

The Georgetown County Chronicle

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



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Calendar

Aug. 6 – Sheriff’s Night Out, a family-friendly event featuring food and fun, 3-8 p.m. at 209 S. Maple St., Andrews.

Aug. 8 – Land Use and Tourism Committee meeting, 4 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Aug. 13 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., in the old courthouse

Aug. 15 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

We’re introducing a full online event calendar soon! Plans are to unveil it before the summer is over.

Volume I, Issue 12

August 2013

Programs help seniors stay sharp, active

It’s late on a Thursday morning, not long before lunchtime, and a small group of women at the Georgetown Senior Center are huddled around a table, giggling like school girls and clearly having a grand time.

Their project for the day is to make a Teddy bear out of towels, just like they’ve seen on cruise ships. The instructions make the task sound easier than it really is, the ladies decide as they work out the best way to position the bear’s ears without having them slip too far down its head. But they chat and laugh throughout the process.

Earlier in the day, they played a game with a beach ball, tossing it back and forth around the room to give their arms a workout. Their favorite game, though, is a version of hot potato in which the person who ends up holding the “potato” has to pull a slip of paper from a box and do whatever is written down. They always get a good laugh when that game is played.

The activities at the Georgetown center, and others located throughout the county, are always lively and upbeat. It’s not at all the kind of thing people unfamiliar with the centers expect to see there.

“A lot of people have the misconception these are



Seniors and staff at the Georgetown Senior Center laugh as they work on a craft project.

just places for people to sit down and do nothing, but there are activities going on all the time they can get involved in,” said Coretha Grate, a program coordinator for the county’s Bureau of Aging Services. “Not only that, but we welcome the input of our clients on what they want to do.”

Bingo is always popular, she said.

See “Seniors,” Page 5

Economic development director to leave County

Wayne Gregory, Georgetown County’s economic development director for the last eight years, will leave his position, and the coast, at the end of August.

Gregory, who lives in the Pawleys Island area, turned in his resignation on July 26. He will move to the Midlands, where he has accepted a position as director of economic development for the City of Columbia.

“I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have served as economic development director for

Georgetown County,” Gregory said. “Living here in such a great community has been a wonderful experience. I have also enjoyed my work experience and appreciate the support County Council members, County Administrator Sel Hemingway, former County Administrator Tommy Edwards and all the county employees have provided



Gregory

me over the years. Leaving the Georgetown County community was a tough decision but I am excited about the opportunity to serve as director of economic development for the City of Columbia.”

In his time with Georgetown County, Gregory successfully worked on projects leading to the creation of 875 jobs and the investment of more than \$422 million into local communities based on a list of nearly 20 projects he took part in.

See “Gregory,” Page 3

From peacekeepers to proprietors

Free business workshops offered for veterans

If you're active military, a veteran or a family member of either, and thinking about starting a small business, you're in luck. SCORE and the Georgetown County Library are offering a free series of workshops that can take your dream into profitable reality.

"Beginning on Aug. 6, we'll have five sessions that will help new and prospective business owners create a business plan, market their product and work out a financial strategy," explained SCORE representative Bob Checkaneck. "These workshops usually cost \$125, but thanks to a grant from the Walmart Foundation, veterans and members of the military attend for free."

The workshop series, called "Easy Steps for Starting Your Small Business," has five modules, all held at the Georgetown County Library on Cleland Street.

Aug. 6 is Startup Basics, Aug. 9 offers Marketing Fundamentals, Aug. 13 is Local Internet Marketing, Aug. 16 is Financial Planning and Aug. 20 is Selling Your Business Plan.

The advice participants will receive is unbiased and designed by former business owners who have been through the same issues attendees will experience with their own businesses.

SCORE is a national, nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, success and growth of small business. SCORE personnel are mostly retired and all are expert in at least one phase of business.

"Let SCORE give you the tools, information and advice you need to begin the business you've envisioned," said Checkaneck. "You'll learn the essentials of business startup, get action steps, and receive one-on-one mentoring."

