



The Georgetown County Chronicle

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



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Calendar

Jan. 8 – Free Microsoft Office Word workshop, 5 p.m. at the Georgetown Library.

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

Jan. 21 – County offices are closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

Jan. 23 – Consumer Health series begins at the Georgetown Library, 5 p.m. Topic: "Free and Easy Health Resources."

Volume I, Issue 5

January 2013

Bright spots for county in midst of gloomy 2012 economy

The "fiscal cliff" still looms and the economy has a long way to go toward recovery, but there were some significant bright spots for Georgetown County over the last 12 months.

Since December 2011, three companies in the county announced expansions, bringing a total investment of \$29.2 million and the promise of 137 jobs. At least 88 of those jobs have already materialized and the other 49 are on the way in the next few months, thanks to an expansion of Agru America Inc.'s Georgetown County production facility, which was announced earlier this month. The geosynthetics company plans to add 40,000 square feet to the facility, with a 130,000-square-foot asphalt storage yard to accommodate new production equipment. The expansion involves a \$19.2 million investment.

"Considering the dire economic conditions of the nation during the past few years, it is encouraging to see this indication of growth as evidenced by these expansions,"



Gov. Nikki Haley talks with Rob Honeycutt, co-president of SafeRack, while touring the facility in October. SafeRack is one of three Georgetown County businesses that had major expansions in 2012, bringing a total investment of \$29.2 million to Georgetown County and creating 137 jobs.

said Wayne Gregory, economic development director for Georgetown County.

The county has the third highest per capita income in the state, following Beaufort and Charleston, according to figures from the S.C. Department of Revenue. The figure for Georgetown County – \$38,403 – is slightly up from years past.

"That's always a good sign," Gregory said. "To me it's indicative of the fact that the jobs we are cre-

ating in Georgetown County are good, high-paying jobs and that the quality of life here continues to improve. That being said, do we still have unemployed people? Yes, and one unemployed person is too many, but we're trying real hard to get to where we need to be: A point where everyone who wants a job has a job, and bright young students who grow up here can find a job in their field without

See "Expansions," Page 8

Advanced soccer training programs come to Stables Park

The Coast Futbol Alliance youth soccer club will expand its Player Development Center programs into Georgetown County beginning in January.

The addition of PDC programs at Stables Park in Litchfield will make things significantly easier for Georgetown County families with children who participate in programs of this type, cutting back on the time and expense required to get kids to training sessions.

"We are excited to be working in partnership with this group to provide another soccer opportunity for Georgetown County youth that desire a more com-

petitive soccer program than the recreation one we provide," said Beth Goodale, Georgetown County's director of parks and recreation. "This program is a step below the 'travel league' program, but the focus is a bit more intense. We think this will be a great addition to the programs we provide, and a good fit on the Waccamaw Neck at Stables Park."



See "Soccer," Page 2

Soccer

Continued from Page 1

Training for Coast FA's boys and girls PDC Junior Academy for 7- and 8-year-olds and Academy for 9- to 12-year-olds begins Jan. 7 and will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7 p.m. The programs are designed to work in conjunction with the county's youth soccer league program and provide additional training for players who want it.

A number of parents who have been taking their children to Horry County for the programs have already signed on for training at Stables Park and are excited to have advanced training available closer to home, said Heyward Gullledge, who is in charge of the Coast FA programs.

"We're really excited about starting programs down there and working in partnership with the county," Gullledge said. "It's something we've wanted to do for years, because we've got a ton of Georgetown County kids who travel up to Socastee Park for this. But until now there was not a facility with the lighting we need."

The opening of Stables Park in October allowed Coast FA to begin looking seriously at bringing programs to Georgetown County residents.

"We feel this really opens the programs up to more people in Georgetown County who might not have otherwise been able to take advantage of them," Gullledge said.

In addition to helping the county expand the range of sports programming offered at its recreation facilities, Coast FA has agreed to offer training to rec league coaches, who are all parents and volunteers, and plans to invite talented kids from throughout the county to try PDC programs.

"We've always had difficulty getting enough parents who know the game to sign on as soccer coaches, especially in the more rural regions of the county. And without volunteer coaches, we can't run the programs," Goodale said. "This partnership is a win for everyone."

Registration for PDC programs is open now. For information, including fees and scholarship information, visit coastfa.com or call (843) 602-8086.

