

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. 2 – Georgetown Christmas parade, tree lighting, lighted boat parade, Embers concert and other holiday activities

Dec. 3 – Murrells Inlet and Andrews Christmas parades

Dec. 6 – Blood drive at Beck Recreation Center

Dec. 7 – Gingerbread house decorating party at the Waccamaw Library. See page 7

Dec. 9 – Library Yuletide Home Tour fundraiser. See page 5

Dec. 12 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse. Council only meets once this month

Dec. 21 – Holiday Bash and Movie Marathon at Howard Recreation Center, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 22-26 – County offices and closed for the Christmas holiday. Check our website for the landfill schedule

Jan. 1 – County offices and facilities closed in observance of New Year's Day holiday

Volume 6, Issue 4

December 2017

WINTER IS COMING

The South is known for mild winters. It's a factor that attracts many new residents, and often leaves longtime residents unprepared when severe winter weather does strike.

Winter Weather Awareness Week in South Carolina runs through Dec. 2 and Georgetown County Emergency Management wants to make

sure all county residents are prepared for whatever this winter may bring. Though Georgetown County doesn't often experience extreme winter weather, "we cannot forget about the damage that was caused by Winter Storm Pax a few years ago," said Cindy Grace, Coordinator for the Emergency Management Division. The storm brought freezing temperatures and caused power outages and dangerous road conditions.

"We need to prepare now, before winter storms become an issue, Grace said.

Below is a preparedness checklist from the Emergency Management

See "Winter Weather," Page 6



The Harborwalk is covered in snow and ice after a winter storm several years ago.

County to host holiday bash for community

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has a Christmas treat planned for the community this month, when it will host a family-friendly holiday bash at Howard Recreation Center.

The county will screen a holiday movie marathon in Howard's auditorium, while games and other fun activities take place in the gymnasium. It's guaranteed to be fun for all ages, organizers said. More details will be released as the event nears.

The holiday bash is free and will take place on Thursday, Dec. 21, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Howard is located at 1610 Hawkins St., in Georgetown.

For more information, call (843) 545-3275.

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. 29

The Kaminski House Museum has decked its halls and rooms this holiday season with the help of talented local interior designers.

Home décor specialists and interior designers from throughout the county have brought holiday glitz and glamor to the historic Kaminski House. Tours will be offered through Friday, Dec. 29.

Daytime tours are offered at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Candlelight tours are also available on Dec. 7 and 14 from 5-7 p.m. and Dec. 21 from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members, except on Dec. 21, which is

See "Holiday Events," Page 3



The Kaminski House dining room.

Midway fire marshal Todd Blomdahl retires after 22 years

Nov. 28 marked the end of era at Midway Fire Rescue, said long-time employees. That was the last day on the job for Division Chief and Fire Marshal Todd Blomdahl, who retired after 22 years of service to the department and the community.

Blomdahl started his career at Midway as a firefighter and EMT before becoming a fire inspector and then being promoted to Division Chief and Fire Marshal — a position he has held for the last 15 years. In that role, Blomdahl was responsible for plans review and code enforcement programs that ensured all new and existing businesses in the fire district fall in line with all applicable fire and life safety codes, thus ensuring the safety of residents, visitors and firefighters of the district.

Blomdahl managed to accomplish this through a spirit of education and cooperation further enhancing the positive reputation of the department in the community, said Chief Doug Eggiman.

In addition, Blomdahl created and oversaw a highly regarded all-hazards public education program that has been recognized five times as the best program in the state, and has no doubt contributed to minimizing injuries, fatalities and fire loss in our community.



Todd Blomdahl, right, is presented with a plaque for 22 years of service by Midway Chief Doug Eggiman on Nov. 28.

Blomdahl leaves some very big shoes to fill and will be greatly missed throughout the department, Eggiman said. Midway hosted a retirement party on Blomdahl's last day to wish him well and offer thanks for all he has done for the department and the community over the last two decades.

This holiday season...

**Give something
that means something**



**Wednesday, Dec. 6
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

Continued from Front Page

family night. Cost them is \$5 for those over 12. For more information, call (843) 546-7706 or visit kaminskimuseum.org.

