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Calendar

March 10 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

March 19 – Ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony at the new Waccamaw Library, 3:30 p.m.

March 19 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

March 21 – Free community paper shredding event, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2921 Highmarket St.

March 24 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

April 1– County-sponsored blood drive at Beck Recreation Center, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 3– County offices closed for Good Friday.

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Volume 3, Issue 7

March 2015

OPERATION VIGILANT GUARD

Major disaster preparedness exercise to take place in county March 3-12

Georgetown County will be the site of and perform a key role in a major multi-state, multi-agency disaster preparedness exercise March 3 -12. During this time, the public should expect to see unusual activity, including military aircraft flying overhead, as well as a large military presence on land and water throughout the county.

The bulk of the activity for the exercise will take place March 6-9. Public viewing areas will be set up to allow area residents to observe some of the exercise activities during this period. Additionally, the county will need to temporarily close some of its parks and recreational facilities during this time to accommodate exercise activities. A full list of observation opportunities and closings is included below.

Known as Operation Vigilant Guard, this national exercise is sponsored by U.S. Northern Command in conjunction with the National Guard Bureau, and takes place in communities throughout the country. Part of its purpose is to test and enhance relationships between civilian, local, federal and military partners as



Military personnel arrive in Georgetown County for a hurricane exercise last summer. Operation Vigilant Guard will be similar in nature, but on a grander scale.

participants react to simulated emergencies. Local emergency responders and emergency management staff, along with other county and municipal personnel will have a chance to train alongside military personnel and get a feel for how those agencies will interact and be able to help each other in a real emergency.

The scenario for the exercise in March involves land-fall of a Category 4 hurricane following a track similar to

See "Vigilant Guard," Page 7

New Waccamaw Library is now open!

Usually a day for lovers, Valentine's Day was a day for book lovers this year, at least on the Waccamaw Neck. Feb. 14 was the first day of operations for the new Waccamaw Branch Library, located at 41 St. Paul Place.

It was a soft opening, as the facility's computers hadn't yet been installed, but the day still drew a large crowd of folks eager to lay eyes on this long-awaited addition to the community, and check out books and other materials. Those who came through the doors expressed excitement and pleasure over the new facility and its many offerings. That has continued over the following weeks, said library staff, especially since computers in the adult, teen and children's section of the library are



A young library user investigates the children's book section on opening day, Feb. 14. A ribbon cutting ceremony is set for March 19.

now up and running. The new library, just off Willbrook Blvd., is nearly 17,000 square feet — about 10,000 square feet larger than the old library building on Library Lane. The lobby walls are cypress, with boards laid loose in a Lowcountry style. It houses an auditorium with seating for

Please join us for a ribbon-cutting celebration at the new Waccamaw Branch Library!

Thursday, March 19
3:30 p.m.

See "Library," Page 10

Inmates in Sheriff's re-entry program can now earn apprenticeship certificates

A successful program for inmates at the Georgetown County Detention Center now has a new tool to help inmates get a fresh start after being released from jail. Sheriff Lane Cribb's Community Re-entry program, which teaches inmates valuable job skills, has been approved by the Department of Labor to include apprenticeship certificates.

It's a big accomplishment for the program, agree Cribb and Debbie Barr, re-entry program director.

"It will give more credibility to the program we have established and provide the participants with a certificate for classroom and on-the-job-training they have been doing for years," Cribb said.

Cribb and Barr were recently presented with a plaque in honor of the approval. The plaque was presented by Teri Luther of Apprenticeship Carolina, a division of the S.C. Technical College System charged with providing technical assistance to employers pursuing registered apprenticeships in accordance with the Department of Labor.

Cribb implemented the re-entry program in 2007 to encourage the rehabilitation of

inmates prior to their release back into society. In more than two decades as Georgetown County's sheriff, he said he observed many times how hard it can be for someone getting out of jail to make a fresh start.

"What happens is they get out with no training to get a job and no self-esteem," he said. "That's what we're trying to fix with this program. It lets them know they can do something and then it helps them do it."

The idea is to give inmates valuable job skills and help them get employed, which works to help them stay out of jail.

Nearly 200 inmates have completed the program. According to National Crime Information Center data, there has been 0 percent recidivism.

