

The Georgetown County Chronicle

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



Inside this Issue

- County introduces improved website, Page 3
- Trick-or-treat event for kids returns, Page 4
- Inlet magistrate's office moves to Pawleys Island, Page 4
- Popular series of iPad classes returns to library, Page 6

Calendar

Oct. 3 – “Ghost Stories and More,” authors read their own works, 7 p.m. at the Waccamaw Library.

Oct. 8 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., in the old courthouse.

Oct. 16-18 – Georgetown Library book sale, see page 6.

Oct. 17 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Oct. 19 – Community Yard Sale at the Georgetown Library, see page 3.

Oct. 22 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 2013

Community comes together to aid Front Street fire victims

Georgetown County, the City of Georgetown, the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce and the Georgetown Business Association are among local agencies, businesses and groups working together to aid those most affected by the Front Street fire.

The fire, which was reported to 911 at 5:23 a.m. on Sept. 25, destroyed seven buildings on Front Street's 700 block, leaving 10 people homeless, and caused smoke and water damage to an eighth building. Part of the Harborwalk was also destroyed. Clean up continues, and agencies are searching for longer-term lodging for the displaced families, as well as jobs — even if temporary — for those employees who no longer have a place to work due to the fire.

Local, state and federal agencies continue to work with those affected; however, all indications are that government assistance will be limited due to the scale of



Above, firefighters were still working on subduing flames in the burned buildings late Wednesday morning, Sept. 25, and remained on scene into the night. At left, Georgetown County Emergency Manager Sam Hodge, far left, and City Police Chief Paul Gardner, talk with state emergency management officials about recovery efforts.

this incident. Anyone who is able to offer lodging or employment help is asked to call the county Chamber at (843) 546-8436.

Gov. Nikki Haley visited Georgetown the morning after the

fire to tour the damage and rally support for the victims. She announced the creation of the Front Street Fire Relief Fund during her

See “Front Street,” Page 2

Wooden Boat Show, Bridge2Bridge will go ahead

Georgetown suffered a devastating loss with last month's fire on Front Street, but as Gov. Nikki Haley said just a day after, “Georgetown is open for business.”

People from throughout this and surrounding counties came out in the week following the fire to support Georgetown by spending money in shops and restaurants that remain open and participate in fundraisers set up to benefit victims of the fire.

Georgetown County and the City of Georgetown will welcome more visitors this month as two annual events within the city — the Wooden Boat Show and the Bridge2Bridge half marathon — go ahead as originally planned.

“The community needs the boat show more this year than ever, and we plan to make it the biggest and best,” said Susan Sanders, director of the S.C. Maritime Museum.

The 24th annual boat show will take place from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 19 at the Georgetown waterfront. It will feature one of the nation's best wooden boat exhibits, with more than 100 classic wooden boats displayed on land and water, a wooden boat building competition, children's model boatbuilding, knot tying, maritime arts and crafts, as well as food and music.

For more information, visit the event website,

See “Events,” Page 2



At top, Gov. Nikki Haley, standing with local and state officials, is pictured during a press conference Sept. 26 on Front Street. Above, firefighters with Georgetown County Fire/EMS rest after the fire is subdued.

Events

Continued from front page

www.woodenboatshow.com.

The third annual Georgetown Bridge2Bridge Half Marathon, 12K and 5K Run will be Oct. 12. Participants can run or walk through historic Georgetown as part of the event, or participate by cheering or volunteering. Organizers need 200 people stationed along the route to ensure runners have plenty of water, follow the route accurately and have immediate help available if needed. There will also be a Kids Fun Run sponsored by the YMCA.

The half marathon route encompasses all three Georgetown bridg-

es, while the 12K covers two. Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Discounts are available for youth under 18.

To sign up as a runner or volunteer, or for more information call or e-mail Jon Hoffmann, (843) 546-6317 or vista@gcuw.org, or visit www.bridge2bridgerun.com. Hoffmann said runners are already signed up from all over the South, and as far away as California and Vermont. Proceeds benefit three local nonprofits: The Georgetown County United Way, the Georgetown Business Association and Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

See more October events on Page 4.

Front Street

Continued from front page

visit and encouraged people throughout the state to support their neighbors through contributions. The fund has been established for anyone wishing to make a monetary donation to directly help Georgetown residents who have been impacted. To make cash donations, call (843) 546-8591 or visit any First Citizens branch in South Carolina. A branch in Georgetown is located on Front Street, just down the block from where the fire occurred.