Nights of a Thousand Candles

Brookgreen Gardens' popular Nights of a Thousand Candles returns on Nov. 30 to celebrate its 18th year. See Brookgreen in the soft glow of thousands of hand-lit candles and sparkling Christmas lights on the following dates: Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2, Dec. 7-9 and Dec. 14-17.

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. An 85-foot Christmas tree is lit each evening at 5:45 p.m.

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.

Wonderland of Lights, through Jan. 8

The Murrells Inlet MarshWalk will be the place for festive sights and sounds this holiday season. The MarshWalk has created a never-before-seen array of lighting displays for families. Experience multitudes of twinkling lights in tunnelways, guiding visitors down the MarshWalk for a different light display at each restaurant.

Murrells Inlet tree lighting, Dec. 1

The Murrells Inlet Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be Friday, Dec. 1, from 5-7 p.m. in Morse Park. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be there, checking their list and talking to kids.

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 2

The Georgetown Cultural Council and Georgetown Business Association present Breakfast with Santa from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2 at Harborside restaurant, on Front Street. Admission is \$8 (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. Call (843) 359-1078 for information.

Georgetown Christmas Parade, Dec. 2

The City of Georgetown Christmas Parade will travel through the historic district begin-



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.

ning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. 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.

Birds of Prey Demo with Santa, Dec. 2

The Center for Birds of Prey will have a special demonstration with some of its animals at Francis Marion Park in Georgetown from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Georgetown Kringle Krawl, Dec. 2

Don your ugliest Christmas sweater and make your way through Front Street restaurants sampling holiday-themed drinks and appetizers in this Georgetown Business Association fundraiser. Registration is at Francis Marion Park from 5-7:30 p.m., and the event runs from 7:30-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Prizes will be given away at the end of the night.

Christmas Concert with The Embers, Dec. 2

Put on your dancing shoes and check out The Embers, featuring Craig Woolard, as they put their own spin on some holiday classics. The concert will take place in Francis Marion Park on Front St., from 5-7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Georgetown tree lighting and Lighted Boat Parade, Dec. 2

The Georgetown Christmas tree lighting will take place at 6 p.m. Dec. 2 in Francis Marion Park, and will be immediately followed by the highly anticipated Lighted Boat Parade. The parade 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. For information, contact Michele Overton, (843) 546-8212.

Inlet Holiday Tour of Homes, Dec. 2

View beautiful homes throughout Murrells Inlet decorated for the holidays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2 in the annual Murrells Inlet 2020 Holiday Tour of Homes. Tickets are \$28. All ticketholders will receive an official holiday tour of homes booklet and map to participating homes. For more information, visit murrellsinletsc.com

Atalaya Holiday Celebration, Dec. 2

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

Murrells Inlet Christmas Parade, Dec. 3

The annual Murrells Inlet Christmas Parade is set for 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3. It will start at Sunnyside Ave. and end at 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.

Andrews Parade and Tree Lighting, Dec. 3

The annual Town of Andrews Christmas Parade and tree lighting program are set for

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

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Sunday, Dec. 3. 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 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 101 N. Morgan Ave. For more information, call (843) 264-8666.

Live Nativity and church fair, Dec. 3

St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Litchfield will host a live nativity and Night in Bethlehem for families on Dec. 3 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.

The Nutcracker at Winyah Aud., Dec. 3

"The Nutcracker" has become an annual holiday tradition in many cities around the world, and may well be the most famous of all ballet productions performed in the U.S.

In addition to shows in Myrtle Beach and Conway, Coastal Youth Ballet Theatre will be at the Winyah Auditorium for a special "Afternoon with the Nutcracker Characters" featuring excerpts from the show as well as a special meet and greet and photo opportunity.

Visit coastalyouthballettheatre.org for details.

Singing Christmas Tree, Dec. 8-11

Watch a free Singing Christmas Tree performance at Georgetown First Baptist Church on Dec. 8-11. Performances are at 7 p.m. each night, with a 3 p.m. matinee added for Dec. 9. Prelude concerts begin 45 minutes before each show and feature a variety of artists. Call the church, (843) 546-5187, to reserve free tickets.

