

# The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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## Calendar

**Sept. 1** – County offices and facilities are closed in observance of Labor Day.

**Sept. 3** – Waccamaw Library Wild Wednesday art program for kids age 6 and up, 3 p.m.

**Sept. 6 & 20** – Kickball program for school-age kids with disabilities, 9-11 a.m., 8 Oaks Park.

**Sept. 9** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

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

**Sept. 23** – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

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## Voters to decide on Capital Project Sales Tax

When Georgetown County voters go to the polls this fall, they'll be asked to decide if a 1-cent sales tax will be implemented to help fund vital capital projects, including dredging at the Port of Georgetown.

County Council voted unanimously on Aug. 12 to put the issue on the ballot in the form of a countywide referendum. If approved, the 1-cent Capital Project Sales Tax would go into effect on May 1, 2015, and disappear four years later on April 30, 2019. State law mandates the tax could not be extended past that term without another referendum.

It is anticipated the tax would generate about \$7 million per year, for a total of \$28 million during the life of the tax. These funds would be used to pay for projects in three key areas: Dredging, countywide road improvements and enhancements to fire and rescue service.

The need for dredging at the Georgetown port was a driving factor in council's decision to present the sales tax to the public. Dredging at the port has been identified as

key to future economic development in the county, but efforts to secure federal funding for the project have been unsuccessful. The state committed funds for the project in its budget this year, but local funds are still needed for the project to go forward. The Capital Project Sales Tax would provide \$16.3 million for two local dredging projects and creation of a dredge spoils site.

Dredging at Winyah Bay would allow the Georgetown port to accommodate larger ships and significantly increase tonnage. Each annual increase of 500,000 tons would create 42 new jobs and \$1.3 million annually in new local household income, according to a 2010 report by economist Donald Schunk. If the sales tax referendum passes, the county could get the dredging process initiated immediately.

The tax would also fund dredging at Murrells Inlet, an area that contributes significantly to the County's economy. This would benefit tourism, the commercial fishing industry

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### Projects to be funded



- Dredging – \$16.3 million



- Road improvements – \$8.9 million



- Fire/rescue service enhancements – \$3 million

## Tournament officials, anglers looking forward to coming back to Georgetown



Tournament participants wait for events to begin at the Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex.

Not all of the 142 anglers who participated in the IFA's Redfish and Kayak tours in Georgetown County last weekend took home prizes, but they did go home happy, according to Eric Shelby, tournament director.

"They had a real good time in town. They were looking forward to being here in Georgetown," Shelby said. "With the history of the area, all the shops, the restaurants, the downtown area, they were excited about it. A lot of them brought their families, and they really appreciate the fact that we're in Georgetown."

The Inshore Fishing Association's Redfish Tour stop on

See "Fishing," Page 10

## Georgetown County Economic Development invests in local startup incubator

Georgetown County Economic Development will invest \$50,000 in Startup.SC, a nonprofit startup incubator working to build scalable technology-based businesses with the ability to scale to \$10 million over the next five years.

The investment will be matched with \$50,000 from an innovation grant provided by the S.C. Department of Commerce's Office of Innovation.

Startup.SC will work to build an ecosystem of investors, mentors, donors and entrepreneurs that will attract top tech talent to the county and surrounding area. Support for entrepreneurs will include educating them on choosing co-founders, creating pitches, finding investors and providing a platform from which to launch their businesses. With support of this magnitude, the probability of success is much greater, said Ryan Smith, executive director of Startup.SC.

The grant from the Department of Commerce allows for up to \$250,000 in matching funds. Startup.SC will continue its efforts to fully utilize all of the grant funds to support expanding operations. John Sanders, chairman of the Grand Strand Technology Council and a personal contributor to Startup.SC, is excited the funds were doubled through the state grant, he said. Sanders made a personal contribution to Startup.SC because he said he believes it will aid in enhancing the region's competitiveness for attracting

tech talent. He is excited to see the growth that will come from the entrepreneurial activities related to technology and the Internet, he added.

