

# 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. 14** – Friends of the Georgetown Library Yuletide Home Tour and craft show, 1-5 p.m. See page 4.

**Dec. 14** – Wreaths Across America, 10 a.m. at the Georgetown War Memorial. See Page 10.

**Dec. 19** – Georgetown County Planning Commission Meeting, 4 p.m., in the historic County Courthouse on Screven St. *Note deviation from usual start time.*

**Dec. 17** – “A Traditional Christmas” live musical performance at the Waccamaw Library, 5:30 p.m. See page 6.

**Dec. 24-26** – County offices 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.

**Jan. 3** – Last day to register for Tot Basketball. See Page 7. Season starts Jan. 13.

**Jan. 9** – Good Manners for Beginners dog training classes start at the Murrells Inlet Community Center. See page 11.

**Jan. 14** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Volume 8, Issue 4

December 2019

## All but one viable sales tax projects completed

**A** new police and fire complex in the Town of Andrews is the last item remaining to be completed from the original projects list that was part of a 2014 Capital Project Sales Tax referendum.

The sales tax expired in the spring of this year, having raised just over \$41 million. The total was significantly more than anticipated, and will leave Council with about \$18 million in excess funds that they will have to determine how to spend sometime next year.

Following is the latest on where the original projects from the referendum stand.

• **Andrews Fire and Police Complex.** This project was originally earmarked for \$1.5 million and has not yet been completed, as the County awaits action from the Town of Andrews. The Town is going through the procurement process and the County is ready to move forward with funding as soon as the Town is ready to begin construction. No funds have yet been expended.

• **Murrells Inlet Dredging.** This project was completed in May of 2017, along with beach renourishment at Garden City, which was done using spoils material from the dredging operation. The disposal



site preparation for the Confined Disposal Facility was not required due to cost savings in mechanical/gravity dewatering bag methods that were employed. Originally budgeted for \$10.3 million, this project was completed for \$8.85 million.

• **Road Resurfacing.** All road resurfacing projects (approximately 100 across the county, including in municipalities) have been completed. Total projects equaled 44.5 road miles. The County anticipates receiving reimbursement of some funds from SCDOT,

**See “Capital Projects,” Page 8**

## Library to move ahead with improvements at main branch

With the full support of County Council, the Georgetown Library Board is ready to move forward with a plan for expansion and improvements at the system’s main branch in Georgetown. County Council enthusiastically and unambiguously gave its blessing last month to the board’s plans, which include using a small, county-owned park for the construction component of the project.

The Library received a bequest of \$1.16 million earlier this fall from the late Jean Flournoy Moody, who was



Library board members and staff listen to a presentation from architect Michael Walker on plans for improvements to the library.

a regular user of the Georgetown Library from around 1955 until her death in late 2017 at the age of 96. The Library Board gratefully accepted the gift and decreed it should be used to improve the facility where

Moody spent so much time, and that a portion of the improved building be named in her honor.

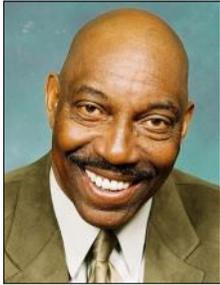
Though the Library Board has discretion over how the funds are used and didn’t need Council’s approval, they did want council’s support, as well as permission to use the county-owned Library Park adjacent to the library on Cleland Street for the expansion. Council gave both.

Council heard from several residents who expressed their own support for the project and talked about their visions for the future of the

**See “Library,” Page 3**

## IN MEMORIAM: County mourns former Council Member, friend

The Rev. Thomas Earl Drayton, a former Georgetown County Council Member, passed away Nov. 22 at Tidelands Health in Georgetown. He was 79.



**Thomas E. Drayton**

He was born to the late Rev. Henry S. Drayton and Sarah Williams Drayton on June 20, 1940, in the North Santee area of Georgetown County. Growing up in North Santee, he acquired his education at Rosemary and Howard High School. Following graduation from Howard, Drayton married his high school sweetheart, the former Emma Ravenell, on June 23, 1961, and from this union three children were born: Kerry Bernard, Keesha Belinda and Kia Benita. The couple relocated to New York, where he enlisted in the Army in 1961 and served two years. During his time in New York, Drayton was employed by Montgomery Ward, Coney Island Hospital, United Postal Service and the New York Sanitation Department. He and his family returned home to North Santee in 1976 and he began working at International Paper Company. He was elected to the Georgetown County Council in 1985 and served in political office for 20 years representing North Santee District 3.

Drayton was licensed to preach at Mt. Zion AME Church in North Santee under the Rev. Alfred Darby. He also served at Bethel AME Church in Georgetown, assisting the pastors and ministry with the approval of the official boards of both churches. He served six pastors at Bethel AME Church and, currently, Pastor Dr. Betty Clark until his health declined. Drayton often expressed his love for ministry and thanked the churches for the opportunity to serve.