Yuletide Tour of Homes, Dec. 9

The annual Yuletide Tour of Homes, organized by the Friends of the Georgetown Library, will be Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1-5 p.m., with all proceeds going toward future library programming. Offered for touring will be eight lovely residences bedecked in their holiday finery. In addition, five venerable houses of worship will open their doors to tour goers: Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church, Duncan Memorial Methodist Church, St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, Temple Beth Elohim and Prince George Winyah Episcopal Church.

New this year is Santa's Workshop at the Georgetown Library, where 12 stellar craftspeople will offer for sale holiday-inspired wares. The workshop is open from 10 a.m.



Nights of a Thousand Candles at Brookgreen Gardens.

to 5 p.m. The juried show is a great place to find unique Christmas gifts.

The tour is self-guided and maps will be provided. Tickets are \$25, (\$20 for Friends of any county library), and may be purchased in advance at any county library branch. For more information, contact Trudy Bazemore, (843) 545-3303.

Plantation Christmas at Bellefield, Dec. 9

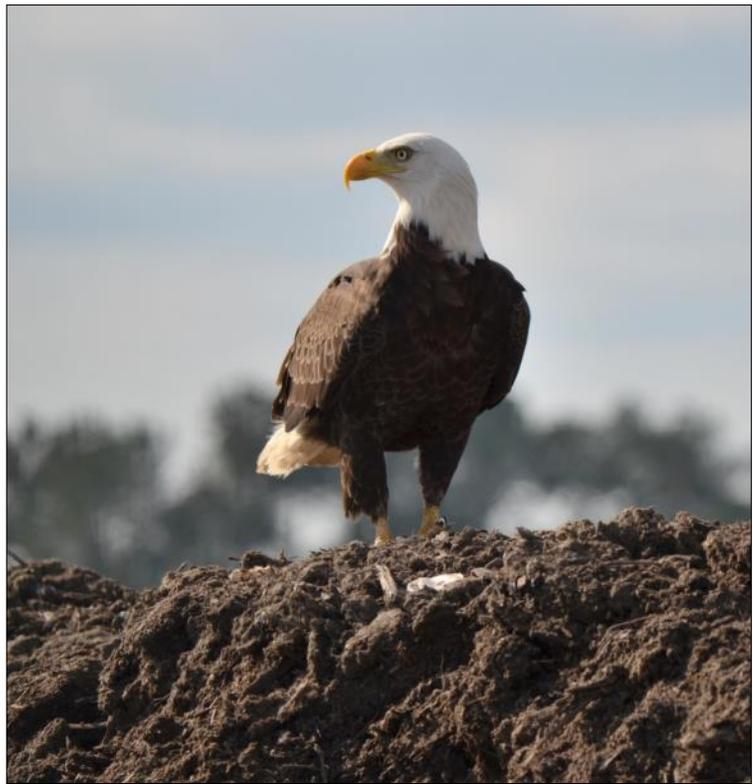
Come to Bellefield Plantation at Hobcaw Barony and celebrate Christmas the old-fashioned way. The barony will host a Low-country oyster roast and barbecue feast, wine and beer. Tours and interpretation include Southern customs and symbolism of Christmas greenery, plantation preparations in the 19th century 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.