"There are a number of factors that create a healthy, sustainable economy in Georgetown County," said Brian Tucker, director of Georgetown County Economic Development. "We have been able to successfully balance our wonderful quality of life, which brings almost a million visitors a year to our county, with our strong industrial and manufacturing base, which offers stable quality employment to thousands. This investment in scalable startups will round out all of the various components to offer opportunities to all of our existing residents, as well as allow us to recruit the best and brightest to move our community forward."

Anyone interested in contributing to economic development through Startup.SC or submitting an idea for a business is asked to visit [www.startup.sc](http://www.startup.sc).

"We are excited about the future of Startup.SC, and we will continue to support our entrepreneurs," Smith said. "We expect great things from the Startup.SC team."

More information about Startup.SC, formerly known as the Grand Strand Startup Initiative, can also be found in the county's July newsletter at [www.gtcounty.org/newsletters](http://www.gtcounty.org/newsletters).



STARTUP SC

**KICK  
BALL  
4 THE  
KIDS**

*A new program from  
Georgetown County  
Parks and Recreation  
for all school-age kids  
with disabilities.*

**FREE**

**September 6 & 20**

**October 4 & 18**

**9-11 a.m.**

**Eight Oaks Park,  
6610 Highmarket St. (Hwy. 521), Georgetown**

**Call (843) 545-3275  
or visit [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org)**

## 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)

# What are we doing about our workforce?

"10 million unemployed. Yet employers' #1 problem is finding the right talent." That's the subtitle to an article I read recently, and while the title sums up our situation, the article does a tremendous job in outlining not only how we got here, but also how to address the issue.

There have been tons of articles written over the last several years related to the "skills gap." Many of those address certain aspects, but this piece has done the best job of revealing the complexity of the issue and reinforcing the idea that if we are to succeed, we have to work together. Big problems require big solutions, and big solutions require team work.

As I have transitioned into my new position, I have visited with a number of our existing industries that are echoing some of the frustrations mentioned in the article. I have also traveled and visited with prospects in other regions that are facing a much more dire situation than we have in Georgetown County. We are fortunate, in many respects, that our longstanding existing industries — like International Paper and Arcelor Mittal — as well as some of our newer companies — such as SafeRack and EnviroSep — have demanded a skilled workforce, and for the most part, the community has been able to meet that demand. That said, we cannot be complacent. For us to grow, we have to ramp up our efforts to grow a responsible, skilled workforce.

Last week, there was a meeting of a group that is committed to taking on this challenge. The group consisted of representatives from the Georgetown County School District, Horry-Georgetown Technical College (I say Georgetown-Horry Tech), the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce, the Alliance for Economic Development for Georgetown County, SC Works, and the Waccamaw Regional Education Center.

There are a number of layers to fully addressing this issue. These range from taking an existing workforce and finding ways to teach them the value of leveraging modern technology, to convincing parents that a technical education is a valid option that offers some students a solid career at a fraction of the cost of a four-year degree.

Several weeks ago I found a cartoon that captures the sentiment. It shows two young men, one of whom tells the other he is starting trade school in the fall. A thought bubble shows the other young man's opinion on that: "Loser." A panel below each character shows that the starting salary for the young man going to trade school will be twice that of the other young man "upon graduation from a pricey, 4-year school with a liberal arts degree." And that's if the second young man is "lucky."

Please don't misunderstand: offering more students the opportunity for a technical education is one piece to a very fragmented puzzle, and I do not want to imply that a four-year degree has no value. There is not a "one size fits all" solution to career readiness. We, as parents and as a community, need to ensure that our students understand all of their options.

Other factors addressed in the article were the need for more

formal employer-based training programs, exposing students to various trades and skills at an earlier age, and, among others, increasing apprenticeship opportunities. The article does highlight the wonderful job that Apprenticeship Carolina has done and is continuing to do.