A website, <http://georgetownfirerelief.com>, has been set up by Mercom to accept donations to the fund through PayPal.

Additionally, donations to the American Red Cross and Salvation Army are always valuable. Visit redcross.org/coastalsc and doingthemostgood.org for more information on contributing to disaster relief efforts.

Since the fire, there has been an outpouring of support and hundreds of inquiries on how people can help. The Chamber is compiling a list of all fundraising events so that all charitable relief efforts are readily available for anyone to give.

Please contact the Chamber at shogan@visitgeorge.com with information to be added to the list.

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

Georgetown County introduces improved website

Georgetown County’s website got a much needed overhaul recently. The improved site, which was unveiled Sept. 15, has a new, more contemporary look, as well as features that are more user friendly.

The website, accessible at www.gtcounty.org and www.georgetowncountysc.org, is designed to be easier to navigate, and contains a wider variety of information useful to county residents, property owners and visitors. New drop-down menus make it easier for visitors to the site to find what they’re looking for quickly, without the need to go from page to page.

The drop-down menu also features an “I Want To” tab that allows users to navigate directly to areas of the website where they can request service, pay taxes or perform other tasks.

“The website Georgetown County had up until last month was the county’s first website, introduced in the 1990s,” said Jackie Broach, who oversaw the redesign. “Obviously, a lot has changed since then regarding how people use government websites. They want as many services as possible offered online, and while the county has added to its roster of online services over the years, the website itself had changed very little. For someone who wasn’t familiar with the layout of the site or how county government is structured, it could be extremely difficult to find those services.”

The redesign solves that problem, while also providing a more attractive design. The home page now features the most recent news items from Georgetown County, a list of upcoming events for the week and a “Quick Links” box featuring important areas



The county’s website at www.gtcounty.org has a new look and improved features.

of the website, such as the emergency alert center.

There are also social media links and new sections with information relevant to specific groups, such as businesses, residents and visitors.

An online calendar, located under “About Us,” contains county events, including public meetings, programs and more. Users can import events from the website directly into their personal calendars and instantly download directions to event locations at the click of a button.

More new features, pages and services are on the way, Broach said. But in the meantime, she said she believes the public will be pleased with what the redesigned website has to offer.

Come sell your items at the
Friends of the Georgetown Library 

Community Yard Sale

October 19, 2013
 Georgetown Library
 405 Cleland Street
 7-8 am: Vendor setup
 8-noon: Yard Sale 

Sellers pay just \$15 a spot!

For more information, call 545-3300
 or stop by the Georgetown Library at 405 Cleland Street.

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. We love hearing from you and try to be accessible through as many avenues as possible.

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






Murrells Inlet magistrate's office moves to Pawleys Island

Murrells Inlet Magistrate John Benso's office relocated to Pawleys Island beginning at noon on Friday, Sept. 27.

Benso will temporarily share quarters with Pawleys Island Magistrate Dan Furr until next year, when both offices find a permanent home in the Litchfield Exchange, which the county recently purchased for use as office space.

In addition to the magistrates' offices, a sheriff's substation will also be housed at the Exchange.

The Murrells Inlet magistrate's office was moved as a result of work taking place at the Murrells Inlet Community center, where

the office has been housed for many years, said Chief Magistrate Isaac L. Pyatt. Because the office will move again in six to nine months, it didn't make sense to look for a temporary space to house the Murrells Inlet magistrate's office, Pyatt said.

Inlet residents won't see any other changes to business in the magistrate's office. The office will keep the same hours — 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays — and Benso and his clerk will continue seeing to Murrells Inlet cases. Benso will continue to hold court on Thursdays, while Furr will have court on Wednesdays.

Happening *around town*

Carolina-Clemson blood drive, 10/4

Does your blood run garnet or orange? It's your chance to tell the community and save a life at Georgetown Memorial Hospital's blood drive Friday, Oct. 4, in the private dining room on the first floor of the hospital.

In a lead-up to the annual Carolina-Clemson football game in November, Georgetown Hospital System encourages Carolina and Clemson fans to declare their allegiance and give blood at three upcoming blood drives, beginning with the Oct. 4 drive. The other two are Oct. 24 at HealthPoint Center for Health and Fitness, and Nov. 1 at Waccamaw Community Hospital.

The team with the most donations will be announced after each drive. Every donor's name will be entered into a drawing for a Carolina and a Clemson tailgate basket to be awarded the week of the game.