The series is also made possible by a Smart Investing @ Your Library grant provided through a partnership of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation and the American Library Association.

To register for the workshops, call the Georgetown Library, (843) 545-3300.

This article was written by Heather Pelham.

SHERIFF A. LANE CRIBB
GEORGETOWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
 INVITES YOU TO




Date:
August 6, 2013

Time:
3:00pm - 8:00pm

Place:
209 S. Maple St.
(Old Andrews High School)

BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY FOR:
 FUN, FOOD, MUSIC & GAMES,
 PHOTOS WITH MCGRUFF AND SAFETY PUP,
 JUMPY CASTLE, DUNKING BOOTH...

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

Library board approves Waccamaw branch designs

In the story of a new Waccamaw Library, Georgetown County is ready to move forward to the next chapter.

Detailed architectural plans for the new library were given unanimous approval by the Georgetown County Library's board of trustees on July 31. This action allows the county to move forward with soliciting bids for construction. The plans were presented to the board by Michael Walker of Tych and Walker Architects. He will present the plans to Georgetown County Council, for information only, at that group's Aug. 13 meeting. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse on Screven Street.

Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County's library director, said he's extremely pleased with what Tych and Walker came up with.

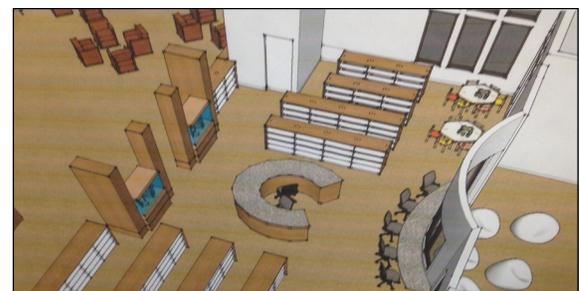
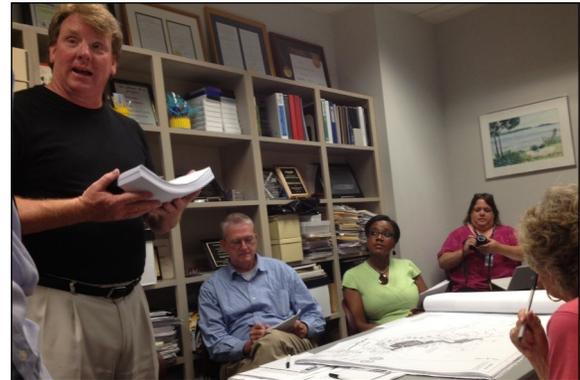
"It's just a beautifully designed building, particularly considering the budget it had," he said.

Library staff gave Walker "granular" information on what they wanted from the new facility, and Walker managed to incorporate almost every single thing, according to McInvaill.

"What he has designed is a space that is flexible and will promote cultural activities, learning, exhibits, and that will just be a delight for the community," McInvaill said.

The library is expected to open late next year, and its first special exhibit, which will focus on outer space, has already been booked. As part of a national tour, the exhibit will open at the Waccamaw Library in December 2014 or January 2015.

Friends of the Waccamaw Library are still raising funds for technology and books for the new library, as well as a metal roof. Brick sales will begin soon and naming opportunities are available. Call 979-0561 for information.



At top, Michael Walker of Tych and Walker Architects presents architectural plans at the July 31 library board meeting. Above are architectural renderings.

Gregory

Continued from front page

He also oversaw construction of the county's spec building, and was involved in facilitating the expansions of SafeRack and International Paper, recruitment of Davis Aircraft Products, which relocated to Andrews in June, and site certification of the Georgetown County Business Center industrial park and Coastal Tech Park.

Davis Aircraft Products' move to the county alone is expected to generate a \$5.5 million investment and 100 new jobs. Additionally, since December 2011, three companies in the county announced expansions, bringing a total investment of \$29.2 million and the promise of 137 jobs.