I also would like to point out that the "skills gap" is not exclusive to our manufacturers. There is also a tremendous need for high-tech skills. We need coders, designers, etc. Everyone is very aware of the pace at which new technologies are rolling out and being integrated into every single corner of our lives. That is not going to change, if anything, it will continue to speed up. It is my contention that every single business should be looking for every way possible to integrate technology into every single aspect of their business.

This emphasis on tech integration is one of the reasons we have partnered with the Grand Strand Technology Council to launch Startup.SC at the Litchfield Exchange. Startup.SC is an incubator project as well as a technology oriented co-working space in Litchfield. Earlier this year, Startup.SC was named one of 14 recipients of the South Carolina Department of Innovation grants. The effort will create an avenue for those that have solid business ideas and offer the resources and mentorship to execute the idea.

The effort will also create classes and seminars to help us non-technical people understand how we can better leverage technology. These efforts along with our efforts aimed at increasing our pool of skilled tradesmen will position Georgetown County to benefit from the growing number of companies looking to solve this problem.

The status quo is not an option. The world is moving too fast to stand still. We cannot afford to get left behind in the resurgence of manufacturing and growth in technology.

*Brian Tucker is Georgetown County's director of economic development. He is the former president of the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce. Read the article he referenced at <http://www.inc.com/magazine/201404/cait-murphy/skills-gap-in-the-labor-force.html>.*



**Tucker**

## Learn more about the proposed Capital Project Sales Tax!

**Schedule an informational presentation  
for your community, church or civic group  
and get all the details before you  
head to the polls in November.**

**Call (843) 545-3164  
or email [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org)  
to schedule your presentation today.**

## Shade shelter coming to Tennis Center thanks to community fundraiser

Construction of two shade shelters to be installed at the Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park started on Aug. 21. Materials for the shelters were paid for by a fundraiser tournament that took place earlier in the month and raised about \$1,400 for the project. Ernie Cribb, pictured at right, a builder and tennis center patron, donated his carpentry skills for the project. He was assisted by Mike Zavacky and Patrick McCray, pictured below. There were about 40 participants in the tournament.



## Kiwanis Club gets grant for Stables Park project; Groundbreaking is Sept. 30

The Kiwanis Club of Pawleys Island is building a new playground at Stables Park as a community service project, and plans are to break ground at the end of this month with a \$12,000 grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation in hand.

The groundbreaking ceremony is set for 11 a.m. Sept. 30 at the project site, located between Fields 1 and 2 at the Stables Field Complex, near the park entrance at Petigru Drive.

In addition to the grant funds, the club raised more than \$2,000 for the project with their spring yard sale, for a total of \$14,000 toward the \$25,000 goal. The club is grateful for the generous grant that put the project well on its way to being fully funded, said Chairman Gene Gilfillin.

The Kiwanis Kids Park is designed for preschool-age kids and will be open to the public. It will be the only one of its kind in the Pawleys Island area.

The project is being done in cooperation with Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, which will provide the site and surface material. The club will purchase playground equipment, benches and picnic tables. The playground is expected to open next year.

Georgetown County offers thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Pawleys Island for taking on this project. The county is delighted to join with community partners to be able to provide enhancements to existing facilities or create projects and programs that benefit the residents of Georgetown County. For more information about community partnership opportunities, visit [gtcounty.org/about/CommunityPartnership.html](http://gtcounty.org/about/CommunityPartnership.html).

The logo for Junior FIRST LEGO League (Jr. FLL) features the letters 'Jr.' in a blue, hand-drawn font, followed by 'FLL' in large, bold, blue letters with red and yellow accents.

**Junior FIRST® LEGO® League**

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

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

**Call (843) 543-3310 to sign up!**

### 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.



# Midway Fire Rescue offers tips to avoid and deal with jellyfish stings

Reports of jellyfish stings have been on the rise this summer, and anyone who spends time visiting our beautiful beaches and enjoying activities in the ocean is at risk of coming into contact with a jellyfish. Most people don't know a jellyfish is near until they feel the sting.