Not a Gamecock or a Tiger fan? No worries; just be a fan for life. The GMH drive will take place from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Appointments will take priority, but walk-ins are welcome. Appointments can be made by calling (843) 527-7173 or going to

<http://www.redcrossblood.org>.

Harvest Home Weekend, 10/12-13

Brookgreen Gardens' annual fall festival, Harvest Home Weekend, will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 12 and 13. The weekend will feature outdoor activities for the whole family, including scarecrow building, pumpkin painting, hayrides, live entertainment and more.

Visit www.brookgreen.org for admission details and more information.

Ghost tour for a cause, 10/19

A ghost tour through historic Georgetown on Oct. 19 will raise money for the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) in honor of Matt Rucker, a Georgetown teen diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia. He recently underwent a life-saving bone marrow transplant. His family has been accepted to receive assistance from COTA.

Offered by Walking Shadows Ghost Tours, the tour begins at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10, but all donations are welcome, said Ginger Haithcock, who owns the tour company. "Just give from the heart," she encourages.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot as soon as possible. Call (843) 545-5321.

Hike to Fraser's Point, 10/25

The King's Highway through Hobcaw Barony leads to Calais Plantation and its Fraser's Point, once a ferry site in 1771.

As part of a three-hour special program on Oct. 25, the public can ride down to a parking area and then walk through gently rising and falling landscape to view Winyah Bay from the site of a Confederate Battery. A small cemetery lends evidence of former owners and employees of Hobcaw Barony.

The program begins at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$20 and reservations are required. For information, call (843) 546-4623.

Want to see a more complete listing of events coming up in Georgetown County? Check out our online calendar at www.gtcounty.org/calendar.html or the Hammock Coast community calendar at <http://hammockcoastsc.com/Calendar/>

Halloween event for kids returns to county judicial center

The fourth annual kids fall festival at the Georgetown County Judicial Center will be from 4-6 p.m. this Halloween in the center's plaza. The event is for elementary school-age children.

As in years past, a number of offices and agencies will set up booths in the area with activities, treats and educational information for kids.

The event will provide a safe and controlled environment for children to show off their costumes and collect candy while picking up some valuable safety information, said Clerk of Court Alma White.



Scenes from last year.

Library offers workshop to help entrepreneurs turn business dreams into reality

The Georgetown County Library System, partnering with SCORE, will offer a free workshop to help entrepreneurs learn how to launch the business they always dreamed about.

The workshop, "Are You Ready to Start Your Own Business?" teams SCORE experts with participants to iron out questions about fledgling businesses. It is set for 3-5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, at the Georgetown Library auditorium. Participation is free.

The workshop is paid for with a Smart Investing @ Your Library grant from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Foundation and the American Library Association

In the course of the two-hour workshop, SCORE experts will provide an overview of the major planning issues

new businesses must address to be successful. Topics include: communicating your business idea, identifying your ideal customers, developing your market strategy and financial planning.

It is designed for people considering or in the early stages of starting a business.

SCORE is a national, all volunteer organization that mentors small businesses to start, grow and manage their business.

Last year, Grand Strand SCORE mentored 250 small businesses and delivered education programs to over 1,000 more.

To register, call the library, (843) 545-3300. For more information, send an email to Heather Pelham, hpelham@gtcounty.org.

Kensington students bring novel to life



The Georgetown County Library recently partnered with Kensington Elementary School to add some adventure to reading time. The school is exploring James Patterson's new book, "Treasure Hunters," and has entered a contest centered on the novel. The library helped Mrs. Easterling's fifth-grade Gifted and Talented students produce a video trailer that features pirates, dancing, rapping and even deep sea diving. Watch the video on YouTube and help the school win some treasure for their classrooms! View it at <http://youtu.be/2yzs437F7XQ>.



Georgetown County Parks and Rec. announces open registration for

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Participants must be between the ages of 5-17 as of Sept. 1.
The last day for registration is Nov. 30.

Fee is \$25 per child.
Check with staff to see if you qualify for a discounted rate.

Call (843) 545-3275 for information or visit www.gtcounty.org.

Scholar's Forum

October programs at the Georgetown Library

October 8

"Stories of Inspiring Hope and Help"

Sharon Thomas of Helping Hands, a nonprofit, will share ways its staff and volunteers are helping our most needy residents, from free emergency dentistry to financial fitness classes.

October 22

"Homes for Earned Happiness"

Ophelia Snow, volunteer coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Georgetown, will recount how the act of building good homes can encourage the development of productive citizens.