Currently 12 occupations have been regis-

tered with the Department of Labor and there are 16 inmates enrolled in the program. Occupations include automobile body repair, HVAC technician, carpenter, custodian, landscaping, plumber, electrician, roofer, painter, thermal insulator, equipment operator and barbering. Each occupation certification has a determined set of training hours, including on the job and classroom, from one to four years dependent on the profession.



From left are Debbie Barr, Teri Luther and Sheriff Lane Cribb.

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Announces Spring Break Camp 2015



Spring Break Week — April 6-10

at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown
and the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Fee is \$60 per child.
Call (843) 545-3275 for information
or visit 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 or through our Facebook page. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail jbroach@gtcounty.org with the subject line "send me the Chronicle."

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

www.gtcounty.org

Public hearing on landuse plan update set for March 10

Members of the public will have a chance this month to weigh in on proposed updates to the land use element of the county's comprehensive plan. A public hearing is scheduled to take place during the March 10 County Council meeting, which begins at 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

The plan has to be updated every five years and rewritten every 10 years.

"We ended up doing so much work on it, I'm not sure this doesn't almost qualify as a rewrite," said Boyd Johnson, the county's planning director.

Among the changes are updates of tables and figures to reflect new development and building permits issued. More than 50 acres of commercial property have been added on the Waccamaw Neck since the last update, and 1,010 homes and 133 mobile homes have been permitted. Landuse strategies and goals have been altered, including the addition of a "complete streets" concept, which calls for sidewalks and bike paths. Accomplishments such as efforts toward better tree protection and development of affordable housing are also included.

For more information, visit www.gtcounty.org.

County recognizes long-time employees



On Feb. 25, Georgetown County recognized employees celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and even 40 years of service. The two longest-serving employees are Sheila Sullivan, pictured above, with 40 years of service, and Debra Deas with 35 years. Both are employed with the library. Celebrating 30 years were Jessie Duncan of the Auditor's office, Sanda Carter of the Building Department and Doug Gainey of MIS. For more honorees, visit our Facebook page.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT
Saturday March 21ST, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
 At The Georgetown Outreach Ministries, Inc.
 located at 2921 Highmarket St.

Residents:
 Bring your old utility bills, bank statements, medical records, cancelled checks, old tax returns or any other document you wish to have permanently destroyed. A representative from Iron Mountain will be on hand to securely destroy your sensitive materials.

Co-sponsored by:
Arnett A.M.E. Church and GOMI.

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Blueprints
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Brochures
- Mail — including window envelopes
- Photographs
- File folders, any color
- *No need to remove staples, paper clips, rubber bands or small binders

UNACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Cardboard
- Telephone books
- Hardcover books
- Plastic bags
- Packing material
- PC discs, CDs, DVDs
- Backup and VCR tapes
- Transparencies
- ID Cards
- Microfiche & Microfilm
- X-rays
- Computer/ printer parts
- Photocopier parts
- Trash or Hazardous waste
- Any metal with exception of staples, paperclips or small binders.



New places to play at rec. centers

Playground equipment was recently installed by Georgetown County Parks and Recreation staff at two regional recreation centers. The equipment pictured above is on the grounds at Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center in the Parkersville community of Pawleys Island. It was originally located at Parkersville Park and was removed to accommodate construction of the recreation center. Staff reinstalled it this year, giving kids another area for outdoor play. Playground equipment was also recently installed near the outdoor basketball goals at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown.

Sheriff's Office warns of phone scams

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office has been made aware that fraudulent phone calls are being made by someone claiming to represent the Sheriff's Office in an attempt to gain money. The Sheriff's Office wants residents to be aware that it never tries to collect fines or advertise to individuals with outstanding warrants to make restitution over the telephone.



Anyone contacted via phone by someone claiming to be calling on behalf of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office to collect fines or fees should contact local law enforcement or report the call to the Sheriff's Office at (843) 546-5102. Residents are advised to be cautious of anyone calling to ask for money or personal information. Do not give financial or personal information to anyone over the phone unless you initiated the contact and know without a doubt to whom you are speaking and how your information will be used — even if they claim to be law enforcement.

SOCIAL MEDIA for Small Business

Build a true connection between your company and your customers!