He was a devout public servant of the Georgetown community and served in various capacities to support the educational advancement and well being of youth, men and senior citizens. He served as first President of the Palmetto Conference Sons of Allen and the Georgetown district. He was a faithful servant and member of the Mt. Zion AME church usher board and choir. He created and invested personally in the North Santee Scholarship Fund which benefitted

three young adults in advancing their education.

As a community leader and public servant, he was recognized with the following awards and life achievements: the Palmetto Conference Sons of Allen Hall of Fame for community leadership, 2019; Recognition of Public Service to Georgetown County by the S.C. Senate and S.C. House of Representatives, 1996; and the Sharon F. Wood Award for Outstanding Services from the Georgetown County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, 1994.

Drayton was a loving and deeply devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and uncle. He was fondly known by many and well respected by all throughout the faith community, public officials and the North Santee community. He was an honorable man with integrity and grit that is often lacking in today's society. He cherished and honored the legacy of the name passed down to him by his father (Drayton) and lived his life in a manner to ensure that legacy continues.

He leaves to cherish his memory a devoted wife and love of his life, Emma Ravenell Drayton; three loving daughters, Keesha Belinda Drayton of Hartford, Conn., Kia Benita Drayton of Georgetown and Victorious Emma Mitchell Drayton of the home; three sons, Kerry (Marilyn) Bernard Drayton of St Johns, Fla., Anthony Edward Mitchell Drayton of the home and Terrence (Batise) Humes of Darlington; three grandchildren, Shannon Donte' Wallace, Aiyanna Nicole Drayton and Sierra Humes; three great-grandchildren, Imani Maria Cameron Drayton, Sydney Wallace and Antoine Lamar Cameron III; one surviving sister, Vivian (John) Walston of Norfolk, Va.; two sisters-in-law, Gracie McCutchen of Andrews, and Merdis (Jimmy) Jones; two brothers, Robert Smith of New York and Al Smith of Kentucky; Clara Green of

Georgetown, who was reared as his sister; and two special nieces, Laura (Khalil) Smith Ahmed and Neomi (Herbert) James, both of who resided in their home in New York; a best friend of more than 50 years who is considered a brother, Alonzo (Shirley) Jinwright of Charlotte; a special nephew who he considered a son, Kenneth "Biggie" (Barbara) Drayton; two special grandsons, Zharbray Livingston of Georgetown, and Jordan Manigault of Georgetown. He is predeceased by siblings Bertha Williams, Hester Bryant, Susan Brown, the Rev. Annie Green, Ruth Frost, Emma D. Smith, Willie Drayton, Luther Drayton, James Drayton, Mary Drayton Ravenell and Beatrice Chisolm; a host of nieces, to include two special nieces, Mickie Livingston and Gwen Wearing; nephews and friends, to include special family friends Elder David Grayson of Open Bible Tabernacle, Michael Johnson, Nehemiah Witherspoon, Vergie Doiley, Sherry Livingston, Jackie Kennedy, Rita Cromedy, Francis Swinton, Martin Mayes Jr., Phenie Bell Moultrie and daughters and many more.

### Get the Chronicle

At Georgetown County, we want our residents and property owners kept abreast of what's going on inside their local government. That's why we created the Georgetown County Chronicle. It's a vehicle for information about county services and events, important messages from county officials and behind-the-scenes glimpses at how government works.

You can find the Chronicle on our website at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org) or through our Facebook page. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org) with the subject line "send me the Chronicle."

That's also the place to send questions and comments about this newsletter and its content. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org)

## Library

Continued from Front Page

Georgetown Library. Among them were Library Board Member Jene Klopp; Robert Willey, president of the Friends of the Georgetown Library; Carlethia Rudolph, a Library Board Member and retired branch manager for the Waccamaw Library; and Kevin Jayroe, who was Moody's friend and described her as a lover of literature and a dedicated supporter of education and arts.

Nov. 12 was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day the Georgetown Library opened in its present location on Cleland Street Klopp said. "It has become rather worn down and the meeting rooms are too small," Klopp said. "Of all the library facilities (in the county) it is the most threadbare."

Georgetown County constructed a beautiful new library for the Carvers Bay area in 2006, which was immediately embraced by the community and is heavily utilized. The Andrews Branch was renovated and doubled in size in 2010. In 2014, a new Waccamaw Library was constructed, replacing the old building the community had outgrown. And in 2020, the county will open a brand new branch in the Sampit/Santee area.

"Now, with this bequest, it's the Georgetown Library's turn," Library Director Dwight McInvaill said.

Rudolph, who was branch manager at the Waccamaw Library when the new building opened, recounted to Council the community's excitement over that improvement.