October 29

"Resources for Vibrant Civic Growth"

Frances Bunnelle believed people should care for one another according to their means. She quietly gave assistance to the disenfranchised and disadvantaged. Geales Sands of the Bunnelle Foundation will talk about how the group maintains that legacy.

Programs are free and begin at 10 a.m. in the library auditorium. To receive weekly program notices, e-mail pburns@gtcounty.org

Library's iPad class series begins again

The Georgetown Library is the place to be on Wednesday mornings for those who have an iPad and want to make the most of its many abilities.

A successful series of iPad classes that started last fall is being brought back this month. Classes are every Wednesday morning at the Georgetown Library and Wednesday afternoons at the Waccamaw Library. A basics course for iPad beginners takes place from 10:30-11 a.m., followed by a "topics" course from 11 a.m. to noon in Georgetown. The topics course focuses on a different subject every week, such as photography, news or social networking, and give students tips on apps they should consider.

The classes repeat the same day at the Waccamaw Library starting at 4:30 p.m. for basics and 5 p.m. for topics.

Android users can get lessons for their devices on Thursdays at the Georgetown Library, again starting at 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. "These classes are for anyone who has one of these devices

"Topics" Class Schedule for October

Oct. 2 iPad Basics and Apps	Oct. 23 News
Oct. 9 Photography	Oct. 30 Audiobooks
Oct. 16 E-Books	<i>For November programs, call the library, (843) 545-3343.</i>

and wants to figure out how to make them more useful," said instructor Donald Dennis. He adds that the classes can be tailored to suit the experience level of his students, so even those who are fairly well versed in the use of their device can learn something helpful.

For beginners, he said they might not walk away from the first class knowing how to do it all, but "it opens their eyes to the usefulness of the product."

How to draw manga among programs for teens at the Georgetown Library

Even if your teen isn't a reader, the library can still be a fun place for them to spend some time and learn some valuable skills.

The Library's main branch in Georgetown offers a range of exciting programs for teens, including classes on how to draw manga and other cartoon-based art. These classes last from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Mondays and are followed by open gaming time until 6:30 p.m. Teens of all skill levels are welcome.

On Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m., starting Oct. 15, the library will offer a multi-player, multi-computer Artemis spaceship bridge simulator game. A "Captain" will lead a mission, while players carry out tasks for their role as part of the mission.

Kids can also turn to the library to learn fun skills after school such as game design and video production. Library staff will help kids shoot movies, mini-documentaries and more, then edit them. This program runs from 3:30-5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Game nights at Waccamaw Library

The library also offers family game nights on Wednesdays at the Waccamaw Library from 6-7:30 p.m. and 7:30-9 p.m. Participants can pick from a wide array of board games, and parents are encouraged to come and play with their kids. The first 90 minutes are dedicated to games for the whole family, but at 7:30 p.m., games that are a bit more complex (recommended for teens and older) are brought out. For more information, call (843) 545-3343.

Fall harvest dinner to benefit new library

A fall harvest dinner at Carefree Catering will be a fundraiser for a new Waccamaw Library.

The event, presented by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library, will be Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$37.50 and can be ordered by contacting Deloris Roberts, (843) 237-2122 or delrob@frontier.com.

The menu includes, bacon-wrapped parmesan stuffed baked dates, black-eye pea and country ham fritters, apple walnut stuffed chicken breast with herbed cream, garlic and herb roast center-cut pork loin with wild mushroom sauce, roasted root vegetables, warm apple fritters with vanilla ice cream and caramel sauce, and much more.

Georgetown Library
FALL BOOK SALE!

\$2 hardcovers
\$1 paperbacks

Wednesday, Oct 16th, 9 am - 7 pm
Thursday, Oct 17th, 9 am - 7 pm
Friday, Oct 18th, 9 am - 6 pm

Georgetown Library Auditorium
405 Cleland St, Georgetown

jordan awan

With collection of 3 tons in 3 hours, event is a success

Georgetown County's Public Services Department collected more than three tons of hazardous household materials in the span of about three hours on a recent Saturday.

The department, with help from Palmetto Ace Home Center and Midway Fire Rescue, had its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection day on Sept. 21, outside Palmetto Ace in Pawleys Island. The event was scheduled to start at 9 a.m., but by 8:15 that morning, a line of people waiting to drop off materials had already formed.

Within the first hour, county staff had already filled up a truck and trailer with materials, and exceeded last year's collection totals. By the end of the day, three trucks had been filled and items were being stacked on pallets for later pick up. Additionally, county staff talked to about 100 people who dropped off items during the course of the day.