IP donates turkeys to seniors

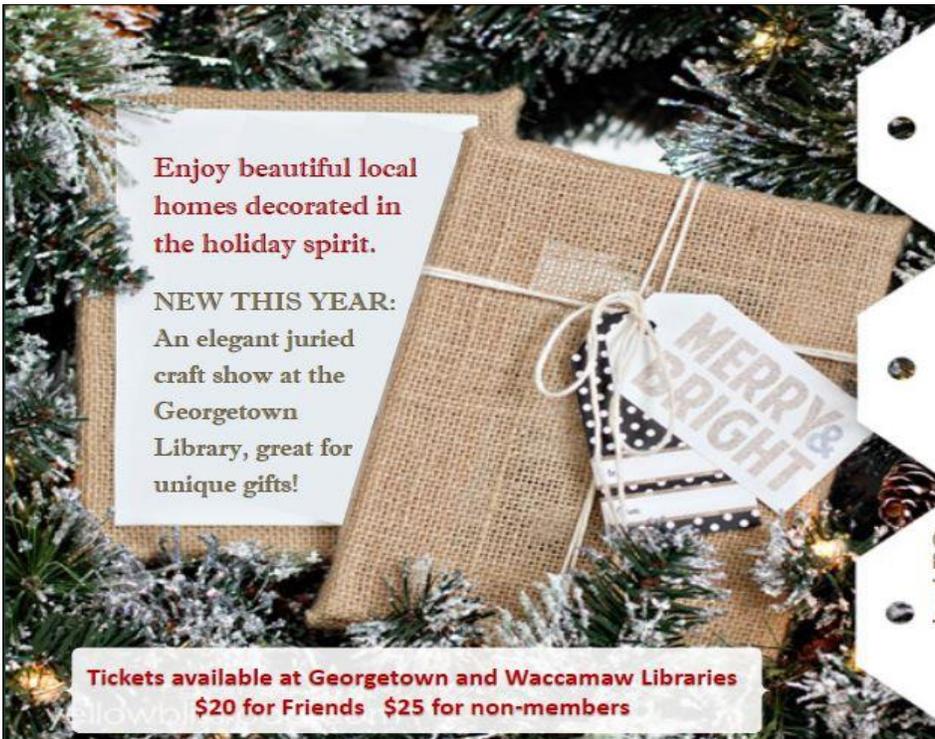


International Paper donated 25 boxes of turkey dinners to senior citizens who receive services through the county's Bureau of Aging Services last month. The boxes contained everything needed for a Thanksgiving dinner, including ingredients for dressing, cans of vegetables, yams, rice, hot chocolate, cranberry sauce and, of course, a turkey. These boxes were divided among the county's six senior citizens centers and then distributed to seniors with the greatest need. "International paper has truly been a blessing to our senior citizens," said Coretha Grate, an employee of the Bureau of Aging Services. "Without their contributions, some of our seniors would not have a real Thanksgiving dinner. May God bless them in a mighty way."

Birdwatching



Our thanks to Alex Litz, an employee of Georgetown County's Public Services Department, for submitting this shot she recently took of a bald eagle. This shot was actually taken at the County Landfill. She says there are several bald eagles who frequent the location. Who knew the landfill was such a great site for birdwatching!



Enjoy beautiful local homes decorated in the holiday spirit.

NEW THIS YEAR:
An elegant juried craft show at the Georgetown Library, great for unique gifts!

Tickets available at Georgetown and Waccamaw Libraries
\$20 for Friends \$25 for non-members

Friends of the
GEORGETOWN LIBRARY

YULETIDE
home tour

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9
1 - 5 PM

Winter Weather

Continued from Front Page

Division to help residents get started with their preparedness efforts. Residents should make sure to include enough supplies in their emergency kits for each family member and all pets. Emergency kits should be stocked with:

- **Emergency communications items**

- Important contact information for family, school, work, doctors, etc., including phone numbers and email addresses.

- Chargers and/or extra batteries for cellphones and other electronics.

- AM/FM radio/NOAA weather radio with extra batteries.

- **Medical needs items**



- Medications and copies of prescriptions

- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses

- Medical equipment/assistive technology and backup batteries

- Fully stocked first aid kit

- **Critical documents, in a water-proof, portable container**

- Photo ID (driver's license, passport, etc)

- Cash and credit cards

- Personal records (i.e. birth certificates, marriage licenses)

- Financial information (i.e. bank account and credit card information)

- Medical records

- Property records (i.e. insurance policies, deed or lease)

- **Tools and Safety**

- Flashlight and batteries

- Multi-tool

- Matches or lighter in waterproof container

- Local map

- Fire extinguisher

- Bag of sand or cat litter

- Shovel

- **Food and supplies**

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and water (1 gallon of water per person per day)

- Infant formula and diapers

- Manual can opener

- Pet food, supplies and extra water.