Wednesday, March 4th, 2 - 3 p.m.
Georgetown Library

Instructor Donald Dennis will explore the universe of ways to connect online. From Facebook to Twitter, Reddit to YouTube, there's a perfect way for you to get the word out—and hear what people want.

This free workshop is sponsored by:

Registration is open through March 13!

Adult Co-ed Volleyball League

Games are 6v6 format
(three men and three women per team)
Max Players: 10

Sign-up fee is \$10 per person for teams
or \$15 for individuals (no team)

Contact Justin at (843) 545-3319
or jblomdahl@gtcounty.org

Free Friday night movie series coming to Waccamaw Library

From March 6 through May 15, the Friends of the Waccamaw Library will host free movie nights on Fridays at the new Library, located off Willbrook Blvd. Classic movies will be shown in the library auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and movies start at 7 p.m. Popcorn and drinks will be available for a small donation to the Friends group.

Presenter David Zinman, author of "50 Classic Motion Pictures" and four other film books, will lead an audience discussion after each showing.

The schedule is as follows:

March 6

"North by Northwest" (1959) — The quintessential Hitchcock film. Cary Grant plays an innocent man on the run, leading both cops and spies on a cross-country chase. Marie Saint tags along on the wild ride. The film spins a web of mystery, suspense, and plot twists. Watch for the famous crop duster scene, the smooth villainy of James Mason, and the thrilling finale — a chase across the presidents' faces on Mount Rushmore. 136 minutes.

March 20

"Moonstruck" (1987) — A charming love story reaching into the soul of a working-

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES

FREE!



March through May at the new Waccamaw Library

class Brooklyn girl (Cher) from an Italian-American family. She gets engaged to an older man (Danny Aiello), then finds herself pursued by his misfit, younger brother (Nicholas Cage). Filled with funny and poignant scenes. Oscars to Cher, Olympia Dukakis as her mother, and script writer John Patrick Shanley. 103 minutes.

April 10

"The Horse Whisperer" (1998) — Captivating film version of Nicholas' Evans pow-

erful novel about a New York girl who loses a leg in a crippling horse-riding accident. Her mother drives her traumatized daughter and the horse to a Montana ranch where a famous trainer tries to rehabilitate them both. Robert Redford stars and directs his first film. With Kristin Scott Thomas and Scarlett Johansson. 128 minutes.

April 24

"A Shot in the Dark" (1964) — The funniest of the films about bumbling Inspector Clouseau who manages to confuse every investigation he works, but, in the end, finds the murderer. Played to perfection by Peter Sellers. 101 minutes.

May 8

"Love Affair" — Charles Boyer plays a suave French playboy who, on an ocean voyage, falls in love with an American singer (Irene Dunne). There is a slight problem. Both are engaged to others. They vow to meet in six months at the top of the Empire State Building. Remade as "An Affair to Remember" (1957) with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr and as "Love Affair" (1994) with Warren Beatty and Annette Bening. Nominated for six Oscars including best picture. 87 minutes.

May 15

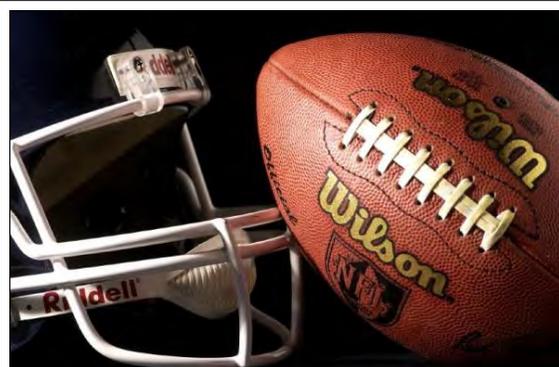
"42nd Street" (1933) — This colorful backstage movie from Hollywood's golden age is filled with nostalgia. It follows a musical from its casting to opening night and features Busby Berkeley's spectacular production numbers. Story focuses on a chorus girl (Ruby Keeler) who must step in when the leading lady (Bebe Daniels) breaks her ankle. With Ginger Rogers and Dick Powell. 89 minutes.

Waccamaw exhibit highlights area's first residents

The new Waccamaw Library is celebrating the area's first residents with "Walk of the Waccamaw," an exhibit featuring beautiful Native American artifacts from the J.L. Walker Estate. The exhibit will be enhanced by discussions and demonstrations with Chief Harold "Buster" Hatcher and Susan Hayes Hatcher of the Waccamaw Tribe.