"I'd say that's more than successful," said Tracy Jones, stormwater division manager for Georgetown County and the lead in organizing the collection. "This kind of opportunity to talk to the public is phenomenal. We got people to take home a rain barrel who didn't even know what one was when they got here, so that's huge. Our goal is always to educate about water quality, so even if 10 people leave here today knowing something they didn't know before, that they can put into practice at home, that's a win."

Then, there's also the huge volume of hazardous household materials collected that can now be properly disposed of and kept out of the water supply. Many of the items that were collected aren't accepted at the community recycling and collection centers throughout the county, so members of the public have to go to the landfill on Highway 51 to properly dispose of them.

"A lot of people don't want to go all the way to the landfill, so they end up just throwing it in the trash or dumping it out in the back yard, where it ends up in a ditch," Jones said.

That's not good for anybody, she adds, which is why the community's support of the event is even more important.

Jones credits the efforts of her staff in the stormwater division, as well as county environmental services staff, with the extra public interest in the event this year.

"I have to hand it to the team, because they really went all out and worked hard to get the word out," she said.

She also thanks Palmetto Ace Home Center and Habitat for Humanity of Georgetown County for their support, as well as all



At top: from left, Georgetown County employees Fred Davis, Michael Morris, Sasha Mcraven and Van Brave, load items dropped off at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection onto a truck. Morris works for Midway Fire Rescue, while the others in the photo work in the county's Public Services Department. **Above:** Tracy Jones, Stormwater Division manager, hands out educational materials. **Below** are staff and volunteers who participated in the event.

the members of the public who took the time to drop off their items.

For more information about stormwater related issues, visit www.gtcounty.org/stormwater or call the Georgetown County Stormwater Division, (843) 545-3524.



Hodge is Manager of the Quarter

Sam Hodge, Georgetown County Emergency Manager, has been selected as the county's Manager of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2013.

Hodge was nominated for the award by County Administrator Sel Hemingway, who also serves as his department director. Nominees are reviewed by all county directors, who then select a winner by secret ballot.

An employee of the county for 22 years, Hodge has been Georgetown County emergency manager since 2008. He was named the S.C. Emergency Management Association's Director of the Year in 2013 and also received the same award from the Association in 2011. He is the only one in the state to have received the honor twice.

Among his recent accomplishments, Hodge has worked to re-vamp the Community Emergency Response Team program and has completed three classes for county staff and the public. He has worked "tirelessly" to educate the public on the Know Your Zone evacuation initiative, Hemingway said.

Additionally, Hodge assisted the DeBordieu community in obtaining StormReady and TsunamiReady certifications; he significantly improved working relationships with the City of Georgetown, the Chamber of Commerce, the school district and the National Weather Service; he led the county in opening an expanded emergency operations center; and he worked to acquire a new alternate emergency operations center in the Choppee community.

Hodge serves on a number of committees and recently volunteered to help the City of Georgetown complete its emergency



Sam Hodge is pictured during a press conference on Sept. 25, the day of the Front Street fire.

operations plan. He is responsible for managing two departmental budgets, and monitors and manages numerous grant budgets. He also seeks grant funding for the betterment of Georgetown County Emergency Management and Emergency Services as a whole.

Hodge was supposed to accept a certificate in recognition of his latest award on Sept. 26, but that was delayed as a result of his duties in response to the Front Street fire.

Please join us in congratulating Sam and thanking him for his excellent service to the county.

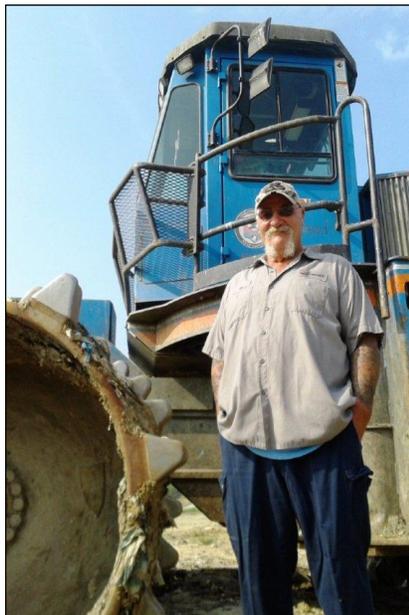
Georgetown County Spotlight Meet Jerry Tancil, better known as 'Tiny'

He's affectionately known as "Tiny," by his co-workers and friends, but Jerry Tancil plays a big, indispensable role in the day-to-day operations at the Georgetown County Landfill.