"Wayne was recognized as a bright, rising star in the economic development arena eight years ago, and it has been enjoyable to watch him develop into the professional that he has become," said County Administrator Sel Hemingway. "His reputation across the state and experience in developing and working with prospects make him an

attractive target for other jurisdictions. I sincerely express my gratitude for Wayne's service to the citizens of Georgetown County and wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

Others who worked with Gregory over the years describe him as dedicated and thorough.

"He was always good to work with. He's attentive to detail and very knowledgeable about his field," said Dan Scheffing, a former chairman of the Georgetown County Economic Development Commission. Scheffing served on the commission for seven years until his last term expired last year.

"Wayne always had the support of the commission and County Council, and there's no doubt he had the county's best interests at heart," Scheffing said.

The commission just last month was absorbed into the Alliance for Economic Development in an effort to maximize resources and streamline economic development efforts within the county.

"We enjoyed having him involved in economic development in Georgetown County," Bill Crowther, the Alliance's executive

director, said of Gregory. "We hate to see him go when we're just embarking on this new initiative and spirit of cooperation, but we wish him well in his new venture."

Prior to joining Georgetown County's staff, Gregory served more than three years as the Project Manager for the Greenville Area Development Corporation. He is a graduate of Furman University and holds a master's degree in public administration from Clemson University.

He is an active member of the South Carolina Economic Developers' Association, the Southern Economic Development Council, and the International Economic Development Council. Additionally, he serves on the board of directors for the Waccamaw Workforce Investment Board, which works with local workforce development offices to meet the needs of job seekers and employers.

He is a past chairman of the board of directors for the Georgetown County United Way and serves on the board of directors for the Lowcountry Food Bank.

Article written by Jackie Broach.

Senior centers

Continued from front page

“On Bingo day they’re going to all come.”

And the seniors also enjoy sing-alongs, trivia and field trips, especially to Hamrick’s department store. There are also speakers who come in periodically to give lectures on topics such as chronic illness, benefits that may be available to seniors, and how to save on medication and medical equipment, such as braces. A free program on Aug. 14 will focus on dementia and caring for people who have dementia. A session at the North Santee center will begin at 10 a.m. and a second session at the Georgetown center begins at 3 p.m. Anyone may attend.

The centers also host talent shows and pageants, put on skits and fashion shows, and have poetry readings.

From one end of the county to the other, the bureau serves hundreds of senior citizens through its six centers as well as home visits. The minimum age to receive services is 60 and the bureau’s oldest client is 102.

On average, about 140 seniors a day come into the county’s centers for the congregate dining program, where they enjoy activities, outings and a balanced meal, said Jackie Elliott, who manages the bureau. About twice that number receive home-delivered meals. That program caters to seniors who are homebound.

“Some are bedridden; some just can’t get out and do a lot of physical activity,” Elliott said.

But for those who can get out and about, there’s no question that the benefits are numerous and run the gamut from physical to emotional.

“For some of our clients, this is the only social interaction they get,” Elliott said. Families regularly tell her their loved one gets depressed if they don’t go to the center.

“My son in Nebraska was so glad when he heard I joined the center,” recalled Virginia Wineglass.

He was worried that she wasn’t getting out enough, but after she joined the center his mind was put at ease. The staff at the center take pictures of seniors participating in various activities and sometimes post them to Facebook.

“He pulled them up on his computer and he was so glad to see me out doing something,” Wineglass said.

Wineglass has been coming to the center in Georgetown for 12 years and said she



Clockwise from top left: Seniors participate in games, a pageant and dance at a Hawaiian-themed party. For a list of county senior centers, visit gtcounty.org or call 545-3197.

loves the opportunities it presents for exercise, entertainment and socialization. She has made many friends at the center and has encouraged others to join in at the center.

Some of the center’s clients live with family, but still feel isolated, Grate said. She hears from some clients that younger people in their home don’t talk to them. They’re too busy or they’re occupied with computers, smart phones or video games.

“A lot of our clients, it does them good just to have somebody to sit and listen to them, or to have someone their own age to sit down and talk or reminisce with,” Grate said.