The Hatchers will be at the new library for two presentations on Saturday, March 7. They will discuss Native American healing herbs and recipes at 2 p.m. that day and Native American ceremonies at 7 p.m.

Admission is free. Call (843) 545-3623 for information or stop by the library.



Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Announces registration for

Adult 7v7 Flag Football League

Where: Stables Park, Choppee, South Island

When: May 9 (Registration ends April 24)

Age Groups: 15-17 and 18+

Call Justin, (843) 545-3319 for information, or email jblomdahl@gtcounty.org.

Pickleball is new crowd favorite



Pickleball players at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center.

On a recent morning in February, about 50 people turned out at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center at Parkersville to play pickleball. The center hosts open court time for pickleball players from 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, and that kind of crowd is becoming the norm. Anywhere from 20 to somewhere in the upper 40s is usual, said David Cooper, facility coordinator for the center.

“When I started here, we had two people playing the game — a husband and wife team,” Cooper recalled. “I thought it looked like a great game and was something people would enjoy, so I found a lady in Myrtle Beach who is 91 years old and plays pickleball like you won’t believe to come down here and do a couple of clinics for us. After that, it started to take off and it has just snowballed.”

During open court time, teams of two play on three courts set up on the gym floor while others sit in the bleachers and wait their turn. Teams play to 11, though Cooper sometimes encourages them to play to 7 or 9 to maximize play time on days when the turnout is biggest. Interest is growing so much that Cooper said he sometimes schedules games for the afternoon, as well, when he doesn’t have other activities taking place in the facility.

He describes pickleball as a scaled-down version of tennis that is fun for all ages. For more information about pickleball and other activities at the Waccamaw center, call (843) 545-3202.

Rock climbing walls offer fun, fitness for all ages in rec. centers

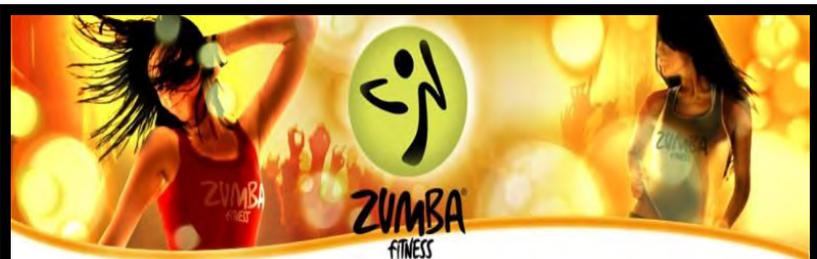


For anyone in Georgetown County who has ever wanted to try rock climbing, now’s the time. Rock climbing walls are available for public use at Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown and Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center in Pawleys Island. Cost is \$3 for 30 minutes and it’s a great activity for kids and adults, said Adam Payne of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation. Rock climbing walls are open at the Waccamaw center from 4-6 p.m. on Fridays and by appointment at Beck. Whether you’re looking for an activity to entertain kids or an interesting way to add variety to your exercise routine, it’s an affordable activity that combines fun and fitness. Walls at both facilities offer varying difficulty levels to accommodate different ages, as well as fitness and experience levels. To set up an appointment at Beck, email apayne@gtcounty.org or call (843) 545-3333. For information about rock climbing at Waccamaw, call 545-3202.

Find us online!

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

Visit our website at www.gtcounty.org. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.



Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. and Fridays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
at the Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown

Classes for women and men of all ages.

- Instructor: Monique Hill
- Cost: \$5 per class.

Call (843) 545-3275 or e-mail
moehill1978@gmail.com



The Georgetown County seal is visible on the window of the county airport terminal building as military personnel get ready to take off after one of several recent site visits in preparation for Operation Vigilant Guard, which begins March 3.

Public Viewing Opportunities

Members of the public will be able to safely observe some of the activities taking place during Operation Vigilant Guard at the following times and locations. Signs will direct motorists to observation and parking areas. Please be aware that parking may be limited in some locations.

