, Dec. 17

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 MarshWalk restaurant and bar 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.

Midway firefighters help battle upstate wildlands fire



Midway Fire Rescue's Wildland Fire Team was deployed to Pickens County last month after their assistance was requested as part of the South Carolina Firefighter Mobilization program. Equipment and manpower were needed from across the state in the midst of the Pinnacle Mountain Wildfire in Pickens County. Midway's Engine 841, with a crew of four certified wildland team members, spent four days battling the wildfire. They worked the line, digging, felling trees, running hoses and working to try to contain the fire within several mile-long sections of fire break. They returned dirty and exhausted, but with no injuries except some blisters. However, they report some close calls on one day when the wind-driven fire jumped the line in several locations. Their training helped them to recognize the changing conditions and move to the safe zone in time. Team members who were deployed include, from left: Lt. Jesse Morgan, Lt. Peter Copeland, firefighter Adham DuMont and Firefighter Ryan Matthews.

Georgetown Judicial Center hosts regional mock trial competition

Students from eight S.C. middle schools were in Georgetown last month, when Clerk of Court Alma White and the Georgetown County Judicial Center played host to the 16th annual S.C. Bar Georgetown Regional Middle School Mock Trial Competition. It was the first time our county has hosted the event.



The competition took place Nov. 12 at the Judicial Center on Cleland Street. Participating middle schools were: Ashley Hall, Buist Academy for Advanced Studies, Cario, Charleston Charter School of Math and Science, Hemingway M.B. Lee, Kingstree Middle School of the Arts, Moultrie and Phillip Simmons. Students had to present the prosecution and defense sides of a fictitious criminal case before a panel of local volunteer lawyers and judges. Additionally, students filled the roles of attorneys, witnesses, bailiffs and timekeepers. Each team was judged on its presentation skills, rather than the legal merits of the case. This fictitious criminal case was "State of South Carolina v. Langley Parker." The case questioned who was liable when Jackie Weaver died of a heart attack during a prank-gone-bad during the filming of a web-based reality series.

White said the students, who are coached by attorneys from their communities, were "sharp and very well prepared ... They were amazing. I was very impressed."

Buist Academy was the region winner and will advance to the State Middle School Mock Trial Competition Dec. 2-3 in Lexington County.

High school teams will compete in February and the Georgetown County Judicial Center looks forward to hosting them as well.

Adult Indoor Soccer

Come play at Howard Gym
on Tuesday nights
6 -7:30 p.m. starting Dec. 6

Open to anyone age 16
and older.
It's free to play, so
come give it a shot!



For information, contact Matt Jordan,
(843) 520-9621
or mjordan@gtcounty.org

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation
Presents:

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 17th
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Howard Recreation Center

Continental Breakfast, Christmas Music,
Crafts & a Picture with Santa

Cost: Children 2 & under free with a paying adult
Children 3 & up \$3.00 • Adults \$5.00

For information, call (843) 545-3275

Judge Maring

Continued from Front Page

would probably fill my time," he said. "That's something I rarely get to do now, and I'm looking forward to it."

Maring said he and his wife Teresa are very family oriented. Though he was born in Andrews and spent most of his life in that area, the couple has spent the last 20 years living in Murrells Inlet. They are active members of First Baptist Church and Maring said the church will also get more of his time now.

"I feel like it kind of sounds bad to say I don't really have any big plans for my retirement," Maring said. "I'm not giving up on life. I just want to take it easy for a while. People have told me the catchup work at home will run out and I'll be looking for something to do. I'll worry about that when it happens. When I get bored, then I'll worry about what to do."

Maring was first elected as probate judge in 1980 and said he has seen many changes to the job in the years since. When he took office, for example, there were no classes or training opportunities for new probate judges. He was fortunate, he said, that the staff at

that time included an associate judge who had served under the previous probate judge for about 15 years and "knew the ropes." That eased the transition significantly.

The job itself was also different in those early days, he added. While it still dealt with the areas of estates, commitments and marriages, it was primarily an administrative job.

"There were not a lot of hearings back then," he said. "The job is still a good bit of administrative work, but now it is more of what people think of as a judge's job."

He recalled how the code detailing the function of probate judges in South Carolina was revamped in 1987. It was the first major change to the job in roughly 100 years. One of the changes was the addition of an option for jury trials in the probate system.