- **Vehicle emergency supply kit**

- Cellphone charger

- Tow rope

- First aid kit

- Jumper cables

- Flares, whistle

- Water, snacks

- Full tank of gas

- Flashlight and batteries

- Boots, mittens, warm clothes
- Blanket
- Shovel
- Ice scraper
- Bags of sand or cat litter

(helps with tire traction)

- **Hygiene and sanitation**

- Soap/disinfectant/sanitizer

- Paper towels, wipes

- Toilet paper

- Bleach

- **Protective gear and clothing**

- Extra warm clothes

- Sturdy shoes

- Gloves

- Protection for face, ears, neck and head.

- Blankets or sleeping bags

- (labeled for low temperature)

Residents should also be aware of the meanings of commonly used winter weather terms, such as:

- **Freezing rain** — Rain that

freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and powerlines.

- **Sleet** — Rain that turns into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Causes moisture on roads to freeze, becoming slippery.

- **Wind chill** — The temperature it "feels like" when you are outside.

- **Winter Weather Advisory** —

Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

- **Winter Storm Watch** — A winter storm is possible in your area.

The National Weather Service issues a watch when severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice may affect your area, but the location and timing are still uncertain. Watches are issued 12-36 hours in advance of a potential severe storm.

- **Winter Storm Warning** — A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

- **Blizzard Warning** — Sustained winds or frequent gusts up to 35 mph or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

- **Frost/Freeze Warning** — Below freezing temperatures are expected.

FRIENDS OF THE WACCAMAW LIBRARY presents:

Fowl Holiday Happening

with

LEE BROCKINGTON & BILL OBERST ONSTAGE TOGETHER AGAIN

Sunday, December 10, 3-5 PM



Lee Brockington and Bill Oberst will put on a great show of holiday readings, including Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*, Jean Shepard's *In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash* (the basis for the movie *A Christmas Story*), plus Lee's ever-popular Gullah rendition of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* and Bill's personal essay about the loss of a grandmother



at Christmastime. Memories of Genevieve "Sister" Peterkin will surround the auditorium. Guests will also be served wassail, tea, coffee and great holiday cookies!

We hope this fundraiser brings in the remaining funds needed to name one of the Waccamaw Library meeting rooms for the Chandler/Peterkin family. We have 2/3 of the \$15,000 needed. Once we reach this goal and pay the minimal fee to put a plaque above the door, the rest of the \$15K will be donated toward the \$50K needed to purchase a starter collection of library books for the proposed South Georgetown Library (North Santee, Sampit and St. Delight communities).

FOWL Members (only) can purchase a maximum of 4 tickets @ \$35 each beginning October 15th. The general public can purchase tickets beginning November 1st.



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!

GCSO issues reminder about rules for vehicles, horses on beaches



The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office would like to remind residents and visitors that motor vehicles — except for public safety emergency vehicles — are prohibited on the beaches and dunes in Georgetown County. This includes the Georgetown County portion of Garden City Beach, which starts just north of the Yucca Drive beach access to the Murrells Inlet jetties.

Prohibited vehicles include golf carts, ATVs, motorcycles, cars, trucks and other motorized vehicles.

Riding horses on Georgetown County beaches is **allowed from Nov. 1 until Feb. 28**. Riders are responsible for cleaning up and removing from the beach any fecal waste from their horses. Failure to clean up is a violation of county law, and this law is enforced. A violation does include leaving the fecal waste on the beach to be washed away by the tide.

Additionally, horses are prohibited from being on the sand dunes or walking over structures.

For additional information on beach regulations and access, visit www.gtcparks.org and click on the "beach information" link in the box on the left. Residents may also contact the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office at (843) 546-5102.

Please note that Georgetown County offices will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 22-26 & Jan. 1.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gingerbread House Decorating Party

Thursday, Dec. 7
2:30-4:30 p.m.
at the Waccamaw Library

Free. All ages welcome. All supplies provided

Library to host lecture on plastics

The Friends of the Georgetown Library will host environmental activist Goffinet McLaren of Litchfield at its "Tuesdays With..." presentation on Dec. 12 at 10 a.m. The lecture will take place in the Library Auditorium, 405 Cleland Street.