Limited number of seats available for free homebuyers workshop

A small number of seats are still available for the second in Georgetown County's series of free workshops for first-time homebuyers.

The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 12 at the Georgetown Library, 405 Cleland St.

Completion of this course is mandatory to qualify for many down payment and other homebuyer assistance programs.

Participation is free and lunch is provided. Advance registration is required.

The county offered the first of its certified homebuyer training courses in October in the Pawleys Island area. Four courses will take place in all, each in a different area of the county.

The workshop is made possible through a partnership with the Bunnelle Foundation, Lowcountry Housing Trust and the Charleston Trident Urban League. The league will provide information on the steps to take in purchasing a home, from credit to moving in. Information on budgeting, home inspections, moving preparations and closing will be presented.

To register for the training sessions, call (843) 973-7285 or e-mail debra@lowcountryhousingtrust.org.

Get the Chronicle

At Georgetown County, we want our residents and visitors 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.

**Registration is open for
Hershey's Track and Field
program for boys and girls ages 5-14
(age control date is Dec. 31).**

**Registration ends on Feb. 1
and cost is \$10 per child.**

**Register online at
www.gtcounty.org/parks/programs.html.
For more information,
contact Desmond or Randy
at (843) 545-3275.**

Library brings videography into classrooms with grant

In classrooms across the county, kids are learning about visually exciting topics, from the elephants of Hannibal to the effects of electricity. And now, the Georgetown Library is giving classes a chance to make a movie about their favorite topics.

"We have earned a grant from the Best Buy Children's Foundation that allows us to go into classrooms and teach tweens and teens the basics of video production," explained Heather Pelham, public services librarian. "Then, the kids can be reporters or actors, and bring their classroom lessons to life."

The grant has just begun, and the library has already worked with the Georgetown Middle School Drama Club to adapt their most recent play into a video, with scenes shot on location at a store, a funeral home, a scary basement, at a basketball game and even in a car.

"The school aired the play for every classroom on their Promethean boards," Pelham said. "It was a really technologically savvy way to let everyone see the play at the same time."

The cameras are now in a social studies class, where students are interviewing famous historical figures of Greece, including Alexander the Great and Homer.

"We're doing this really fun green screen effect," Pelham said. "When the interviews are edited, the students will look like they're sitting in front of an agora or the Parthenon."

The classes are learning video terms and how to work with cameras, tripods, lighting and audio equipment. They're also getting familiar with basic editing concepts and how much a person can change or enhance a script during post production.

"Our first group completed a survey, and their answers were fantastic, from noting how you can shoot out of order to differences in types of microphones," Pelham said. "The kids truly sounded like producers."

The grant runs nine more months, so if you know of a middle school or high school classroom whose studies would translate well to video, give Pelham a call at the library, 545-3327.



At top: Students from the Georgetown Middle School Drama Club get ready to shoot a driving scene with Heather Pelham of the Georgetown Library. Above: Dylan Visbaras, a Georgetown Middle School student, sets up lighting for a scary basement scene.

First Thursday program focuses on 'new' lifelong learning center

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and its new location will be the focus of the Friends of the Waccamaw Library's next First Thursday of the month program Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. at the library.

The institute's director, Linda Ketron, will be the guest speaker. She'll inform potential students about the institute's new venue at the Litchfield Exchange, as well as upcoming classes including:

- Astronomy with Ron Revere
- Lowcountry excursions led by Robin McCall
- Mah-jongg with Pat Thompson
- Southern cuisine, container gardening with Sue Mushock-Myers
- The global economy, as explained by James O'Sullivan
- Creative writing with Tibby Plants and Richard Lutman
- Starshine performance training by JoEllen Langley

For more information, visit www.thefowl.org.

Free iPad workshops at the Waccamaw Library



Learn the basics and get the most out of your iPad!

Jan. 8, 13 and 22 from 5-6 p.m.



New things on the way for children's programs at Waccamaw Library

Two months into her new position as children's assistant at the Waccamaw Library, Amy King has her hands full. She has breathed new life in to the library's children's programming and is looking forward to new and expanded programs in the future.

"My immediate goal for the children's programming is to grow the story time participation," King said.

She is using local media as well as online resources, including the library's website and Facebook page, to advertise story time themes and other upcoming events. She wants to accumulate enough regular attendees to have two story time groups starting early this year.

She resumed outreach programs at local preschools in November and will do story times at those locations on a seasonal basis.