Maring had the honor of presiding over not only the first but also the second juried probate trial in the state. Coincidentally, those were also the only two jury trials he presided over in his career.

"It's not something you see a lot of in Probate Court," Maring said.

Another change Maring witnessed was the elimination of performing marriages as one of his job duties. While the office is still respons-

ible for issuing all marriage licenses in the county, the Georgetown office stopped performing marriage ceremonies about 16 years ago. It's a step many probate offices around the country have taken as a result of increased workload.

He estimates he performed around 1,200 marriages in his office over the years. But as the population grew, it became too much for his office without adding staff.

"We had three staff members for the first 22 years I was here and now we have four, so we really haven't grown much," he said.

By comparison, he estimates his office issued around 250 marriage licenses a year in the 1980s compared to 750 a year now. The number of estates that come through the office have increased similarly as the county became a retirement destination.

Maring said marriage licenses are easily the happiest part of life as a probate judge.

"You can always pick out the people who are coming to get a marriage license as soon as they walk in," he said. "It's the only time somebody walks into this office smiling. For everything else we handle, we're helping people through some of the toughest days of their lives."



A Holiday Show at the
Waccamaw Library
Featuring
Hallelujah
and
Southern Comfort
Friday
December 16, 2016
6:30 p.m.
41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island

Free Event!

The poster features a green background with a holly leaf border at the top. It includes two circular photos: one of a group of women and another of a group of men in white shirts and red ties. Red bows are used as decorative elements.



Jingle Bell
Jubilee
for kids ages 15 and under
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21
1 PM TO 4 PM
CRAFTS
FOOD
GAMES
MOVIES
Free at the Andrews Library

The poster has a blue background with a pine branch and a red bow with gold bells at the top. It features illustrations of four children holding signs for 'CRAFTS', 'FOOD', 'GAMES', and 'MOVIES'. The text is in white and yellow.

Tips for avoiding a Christmas tree fire

It just doesn't feel like Christmas without the glow of lights strung on a beautifully decorated tree. But if your home is one of the more than 33 million other



If you have a live Christmas tree, water it every day.

A dry tree can ignite more quickly than you imagine.

American households that includes a live tree as part of its festivities, failure to care for the tree as directed could have tragic results.

"If you're decorating with a live tree, it's imperative that you keep the tree watered according to care guidelines," said Midway Fire Rescue Chief Doug Eggiman. Christmas trees account for 250 fires annually, resulting in 14 deaths, 26 injuries and more than \$13.8 million in property damage in the U.S. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem, but dry trees can ignite more quickly than most would expect.

According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, **this is what happens when fire touches a dry tree:**

- Within three seconds of ignition, a dry Scotch pine is completely ablaze.
- At five seconds the fire extends up the tree and black smoke with searing gases streaks across the ceiling.
- Fresh air near the floor feeds the fire, and the sofa, coffee table and the carpet ignite prior to any flame contact.
- Within 40 seconds, "flashover" occurs. This means the entire room erupts into flames, oxygen is depleted and dense, deadly toxic smoke engulfs the scene.

Wet trees tell a different story:

Fire safety engineers selected a green Scotch pine and had it cut in their presence. An additional two inches were cut from the trunk's bottom and then the tree was placed in a stand with at least a 7.6 liter water capacity. The researchers maintained the Scotch pine's water on a daily basis and a single match could not ignite the tree. A second attempt in which an electric current ignited an entire matchbook failed to ignite the tree.

Finally they applied an open flame to the tree using a propane torch and the branches ignited briefly, but self-extinguished when the researchers removed the torch from the branches.

Remember: a wet tree is a safe tree!

County tennis center hosts USC, Clemson in club tournament



The Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park played host to a Tennis on Campus tournament Nov. 19-20. Participants included club teams from Clemson, the University of South Carolina, Furman University and the College of Charleston. Clemson came in first place, scoring 19-18 against USC in the tournament. Clemson trailed by three games going into the mixed line, but by winning that set 6-2, they squeaked out the win. USC placed 2nd and the College of Charleston placed 3rd. The tennis center was delighted to have all the teams enjoy its facility and looks forward to hosting more Tennis on Campus tournaments in the future. For more photos, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc.