Elliott said seniors are often “overlooked” in their families. They don’t get invited with the rest of the family to movies or restaurants. The senior centers provide those opportunities. Even a trip to the Harborwalk on Front Street was a first for one client.

County seniors have also taken trips to the State House, the state fair and once took a train ride from Kingstree to Florence.

Dorothy M. Smalls Taylor said she always looks forward to the field trips and loves coming to the center, where she enjoys talking with friends.

“I like the chance to associate with people,” she said.

She goes at least three days a week, and has done so for the last few years. A former



Howard Elementary School teacher, the 94-year-old said two of her former students also go to the center.

For those who can’t drive themselves or who don’t have family or friends to take them to one of the county’s senior centers, the county provides free transportation services, so the centers can be accessible for everyone.

The North Santee center has the highest daily turnout, averaging about 28 people. That center also has the highest number of men, probably, Elliott speculates, because it just got a new pool table. All of the centers have more female clients than male clients, but staff is always looking for ways to attract more men to the centers, so the St. Luke center also recently added a pool table.

Another common misconception about the center, according to Elliott, is that it’s only for low-income residents. There is no income limit to participate in programs or receive services through the county’s Bureau of Aging Services.

“We’ve had people in DeBordieu receiving meals to their homes,” Elliott said. “Then we’ve also got people in houses that are barely standing.”

The bureau also provides “quality of life services,” taking seniors in need of transportation to medical appointments or just out to get their hair cut or visit the grocery store, pharmacy, Laundromat or other places they’d otherwise have to call a taxi to get to. There are also in-home services, such as light housekeeping, that seniors may qualify for.

To qualify for meals and other services through the county’s Bureau of Aging Services, seniors should contact the bureau staff and schedule an assessment. For an assessment or to receive more information about services available to seniors, call (843) 545-3197. For information about senior center locations, visit www.gtcounty.org and enter “senior centers” in the search bar.

Article written by Jackie Broach.

Midway firefighters give child with cerebral palsy a day to remember

Hunter Moseley, a 5-year-old Virginia boy diagnosed with cerebral palsy, has been to a lot of fire stations in his short life. He loves them and makes it a point to visit one in every city he goes to.

But his visit to Midway Fire Rescue last month is one that's likely to stand out in his mind for years to come.

With just two days to plan, staff at Midway came together, donating money and time to create an experience for Hunter unlike any he'd ever had before. They were asked to let Hunter take a tour of the department's headquarters station in Litchfield while he was in the area, after a tour at a station in another county fell through. But Brian Michna and Joe Palombi, the firefighters who took the lead in arranging Hunter's visit to Midway, didn't want to stop there.

Hunter definitely got his tour of Midway. But Michna and Palombi also arranged to have a stretch Hummer limo pick him up at his hotel room, along with his dad and his sister, Carolyn, 12, and take him on a tour of several other stations on the Grand Strand.

While Hunter's dad knew what was in store, it was all a surprise for the boy. When he saw the limo and five firefighters waiting inside to ride with him, his face lit up, said Palombi, who is a part-time limo driver for Carolina Limousines and who volunteered his services for the day. He also got his company to donate use of the limo.

"I don't care if it thundered all day and traffic was bad all day, the smile on that kid's face made everything worth it," he said.

It was actually Michna who laid the groundwork for Hunter's visit. He follows Hunter



Midway Fire Rescue employees are pictured with Hunter and Carolyn Moseley. From left are: Mike Morris, Shane Kingsford, Adam Maag, Capt. Joe Ruffennach, Joe Palombi, Hunter Moseley, Carolyn Moseley, Scott McGuire, Jeremy Tumblin, Josh Carney and Drew Tilton. At left are Carolyn and Hunter.

and his adventures through a Team Hunter page on Facebook that Hunter's dad set up. About three months ago, Michna saw a post about a stop in Greenville and sent a message inviting the Moseleys to visit Midway if they were in the area. The Moseleys were headed in this direction, it turned out, but were already planning to visit another station. Michna left the offer on the table and got a call in July when the Moseleys' original plans fell through.