With the title of heavy equipment operator III for the past five years, Tancil operates and maintains the landfill's compactor: a 40-ton, spike-wheeled, all-steel, monster machine responsible for crushing and compacting all solid waste disposed of at the landfill. The maneuvering of this kind of landfill equipment demands constant focus, physical agility and "unending valor," said Fred Davis, Environmental Services Division supervisor.

Tancil said he believes he has 'the best job in the world,' and he embraces his responsibilities on the job.

Tancil, 60, has always defied the very



Jerry 'Tiny' Tancil is pictured with the compactor he operates at the Georgetown County Landfill. Tancil is also an accomplished powerlifter with eight consecutive titles.

"He has a great attitude and work ethic, always offers his service with a smile and never hesitates to express that he loves his job."

essence of his nickname. For the past 35 years he has mastered the sport of powerlifting; being named World and American Powerlifting Association Champion in the bench press drug-free division for eight consecutive years. To this very day, he religiously engages in a powerlifting workout routine five times per week. He believes this active lifestyle contributes to his ability to successfully conquer the rigors of his daily professional life, he said.

"Mr. Tancil has a great attitude and work ethic, always offers his service with a smile and never hesitates to express that he simply 'loves his job'." Davis said.

Tancil's dedication and commitment make him a highly valued employee, in the Environmental Services Division and the county as a whole, Davis added.

Employees recognized for safety

Georgetown County Public Services recently recognized employees who had no avoidable accidents in the last fiscal year.

Employees who achieved this goal include: Ray C. Funnye, Amanda Stirgwolt, Eric DeLuca, Jeremiah Stafford, Timothy Chatman, Terri Davis, Tracy Jones, Daniel Eckis, Cassandra Coleman, Hal Moon, David Gantt, Paul Battaglino, Herb Puckett, Gary Davis, Donnie Cummings, Sheryl Gibbs, Lorine Gibson, Faye Grant, Larry Greene, Latrichi Manning,

Lewis Morant, Vernon Walwyn, Davy Bromell, Rocky Lewis, Robert Horst, Jeff Floyd, Malcolm Baldwin, Sharon Moultrie, Kevin Chestnut, Henry Deas, Harold West, Monroe Githens, Clayton Geathers, Jimmy Greene, Martin Harper, Leroy Barnett, Eddie Parsons, Kiah Williams, Rodney Simmons, Bill Hato-way, Isaiah Moultrie, John Green, Benny Mitchell, Charles Morris, Leroy Davis, George Avant, Harrison Walker, Willie Russ, Early Walker Jr., Haskel Linen, Fred Davis,

Aisha Jones, Sh, maine White, Mary Hezekiah, David Thompson, Jerry Tancil, Ricky Washington, Chris Wynn, Mike Drayton, Rodger Vinson, Anthony Vereen, George Montgemery, Simon Drayton, Thomas Franklin, Terrance Jenerette, Robert Lee, John Reed, Oliver Grant, Willis Herman, Marlon Jackson, Harold Armstrong, Katrina Bromell, Joseph Carl, Mark Cox, Willie Cox, Prentiss Convington, Benjamin Doiley, Edna Gary Doiley, Clayton Drayton, Jacob Frasier, Dorthory Ford, Van Brave, Libby Geathers, Oliver Green, Billy Harrelson, Bertha Linen, Betty Linen, Tyree Linen, Herbert Linnen, Howard Martin, Sasha McRaven, Louvenia Moultrie, Henry Myers,

Larry Palmer, Nathaniel Smith, Larry Stanley, Tangela Thompson, Roscoe Vanderhost, Marcus Walker, Bernice Washington and Lead Williams.

Library welcomes night owls

A nighttime program for kids ages 7-13 at the Waccamaw Library will teach them all about owls.

The program is Oct. 25 from 5-8 p.m. and will feature naturalist Jerry Walls and guest Lee Brockington. The program includes dissection of an owl pellet and local folklore from Brockington. Space is limited. RSVP to (843) 545-3623.

Men's one-pitch tournament

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation will host a Men's One-Pitch Tournament at Retreat Park in Litchfield on Nov. 9.

Cost to enter is \$150 per team (two games guaranteed). The deadline for entries is Nov. 1 at 5 p.m. To enter, contact Justin Blomdahl, (843) 545-3319 or jblomdahl@gtcounty.org.

Midway welcomes new division chief of training and special operations

David Gallagher of Coraopolis, Pa., will soon join Midway Fire Rescue as its new division chief of training and special operations.