McLaren will explore the horrifying legacy of plastic litter washed out to sea. She grew up in the small historic town of Carrickfergus, located on the coast of Northern Ireland.

"Surrounded by the sea, I became aware at a very early age of the importance of caring for the ocean and its inhabitants," she said. "As I grew into adulthood, my sense of right and wrong ripened into a positive passion to make a difference to our planet."

In 2006, McLaren and her husband Ian retired to the coast of South Carolina, where the pair were fascinated by the local marine life. However, McLaren noticed that litter of all sorts, especially plastic products, was being left on shore by thoughtless visitors. Aided by wind and tides, the litter promptly washed out to sea. McLaren contacted Captain Charles Moore at the Algalita Marine Research Institute in California to find out what happened to the plastic flotsam.

"My worst fears were confirmed – as a result of plastic ingestion, millions of birds, seals, dolphins, turtles, and even whales were suffering heartbreaking deaths," McLaren said. "It's a holocaust of ocean life."

Ever since, McLaren has worked to increase awareness of the devastating consequences of ocean pollution and has written a children's book in an attempt to help educate children and young adults about plastic and its relationship to our planet.

In addition, McLaren speaks to groups throughout the Lowcountry and continues to research the effects of plastic in our oceans. McLaren was the co-coordinator of SC United Turtle Enthusiasts (SCUTE) and cofounder of Stop Oil Drilling in the Atlantic and the Chirping Bird Society.

"Tuesdays With..." is a free monthly program sponsored by the Friends of the Georgetown Library. All are welcome to attend and no reservations are needed.



Goffinet McLaren

County cohosts rain barrel workshop; more to come



The Georgetown County Stormwater Division cohosted a rain barrel making workshop at Hobcaw Barony earlier this month. The free workshop was also cohosted by the University of South Carolina, the Coastal Stormwater Education Consortium and North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Participants learned the value of harvesting rain water through rain barrels, which they then constructed and took home. Another workshop is being planned for March. Check future newsletters, our website and Facebook for details.

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 on Nov. 8 and presented several awards for dedication and hard work. The awards were presented during a luncheon and ceremony at Howard 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. "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 four employees who stood out this year in their excellence.

Two new employees, **Vicky Smith** and **Hollie Wicker**, were presented with the Customer Service Award. It was the first year two winners were selected, but the situation that led to the award was a unique one, said Tracy Jones, who presented the awards.

Smith and Wicker were employed with the Mosquito Control Division. They were hired at the end of last year, just weeks apart. Smith and Wicker worked around the clock to educate themselves on their new job and got the Division up and running again by the start of the season this spring. Not only that, but under their leadership, this was the first season Mosquito Control returned every phone call left on its problem reporting line, sometimes even conducting yard checks on the same day as problems were reported. The increased level of customer service was a great benefit to the program. Jones said this was also the first season the hotline had many thank you calls for service.

"It is because of these two employees' hard work," Jones said.

The 2017 Professional Achievement Award was presented to **Jesse Sullivan**, a level 2 tradesman with the Facility Services Division. "This employee is a true self starter and very intuitive," Jones said. "He is the type of person who always has to have something to do. His work is exemplary and he was recently promoted because of it."

Sullivan was also described as a problem solver and "a true testament to professionalism at work."

The final award, that of 2017 Public Services Employee of the Year, was presented to **James Coley**, a projects planner with the Engineering and Capital Improvements Division. Coley has been employed with the county for three years and in that time has been vital to many county projects, including improvement of the county's environmental education center and helping the county receive its American Public Works Association reaccreditation.

Coley has been a leader in managing large, countywide projects that have a huge impact on the county as a whole, Jones said. He was program manager for all county disaster projects, generating FEMA reimbursement totaling more than \$6 million for Hurricanes Joaquin, Matthew and Irma. He has prepared multiple grant applications for bike trail improvements and hazard mitigation, as well as working tirelessly on beach and waterfront improvements, including renourishment, jetty repairs and repairs to the Marshwalk and Jetty View Walk.