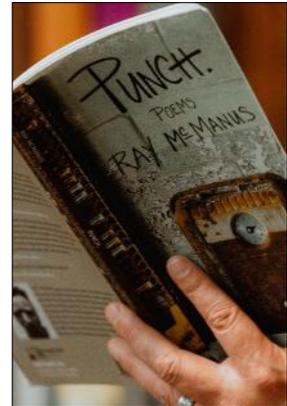
"There is nothing more gratifying than having the staff and the community witness the hustle and bustle of people going throughout the library," she said.

Libraries have evolved from simply spaces for books to community centers where people from babies to the elderly can not only access materials, but also go for classes, cultural programs and so much more. In the last fiscal year, the Waccamaw Library was the location of 854 meetings with more than 16,000 attendees, as well as 409 programs.

Plans for the library call for construction of a new, much larger auditorium and new office space for staff, allowing several existing offices to be converted into public space. The existing auditorium will be converted into smaller meeting rooms and a study room – much like the spaces available at the Waccamaw branch. Additionally, the library will get new paint and carpet, and a lighting upgrade.

## Tea and Poetry series returns for 14th run in 2020 with fiery Irish (-American) poets

The Litchfield Tea & Poetry Series keeps flowing along as smoothly as the poetic rhythms composed by the many poets it has featured. Beginning in January 2020, the series will enter its 14th year at the Waccamaw Library, located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island. The lineup of poets who will read in the venerable series this year is notable, mixing strong local talent while pulling in "name" poets from outside the state. The series runs from January through April and is



SC native Ray McManus will be a featured poet on Jan 16.

held on the third Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library, the program is free and open to all. Light refreshments, including a selection of good teas, are offered.

The first installment of the 2020 series will take place on Jan. 16, and will feature three accomplished poetic voices: Ray McManus, Adrian Rice and Molly Rice. A native South Carolinian, McManus has established himself as one of the strong, emerging voices of "rough South" literature. His poems often speak to the darker side of experience in the semi-rural and sometimes repressive South: hard work, hard love, hard drinking. Yet this darkness is often broken with humor or quirky turns. And images of rough Southern life are entwined with the haunting presence of Ireland in McManus's verse, drawn from his family history. This Irish fire also burns bright through Adrian Rice's work. Originally from Belfast, he now lives in the highlands of North Carolina, where he is completing his doctorate at Appalachian State University. He has established himself as a poet on both sides of the Atlantic. His latest book is *The Strange Estate: New & Selected Poems* (Press 53). Molly Rice, Adrian's spouse, is also a poet as well as an award-winning theater educator and director. Her first chapbook, *Mill Hill*, was published by Finishing Line Press, with recommendations from Ron Rash and Kathryn Stripling Byer, and her first full poetry collection is forthcoming from Press 53.

On Feb. 20 at 10 a.m., Al Black and Gary Jackson will be the featured poets. Both draw attention to matters of racial inequity and struggle through their work. An Indiana native, Black has published two poetry collections, *I Only Left For Tea* (2014) and *Man With Two Shadows* (2018); co-edited *Hand in Hand, Poets Respond to Race* (2017); and is published in anthologies, journals, and periodicals. He hosts arts events, co-founded Poets Respond to Race Initiative and was *Jasper Magazine's* 2017 Literary Artist of the Year. Gary Jackson is the author of the poetry collection *Missing You, Metropolis*, which received the 2009 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. His poems have appeared in *Callaloo*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and elsewhere. He teaches in the MFA program at the College of Charleston.

On March 19 at 10 a.m., the Waccamaw Library will welcome Shelby Stephenson, who served as Poet Laureate of North Carolina from 2015 to 2018. His recent books include *Paul's Hill: Homage to Whitman, Our World*, and *Nin's Poem*. He was editor of *Pembroke Magazine* from 1978 to 2010, when he retired from University of N.C. at Pembroke. During his tenure as Poet Laureate, he pursued three projects: holding writing workshops in assisted living and retirement communities, raising awareness of local archives and family histories, and promoting writings about farming and farm life in N.C.

On April 16 at 10 a.m., the 2020 Litchfield series will come to an exciting conclusion with a couple of acclaimed female poets: Carolyn Elkins and Diana Pinckney. Both are well-known figures on the poetry circuit with prolific publications and honors. For more information, visit the library website at <https://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov/>.

## Georgetown Library system joins national boycott



The Georgetown County Library system has joined a library purchasing boycott against Macmillan Publishers, the Library Board voted recently. The boycott is being organized by members of the library profession, including the SC Association of Public Library Administrators in response to actions from Macmillan that drastically restrict sales of its e-books to libraries, thus restricting access by library users. Macmillan is one of the five "big publishers" of e-books and audiobooks in the U.S., Library Director Dwight McInvaill, told the board. If their actions stand, other publishers will likely follow suit.