Despite the short notice and the fact that Michna was out of town on a family trip, he wanted to come through for Hunter and knew his fellow firefighters would support the idea. He started working his way up the chain of command for permission, then called Palombi, who shares his philanthropic nature, and they started tossing ideas back and forth. Before they knew it, they had a full day planned including a limo, lunch

on the Murrells Inlet Marsh Walk at the Dead Dog Saloon, they stopped at (for Hunter and Carolyn), including T-shirts and personalized helmet shields, and more.

The rest of Midway's staff was quick to jump on board, either greeting Hunter at Midway if they were on shift, joining him for the tour if they weren't, or donating money if they couldn't be there.

"I can't explain how impressed I am with this department and all the guys in it," Michna said. "It's been like that with a lot of things here. That's just how we do it here."

As part of his tour, Hunter got to ride in the front of a fire truck at Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire Department.

"All you heard for five minutes was the siren and air horn," Palombi said.

At Midway, Mike Morris, a fire inspector, took Hunter for a ride in the 1962 fire engine the department uses in its educational efforts. That was a first-time experience for Hunter. Then, after they looked around the

station, they put "Sponge Bob" on the TV, Hunter sat down, put his feet up on the table, wrapped an arm around Palombi and said "Yeah, this is a good day."

To top it all off, Capt. Joe Ruffennach printed out a certificate that was presented to Hunter promoting him from probation to a full-fledged honorary member of the department.

"He didn't want to leave," Palombi said. And the guys at Midway have since heard that Hunter is still talking about his visit to Georgetown County.

"What we do in the fire service, it's not just about saving lives, but the lives we come together to touch," Ruffennach said. "This is a perfect example of that. If we can make this kid happy and see his face light up, it makes our day better too. It's a privilege to be a role model and we take that seriously. Hunter won't ever be able to be a firefighter because of his condition, but if we make him feel good about himself, there's no telling what he can aspire to."

Article by Jackie Broach.

Patterson honored by community



Cpl. Robert Patterson of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office was honored last month by members of the Browns Ferry Community. At a Neighborhood Watch meeting on July 8, he was presented with a plaque and recognized as an honorary member of the Browns Ferry Community Service Project. Photo contributed by Carrie Cuthbertson.

Midway battalion chief recognized

Jeff Pifer, a Midway Fire Rescue battalion chief, is Georgetown County Emergency Services' Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2013.

Pifer has worked for Midway for 15 years, six of those in his current position, and was nominated by Brent McClellan, also a battalion chief.

Pifer has overseen the hiring and interview committee at Midway for several years and spends numerous hours sifting through applications and making phone calls while still performing his regular duties, McClellan said. He compiles all interview results and passes his findings and recommendations up the chain of command.

"Over the past two years this duty has become increasingly difficult with the influx in turnover," McClellan said. "It has also been difficult for Jeff to recruit applicants as the workforce competition has increased, but he always seems to pull through and maintain our staffing where we need it."



Pifer



We're having a photo contest!

Georgetown County government invites photographers of all skill levels to enter its first photo contest. We've selected "Georgetown County Rivers" as the theme for this contest. We're looking

for scenic shots that show what an incredible resource our rivers are — environmentally, scenically and/or recreationally speaking. Color and black and white photos will be accepted.

Prizes include a \$50 gift card for Georgetown County Parks and Recreation programs, and a variety of items emblazoned with the Georgetown County seal.

You must read the complete rules, terms and legal conditions at www.gtcounty.org before submitting any photos!

**For more information, call (843) 545-3164
or visit www.gtcounty.org.**



Horton awarded for ‘meritorious action’

David Horton of Georgetown County Fire/EMS is the recipient of the Emergency Services Department’s Meritorious Action Award for the second quarter of 2013.