Additionally, Coley is responsible for obtaining easements for all capital projects and stormwater projects.

"His work truly exemplifies professionalism, customer service and



Above: Customer Service Award winners, center, are pictured with Public Services Director Ray Funnyc, far right, County Council Chairman Johnny Morant, second from left, and Tracy Jones. Right: James Coley, Employee of the Year. Far right: Jesse Sullivan, Professional Achievement Award winner.



quality of work," Jones said. "He can be relied upon to meet and exceed the goals of not only his department, but the county as a whole. He works hard to better our community for all those love it."

The Friends of the Andrews Library and Sandy Shoes Entertainment present

Gerry the Great

and the BIG red box of Christmas Magic!



Thursday, Dec. 21
at the Andrews Library,
105 Morgan Ave.

Featuring:
Face painting from
1-4 p.m.
Magic Show, 2-3 p.m.

News and announcements from our County Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

Happy Holidays to everyone! We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving.

Georgetown's Christmas Parade is Saturday, Dec. 2 at 11 a.m., and veterans and veterans groups are encouraged to participate. For additional information, please call Aimee or Katie at (843) 527-8413.



Murphy

The **Town of Andrews** will have its Christmas parade on Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. and will have a Christmas tree lighting program at 5 p.m. at Town Hall.

On Dec. 7 at 11 a.m., Patriots Point will host a **free memorial ceremony aboard the USS Yorktown** for the 25 South Carolinians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The service, organized together with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10624, will include a wreath laying, tolling of a bell and a traditional gun salute. Information about this event can be found on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/gtcVeterans](https://www.facebook.com/gtcVeterans).

On Saturday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m., former combat veterans will receive **Quilts of Valor**. The ceremony will be at the Historic Bethel AME Church, 417 Broad Street, Georgetown. Quilts of Valor is a nonprofit founded in 2011 that honors military veterans for their service with Quilts. The Mission of the Quilts of Valor foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

To learn more visit www.qovf.org

For jobseekers out there, there will be several upcoming opportunities to get connected with the right position. **Jobs Connection** consists of a collaboration between Goodwill, A Father's Place, Helping Hands and Friendship Place. The group provides a job training boot camp to include areas such as resume development, critical thinking and mock interview preparation. At the completion of the boot camp, participants are able to attend a mini job fair on-site. Employers at the mini job fair vary depending upon position openings.

In addition, participants are paired with career coaches from A Father's Place, Help-

ing Hands, Goodwill and Friendship Place, where the career coach provides:

- One-on-one follow-up sessions
- Job leads on a weekly basis
- Goal setting
- Referrals to other community resources and assistance services

An **Andrews Jobs Connection Information Session** will take place on Jan. 4 at 10 a.m., with boot camp following Jan. 8-12 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The location will be Helping Hands in Andrews, 37 E. Main St.

A **Georgetown Jobs Connection Information Session** will take place Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. with boot camp following Jan. 22-26 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The location will be the Goodwill Job Link Center, 1520 High-market Street, Georgetown.

Pawleys Island American Legion Post 197 recently had a food drive. Collections will be delivered to the Baskerville Food Pantry on Dec. 1. The group would like to thank all who donated and to those businesses that served as donation drop off locations.

Post 197 will once again conduct an oratorical contest as part of the state and national American Legion contests. Local contestants will compete for prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for first, second and third place finishes. Specific information will be in the January Newsletter to include how to donate toward this contest.

Post 197 has begun planning to sponsor Pawleys Island area boys who will be seniors in fall 2018 to attend the Palmetto Boys

State in June 2018. Donations are welcome to help send these boys to this premier citizenship learning lab.

Post 197's next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Fish House Restaurant in Litchfield. Dinner is at 5 p.m., with a business meeting following at 6 p.m.

I would like to end with a note of caution. Now that the holiday shopping season has begun, the risk of fraud and identity theft rises. Please check your credit reports just to make sure you haven't fallen victim. Here are the numbers to the three major credit bureaus:

Equifax: 800-525-6285 www.equifax.com

Experian: 888-397-3742

www.experian.com

Transunion: 800-680-7289

www.transunion.com

Again, from the Georgetown County Veterans Affairs staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Proud To Serve!