"I'm encouraging local schools with no or limited libraries to come for research trips to the Waccamaw library or to have books and other materials pulled for their classes to use," she added.

The Coastal Montessori Charter School is among schools that have already taken her up on the offer.

King is also looking at a partnership with Waccamaw public schools that would film short book talk segments to be broadcast in the schools.

Here's a look at what King has coming up in January:

- The Bookworm Club starts Jan. 10 and will offer kids a chance to read with their friends after school. The club will meet at the library every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. A snack will be provided thanks to the Friends of the Waccamaw Library.

- Story times are every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., starting Jan. 9, when the theme will be "snow." Other themes for January include "winter animal friends" on Jan. 16, "The Elephant's Child" on Jan. 23 and "music with kazoos" on Jan. 30.

For more information about children's programs at the Waccamaw Library, call 545-3623.

Friday nights are movie nights at the Waccamaw Library

The schedule for the 2013 Friday Night at the Movies series at the Waccamaw Library is set and David Zinnmann, a film historian, author and teacher, has agreed to continue as the moderator.

Movies begin at 7 p.m. in the library conference room. There is no admission. Popcorn and drinks are available for a small donation.

The winter schedule follow:

Jan. 11 – City Lights
(1931) The classic Charlie

Chaplin comedy about a tramp who falls in love with a blind flower girl. This film ranks 11 on the American Film Institute list of 100 best pictures. Also, see a classic episode of "I Love Lucy."

Jan. 25 – Saboteur (1942) Robert Cummings stars in this rarely seen Hitchcock thriller, which features breathtaking chases, crisp dialogue and a famous finale atop the Statue of Liberty.

Feb. 1 – It Started With

Eve (1942) Deanna Durbin, a hat check girl, and Robert Cummings, a millionaire's son, star in this comedy as an engaged couple trying to please dying Charles Laughton, Cummings' father. The laughs begin when father's health begins to improve.

Feb. 22 – Sunset Boulevard (1950) The famous Gloria Swanson and William Holden film about a faded silent film queen's attempt at a comeback. Directed by Billy Wilder.

Mar. 8 – On the Waterfront (1954) Marlon Brando's classic film of an ex-fighter and stevedore working for the waterfront boss Johnny Friendly (Lee J. Cobb). Winner of eight Oscars, including best film.

Mar. 22 - The Maltese Falcon (1941) A private detective takes on a case that involves him with three eccentric criminals, a gorgeous liar and their quest for a priceless statuette. Stars Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor.



Think the library is just for books? Think again.

- ◆ **Computers**
- ◆ **Research help**
- ◆ **Tech advice**
- ◆ **Download e-books and audiobooks**
- ◆ **Programs for kids and adults**

Strand Cinema to air horror flick filmed in Georgetown

"The Bay," a recently-released horror film shot in Georgetown, will have its first public screening the first weekend in January at the Strand Theater on Front Street.

The Strand Cinema will show the film at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5, and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6. Tickets are available at the box office only on the day of the show.

"The Bay" is a "found-footage" film set in 2009 in Chesapeake Bay, Md., where something has infected the water, but no one knows for sure how it's transmitted. When people start turning up dead and others begin to act strangely, fear turns to panic and the town shuts down.

Parkersville rec center nears completion

The Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center at Parkersville Park is scheduled for “substantial completion” by the end of this month. That means it should be operational and ready for county staff to start moving furniture in, said Beth Goodale, the county’s recreation director.

If there are no setbacks, a ribbon cutting ceremony might be scheduled for early March, she added.

The center is about 25,000 square feet and will feature a large gymnasium, a space for a senior center including a congregate dining area, and fitness space including an aerobics room.



The National Network of Libraries of Medicine
 nnlm.gov
 and Georgetown County Library present a ...



With Medical Librarian Rosemary Whitehead

Wednesday, January 23rd, 5 p.m.

**Free and Easy Health Resources on
DISCUS**

Wednesday, January 30th, 5 p.m.

**Locating Quality Health
Information Online**

Wednesday, February 6th, 5 p.m.

**African American
Health Resources**

Tuesday, February 12th, 10 a.m.