An employee of County Fire/EMS since August 2009, Horton was nominated for the award by David Geney, his battalion chief, for action that took place



on the morning of April 12. **David Horton, right, accepts his award from County Administrator Sel Hemingway during a luncheon in July.**

On that day, Horton was among responders to a structure fire at 507 Corner Loop. His unit was the first to arrive, finding a young woman on the roof of the burning house. The woman had been asleep upstairs when a fire started from an extension cord in the downstairs portion of the house, filling the bottom floor with smoke and blocking her exit.

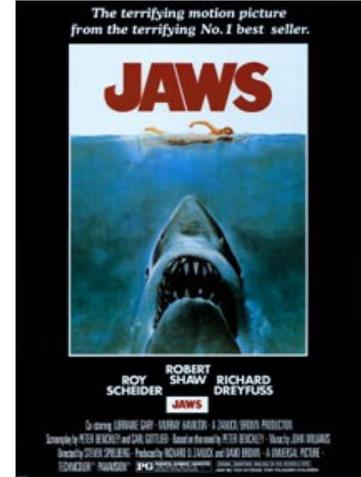
Due to Horton’s quick response and actions, the young woman was removed safely from the roof and the house was saved with minimal damage, according to Geney.

“Although Firefighter Horton was doing his job, we think recognition is justified for his actions,” Geney said in his nomination.

‘Jaws’ to be shown on Huntington Beach

Saturday, Aug. 17, will be movie night at Huntington Beach State Park. From 8-10 p.m., the park will show the 1975 film “Jaws.”

The movie will be shown outdoors, at the beach access by Shelters 1 and 2, so viewers are advised to bring their own chairs or blankets. Bug spray is probably also a good idea. Refreshments will be available for sale at the park gift shop. Restrooms and parking are nearby.



The movie is free with park admission, which is \$5 for adults, \$3.25 for S.C. senior citizens, and \$3 for children ages 6-15.

Children 5 and under get into the park for free.

For more information, contact Josslyn Stiner, (843) 237-4440 or jstiner@scprt.com. Updates, including cancellations due to weather, will be available on the S.C. State Parks Facebook page.

Located along U.S. 17 in Murrells Inlet, Huntington Beach State Park offers three miles of the most pristine beach in the state. The 2,500-acre park's freshwater lagoon, salt marshes, maritime forest and abundant wildlife are all outstanding examples of the state's natural coastal environment.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Sept. 21,
9 a.m. to noon
at Palmetto Ace Hardware
in Pawleys Island



Please join Georgetown County Public Services in keeping pollutants out of the drainage system!
For more information, call 545-3524.

The following materials will be accepted:
Paint, oil, batteries (alkaline and rechargeable), incandescent bulbs, household cleaners, non-commercial pesticides and fertilizers.



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.



Hurricane season isn't the time for complacency

The following editorial is by Sam Hodge, Georgetown County emergency manager.

This time of year on the East Coast, those who work in emergency management have a lot to worry about. But surprisingly, it's not hurricanes that are at the top of the list.

Instead, it's complacency, something that makes hurricanes significantly more dangerous than they might otherwise be. Whether it leads someone to throw a hurricane party rather than face crowded roadways during an evacuation, go kayaking in waters made dangerous by an approaching storm, or simply to put off making emergency plans until it's too late, complacency can very easily be fatal. It can put at risk not only the life of the individual, but also those of emergency workers who may be called on to assist them.

This September will mark 24 years since Hurricane Hugo, South Carolina's last major hit from a hurricane, and that's a significant contributor to the complacency issue. We've had some minor storms in more recent years, of course. Hurricanes Floyd and Hannah come to mind, but they caused minimal damage in Georgetown County, and life was back to normal the day after. There have also been some brushes with storms that changed track at the last minute, but such a (thankfully) long spell without a serious hit makes the risk seem diminished to some. With the distance of time, they feel safe. They look at the length of the eastern coastline and think the odds look pretty good. But Hurricane Sandy, which devastated New Jersey and surrounding areas last year, is proof there are no safe bets.