Dr. David A. Murphy,

Manager,

Georgetown County Office
of Veterans Affairs

If you have questions about services available to veterans in Georgetown County, please contact the Veterans Affairs Office at (843) 545-3330 or stop by at 537 Lafayette Circle, Georgetown. If you have information you would like to share with veterans, email dmurphy@gtccounty.org.

When a 'free' credit report is not really free

On the surface, it seems logical: You type the phrase "free credit report" in a search engine to access the website that offers free reports — which you're entitled to, by law. But here's the catch: Your search results might not drive you to the one legitimate website operated by the Federal Trade Commission.

Q: What's the danger in going to the wrong Website to get your free credit report?

A: These sites hook you with offers of so-called free credit reports while aggressively marketing other services. Go to any site other than annualcreditreport.com and you may wind up paying needlessly for services you don't want. Or, you could pay \$75 for a credit score that otherwise costs \$8 to \$12. In one example, a site advertised a "free credit report," but failed to disclose adequately that, if you signed up, you were automatically enrolled in a credit-monitoring program and charged \$79.95. Many disclosures are in the fine print and easy to overlook.

To get a truly free credit report, go to annualcreditreport.com, which was established after the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 gave consumers the right to obtain — once a year — a free credit report from each of the big three credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Or, you can call toll-free 877-322-8228.

You can order all three at the same time, or stagger your requests throughout the year, making it easier to detect errors or issues quickly.

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 to screen 'Nutcracker' performance by NYC Ballet

The Waccamaw Library will leap into the holiday spirit with a special gift from Lincoln Center: a showing of the 2011 performance of George Balanchine's "The Nutcracker" by the New York City Ballet. The performance will be shown on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the library's DeBordieu Auditorium at 41 St. Paul Place.

The live performance of the ballet was a spectacle like no other, involving 90 New York City Ballet dancers, 62 musicians, 32 stagehands and two casts of 50 young students from the school of American Ballet.

Tschaikovsky's music, the choreography of George Balanchine, sumptuous costumes and lavish sets all added to the magic. Lincoln Center, at the time, reported that the one-ton Christmas tree that grew from a height of 12 feet to 40 feet brought audible gasps of disbelief from the audience at each performance.

The viewing on Dec. 14 is sponsored by the library and the Lincoln Center Outreach Program, and is free and open to the public. For more information, email sbremner@gtcounty.org.



Holiday Book Sale

**Friday,
Dec. 1,
1-5 p.m.**

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.)



Please join us for the upcoming
1st Thursday Program for December
Thursday December 7, 2017
@10 AM
Debordieu Colony Room
Waccamaw Neck Branch Library

Featured Guest
Walter Hill
Christmas on the Farm

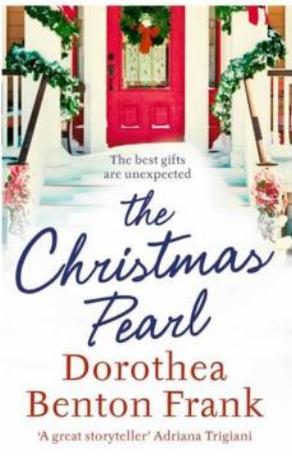


Share the nostalgia of Christmases past on small farms of Horry and Georgetown counties before WWII with the Director of Horry County Museum & L.W. Paul Living History Farm.

1st Thursday is a free Adult Education series open to the public.

Georgetown Library Book Club

December Selection



The best gifts are unexpected

the Christmas Pearl
Dorothea Benton Frank
'A great storyteller' Adriana Trigiani

Theodora is the matriarch of a family that, in her opinion, has grown into a bunch of truculent knuckleheads. They've all come together in South Carolina to celebrate a dismal Christmas. Luckily someone hears Theodora's plea for help and Merle arrives, pockets filled with Gullah magic and common sense to straighten everyone out.

Book Discussion:
Thursday, December 14 at 11 am
Georgetown Library,
405 Cleland Street

For a copy of the book, see Patti Burns at the Library.