Jellyfish have long tentacles trailing from their bodies, which is where stings originate from. Along those tentacles are thousands of microscopic barbed stingers full of venom. The venom is used to protect the jellyfish and kill prey. When the tentacles come into contact with the skin of another creature, the venom is released and affects the immediate area of contact, and can enter the blood stream in more serious cases.

Signs and symptoms of jellyfish stings include burning, stinging pain, and red, brown or purplish tracks on the skin often revealing the print of the tentacles. Itching, swelling, tingling, numbness and occasionally a throbbing pain may also occur. More severe reactions can include nausea, vomiting, headache, muscle and joint pain, weakness, dizziness, fever, loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing and heart problems. Different people are affected in different ways much like with bee stings. Often, the severity depends on the type and size of the jellyfish; the victim's age, size and health; and the length of encounter.

Severe reactions are more common in children and people with poor health. Midway Fire and Rescue recommends seeking emergency treatment if the sting covers a large area, any of the severe symptoms listed above are present, or if there are signs of allergic

reaction. When in doubt whether to seek help, lean on the side of caution and call 911.

Immediate, helpful treatment includes:

- Use seawater to rinse the wound and ensure all pieces of the tentacle are gone.
- Use an ID card or driver's license to gently scrape the tentacles away.

- Do not rinse with freshwater as this can release more venom.
- Rinse the affected area with copious amounts of vinegar. This works to deactivate the stingers.
- Continue to monitor the victim for any further complications, such as the severe symptoms or allergic reaction, and dial 911 if needed. Also, monitor closely for many days afterward for delayed responses or for the rare occasion of infection. In this case seek medical treatment immediately.

Remember to be safe and avoid the water if you see large numbers of jellyfish present, warns Midway Battalion Chief Brent McClellan. If the area has been known to produce many stings recently, that's also a good reason to beware. Certain times of the year may produce more jellyfish near shore than others. Use caution and stay away from jellyfish that are washed upon the beach as they may still sting you, even when appearing dead. If dialing 911, try to provide a detailed description of your location on the beach. If someone is available, have them meet the responders at the street or beach access and point to the injured person. This is very helpful when the beach is crowded and can ensure quicker arrival of help.

**SAVE the DATE**

Friends of Waccamaw Library  
**24th Annual Luncheon**

**Going... Going... Gone!**  
**Live Auction**

Tuesday, September 30, 2014  
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Pawleys Plantation  
Pawleys Island

Tickets will be \$35.00

**WILD WEDNESDAYS**

The first Wednesday of each month the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library will offer a special art program in collaboration with the Myrtle Beach Art Museum.

Program will held from 3-4:30pm at the library  
**for ages 6 and up.**

Please preregister at the library or by calling 843-545-3623.

**September 3, 2014**  
Featured artist: John James Audubon

**October 1, 2014**  
Featured artist: Dixie Dugan

**November 5, 2014**  
Featured artist: to be announced

**ART MUSEUM**  
MYRTLE BEACH



Stormwater camp participants explore at Hobcaw Barony.

## County-run camp puts kids in touch with nature

Eighteen kids learned about the environment and various ecosystems in their area this month during a five-day summer camp organized and hosted by the Georgetown County Stormwater Division.

Participants in the camp learned about bears and alligators at Samworth Wildlife Refuge; went crabbing and explored the salt marsh at Hobcaw Barony; took a ride on the river with Coastal Expeditions and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; learned about recycling and preservation at the Georgetown County Landfill and Environmental Education Center; and on the last day of camp, learned about sea turtles and enjoyed beach combing, sand castle building, swimming and seining at Huntington Beach State Park. During a week packed with activities, the most memorable moments were seeing the faces of the campers jumping waves at the beach, singing the “Stormwater Camp Song” and watching campers discover new things, said Tracy Jones, stormwater division manager.