"There are a lot of people who depend on the library to access these materials," McInvaill said. "We support business, but we also support public access. Libraries pay a lot more than an individual for an e-book and can only use it for a certain number of checkouts. They're already making money off us, they just want more at the expense of public access."

## Departments collect toys for tots



Georgetown County Fire/EMS collected more than 800 toys for children in need over the course of two days last month. The toys were donated to Toys for Tots. This was the second year the Department organized a Fill the Ambulance toy drive. Seven employees volunteered their time to collect toys and hand out fire safety information outside WalMart in Georgetown for a total of 16 hours on Nov. 9 and 10. Volunteers included Battalion Chiefs Ryan Allen and David Geney, Lt. Keith Ziegenhorn, Lt. Dale Hewitt, Master Firefighter Josh Sapp, Firefighter Bob Kosto, and Leslie Horton of Central Communication (911). Pictured from left are Geney and Ziegenhorn with a portion of the toys the department collected. "We were out there for 16 hours and we had multiple members of the community return just to donate more toys," said Ziegenhorn, who organized the drive. "We have great support from the community and our administration. We are grateful to be able to help the community."

The Carvers Bay Library is also collecting toys for Toys for Tots this month. Area residents are invited to drop off toys at the library, located on Choppee Road. Georgetown County is proud of its employees who go above and beyond to serve the communities they work in.

Beautiful local homes, decorated in holiday finery.  
 PLUS: An elegant craft show at the Georgetown Library  
 NEW: Exclusive access to the Kaminski House Designer's Showcase!

**Friends of the  
 GEORGETOWN  
 LIBRARY**

**YULETIDE  
 home tour**

**SATURDAY  
 DECEMBER 14  
 1 - 5 PM**

Tickets available at all library branches  
 \$20 for Friends \$25 for non-members  
 INFORMATION: (843) 545-3303

## 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 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.

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office 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.

## Linda Drayton named Employee of the Quarter for 3rd Quarter of 2019

Linda Drayton, a clerk in the Georgetown County Auditor's Office, was recognized by County Council last month as Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter. She has been employed with the county for six years. Drayton started with the county as a part-time staff member and was promoted to full-time when Brian Shult was elected Auditor and took over that office.

"It was one of the first things I did my first week in office and it was the smartest decision of my term," Shult said. "She has been an exceptional employee."

In her early days as a part-time employee, Drayton performed basic clerical duties such as filing, answering standard questions from taxpayers, forwarding emails and taking forms to other offices. As a full-time clerk, her duties became much more complex. The office is responsible for billing for vehicles, watercraft and motors, aircraft, business personal property, residential rentals, manufacturing, utilities and more, in addition to staffing the counter and phones.

"Linda adapted almost effortlessly," Shult said in his nomination letter. "She was a quick study and was assigned to manage the Residential Rental Returns, which involves mailing, sorting and processing approximately 10,000 returns annually. During her stint, the process was adapted and improved, in large measure due to Linda's innovative nature. She always seems to have a better, more efficient way of doing things."

Drayton's excellent work saw her promoted again to her current position of Homestead Clerk, which Shult describes as the most demanding clerk role in his office.

"The premise is simple, but the application is not," he said. "It takes knowledge of S.C. tax codes, type and content of deeds, trust provisions, probate issues, and excellent judgement to excel at this position. Linda has restructured the application form and the sys-



**Linda Drayton, center, is pictured with County Council Chairman John Thomas, left, and Auditor Brian Shult.**

tem of recording information, which has markedly improved the process."

However, it is Drayton's interaction with the taxpayers that is her most valued trait, according to Shult. "She's the best I've ever seen with people," he said. "She puts people at ease immediately in every kind of circumstance imaginable."

"I can say with some certainty that not every taxpayer entering the Auditor's Office is pleased to be there. But Linda has an innate ability to reassure and settle the most anxious taxpayer. I see it every day. I have more letters and emails in my file from taxpayers attesting to Linda's professionalism and helpfulness than any other employee. These taxpayers provide the highest and best recommendations for Linda."

## 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!

## Live music series returns to the Library in time for holidays

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library Musicians Series is back in full swing this month and continuing throughout the winter and spring of 2020. Come tap your toes, snap your fingers, and clap your hands to an array of performers, including traditional Christmas carols, swing and Dixieland jazz, Broadway love songs, Caribbean steel drum music, Americana and country, and "Roaring 20s" jazz. All concerts are free and open to the public.

On Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m., the Waccamaw Library will host "A Traditional Christmas," an all-acoustic show by Dr. Jill Trinkka. The Library will ring with glad tidings of the season, thanks to the lovely vocals and sounds of a variety of instruments—including Appalachian dulcimer, Autoharp, guitar, and piano—all played masterfully by Dr. Trinkka. A former Professor of Music Education and a recording artist of American folk music with GIA Music, Dr. Trinkka will focus on time-honored carols and songs from the South, Appalachia, and the British Isles, with a classic holiday tune or two for all to sing.