Gallagher has an extensive background in fire, emergency medical services and technical rescue. He has served in several senior leadership and training positions in career and volunteer organizations.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in fire science, he has Chief Fire Officer and Chief EMS Officer designations, and is a National-Registered Paramedic and Pro Board Fire Instructor 2, along with having earned several EMS instructor certifications.

In addition to his many qualifications, Gallagher is a dedicated family man with a great personality, said Midway Chief Doug Eggiman.

"I am sure you will be as impressed as I was when you get the opportunity to meet him. I have no doubt, given his qualifications, organizational skills, and personality, that he will be a great asset to our department, Emergency Services and Georgetown County," Eggiman said.

Gallagher's first day with Midway will be Oct. 28.



Gallagher

Midway introduces improved website

Midway Fire Rescue's website has a new look. The redesigned site was unveiled at the end of September and includes a cleaner, more contemporary layout that is easier to navigate.

Check out Midway's website at www.midwayfirerescue.org.

Learn more and register at Brought to you by...

www.MoneyRocksGeorgetown.com

The Homeownership
Resource Center
a Division of Family Services, Inc.

What is Money Rocks???
Learn about money management, career skills, college financial aid and so much more!
Workshops are for ages 12-21. (And parents too!) We'll have FREE food and many chances to win prizes.

When do I need to show up?
8 - 9:30 a.m. *Breakfast, Community Fair & Registration*
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Summit & Prize Giveaway!*

Where will it be located?
Georgetown Middle School | 2400 Anthuan Maybank Dr. | Georgetown | SC

It's FREE!

MONEY ROCKS

Georgetown

10.19.13

Public libraries remain vital, even in the digital age

The following editorial is by Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County Library director.

Occasionally, I have heard public libraries compare to record stores — something on the verge of becoming increasingly irrelevant and ultimately extinct.

Yet, nothing could be farther from the truth.

The vitality of public libraries in our modern age was succinctly summarized recently in *Forbes Magazine*: “They are dynamic, versatile community centers. They welcomed more than 1.59 billion visitors in 2009 and lent books 2.4 billion times — more than eight times for each citizen. More than half of young adults and seniors living in poverty in the United States used public libraries to access the Internet. They used this access among other purposes to ‘find work, apply to college, secure government benefits, and learn about critical medical treatments.’ For all this, public libraries cost just \$42 per citizen each year to maintain” (David Vinjamuri, *Why Public Libraries Matter: And How They Can Do More*, *Forbes*, Jan. 16, 2013).



McInvaill

Even more granular detail on the vibrancy of public libraries in the United States was provided this year by the Pew Research Center’s Internet and American Life Project in three groundbreaking national survey-based studies entitled *Library Services in the Digital Age* (Jan. 22, 2013), *Parents, Children, Libraries and Reading* (May 1, 2013), and *Younger Americans’ Library Habits and Expectations* (June 25, 2013).

Findings included these facts:

Book borrowing was for 80 percent of people surveyed a very significant library service.

Reference service was viewed by 80 percent as a quite important provision in libraries.

Free public computer access was underscored by 77 percent as exceedingly desirable in libraries.

Preschool literacy achievements of libraries were highly valued by 94 percent of parents with 84 percent underscoring that “libraries help inculcate their children’s love of reading and books” and 81 percent saying that libraries are crucial because they provide “children with information and resources not available at home.”

As for the next generation (younger Americans ages 16-29), the Pew Research Center’s findings might be astounding to some doubters of public libraries’ ongoing dynamic nature: “As with other age groups, younger Americans were significantly more likely to have read an e-book during 2012 than a year earlier. Among all those ages 16-29, 19 percent read an e-book during 2011, while 25 percent did so in 2012.”

However, at the same time, print reading among younger Americans has remained steady: When asked if they had read at least one print book in the past year, the same proportion (75 percent) of Americans under age 30 said they had, both in 2011 and in 2012. In fact, younger Americans under age 30 are now significantly more likely than older adults to have read a book in print in the past year (64 percent of those ages 30 and older said

they had). Additionally, 85 percent of older teens ages 16-17 read a print book in the past year, “making them significantly more likely to have done so than any other age group.”

As of November 2012, 65 percent of young Americans had a library card; 86 percent of those age 30 or under had visited a library facility in person; and 58 percent had frequented a library in the past year.