“The face of a child experiencing something for the first time is priceless,” Jones said. “We were able to do that for them with this camp, so we achieved our goal.”

A lot of work went into planning and hosting the camp and Jones offers thanks to all those who played a role, including staff members Terri Davis, Tim Chatman, Harrison Walker, Leroy Barnett, Harold West, the team at the Environmental Services and Mosquito Control divisions, and director Ray Funnys, who allowed Jones to pursue her idea for the camp.

“It was truly a team effort, and we were able to provide a week’s worth of fun, learning, adventure and knowledge for these 18 kids,” Jones said. Parents told her their kids couldn’t wait to arrive at camp every day, she added.

## Georgetown County FARMERS MARKETS



**Find fresh, local produce,  
baked goods and more  
at the farmers markets  
in Georgetown and Pawleys Island.**

**Open at East Bay Park on Saturdays  
and at Parkersville Park on Wednesdays  
9 a.m.—1 p.m.**

**For information, call 545-3333**



Stormwater camp participants get to know some wildlife

## Sales Tax

Continued from Front Page

and local businesses that benefit from tourist activity. Moreover, this would ensure that there will be adequate water depth to provide recreational opportunities to county residents.

The second largest allocation of sales tax revenue would be directed to road resurfacing throughout the county, including within municipalities. Just under \$9 million would go into road projects, funding resurfacing of about 45 miles of roadway on about 100 roads. A complete listing of road projects to be funded with sales tax revenue, along with other Capital Project Sales Tax information, is available on the county's website, [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org).

The sales tax would also generate \$3 million for enhancement of fire and rescue service in the county. This is perhaps the area where county residents would see the biggest direct financial return from the tax. In recent years, many homeowners in the county have seen home insurance rates rise significantly as a result of their home not being located within five road miles of a fire station. In some cases, home insurance policies were canceled entirely. Capital Project Sales Tax revenue would be used to construct a new fire station in the Big Dam community, as well as fire substations throughout the county. These projects would put virtually every county resident within five road miles of a fire station, lowering home insurance rates.

Additionally, a portion of funds would be used to construct a new building to house police and fire operations in the Town of Andrews. The Andrews Fire Department has a mutual aid agreement with county fire departments, meaning they provide support and resources to other departments in the county when needed. As a result, this investment would have benefits extending well beyond the town limits.

The county is one of only eight counties in the state that has no special tax added onto the 6 percent state sales tax. A 1-cent Capital Project Sales Tax in Beaufort County ended in June 2012, and another in Greenwood County ended in July 2012. This November, 11 S.C. counties, including Georgetown, and two school districts will have sales tax referendums.

Georgetown County residents voted down a similar tax proposal in 2012. County officials heard residents' concerns about the tax and took those into account when crafting the current referendum. The window for tax collection was cut in half from what was proposed in 2012, and the project list was also trimmed significantly, limiting projects to those considered vital. Projects were selected by a six-member committee, with members representing all regions of the county. By state law, tax funds must be used to complete projects selected by the committee and outlined in the referendum.

Between now and Election Day, the county will work to educate voters on what is being proposed in the referendum. Community groups and organizations can request to schedule a presentation on the Capital Project Sales Tax by contacting Jackie Broach, the county's public information officer, at (843) 545-3164 or [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org).

## Lt. Governor brings funding to senior center



Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill paid a visit to the Georgetown Senior Center last month to deliver a \$1,500 check to help the seniors fulfill a modest wish list they gave McGill during a visit several weeks earlier. The seniors said they wanted to add a stereo system and a computer at the center, and also requested funds for a Thanksgiving celebration and Christmas party. McGill said he would make it happen, and the seniors were delighted to see he kept his promise. During his stop, McGill greeted seniors individually and said he is proud of the Georgetown County Bureau of Aging Services and its programs, and brags about them all over the state.

### Program for Kids about Saint Frances Animal Center!

Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
in the activity room at the  
Waccamaw Neck Branch Library



Come and learn about animal safety and what  
St. Francis Animal Center does for our  
community.

