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Calendar

Oct. 6 – Free Tennis Play Day at Stables Park, 3-6 p.m. Pre-registration required.

Oct. 6 – Last day to register to vote in the November election.

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

Oct. 18 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Oct. 22 – Ribbon cutting at Stables Park, 4 p.m.

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

The Georgetown County Chronicle

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

Volume I, Issue 2

October 2012

Event brings famed 'Red Tails' to Georgetown

Nearly 70 years after they served their country proudly in World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen are spoken of with reverence.

It's something this elite group of African-American pilots earned not just for what they did in the air, but for their role in bringing equality and integration to the American military.

Georgetown County residents and visitors will have the rare opportunity to hear first-hand accounts from some of the documented original members of this group next month when a two-day special event brings them to Georgetown. There will also be opportunities to meet the airmen, get autographs and ask questions. The event is free and open to everyone.

Hosted by the county, the festivities start at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 at Howard Auditorium with



Original members of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. Courtesy of the Wilson V. Eagleson Chapter, Inc.

a screening of "Red Tails." The 2012 movie starring Cuba Gooding Jr. tells the story of the Tuskegee Airmen. The airmen picked up the moniker "Red Tails" because they painted the tails of their airplanes red.

Activities continue at the Georgetown County Airport on Nov. 3, where original documented members of the Tuskegee Airmen will be on hand. The day begins with Young Eagle Flights for kids (with parental permis-

See "Red Tails," Page 3

Limited-time chance for property owners to avoid tax penalties

Property owners illegally claiming tax discounts they're not entitled to will have an opportunity to avoid penalties if they report the violation before March 31, 2013.

On that date, the window closes and Georgetown County will begin actively seeking out

violations of this type. Notice of this limited-time opportunity and the county's intent will be sent out with property tax bills this month.

Taxpayers found to be claiming discounts they're 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.

Anyone who reports they are in violation before March 31 will receive a corrected bill for the current tax year only.

The law allows property owners
See "Taxes," Page 2

County offers free certified homebuyer training courses

After the success of its free affordable housing workshop in Pawleys Island last month, Georgetown County is preparing to offer a series of certified homebuyer training sessions beginning in October.

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

There will be four sessions scheduled throughout the county. Each will last eight hours and take place on a Saturday. The first is Oct. 27, from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation office in the Pawleys Island area.

Dates for the other three

sessions will be announced in the fall. However, the second session is being planned for Georgetown in January.

Through a partnership with the Bunnelle Foundation and Lowcountry Housing Trust, this valuable community resource will be offered to the public at no charge.

Lunch and all session materials are included. Space is limited to the first 20 registrants and preregistration is required.

"This course teaches potential homebuyers pretty much everything from A to Z in terms of purchasing a home," said Debby Waid, program director for the Lowcountry Housing Trust. "It goes into what to expect, how to apply for a loan and how to

deal with a Realtor."

The training also covers what homebuyers will face after their purchase, including maintenance issues and getting home insurance.

Completion of a certified homebuyer training course is required to qualify for the following subsidies:

- ◆ Up to \$5,000 in down payment and closing-cost assistance for first-time homebuyers or veterans
- ◆ Up to \$7,500 in matching funds for the purchase of a home in an area targeted for stabilization
- ◆ Up to \$12,000 (\$15,000 for veterans) for weatherization and energy efficiency improvements or accessibility enhancements

ciency improvements or accessibility enhancements

The county is expecting seats to fill up quickly, said Beth Goodale, director of recreation and community services. At its affordable housing workshop on Aug. 29, the county hosted 38 attendees who heard from a variety of speakers on subjects including federal and state lending programs, foreclosure prevention and assistance services, and homebuyer education programs among other topics.

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

Taxes

Continued from Page 1

ers to claim a lower tax rate (4 percent instead of 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 ownership of real property could affect eligibility and should be reported to the Assessor's office. Those changes include death of a property owner, marriage, divorce, legal separation or rental of a property for more than 14 days.

For information, call 545-3017.

EMPLOYEE UPDATES

Keith Moore Sr., an employee of the Clerk of Court's office for nine years, has accepted a management level position with Browns Ferry Company.

Moore was hired in 2003 as a General Sessions Court clerk. In 2005, he was promoted to Chief Court Clerk and two years later became the Court Coordinator for General Sessions Court and remained in that position until his recent departure.

"Keith served the clerk's office well. He was a very loyal and dedicated employee. He was very dependable," said Alma White, Clerk of Court. "I could not have asked for a better employee."

Moore has been replaced by **Wendy Rogers**, a former employee with O'Donnell Law Firm. Rogers is also a former employee of Webster Rogers LLP (accounting and consulting firm) and the City of Georgetown Finance Department.

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.

www.gtcounty.org

IN MEMORIAM

Firefighters mourn friend, volunteer

Darry Goss, a volunteer with Georgetown County Fire/EMS Station 14, was killed in a vehicle accident on Sept. 22.

Goss had been a volunteer with the Department's Pee Dee station since May 1996. He later became an interior certified firefighter. His fellow firefighters remember him as someone who brought to the station "strength and manpower along with a personality that would brighten a room."