Deadline extended!

Fall Scenes photo contest

Cooling temperatures. Changing colors. Football. Morning walks on nearly deserted beaches. Trick-or-treating with the kids. A family Thanksgiving in a beach house or on a farm. There are a million things to love about autumn in Georgetown County, and we want to see your favorite!

Submit your fall photos in our latest contest.

Deadline for entries is Dec. 21, 2016.

Send entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org.

Details and contest rules at www.gtcounty.org.

Please note that Georgetown County offices and facilities will be closed for the holidays on

Dec. 22-26 & Jan. 2.

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!*

Walker is Employee of the Quarter

Early Walker of the Georgetown County Public Services Department has been named the county's Employee of the Quarter for consistently outstanding job performance. He has been employed with the department for 13 years. In that time, he has served as a truck, backhoe and track hoe driver; roll parker; motor grader operator; equipment operator and crew leader.

"Mr. Walker consistently goes above and beyond in the quality and quantity of his work and often goes beyond the call of duty," said Ray Funnye, department director. "He is a true team player and consistently displays the characteristics of a strong leader."

In his job as crew chief, Walker plans, organizes, oversees and monitors the condition of roads and drainage systems. He coordinates special projects, performs survey work and performs other technical work as required. He also ensures his division stays within its budget for material and restricts fuel costs.

Among examples of Walker's exemplary work ethic, he volunteers to open the



Early Walker, center, is pictured with County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, right, and Walt Ackerman, county human resources director.

Public Works Office early in the mornings and ensures all doors and gates are locked at the end of each work day.

"He is very skilled, has a great attitude and truly keeps his focus on helping the residents of Georgetown County," Funnye wrote in his nomination letter.

In addition to his job duties, Walker serves on the Fuel Committee and participates in community service.

The county would be lucky to have a dozen more like Walker, said human resources director, Walt Ackerman.

Deadline to apply for FEMA disaster assistance is Dec. 13

Less than two weeks remain for victims of Hurricane Matthew and associated flooding to apply for disaster assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The cutoff for applications will be Dec. 13.

Available assistance may include grants from FEMA, as well as low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Residents can seek assistance with their applications at a Disaster Recovery Center set up at the Beck Recreation Center, located at 2030 Church Street in Georgetown. Representatives from FEMA and the Small Business Administration are on hand to talk with residents one-on-one. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents may also seek assistance online at www.disasterassistance.gov, or by calling 1-800-621-3362 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Additionally, a FEMA hazard mitigation specialist is stationed at Lowe's home improvement store in Conway Dec. 1-3 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to talk to residents about how they can make their homes stronger and safer to avoid future damages. Homeowners can learn about topics such as building techniques, how to replace damaged drywall, caulk windows, and the benefits of hurricane straps.

As of the last day of November, a total of 44,303 people had registered for FEMA assistance as a result of Hurricane Matthew. Nearly \$33 million in individual and household assistance had been approved, including \$27.2 million in household assistance. The Small Business Administration had approved 824 loans worth more than \$27.5 million.

No closing date is currently scheduled for the Disaster Recovery Center in Georgetown.

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 Funnyc paid tribute to the department's outstanding employees this month and presented several awards for dedication and hard work. The awards were presented during a luncheon and ceremony at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown.

"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," Funnyc 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.

The late **Dan Eckis**, a former engineer with the Stormwater Division who sadly passed away on June 29 after an illness, was honored as Public Services Employee of the Year. Though the award is traditionally announced as a surprise each November, this year an exception was made and it was presented to Eckis in May, shortly before he died at his home in Murrells Inlet.

Eckis was remembered during the ceremony last month with a moment of silence and fond words from his former supervisor, Tracy Jones. She remember how he continued to work even while in the hospital.

"God answered my prayers when Dan accepted the position with the Stormwater Division. God knew that Dan would share his knowledge and his work experiences. He knew Dan would offer us encouragement and boost our confidence, would bring laughter to the office, and most of all give us his friendship," Jones said.

She described Eckis as someone who was constantly looking for ways to grow, learn and improve his skills. He was a diligent employee, a good friend, and a teacher.

"He taught me to be a better manager," Jones said. He is missed every day by his former colleagues.