**Senior
Healthy Aging**

All programs held at
 The Georgetown County Library
 405 Cleland St. Georgetown
 (843) 545-3300

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS CLAIMING LEGAL RESIDENCY OR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Illegally claiming tax credits and discounts is a serious matter that can come with hefty financial consequences when violators are caught. Beginning March 31, 2013, Georgetown County will begin actively seeking out violations of this type. Taxpayers found to be claiming discounts they are not entitled to – including lower tax rates on property claimed as a primary residence and the Homestead Exemption tax credit – will receive corrected bills for the current tax year and the year prior.

Georgetown County is offering taxpayers who report such violations before March 31, 2013, an opportunity to pay a lesser amount. Taxpayers who come forward before the deadline will receive a corrected bill for the current tax year only.

The law allows property owners to claim a lower tax rate (4% instead of the regular 6%) on a home that serves as their primary residence. Taxpayers can claim only one primary residence. Additionally, people 65 and older or who are disabled, and who have lived in the state for a full calendar year and own their home, may qualify for the Homestead Exemption tax credit. Georgetown County is happy to help qualifying property owners take advantage of these special programs. However **any change** in the ownership of real property could affect eligibility and should be reported to the Assessor’s office.

Changes that could affect eligibility include:

- Any change in ownership
- Death of a property owner
- A property has sold or a new deed is prepared
- A property owner has married or surviving spouse has remarried
- A property owner has divorced or legally separated
- A property is being rented out for more than 14 days.

Qualifications for a legal residency discount or Homestead Exemption vary on a case-by-case basis. The County Assessor or Auditor will be able to help you determine whether you still qualify.

If you suspect you are receiving a tax discount or credit you don’t qualify for, please call the Assessor’s office at (843) 545-3017. A staff member will be happy to help you determine your eligibility.

Warbirds bring annual meeting to Georgetown County Airport

It was with clear reverence that, one after another, men circled a set of antique airplanes at the Georgetown County Airport on Dec. 7.

The planes, along with an AH 64D Apache helicopter belonging to the Army National Guard, were on display as part of the 2012 Lowcountry Warbirds meeting. Comprised of current and former military aviators, the group meets annually on Pearl Harbor Day to “swap war stories” and enjoy a presentation, they said. But this, their 45th meeting, was the first to take place at the airport.

The group usually picks an area restaurant for their gatherings, but after noting the pleasure attendees in past years took in checking out some of the planes pilots arrived in, it was decided a venue change was in order. By moving the meeting to the conference room at the Thomas W. Edwards Jr. terminal building, they could incorporate the planes into the festivities, giving those present a chance to “at least look them over and kick the tires,” said Doug Decker, one of the event organizers.

It was a welcome opportunity and something likely to be repeated at future meetings, Decker added.

Among the planes on site were a set of T-6s, one of which was flown in by Bobby Jonte, the guest speaker for the meeting, and a Chipmunk owned by Dan Drost of Plantersville.

“I think it’s wonderful to have it [the meeting] out here,” said Walter McElveen, standing on the runway in front of the group of T-6s. “That thing right there is a real piece of American art for an aviator,” he added, gesturing to one of the planes.

McElveen spent two decades in the Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel, and has been a member of the Warbirds for 10 years.

Attendees of the 2012 Lowcountry Warbirds meeting gathered at the airport for lunch and a guest speaker, below, and to check out several antique planes.



The Warbirds got a lesson at this year’s meeting about all that goes into owning an antique plane. Jonte, a crop duster turned banker, talked about the process he went through to purchase his first T-6, as well as restoring and maintaining it.



“It gets expensive,” said Drost. His small Chipmunk, a British trainer plane, burns about 8 gallons of fuel an hour, but the larger T-6s burn closer to 30 gallons an hour. With fuel costing about \$6 a gallon, just keeping the tank full is costly.

Rain kept some of the aircraft scheduled to be on display at the meeting from flying in, but Decker said he’s already planning on a wider range of displays in 2013.

About the Georgetown County Airport

As the first thing many visitors to Georgetown County see, the airport is a priority for the county and a facility its leadership is proud of. The airport has undergone about \$11 million in improvements since 2007, including a \$2.5 million terminal construction and a 1,000-foot runway expansion. The expansion brought the runway to 6,000 feet, which allows the county to bring in larger aircraft. The airport is a general aviation airport owned and operated by Georgetown County. It sees approximately 130 aircraft operations per day and around 47,500 operations per year. It has 31 T-hangars leased to aircraft owners and a corporate hangar.



Sheriff's Office helps make Christmas bright for 36 local kids

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office continued its annual Shop with Santa program last month.