Some special furry friends will be there to  
meet you!

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

## Capital projects coordinator named Employee of the Quarter



Paul Battaglino, left, is pictured with Georgetown County Council Chairman Johnny Morant.

Paul Battaglino, Georgetown County's capital projects coordinator, was recognized last month as the county's Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of this year. He was nominated for the award by Ray Funnys, Public Services Department director.

Battaglino has been employed with the county for a decade, having spent the last three years in the Capital Projects division of the Public Services Department. His duties include coordination of many and varied projects, but he specializes in coordination of easements and negotiations with property owners.

Battaglino primarily works in Special Projects, which include: beach access coordination, trail systems coordination and easement coordination for roadway and drainage projects. He is trusted to work independently and as part of a

team effort to ensure project demands and schedules are met. He previously worked for the Recreation and Planning departments.

"He has done a great job of representing Georgetown County in many capacities," Funnys said. "Paul is one of those employees who we can assign a task and he faithfully completes that task in exactly the way desired."

Though Battaglino is a part-time employee, he has more than 40 years of experience and industry knowledge. His experience and knowledge have served him well and allow him to handle anything put in front of him, Funnys said. For this reason, Battaglino is often selected to work with the community when sensitive issues arise. He is a valued and trusted member of the staff, Funnys said.

## Midway earns Heart Association fitness award for third consecutive year

Midway Fire Rescue has once again been recognized as a Platinum-Level Fit-Friendly Company by the American Heart Association for helping employees eat better and move more.

"Physical activity and employee wellness are important priorities at Midway Fire Rescue. We are honored and excited to be recognized by the American Heart Association as a Platinum-Level Fit-Friendly Company," said Battalion Chief Brent McClellan. "We're committed to providing the best workplace environment possible. This will benefit our employees' health and produce even more positive results for our company overall."

Platinum-level employers:

- Offer employees physical activity options in the workplace.
- Implement at least nine criteria outlined by the American Heart Association in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and culture.
- Demonstrate measurable outcomes related to workplace wellness.

The Fit-Friendly Companies program is a catalyst for positive change in the American workforce by helping companies make their employees' health and wellness a priority.

American employers are losing an estimated \$225.8 billion a year because of healthcare expenses and health-related losses in productivity, and those numbers are rising. Many American adults spend most of their waking hours at sedentary jobs. Their lack of regular physical activity raises their risk for a host of medical problems, such as obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes. Employers face \$12.7 billion in annual medical expenses due to obesity alone. The American Heart Association is working to change corporate cultures by motivating employees to start walking, which has the lowest dropout rate of any physical activity.

Recognition is a critical component of the Fit-Friendly Companies program. Employers that join this program qualify for official recognition by the American Heart Association. Qualifying companies also have the right to use the program's annual recognition seal for internal communications and with external, recruitment-related communications.

"The Fit-Friendly Companies Program offers a unique, easy-to-implement opportunity for corporations to increase employees' physical activity, which will help improve their health – and their employers' bottom line," said McClellan, who is also fitness coordinator. "Even people who haven't exercised regularly until middle age can reap significant benefits by starting a walking program. A study published in 1986 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that some adults may gain two hours of life expectancy for every hour of regular, vigorous exercise they performed."

For more information about the Fit-Friendly Companies program and how it is helping to improve the health of Americans by focusing on an activity that is convenient, free and easy, or visit [start-walkingnow.org](http://start-walkingnow.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 from Georgetown County Emergency Management via email or phone. Sign up for this free service at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org) or call (843) 545-3213.

## Former Air Force One steward helps county celebrate Aviation Week

**H**owie Franklin, a former chief steward for Air Force One, kept a local audience of aeronautics enthusiasts and history buffs riveted last month with stories of his experiences working for five presidents. Franklin was the keynote speaker at a luncheon Georgetown County hosted at the Georgetown Airport on Aug. 22 in celebration of S.C. Aviation Week.