Friday, March 6 – Sunday, March 8

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Georgetown County Airport Terminal building — This location provides a long-distance view of the expansive operations and activities taking place across the runway. This is the only location from which operations at the airport may be viewed.

Saturday, March 7

- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hobcaw Point Fishing and Observation Pier — The S.C. Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) will utilize a Blackhawk helicopter to practice rescues, pulling “victims” from the Waccamaw River. (Please note that only Hobcaw Point Fishing and Observation Pier — the east side of the pier — will be open to the public. Winyah Pier — the western half — will be closed for use by the military as part of the operation.

- 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex — Ferrying operations on the Sampit River will involve construction of a temporary floating bridge to ferry equipment and supplies.

Sunday, March 8

- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., western corner of Choppee Recreation Complex, Choppee Road — Various military and agency mass casualty search and rescue operations.

Vigilant Guard

Continued from Front Page

that of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. The fictitious storm will move through the Palmetto State into North Carolina, leaving widespread destruction and havoc in its path.

Georgetown County will be a lead player in the exercise, along with the S.C. National Guard and S.C. Emergency Management Division. Counties across the state will also participate along with military, federal and agency partners.

A mobile emergency operations center will be set up at the Georgetown County Airport, which will be hard hit by the hypothetical storm. The S.C. Air National Guard will offer assistance by bringing in resources to support mobile communications and setting up a mobile air traffic control center. Carolinas HealthCare System will be present with Carolinas MED-1, a mobile hospital for disasters and hospital outages.

Also for the exercise, the S.C. Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team’s (SC-HART) Blackhawk helicopters will be brought in for search and rescue operations; the National Guard will utilize Black Hawk, Chinook and Lacota helicopters for surveying and rescue

operations; and ferrying operations will take place on the Sampit river near the county’s Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex. Three launch ramps at the complex will remain open to the public throughout the exercise.

The Choppee Recreational Complex and parts of East Bay Park will also be heavily utilized during the exercise.

Sam Hodge, the county’s emergency manager, said he hopes the drill will raise public awareness and motivate residents to make their own emergency plans, not only for hurricanes, but the myriad of disasters the county is vulnerable to, from wildfires to earthquakes. It’s important that residents know how to prepare and respond to different kinds of emergency situations they may be faced with.

“It’s never too early to start getting ready, but it can easily be too late,” Hodge said.

Residents can find resources to help with their emergency planning at www.gtcounty.org/emergency_management or www.scemd.org. Residents may also call Georgetown County’s Emergency Management Division at (843) 545-3273.

County park and facility closings during Vigilant Guard

Georgetown County government has scheduled the following closings of county-operated parks and facilities to accommodate training activities during Operation Vigilant Guard:

- Beck Recreation Center and Choppee Recreational Complex will be closed March 6-11. All regular practices and activities at those locations are cancelled.
- The football field and large baseball

field at East Bay Park will be closed March 6-11. Other areas of the park will remain open.

- All areas of Stables Park Field Complex, including walking areas, will be closed on March 10.

** Please note that though operations will take place at the Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex, that facility will remain open to the public for boat launching and river access.*

Program helps Public Services employees improve math skills



Georgetown County Public Services employees are pictured during a session of their 30-hour math refresher course.

Twelve Georgetown County Department of Public Services employees recently started a 30-hour Math Refresher course, made available through the department's Individual Career Plan Training Program.

Employees enrolled in the course will meet each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon for six weeks to work on math skills that relate directly to their jobs within the department. Each of these employees is taking steps to improve work skills and is laying the foundation for possible career advancement within the county by participating in the program.

"It's refreshing to see our staff eager to better themselves and the county by taking this course. I am proud of each of them for taking the initiative to grow and develop their math skills, which will not only aid them now, but help them advance in the future," said Ray Funnye, Public Services director. The course is taught by staff from the Howard Education Center and includes the state's new WorkKeys curriculum.

Low named department's employee of the quarter

John "Jack" Lowe was recently recognized as the Georgetown County Emergency Services Department's Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2014. He is a lieutenant with Georgetown County Fire/EMS and has been employed with the county for the last 10 years.

Lowe is described as "a very loyal employee" who is "very particular and fair in his role as a lieutenant." He has worked for the past year coordinating training between County Fire/EMS and Awendaw Fire Department to help the two departments work together during automatic aid incidents. He has spent many hours working to make sure that training is scheduled and that meetings and training activities between the departments go seamlessly. He also assisted with writing the mutual aid agreement for firefighting efforts in the southeast region of the county.