On Dec. 8, 36 children chosen from nine elementary schools in the county were each given a \$125 WalMart gift card and taken shopping by Sheriff's Office employees. Kids are selected for the program by guidance counselors based on a variety of criteria including need, good behavior and academic improvement.

The day started with juice and donuts before some serious shopping, which Sheriff's Office staff seemed to enjoy nearly as much as the kids.

The shoppers then returned to the Sheriff's Office, where their presents were wrapped and lunch was provided by Chicfil-A of Murrells Inlet.

The Shop with Santa program's primary sponsor is the Campbell family, owners of Dead Dog Saloon in Murrells Inlet. Without them, the program wouldn't be possible, said Carrie Cuthbertson, a spokeswoman for the Sheriff's Office.



Above left: Sheriff Lane Cribb, right, and Investigator Robbie Sarvis help Rickey Pyatt pick out a new bike. Above right: The Sheriff's Office had several of Santa's helpers wrap up purchases after the kids finished their shopping. At top: Deputy Paul Glover shops with his partner for the day.



Sheriff's Office bloodhound retires after eight years

Flo, a bloodhound who has been part of the team at the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office since 2003, was retired on Dec. 14.

Flo was born on March 5, 2003, and after successfully completing her bloodhound training, was assigned to the Sheriff's Office that fall.

Before Flo's retirement, she worked on many cases, including burglaries, other felonies and helping to locate Alzheimer's patients and missing children. Due to her impressive track record, Flo's services were also requested by agencies from adjoining counties.

Lt. Jim Edwards of the Sheriff's Office adopted Flo upon her retirement. The pair worked together for almost eight years.

Flo is pictured at left with her former handler and new owner, Lt. Jim Edwards.

Surf fishing at Pawleys Island

Whether you live in Georgetown County or just look forward to visiting as often as possible, there's never any shortage of things to do here, from fishing to crabbing, surfing, swimming or browsing sculpture at Brookgreen Gardens. See more photos of Georgetown County life at [facebook.com/gtcountysc](https://www.facebook.com/gtcountysc).



Expansions

Continued from Page 1

having to leave the county."

The county's unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in November, the most recent reporting period.

In addition to Agru America's expansion, Mercom Corporation and SafeRack LLC also expanded this year. Mercom, a provider of network technology services, announced in August that it would expand its operations in the Pawleys Island area. The expansion included a \$1 million investment and generated 30 new jobs. SafeRack, a maker of loading racks, announced in December of last year that it would add production capabilities to its plant at the county's industrial park outside Andrews. The move came with

an investment of more than \$9 million and created 58 new jobs.

All three companies said their expansions were necessitated by increased demand for what they offer. Each also spoke highly of the atmosphere for businesses in Georgetown County. The county offers an excellent business environment and a strong workforce, said Larry Mercado, Mercom's vice president and chief operating officer. Robert Johnson, president of Agru America, called the county a perfect fit for his business and remarked on the support he has received from state and local businesses.

Georgetown County Economic Development does everything it can to promote the success and growth of existing businesses, as well as encourage new businesses to locate here, Gregory said. That includes

advocating for crucial infrastructure improvements, such as dredging of the Georgetown port and widening of Highway 521.

The county also continues to market important resources it offers to businesses, including its airport facilities and industrial park.

In its economic development efforts, the county works closely with partners including the state Department of Commerce, the North Eastern Strategic Alliance, Santee Cooper and Santee Electric Cooperative.

Several marketing trips are scheduled for the new year, and the outlook for 2013 is another a bright one for Georgetown County, according to Gregory.

"We've got several quality projects we're working on and we expect 2013 to be a great year for us," Gregory said.

Thermal imaging project moves ahead

Georgetown County Council recently gave its approval for the start of a thermal imaging project that will allow County Fire/EMS and Midway Fire Rescue to better perform their duties.

Thermal imaging equipment was selected and a total of 11 cameras will be purchased, with seven going to County Fire/EMS and four to Midway.

"Thanks to the cooperative efforts of both districts, we were able to really purchase a superior camera with a substantial savings," said Battalion Chief Carr Gilmore of Midway. The effort will also standardize thermal imaging equipment in the county and allow for improved operability and training opportunities.

The new cameras contain features that make it easier for firefighters to focus on an object and see crystal clear details. The cameras are also easy to handle and can be quickly accessed or put away.