The 2016 Professional Achievement Award was presented to **Harold West**. "This employee's continuous efforts to go beyond the call of duty to support the department and assist other departments as needed are valuable assets to the county," Jones said.



Above: Leroy Davis, center, Customer Service Award winner, is pictured with Public Services Director Ray Funnyc and Tracy Jones. Right: Dan Eckis, Employee of the Year. Far right: Harold West, Professional Achievement Award winner.



West is noted by his peers to be a great team player and someone who can be relied upon for support. "He is always willing to go the extra mile without hesitation," Jones said.

Among his contributions, he helps reduce costs by doing jobs in-house that would otherwise need to be contracted out. He has been tasked with several special projects and has a reputation for being responsible and dependable.

The final award, the 2016 Customer Service Award, was presented to **Leroy Davis**, who is known for his positive attitude on the job, and for being both cooperative and dependable.

"He is admired by his teammates as a person of firmness when it comes to getting tasks done, because he believes in doing everything in a timely and efficient manner," Jones said. "He is a self-started who shows good leadership and productivity, and who accepts any task he is given and is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done in a safe, efficient manner. Additionally, he consistently follows up with the customer to ensure their satisfaction."

GEORGETOWN friends of the LIBRARY

YULETIDE home tour

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 1:30 - 5:30 P.M.

Enjoy eight beautiful homes decorated in the holiday spirit

Tickets:
\$20 for Friends of the Library
\$25 for non-members

Tickets available at the Georgetown and Waccamaw Libraries
More information: (843) 545-3303 or tbazemore@gtcounty.org

Pickleball

Join us for open court games
Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon at
the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
in Pawleys Island!

Beginner games and Advanced games
also available.

For details, call (843) 545-3202

News from our Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

Happy Holidays to all our Veterans! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Once again I'd like to give a great big thanks to all those who go out of their way to help our veterans, here in Georgetown County and afar.



Murphy

As we come toward the end of 2016, let us not forget those who are still deployed and separated from their families, and also those we have lost this year. Thank you for your service.

I'm asking for some assistance from our veterans for a special project. We know that this is the time for giving. I'm working with an organization that is **collecting toys to give to those who are less fortunate** than others. I have set up a box in our office for those who would like to donate toys so that these children will have a merry Christmas. For anyone who would like to donate toys for this cause and who has not been to our office previously, we are located at 537 Lafayette Circle in Georgetown. Please keep in mind that the deadline for bringing toys to our office is Dec. 15. Will you please join me in helping this worthy cause?

Beginning January 2017, **Pawleys Island American Legion Post 197** will undertake a 12-month awareness campaign to increase membership and conduct fundraising efforts. Post 197's goal is to bring to the attention of community organizations, businesses and residents how they can provide support for three key Legion efforts:

1. Assisting homeless veterans with donations that will fill basic needs, such as clothing, shoes and toiletries.
2. The Post has a South Carolina Department of the American Legion Post Service Officer who is trained to give assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families in submitting applications to the Georgetown County Veterans Affairs

Officer for consideration of VA disability benefits, and to provide information on a variety of other benefits and resources available to veterans.

3. Providing community youth programs, such as Boys State, which has been widely acclaimed as one of the most respected educational programs of government instruction for high school students. In the last three years, the Post has received extremely positive feedback from local high school students who attended Boys State, and parents have said that the program has a significant positive impact on the young men selected to attend. With each successive year, interest has grown in being selected for the program.

Increasing the Post's membership has a direct effect on its ability to provide services to a greater number of veterans, as well as expanding community outreach programs.

If you are interested in joining or supporting Post 197's efforts, or would like more information, please contact the Post Commander, Glenn Hero, via email at pahero@msn.com. Please use "Re: Post 197" in the email subject line.

The **Low Country Veterans Group** Christmas Parade is set for Saturday, Dec. 3, at 11 a.m.

The group will have its annual Christmas party on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at Drunken Jack's in Murrells Inlet.

Veterans with hearing loss eligible for free CapTel Phone

The Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs is helping veterans with hearing loss take advantage of a free program that will help make phone conversations easier.