On Jan. 28 at 6 p.m., the series will feature Lloyd Kaplan and the Aristocats, who are longtime fan favorites. The quartet entertain with their witty banter and lively, unique "Swixie" style, an amazing combination of Swing and Dixieland jazz.

Come feel the love on Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m. The troupe of talented young performers from the Pied Piper Youth Theater will put on a delightful performance of favorite Broadway love songs to celebrate the power of love on the eve of Valentine's Day. Some of the songs will be drawn from the one-act musical *Once on This Island*. Set in the French Antilles and full of Caribbean flair, the musical tells of the relationship between a peasant girl and an upper-class boy, and illustrates love's ability to cross social lines.

Next up in the Musicians Series is Pantasia Steel Band, one of S.C.'s most celebrated steel drum outfits. On Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m., Pantasia will take the Library stage to offer an evening of festive Caribbean entertainment. With decades of experience, band members take the traditional musical form of steel drumming to an exciting new level. Pantasia Steel Band will not only delight the audience with their amazingly synchronized playing, the band will also educate listeners about the important history of the steel drum and its significance to Caribbean culture.

The Library will showcase the down home sound of the Almost Acoustic Trio on March 12 at 5:30 p.m., who will play their special brand of Americana and country music, with a bit of rock and blues mixed in.

The Series will end, not with a whimper, but with quite a bang. Come get your "Gatsby" on in early April, as the Library celebrates the life and work of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, American cultural icons. The literary couple held celebrity status throughout the 1920s, and several of their works, including Scott's *The Great Gatsby* (1925) and Zelda's *Save Me the Waltz* (1932), reflect the highs and lows of their wild lifestyle during the "Roaring 20s." On April 3 at 5:30 p.m., the Library will hold a "Great Gatsby Gala" dance concert to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scott and Zelda's wedding. The Island Jazz Quintet will help relive the "Jazz Age" in proper style. 1920s style dress is encouraged. The Library will display a special exhibit of Art Deco jewelry and 1920s vintage clothing and fancy hats, from the collection of Melissa Levey.

*Please note that Georgetown County offices  
will be closed for the holidays on  
Dec. 24-26 & Jan. 1.*

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!*

## Paid Census takers needed in area

As the nation prepares to conduct the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau is seeking individuals who are interested in working as Census takers in the coming year. According to information provided, the position offers flexible hours, a weekly pay schedule and paid training. Anyone interested in applying may do so at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs). For more information or help applying, call 1-855-JOB-2020.

## County to host first blood drive at Waccamaw Library

For years, Georgetown County has regularly hosted community blood drives at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown. Now, the county is adding a second blood drive to its regular schedule — this one at the Waccamaw Library in Litchfield.

The first library blood drive will take place on Jan. 29 from noon to 5 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) using the sponsor lookup code "GeoCounty."

This new blood drive location is in response to requests from staff at the Waccamaw Library, who wanted to make it easier for residents on that side of the bridges to participate in county-sponsored blood drives.

## Search firm to review administrator applications in early January

A search firm hired to assist with the national search for a new County Administrator completed placing ads for the position in early December and is scheduled to begin reviewing applications the first full week of January. Current County Administrator Sel Hemingway, who was set to retire Dec. 31, agreed to extend his contract to Feb. 29, but will work fewer hours after Dec. 31. County Council is looking at the possibility of hiring an interim administrator after Feb. 29 if necessary.

## Weaver wins Primary



Carter Weaver is on track to win his first term as Georgetown County Sheriff following a victory in the Republican Primary election on Dec. 3. Weaver beat opponent Darryel Carr with 5,427 votes to Carr's 1,458. A Democratic Candidate did not file necessary paperwork by the deadline, so Weaver's name will be the only one appearing on the ballot during the special general election for Sheriff on Feb. 4. However, a write-in challenge from that candidate, Birt Adams, is anticipated. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. across the county on Feb. 4. The last day to register to vote in the election is Jan. 4. Residents can also request absentee ballots or vote absentee prior to the election at the Georgetown County Elections Office, located at 303 N. Hazard St., Georgetown. For more information, call (843) 545-3339 or visit [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org). Weaver was appointed to serve as Georgetown County Sheriff following the death of Lane Cribb in office until a special election could take place. The winner of the special election in February will fill the remainder of Cribb's term, which expires Jan. 2021, meaning the Sheriff's seat will be on the ballot again in November 2020.