"This is a huge leap forward in technology and capabilities that will make a difference to the community," Gilmore said. He thanks all the firefighters who worked on the thermal imaging project committee for their efforts, which will improve safety for and service from both departments.

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.



Chestnut named manager of the year

Kevin Chestnut, Georgetown County roads coordinator, was named the county's Manager of the Year for 2012.

An employee of the county for more than a decade, he was nominated for the honor by Ray Funnye, director of public services, who says Chestnut is always willing to go the extra mile in his duties.

"Kevin always goes above and beyond when it comes to getting community input, scheduling after-hours meetings and community gatherings to make sure everyone understands the project," Funnye said.

Chestnut single-handedly runs, coordinates and oversees the user fee and CTC road paving and improvement programs. That includes all road repair and new roads. He also serves as roads plan reviewer for new development.



Kevin Chestnut, right, is pictured with County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

Public Services employee wins \$2,500 scholarship

Hal Moon, a Georgetown County employee in the Capital Projects Division of the Public Services Department is the recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship toward his Master of Public Administration degree at Norwich University.

Norwich offers the Master of Public Administration online program with a Public Works Administration concentration for those who aspire to become effective leaders in public works administration.

The Public Works Administration concentration of the MPA program provides public works professionals with the specialized knowledge to make a tangible difference in their organizations

and in the quality of life in their communities.

MPA students in this concentration study the following topics: Historical development of public works and the role of public policy; strategic planning, legislative initiatives and rule-making, fiscal management, contract administration, project oversight, emergency management, business continuity and multi-year financing of public works projects.



Hal Moon

Midway employee is manager of the quarter

Captain Joe Ruffennach of Midway Fire Rescue was named Georgetown County's Manager of the Quarter.

Ruffennach has worked for Midway for 15 years and "takes great pride in making sure safety is everyone's thought for the day," said Midway Chief Doug Eggiman, who nominated him for the honor.

In addition to providing "safety flashes" to the department, he designed and painted an entranceway used by firefighters and other staff to remind them to be safe so everyone returns home to their families at the end of the day, Eggiman said.

In addition to increasing safety, Ruffennach's efforts lead to cost savings through decreased on-the-job accidents and injuries. He serves on Midways safety committee in addition to the training grounds policies and thermal imaging committees.



Joe Ruffennach

Georgetown County Fire/EMS recognizes outstanding employees for service

Lt. Dale Hewitt of Georgetown County Fire/EMS was named the Emergency Services Department's Employee of the Quarter during a recent ceremony.



Dale Hewitt

Hewitt was nominated by his battalion chief, Deborah Johnson, due to outstanding dedication to County Fire/EMS. Through his years with the department, Hewitt has been involved in many different positions, according to emergency services officials. As a volunteer he was a station captain. He

then became an employee of the department, continuing to grow through training and experience.

In addition to his other duties, Hewitt has taken the job of working hand on the fuel committee, a very time-consuming effort. But he never complains, say his supervisors. Instead, Hewitt gets the information needed from each station and sees that the reports are completed, as accurately as possible, and on time — something that often means taking work home.

A number of other awards were also recently handed out to employees and volunteers of County Fire/EMS. Award winners are:

- Adam Wimbish, Firefighter/EMT of the

Year;

- Jennifer DeHart, Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year;
- Donald Lippert, Most Improved of the Year;
- Jeff Gore, Lieutenant of the Year;
- Buster Evans, Volunteer of the Year;
- Gary Smalls, Most Improved of the Year;
- John McGirt, Station Coordinator of the Year;
- Donald Lippert, Excellence in Training Award;
- Melissa White, Excellence in Training.

Please join us in congratulating these winners!

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, 545-3127

Coroner, 546-3056

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

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Find us on the web!
www.gtcounty.org



MIDWAY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Midway Fire Rescue celebrated its 50th year of service last month with a program at its headquarters station in Litchfield. At left, employees watch from along the back wall as presentations are made. At top left, a cake is cut in honor of the occasion. Above, County Council Vice Chairman Jerry Oakley, center, presents a proclamation to Midway Chief Doug Eggiman and Tom Koltak, Midway board chairman. Below are Travis Douglas and Bob Beebe of Midway. At Bottom right, Eggiman talks with former chief Mike Mock, center, and Midway's chaplain, the Rev. Nels Ledwell.