Veterans with hearing loss — regardless of whether the loss is related to their military service — are eligible to receive a free captioned telephone through the Heroes with Hearing Loss program. The phones look and feel like traditional phones, but with an attached monitor that allows users to listen and read word-for-word captions of everything said to them over the phone. It's similar to closed captioning on television, said David Murphy, the county's Veterans Affairs Officer.

Veterans will have two different phone models to choose from at no cost. Even the shipping is free.

The mission of the Heroes with Hearing Loss program is to raise awareness and begin conversations about shared hearing loss experiences among veterans, their families and friends. It is specifically designed to provide insightful solutions and successful lifestyle-focused results by introducing veterans to resources, products, services and hearing loss management techniques. The program was launched in response to the epidemic of hearing loss injuries among veterans returning from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the increase in hearing loss issues faced by aging veterans.

For more information, contact the Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs, (843) 545-3330.



The Georgetown County Office of Veterans Affairs is collecting new toys for abused and abandoned children ages 6-17

A collection box has been set up at the Veterans Affairs office located at 537 Lafayette Circle, Georgetown.

Deadline for dropping off toys for this effort is **Dec. 15**.

Toys will be distributed by the Dream for Tomorrow organization. For information, call (843) 545-3330.



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



Library announces 2017 'First Thursday' schedule

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library are excited to announce the winter and spring lineup for the Library's popular "First Thursday" education series. The series brings a different speaker to the library on the first Thursday of each month to share information during a free presentation.

Programs begin at 10 a.m. The schedule for 2017 is as follows:

Jan. 5 — Becky Billingsley talks about her book, "Wicked Myrtle Beach,"

which uncovers the naughty side of the Grand Strand, chronicling bordellos, bootleggers and all manner of indulgent practices that reveal a wicked streak that runs parallel to area beachfronts.

Feb. 2 — Paige Saywer presents "Wonderful Winyah Bay." Experience the majesty of our glorious Winyah Bay, and discover its impact, beauty and secrets on an exceptional pictorial sojourn with this well-regarded professional photographer, Rover Tours naturalist and local history insider. This program is part of the Armchair Adventure Series.

March 2 — O'Neal Smalls, the president of Freewoods Farm, located in the Burgess community, shares details of this, the only living historical farm museum in the nation that is dedicated to recreating life on farms owned or operated by African-Americans. *Rescheduled by Hurricane*

Matthew from October 2016.

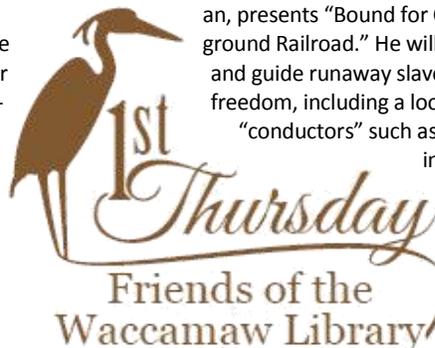
April 6 — Ron Roth, a seasoned national historian, presents "Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad." He will describe efforts to hide and guide runaway slaves in their journeys to freedom, including a look at the work of railroad "conductors" such as Harriet Tubman, and the influence of South Carolina's Stono Rebellion on the railroad's development. This program is sponsored by South Carolina Humanities.

May 4 — Andrea DeMuth, vice president

and curator of zoological collections at Brookgreen Gardens, presents "Lowcountry Native Animals: What's New at the Zoo." In this exciting program, she will discuss our area's native species, what the zoo at Brookgreen Gardens is doing to support them, and delve into what's new at Brookgreen's Native Wildlife exhibition.

June 1 — Joe Bonaparte, chef and executive director of the International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach (HGTC) imparts the latest on "Slow Food Waccamaw." Learn about area efforts that are part of the global grassroots movement as it works in our own community to educate, support and connect us to good, clean, local food.

The library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, off Willbrook Blvd. All First Thursday programs are free. For information call the library, (843) 545-3623.



Holiday Book Sale

Friday, Dec. 9
Noon to 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10
9 a.m. to noon

at the Waccamaw
Branch Library's
DeBordieu Colony
Auditorium

*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.)*



Read-Aloud Christmas Stories!

*Join us for a special holiday story time
at the Georgetown Library,
405 Cleland Street*

*The fun starts at 4 p.m.
every Wednesday in December*

*Also featuring
music, crafts
and more!*

*For information,
call (843) 545-3300*