# TOT BASKETBALL



**Begins January 13, 2020 - Ends February 5, 2020**  
**Register by January 3, 2020**

**GAME SCHEDULE:**

**Beck Rec Center & Waccamaw Rec Center**  
**Mondays (Jan. 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3) 4:30pm-5:00pm**

**Choppee Rec Center & Andrews Rec Center**  
**Wednesdays (Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5) 5:00pm-5:30pm**

**REGISTRATION FEE:**

**\$10 per child**

**Participants will receive a ball and a shirt to keep at the end of the season!**

**Don't miss out on the fun - register today!**

Georgetown County  
 Parks & Recreation  
 3050 Church St.  
 Georgetown, SC 29440  
 (843) 545-3276 | [www.GTGParks.org](http://www.GTGParks.org)



## Sign up for emergency alerts!

Don't miss out on important information that could keep you and your family safe. Sign up to receive emergency alerts specific to your address from the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division via email or phone. Sign up for this free service at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org) or call (843) 545-3213.

## Find us online!

Whether you're looking for jobs, the latest news or to contact a specific department, online is a great way to stay updated or get in touch with us.

Visit our website at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org). You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.



## Fall Soccer Champions



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation's fall adult soccer league has crowned a group of familiar faces as champions. On Dec. 7, the adult soccer league championship game took place at Stables Park in Pawleys Island, with perennial contenders and No. 1 seed **Prestige Worldwide** taking on No. 2 **AC United**. **AC United** put up a hard fight, but ultimately fell to **Prestige** by a score of 10-0, giving **Prestige** their fifth league championship in the last seven seasons. **Prestige** finishes the season with an undefeated 7-0 record, and a goal differential of +61 (66-5) on the season. Registration will open soon for the County's spring 2020 adult sports leagues. Players who are not part of a team are encouraged to add their name to the "Free Agent" roster, in case a team needs pick-up players over the course of the fall season. Season dates and registration fees will be announced this winter. For more information regarding registering a team for any adult sports leagues, contact Randy Akers at (843) 359-6419 or via email at [bakers@qtcounty.org](mailto:bakers@qtcounty.org).

## HOA reps, property managers encouraged to attend Stormwater Pond Conference

Property owners association representatives, property managers and anyone with a stormwater retention pond on their land should mark their calendars for the 2020 Grand Strand Stormwater Pond Management Conference.

This full-day event will take place on Feb. 25 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the City of Myrtle Beach's General Robert H. Reed Base Recreation Center (800 Gabreski Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577). The program will provide a forum to share the latest information, resources and tools on stormwater pond management.

The conference will feature the current state of the knowledge on stormwater ponds, hands-on demonstrations and multiple pond management topics, such as shoreline management, inspection and maintenance, erosion, and more. The program is free and is sponsored by Clemson Cooperative Extension.

## Important dates for the 2019 Youth Basketball season

The 2020 Youth Basketball season is quickly approaching. Team evaluations and selections for all regions will take place at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 17 for 9- and 10-year-olds, and at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 18 for 11- and 12-year-olds. For 4- to 8-year-olds and ages 13 and up, selection will be conducted by Parks and Recreation staff. Team placement is based on registration numbers. Practices for all regions begin Dec. 30 and games start Jan 13. For more information, including practice and game schedules, visit: [http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/Parks\\_Recreation/docs/2019dec-youthbasketball.pdf](http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/Parks_Recreation/docs/2019dec-youthbasketball.pdf). Residents may also call (843) 545-3275 for information.

## Capital Projects

Continued from Front Page

but that has not happened yet. This project was originally estimated at \$8.9 million and was completed for \$8.4 million.

- **Fire Station and Rural Substations.** This project is deemed "financially complete." It included one full-size fire station in the Big Dam community and nine rural fire substations. The full fire station and four of the nine substations have been constructed. While work remains to be done on the other substations, costs have already been paid. The Big Dam Community Fire Station on Big Dam Road officially opened on July 2, 2019. The original estimated total for all 10 facilities was \$1.5 million. Projected completion total is \$2.1 million. Substations that have already been completed are at Williams Hill, Yauhannah, South Island and Gallop. The building for the Gapway substation is complete, but electrical service still needs to be installed. The remaining sites at Sampit, Rose Hill, Carvers Bay, and Plantersville are at various stages of completion. The first



Dredging in Murrells Inlet was completed in May of 2017, along with beach renourishment in Garden City.

three will proceed at the same time, once all site locations are ready for construction. Completion is estimated to take place in March. For the Plantersville station, the project location has been determined and the site plan has been completed.

- **Winyah Bay Dredging.** This project has not been completed and has been deemed

to be no longer viable or economically beneficial for our area by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the S.C. Ports Authority. This project was originally earmarked to receive \$6 million in Capital Project Sales Tax monies. The rest was to be paid with state and federal funds, which are no longer available. No funds were expended.

# Public Services Department presents annual employee honors

Georgetown County's Department of Public Services and Director Ray Funnysie paid tribute to the department's outstanding employees on Nov. 20 with a luncheon and awards ceremony.