Lowe has additionally worked with new employees, making sure they have a good understanding of the county. He is regarded as an valuable and knowledge employee who brings many good ideas to the department, and is a role model for others in his department.



Jack Lowe, left, is pictured with County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

Georgetown County Library
Afterschool Program presents:

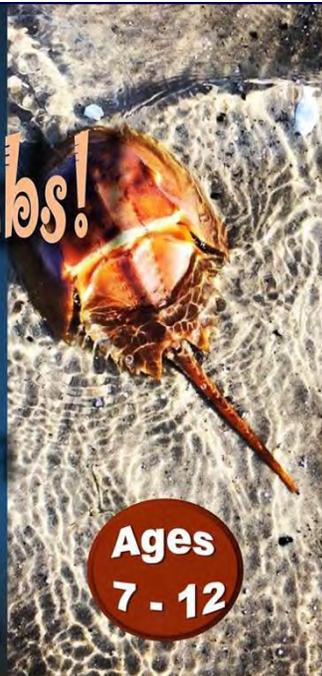
Horseshoe Crabs!

North Inlet-Winyah Bay Preserve
will bring live horseshoe crabs, and
we'll make sea-licious snacks!

Thursday, March 19

3:30 p.m.

Library Auditorium



Ages
7 - 12

Easter Egg tie-dyeing party!



Monday, March 23

3:30 p.m.

at the Andrews Library

For ages 5 and up.
Part of our Get Crafty at the Library program,
held every 4th Monday of the month.

Basketball teams from across the county face off in tournament

Recreation league basketball teams countywide participated in tournament play in February. The Epinoza team won the boys ages 11-12 division. Pleasant Hill won the boys 9-10 division. Waccamaw won the Girls 9-10 division, while Pleasant Hill won the girls 11-12 division.



Basketball Camp!!

Register online at www.gtcounty.org or in person at a local recreation center

When: April 6– April 10 (M-F)
9:00am-4:00pm (Spring Break Week)

Location: Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center

Who: Boys & Girls ~ Ages 5-16

Cost: \$80 pp (register by 3/15)
\$99 pp (Regular Rate)
\$60 pp (Sibling Rate)

Hosted by **Sports by the Sea** ~ Basketball instructors will plan & execute modern games designed to challenge participants & demonstrate techniques, tactics & strategies.

It's safe. It's simple. It saves lives.

Blood DRIVE

**Wednesday, April 1
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at the Beck Recreation Center,
2030 Church St., Georgetown**

Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org.
Use the sponsor lookup code **GeoCounty**.

*This event is co-sponsored
by Georgetown County government.*

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



Waccamaw Library staff, pictured at left, have the new library all set up and have been welcoming the public since Feb. 14. Above, a crowd is pictured at the circulation desk on opening day.

New Library

Continued from Front Page

more than 200, as well as two small meeting rooms with capacity for 20 people each; separate technology areas for teens and adults; a children's room; exhibit space for displays on art, science, literature, history and culture; a Friends of the Library shop where donors can support fundraising efforts for library programs; and of course, book areas for teens, children and adults.

Flora has been preserved along Willbrook Boulevard and the wetlands behind the library were carefully conserved. The library grounds house the beginnings of a distinctive herb garden, made possible by the Lowcountry Herb Society. This will eventually be used for lessons on plants and horticulture, and may also become

something of a community garden.

The library was designed to be a community gathering place — a place where books, technology, art, history, culture and people can all come together, said Library Director Dwight McInvaill.

"Libraries will always be a place where people can come together to share a love of literature, but also a love of culture," he said.

Total cost for the library was right on budget at \$3.5 million and is funded through the Georgetown County Capital Improvement Plan. The auditorium, children's service areas and many special features were made possible by private donations.

An official ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration will take place at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19. All members of the public are welcome. See more photos of the new library at www.facebook.com/gtcountysc.



Above: The help desk at the center of the children's area is designed to represent a "tree of knowledge." Top right: Visitors talk with staff and explore the library Feb. 14. Right: The Friends of the Library store is at the front of the new facility.