Many people who live in Georgetown County today have never been through a hurricane and often don't seem to fully grasp how powerful these storms can be. A storm doesn't have to be a Category 4 or 5, or even a Category 3, to be deadly. Although storm surge and winds are what people most often fear in a hurricane, tropical systems can also bring heavy rains that can be seen well inland from a storm's landfall. During landfall, it's not uncommon to get 5-10 inches of rain. If a storm is large and slow-moving, an area could receive even more rainfall. Intense flooding can also occur from tropical de-

pressions and storms that do not reach hurricane strength. In a county that boasts five rivers, that's cause for concern for every resident.

Those who live along the coast are lucky that forecasting technology is advanced enough today to offer those in a storm's path enough advance warning to get clear of the area ahead of landfall. But if people are complacent, if they don't use that advantage, if they wait to see if the storm might turn at the last minute, it does them no good. If people wait until the last minute to begin educating themselves and preparing for the possibility of a hurricane, all the resources at their disposal may also be of no use.

It's never too early to start making plans, but it can all too easily be too late.

Every family, business, group and organization needs to have an emergency plan. Of course we hope those plans will never have to be put to use, but realistically, it's only a matter of time before another hurricane makes landfall in South Carolina. It might not be any time soon, but it could easily be this summer and everyone who lives on the coast needs to be ready. They need to know what their evacuation zone is, where they'll go if evacuation orders are issued, what they'll need to get back into the area during recovery efforts, and more.

If a family member has medications that have to be taken every day, will there be enough of that medication to last the days or weeks following a storm. Do you have the right home insurance coverage to make sure you can make repairs or rebuild after a storm? If a family has pets, have you considered what to do with those pets during an evacuation? Pets aren't allowed in any of the shelter locations in Georgetown County. Can you take pets where you're going? And speaking of shelter locations, do you know where they are? There's more to consider than most people realize.

Our staff at Georgetown County takes very seriously the threat brought by every hurricane season. We're continuously training, reviewing plans and procedures,

and taking steps to make sure we're ready when the next hurricane makes landfall on our coast. It's an example we hope the public will follow.

We urge you to please take the threat of tropical weather seriously, even if you don't live on the beach. Educate yourself on the dangers tropical weather brings, from the potential of storm surge to river flooding. Talk to your insurance agent to make sure your home has the right coverage to protect you against wind and flooding. Know what you need to have ready to take with you for evacuation — medicine, important documents, etc. — and be able to have those things in hand on short notice. And perhaps most importantly, have an emergency plan and review it with your family. It's something you need not just for hurricane season, but every day of the year. While each person's abilities and needs are unique, every individual can take steps to prepare for all types of emergencies, from hurricanes and floods, to fires and potential terrorist attacks.

If you'd like information to help you prepare your emergency plan, Georgetown County Emergency Management is happy to help. Click the "Public Safety Services" link on our website, www.gtcounty.org, for useful information, including evacuation and hurricane information. That's also where the public can find information on the "Know Your Zone" campaign, which gives an overview of Georgetown County evacuation zones. The zones were recently redefined based on a study by the Army Corps of Engineers. It was the first study of its kind since Hurricane Hugo and bases evacuation zones on a hurricane's storm surge potential rather than wind speed. That makes perfect sense, as flooding does more damage and is responsible for more deaths than wind.

You can also call our office, (843) 545-3273, for more information, and we're happy to give preparedness workshops for communities and groups. We'd also love to have you train to be part of a Community Emergency Response Team.

We want to do all we can to help you get ready now, before a threat arises, because making sure your family is prepared could just be the most important thing you ever do.



Hodge

County staff offers answers on changes to building codes

When revisions to international residential building codes went into effect in South Carolina earlier this month, there were some major changes for local builders, touching on everything from fire sprinklers to stair risers.

Information about these changes was sent out in advance to builders, architects, engineers and other professionals on the Georgetown County Building Department's mailing list, but county staff is also available to answer questions about changes to the code.

"In most every code cycle you get one to several major changes," said Mike Young, the county's chief building inspector.