"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," Funnysie 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 three employees who stood out this year in their excellence.

The top award — that for Employee of the Year — was presented to **Gina Speight** of Environmental Services. The Employee of the Year Award is annually given to an employee who is team-oriented, who embodies professionalism and who is known for customer focus and work quality. Speight is generally early to work, has a reputation for dependability and consistently upholds the values of Georgetown County while assisting the public in a compassionate manner.

On a daily basis, she makes herself available to help others. She also helps keep operations running when other personnel are out of the office or working in the field. She is thoughtful and considerate of other employees, making sure that birthdays are acknowledge and making sure her colleagues feel special. She also regularly provides backup support to the Public Services Director's office, and has worked outside her department to coordinate distribution and collection of the state's new voting machines to all precincts on Election Days.

The annual Customer Service Award was presented to **Karan Cokley**, who supervisors say goes above and beyond in professionalism when dealing with customers. "While Georgetown County has its share of challenging work environments, Public Services deals with many residents with road issues that do not always start with pleasantries," said Tracy Jones, who presented the awards. "This employee's professional attitude and demeanor toward all residents is exceptional. He is composed and remains calm during any interaction. He is very reliable and is able to go with the flow to get the job done."

Cokley was also described as "multidimensional in his work, able to operate the compactor, motor grader, and exceptional on paving jobs."

**Chris Hancock** received the Professional Achievement Award. He started his career with Georgetown County Public Services two years ago, and supervisors say he is always timely, courteous, and eager to learn as well as teach. Resident requests come in frequently and Hancock is able to not only assist the team in taking on the requests, but provides much needed assistance to the resident. Often times, he goes the extra mile to provide additional information to the resident or even meet on site to walk them through their issue. This is all in addition to his regular work duties.

Hancock also took on the sole responsibility of implementing a new permitting program for Public Services that has increased revenue. Colleagues additionally say he is always willing to do anything that is asked of him — no matter the time of day, and he often volunteers to share his knowledge and experience with others.

We sincerely thank these exceptional employees for their service.



Above: Employee of the Year Gina Speight, center, is pictured with Public Services Director Ray Funnysie, right, and Tracy Jones. Right: Karan Cokley received the Customer Services Award. Far right: Chris Hancock received the Professional Development Award.



*Georgetown County  
Parks & Rec. presents*

# LINE DANCING *for the* NON-DANCER

*at the Murrells Inlet  
Community Center*

6-Week  
Class  
for \$40

Wednesdays, 2-3:30 p.m.  
Jan. 8 - Feb. 12  
AND  
Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m.  
Jan. 9 - Feb. 20  
(No class on Jan. 30)

Call (843) 503-6833  
to register

## News and holiday wishes from our Veterans Affairs Officer

By David Murphy

Happy Holidays, veterans! I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. Everyone is in the Christmas shopping mode. Please be careful of all the scams that have been developing lately, as well as increased holiday traffic. We are getting down to the end of the year, so let me take this opportunity to thank the people of Georgetown for all you have done this year to help our veterans. Thank you for your support. I would also like to remind everyone that just our office will be closed December 24-29 and on Jan. 1.



Murphy

Please remember the Metcalf family this holiday season. Mr. **Howard Metcalf** served as the state director for Veterans Affairs. He sadly passed away on Nov. 25.

If you are looking for a way to honor veterans this holiday season, please consider participating in **Wreaths Across America**. Observed annually on the third Saturday in December, National Wreaths Across America Day is a movement to cover all veterans' grave markers with a Christmas wreath.

Georgetown will be one of 13 cities in South Carolina and 1,600 participating locations across the nation with its Wreaths Across America ceremony on Dec. 14. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at Georgetown's War Memorial, 715 Church St., and is sponsored by American Legion Post 114, Knights of Columbus Assembly 3272 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6444. Remember. Honor. Teach. This is the mission of Wreaths Across America. By coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and other veteran's cemeteries around the country, Wreaths Across America strives to remember our fallen heroes, honor those who serve and teach our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.

For more information, contact Rodney Ward 843-833-3700, Jerry Lee, 843-995-0917, Ron Gilbert, 509-290-2405 or Paige Sawyer, 843-546-3745.

According to the Department of Defense, starting Jan. 1, all service-connected Veter-



Local veterans groups will participate in Wreaths Across America on Saturday, Dec. 14.

ans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war (POW), and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs **Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers** (PCAFC), can use commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

For more information regarding these privileges and access to military installations, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/expanding-access>. Credentials are required. Credentials may include Health Identification Cards issued to veterans and eligibility letters issued to caregivers.