Public libraries remain really strong, and the Georgetown County Library is a great case in point. While the recession hit our public library hard — with cuts to annual technology and book budgets reducing support from \$160,000 to just \$100,000 from 2008 to 2013 — new patron registrations have remained strong with more than 3,000 new borrowers registered yearly. In a service area of 60,000 residents, our public library has had about 50,000 persons checking out materials annually.

Public-program attendance every 12 months regularly exceeds 35,000 to 40,000 individuals. During the depths of the recession, circulation of books and other materials increased from 167,217 in 2008 to 181,930 in 2010. And in 2012, usage of our public access computers by locals and visitors reached a new high of 70,547 persons.

While individual library records are kept strictly confidential according to state law, we do nevertheless track the general nature of public access computer utilization patterns by the hour. In the course of the year from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, here’s what we learned:

- Out of 171,516 sessions, only 3,673 directly involved Face-book.
- 13,620 were related to usage of content-production software ranging from such products as Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point.
- 4,975 were focused specifically on job searches.

Much of the rest of the statistical balance was due to news media searches and general usage of web browsers. Folks have come to the public library not only to play but also to work.

As noted this summer in National Public Radio’s special eight-part series, “Keys to the Whole World: American Public Libraries,” modern public libraries in the U.S. are creative places, veritable incubators of ideas on better serving the literacy needs of our citizenry. Such current public library innovations have encompassed a broad spectrum ranging from the new Digital Commons at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C., to improved natural disaster responsiveness in New York area public libraries for victims of Hurricane Sandy.

With roots in an exclusive library founded in January 1799 for the local rice planting and merchant elite, the Georgetown County Library has also seen much change during its almost 215-year history. For its innovative work during the last decade alone, this public library received in 2006 the National Health Information Award for Libraries Grand Prize, in 2007 the National Medal for Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in 2011 the ICMA Library Innovation Award from the International City-County Management Association. A glance at the Georgetown County Library’s website shows now a plethora

See “McInvaill,” Page 10

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



County opens Jetty View Walk in Murrells Inlet

Georgetown County government held grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremonies for the newly completed Jetty View Walk in Murrells Inlet on Thursday, Sept. 19.

Funded through a partnership between the county and Murrells Inlet 2020, and with assistance from an S.C. National Heritage Corridor grant, the 435-foot Jetty View Walk significantly increases public access to the marsh. It is also hoped to attract visitors and give a boost to local businesses, much as the Murrells Inlet Marsh Walk has done.

Like the Marsh Walk, Jetty View will be used as a marketing tool to attract visitors to the inlet and encourage them to stay there longer, enjoying the view, and perhaps spending money with more businesses and vendors.

The projected cost for the project is \$189,135, with the bulk coming from the Murrells Inlet Revitalization Fund, a fund maintained by the county for "Sunday Sales" alcohol permit fees paid by inlet restaurants. A total of \$43,597 toward the project was contributed by Murrells Inlet 2020 and a \$19,133 grant was received from the S.C. National Heritage Corridor.

The ceremonies started at 3:30 p.m. at Morse Park Landing, where the walkway begins. It winds past the Hot Fish Club and Fuego's restaurants. Morse Park Landing was also recognized during the ceremony for its recent designation as an S.C. National Heritage Corridor site.

For photos of the event, visit <http://www.gtcounty.org/gallery.html>.

Pictured at top is the new Jetty View Walk. In the center, local officials and guests cut the ribbon on the walkway. At right, the Morse family (Judy, Gail and Ginger) attended the ceremony and reminisced about playing at Morse Park as children.



McInvail

Continued from front page

of dynamic programming ranging from Senior Scholars to "Money Rocks," to a Heritage Center art exhibition, "Birding the Waccamaw," children's programs and more.

During 2012, the Georgetown County Library used grant funding for a couple of important projects touching lives at two ends of the generational range. One effort focused on the creation of our Small Business Cen-

ter to promote commercial success for entrepreneurs and for job seekers with a special web portal, a small business collection of 1,660 books, eight workshops on small business issues, video interviews of 12 local successful small business owners, four video public service announcements featuring kids and teens, a large job fair and a traveling small business exhibit.

Another 2012 effort involved the provision of Early Childhood Literacy Center materials in branches throughout the

county. In 2013, we are employing grant funds to promote basic financial literacy amongst our county's most needy citizens. We are also embarking on a special endeavor called "Sacred Accounts" to digitize the records of the 12 Churches of the Georgetown City Historic District.

The face of public libraries may be changing, but clearly, they remain vital and relevant parts of the communities they serve, and they aren't going the way of record stores any time soon.