He outlined seven significant changes that went into effect in this cycle. They are as follows:

- **R301.2.1.2, Wind-borne Debris Protection.** Requirement for covering openings on homes were made more stringent. Impact glass or rated shutters are still acceptable coverings for windows during a storm. How-

ever, if plywood is used as a covering, it now must be pre-cut and pre-drilled with the hardware installed, and ready to be affixed to the house.

- **R302.2, Townhouses.** A change to this section of the code makes an exception to a rule that requires new townhouses to have fire sprinklers. Under the new code if a two-hour fire resistant rated wall is placed between townhouse units, automatic fire sprinklers are not required.

- **R303.4, Mechanical Ventilation.** Requirement of what is known as the "blower door test" was deleted. The test is used to determine if and where a home may be leaking air before a certificate of occupancy is issued. The blower door test can still be used if a builder wishes, but the change allows other methods to be used in its place.

- **R311.7.5.1, Risers.** While the maximum height for stair risers is set at 7 ¾ inches, the revised code makes an allowance for risers on masonry stairs to be up to 8 inch-

es. Open risers are permitted, but only for stairs 30 inches or less in height.

- **R313.2, One- and Two-family Dwellings Automatic Fire Systems.** Requirement for sprinkler systems in all one- and two-family homes was deleted.

- **R315.1, Carbon Monoxide Alarms.** Any home with any type of natural gas-powered appliance and/or an attached garage is now required to have carbon monoxide alarms installed.

- **E3902.12 Arc Fault.** An arc fault helps prevent electrocution by shutting down breakers when appliances and other devices are overloaded. New requirements call for arc faults to provide coverage for the entire home. Additionally, tamper-proof outlets are now required, which will enhance children's safety.

For more information about the recent changes to the building code, or to receive notice of future code changes and other information through the building department's mailing list, call (843) 545-3116.

Midway open house promotes fire safety



Midway Fire Rescue had an open house at its headquarters station on July 26. At top, Mike Morris talks with kids about fire safety. At left, a child exits a truck that simulates smoke from a house fire. Photos courtesy of Chris Sokoloski/Georgetown Times

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County Fire/EMS staff instructs postal workers in CPR



Lesley Eastham, a lt. firefighter/paramedic with Georgetown County Fire/EMS taught a CPR class for about a dozen employees of the Andrews Post Office on July 16 and 17. Other members of the fire department's staff joined here in instructing on the second night of the lessons.

The class was in response to the recent death of a toddler in Andrews, who drowned in a swimming pool at a home on Hazel Avenue. John T. "Tim" Tyler, a mail carrier in Andrews, came upon the situation while working his route and tried to help by performing CPR on the child. Tyler is a former emergency medical technician.

"We got to thinking about what would have happened if we had been there and we had never had the training that Tim had," said Karen Hanna, also a mail carrier with the Andrews Post Office. "Would we have to stand there twiddling our thumbs and just watching?"

She never wanted to be put in that position, so she suggested the CPR class and her co-workers jumped on board.

"We do encounter a lot of incidents when we're on the street delivering mail, and out in the country," Hanna said.

Though Tyler is already trained in CPR, he was among the attendees in the class, using it as a refresher course.

Georgetown County Fire/EMS and Midway



Above: Lesley Eastham uses a dummy to demonstrate CPR techniques while teaching a class to employees of the Andrews Post Office. At top: Ashlee McKenzie, 15, demonstrates CPR on a dummy while Eastham, at far left, offers instruction. Ahslee's mother, Angela, at right, is a post office employee and said she brought Ashlee with her to the class in case she needs CPR while babysitting.

Fire Rescue regularly teach CPR classes.

Anyone can sign up for the classes, and businesses or groups can arrange to have a class at their location. The class covers how to use a defibrillator and other life-saving techniques for babies, children and adults.

For more information about CPR classes, contact Georgetown County Fire/EMS at 545-3271 or Midway Fire Rescue at 545-3620.

**Have questions
or comments
about this newsletter?**

Contact Jackie Broach,
jbroach@gtcounty.org
or (843) 545-3164

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