On Thanksgiving Day the **Low Country Veterans Group** paused to show its gratitude to the organizations and individuals who assist the group in its mission to serve veterans and our community. On December 7, the group joined our nation in remembering the sacrifices of our Armed Forces during the Japanese attack on the U.S. military installations at Pearl Harbor in 1941. We will never forget our Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard heroes who gave so much on that "Day of Infamy."

The Low Country Veterans Group and the **Georgetown Housing Authority** hosted their annual Veterans Day Event on Nov. 11 at the Georgetown Housing Authority. Special guests were local officials, veterans, military and the public. A delicious complimentary meal was served to all. The group participated in Veterans Day parades in Andrews and Georgetown. The group was also honored to attend veterans recognition ceremonies at Nazareth AME Church, Saint Paul's AME Church and a LCVG Memorial

Ceremony at Arnett AME Church during Veterans Day week. On Nov. 9, Commander Franklin E. Rutledge and the Low Country Veterans Group members were special guests at The Long Bay Symphony "War and Peace" performance at Howard Auditorium.

Commander Rutledge and the members and support group of the Low Country Veterans Group extend the blessings of Christmas to our community, state and nation. This Holiday Season, the group ask that individuals consider making a donation to help the LCVG to assist disabled veterans, homeless veterans, their families and our community. All donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to the Low Country Veterans Group, PO Box 7621, Georgetown, SC 29442. For information, visit [lowcountryvets.org](http://lowcountryvets.org) or call (843) 527-6555. Veterans and volunteers are welcome to join the Low Country Veterans Group and the LCVG Support Group.

**Vets for Jesus** is also welcoming new members. The group meets at 4:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Georgetown YMCA. For more information, send an email to Lt. Col. David Ellison, retired, at [ellison77777@gmail.com](mailto:ellison77777@gmail.com) or call (843) 543-2872.

For more information about services that may be available to veterans, please stop by the Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Office at 537 Lafayette Circle, Georgetown, or call (843) 545-3330.

It is our pleasure to serve you.

Proud to Serve!

David Murphy, *Manager,*  
Georgetown County Veterans Affairs

# Georgetown County, South

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



## County seeking volunteers to assist with community garden



**G**eorgetown County Environmental Services is in the process of building a community garden, and it's asking for a little help from those with a green thumb, artistic abilities or other skills to contribute.

The first garden beds were constructed in late November and decorated with the help of students from Coastal Montessori School. More beds are under construction and will need to be decorated, said project leader Alex Litz. The plan is to have all garden beds constructed and the area fenced in by the end of January.

That will allow planting to begin in time for the growing season, and the garden should have its first harvest this summer.

Litz said she wants this to be a true community garden, in which community members assist with planting and maintenance, and then share in the harvest.

County residents will be able to drop by the community garden at the Environmental Education Center near the landfill and pick what they need. Any leftovers will be donated to local food banks, and any waste will be composted and put back into the garden to help with the next crop, Litz said.

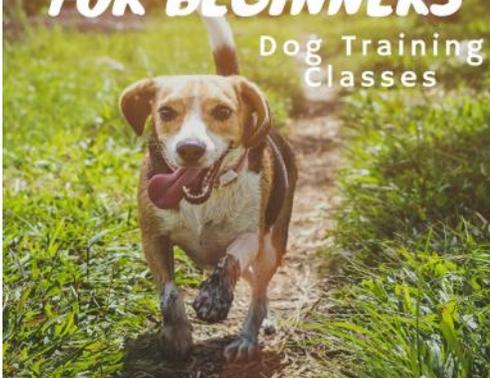
"It will truly be zero waste," she said.

Anyone who would like to pitch in with getting the garden started is asked to contact Litz at [alitz@gtcounty.org](mailto:alitz@gtcounty.org) or (843) 545-3452.

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. presents

# GOOD MANNERS FOR BEGINNERS

Dog Training Classes



5-WEEK CLASS FOR \$100, BEGINS JAN. 9  
AT THE MURRELLS INLET COMMUNITY CENTER  
CALL (843) 340-8995

Have your puppy learn from scratch, or brush up on basic obedience skills for older dogs. Classes are Thursdays from 4-5 p.m.  
(No class on Jan. 30)

## THE STRAND THEATER

710 Front St, Georgetown  
December 14th

Santa from  
9:00 - 10:30 AM

Sensory-Friendly



Starting at 10 AM

\*Sensory Friendly means lights up, sounds down and everyone is welcome to move around. Doors open at 9:00 AM and the movie starts at 10 AM. Please note the Strand Theater does NOT allow any food or drinks. FREE

Sponsored by the Georgetown County Autism Support Group

For more information visit  
[ChampionAutismNetwork.com](http://ChampionAutismNetwork.com)  
email [info@championautismnetwork.com](mailto:info@championautismnetwork.com)  
or you can find us on Facebook

# don't shop... ADOPT!

save a life.



SAINT FRANCES ANIMAL CENTER