The event was open to the public and was a delight for everyone who attended, as well as an honor for the airport, said Ray Funnyc, Georgetown County's director of public services.

"Mr. Franklin has hundreds of stories accumulated in nearly two decades aboard Air Force One and we were very lucky that he agreed to come share some of them with us," Funnyc said. "This was an event to remember. It will definitely be hard to top."

Franklin spent 24 years stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, the last 18 of which he worked aboard Air Force One, serving as flight steward. He served from 1976, during the Ford administration, through 1994, halfway through Bill Clinton's administration. Franklin is now director at the Cape Fear Regional Jetport at Howie Franklin Field. He is past president and a current member of the executive board of directors of the N.C. Airports Association.

When he came aboard Air Force One in April 1976, Franklin said he was told he would not be guaranteed the position when a new administration took over. However, he made the transition through Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton. He retired in 1994 and moved to Brunswick County, N.C., with his family.

Franklin talked a bit about each of the presidents he served, as well as the first ladies. Ford, for example, was "a homespun kind of guy," while Carter was a natural born teacher. The Reagans were very much in love and "were cute as could be" flirting with each other. Bush was very practical and a good businessman, but Franklin felt closest to Clinton, who is about the same age as Franklin.

In addition to his presidential anecdotes, Franklin spoke highly of the county's airport facilities and talked about the importance of aviation in communities, especially economically.

"What you're doing here with this airport will bring great returns — more than you can imagine," Franklin said. "This is the time for aviation. Planes are moving more goods and more people than any other means in the world."

Georgetown County has two bustling airports. Those facilities have a direct economic impact of more than \$1 million for the county. The indirect economic impact is more than \$900,000, and factoring in the "trickle-down effect" increases the impact to up to \$3.5 million, according to officials from the state Aeronautics Commis-



**Top: Howie Franklin addresses attendees at an Aviation Week celebration at the Georgetown Airport. Above: Franklin is pictured working aboard Air Force One during the Reagan administration.**

sion. Additionally, the Georgetown Airport has undergone extensive improvements in recent years, including a runway extension, allowing it to accommodate larger planes, and construction of a new terminal building.

Georgetown County's two airports employ about 50 people, house more than 40 aircraft and see well over 100 takeoffs and landings every day. The county's airports are also active in the support of businesses, as well as the growing tourism industry.

Aviation Week celebrations also included a County Council proclamation in honor of Aviation Week, Young Eagles Flights and a tandem jump by S.C. Skydiving.

**NEW!**



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation presents

## Line Dancing Classes

Mondays and Wednesdays at Beck Recreation Center

Classes begin Sept. 8

Soul Line Dancing 101 and Active Older Adult classes available

Call (843) 359-0840 or register online at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org)



Anglers line up for tournament registration on Aug. 15 at the Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex. More than 40 kayaks and 60 boats participated in Inshore Fishing Association tournaments in Georgetown that weekend.

## Fishing

Continued from Front Page

Aug. 16 had the highest turnout of any stop this year in the Atlantic Division. Sixty boats and 120 anglers registered, launching at dawn that morning from the county's Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex on the Sampit River. The husband and wife team of Stan and Bobbie Allen of Tybee Island, Ga., took home the grand prize. Bobbie was glad to hear the IFA is looking at another stop in Georgetown County next year.

"Georgetown has been great. The people are friendly and helpful. The restaurants are great. We've had a ball here in Georgetown," she said.

The Allens planned to spend some of their winnings dining and enjoying the area for the rest of the weekend after the tournament. That was a plan for many of the anglers in town for the event. Add in hotel stays and the business local stores saw from fuel and grocery sales as anglers readied their boats and coolers for a day on the water, and it's easy to see the economic benefits that come from hosting a major tournament, said Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway. At minimum, anglers generally spend several hundred dollars while visiting for a tournament, and most spend well over that. Dodd Wood of Belton, who won third place with teammate Glenn Finley, said he spent more \$1,000 over the weekend.

Most anglers also made several pre-fishing trips to the area to find the best fishing spots and get ready for the tournament.

Attracting major tournaments and the spending that accompanies them was a key factor in Georgetown County's decision to build the Campbell complex, which opened in 2010. In addition to being available for use by county residents, the complex was designed to accommodate large events. The facility was also host to the Cabela's King Kat tournament this year. Like the IFA tours, that tournament plans to return next year. The county will also host the weeklong B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional Championship from April 19-25, 2015.

The Campbell Complex played a significant part in the IFA's decision to bring its tours to Georgetown County, Shelby said.

"It's a great facility that could host the largest tournaments out there," he said. "We appreciate the fact that there's plenty of parking, the ramps are great with plenty of boat launch space and plenty of dock space. It's well lit. It's just a great place to have an event and we look forward to coming back in the future."

He, his staff, and tournament participants were all extremely complimentary of the facility, the area and the hospitality they found here.

"It has taken some time, but we have a foot in the door now," Hemingway said. "We've demonstrated that we can successfully host a large scale fishing tournament and we hope to host many of them in the coming years."



Above: Boats get ready to launch from the Campbell marina at dawn on Aug. 16. Left: Anglers show off their catch. Below: Redfish Tour winners Stan and Bobbie Allen and Redfish Kayak Fishing Tour winner Stephen Yurkevicius.



# 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



## Firefighter ready for week as counselor at D.C. burn camp

Niki Crippen, a firefighter/paramedic with Midway Fire Rescue, will spend Sept. 20-27 working to make a difference in the lives of teen burn victims. She will serve as a counselor at the International Burn Camp in Washington, D.C.

Funded through the International Association of Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation, the camp is for teens ages 13-15 and helps burn survivors understand that they are not alone in their experiences, and that there is a larger support system for them.

This will be Crippen's first year at the International Burn Camp. She volunteered at Camp 'Can' Do, a project of the Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital and South Carolina Firefighters for two years. She was selected to represent South Carolina at the International Burn Camp this year with one of the campers she worked with earlier this summer.

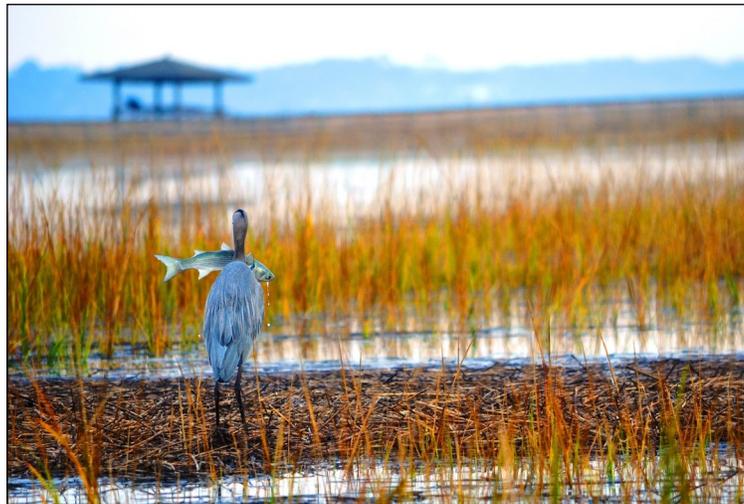
"I'm extremely excited and honored to have



Niki Crippen, center, is pictured with campers she worked with this summer at Camp 'Can' Do.

the opportunity to represent the burn camp at MUSC and my department," Crippen said of her selection as a counselor at the IAFF camp. "I'm looking forward to meeting other campers and counselors and spending some more time with my camper."

## Bond, Smith recognized as photography contest winners



Austin Bond, above, was named winner of the county's recent Flora and Fauna of Georgetown County photo contest. His winning photo, taken at Huntington Beach State Park, is at top left. Debbie Smith was the second-place winner with her photo, bottom left, taken at Pawleys Island. For information about future contests, email [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org)