"He was always smiling and willing to help anyone in need," said Annie Stewart, a Station



Darry Goss

a firefighter, but he still wanted to be involved with the department and helped the station in

14 firefighter and Goss' first cousin. In recent years, Goss' health kept him from the physically demanding duties of

a supporting role. Goss had recently spoken with Fire Marshal Jesse Cooper about how important his involvement with the station was to him, Cooper recalled. He wanted to be more involved in the future.

Goss was also a Georgetown County Parks and Recreation volunteer for many years and took great joy in teaching kids the fundamentals of sports.

Red Tails

Continued from Page 1

sion) from 9-11 a.m. and model airplane demonstrations from 11 a.m. to noon.

A variety of aircrafts will be on display throughout the day with plenty of opportunities for everyone to get a close look.

The main program starts at noon with a history of the airport, which dates back to World War II, when it was a Marine Corps auxiliary air facility. There will also be a history of the Red Tails, given by William Leonard, president of the Span Watson Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

James McClain and Hiram E. Mann, documented original members of the Tuskegee Airmen, will be the main speakers. There will be a moment of silence for Edward Matthew Gibson, another original member of the group, who recently passed away.

There are few original members of the Tuskegee Airmen remaining and their numbers are growing shorter all the time. That's one reason Georgetown County didn't want to delay in planning its Red Tails event when the idea was presented by staff.

Hosting a Red Tails event seemed a prime opportunity to not only honor the original Tuskegee Airmen and educate residents and visitors about an important part of history, but to bring attention to the Georgetown County Airport.

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 runway is now 6,000 feet, which allows the county to bring in larger aircrafts.

"We believe that our airport is the gateway to Georgetown County for many travelers, including investors, entrepreneurs and



Original members of the Tuskegee Army Airfield during World War II. Courtesy of the Wilson V. Eagleson Chapter, Inc.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Tuskegee Airmen are known as the Red Tails because they painted the tails of their airplanes red. They flew many kinds of missions, but it was as bomber escorts that they are most remembered. The white pilots flying bombers began requesting the "red tail angels," because the Airmen were such skilled pilots and fierce fighters.

Source: The CAF Red Tail Squadron

industrialists," said Ray Funnys, the county's director of public services. "The first impression, we believe, is a lasting one. Our airport needs to be a good testament to our community and we think it is."

Funnys has heard many comments from pilots and travelers praising the recent improvements at the airport, including a new corporate hangar, he said. There aren't

many programs that could do more honor to the airport and the county than one featuring the original Red Tails, Funnys said.

"The impact they made on this country is huge," he said. "We're very lucky to have them come to Georgetown County to share their story and talk about their experiences." It's an opportunity not to be missed, he added.



Photo/Georgetown Hospital System

Something To celebrate

Give Georgetown Hospital System and Georgetown County Fire/Rescue a round of applause! Georgetown Memorial Hospital recently received an award for implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients. Specifically, the hospital was recognized for successfully implementing strategies to quickly diagnose a patient having a heart attack, transport that patient from the emergency department to the Cardiac Cath Lab and re-establish blood flow in the blocked artery in less than 90 minutes. The Georgetown County Fire/EMS ambulance crew is responsible for transmitting cardiac readings from the field to the hospital, which contributes to the hospital's achievement of this goal.



Zion Davis, 6, is pictured using one of the early literacy stations at the Georgetown County Library. The stations are all-in-one digital learning centers for children ages 2-6. They are designed to optimize educational effectiveness while making learning exciting and fun. Content is multimedia and educational, and has been evaluated by early childhood specialists, educators and family focus groups using the latest developmental models.

Want to know more about the proposed Capital Project Sales Tax?

Get the facts at gcounty.org
or book a speaker for your group's next meeting.
Call 545-3164.

8th-grader gives back to local library

Thomas "Top" Lee, an 8th-grader at Lowcountry Prep School, is helping the campaign to build a new Waccamaw Library through his book review blog.

He started the blog, found at www.littlesquirrelbookreview.org, after his teacher asked him and his classmates to keep a log of what they read at home.

"I told my mom, 'I read so much, I don't want to just record what I read,'" Lee told Duke University's TIP magazine recently.

He wanted to write about what he read, so he started writing a book report every week. After a while, they started piling up. At about the same time, his parents started talking about doing a family service project.

"I thought it was a great idea, so I decided to make a book report blog," Lee said.

Then, he decided to give his blog a mission. All proceeds from the

blog go to the Friends of the Waccamaw Library's fund to help build a new library. Here's how it works: When someone purchases a book, e-book or any material from Amazon by following an ad link from his blog, Lee earns a small commission.

He's giving all of that commission to the library fund until further notice.

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library say that makes Lee their youngest donor.

"I hope we can continue our service project website for many years. I have learned many things by creating these projects," Lee told TIP magazine.

"Besides becoming a better writer and learning how to blog, I have also learned how even small donations can really help those who have virtually nothing."

Lee hopes to help the blog grow this year by writing to English teachers in the county to tell them about the blog.

In addition to encouraging others to visit the blog and use the link when they shop, he welcomes book reviews from students of all ages, he said."



Top Lee

Is your family earthquake-ready? Sign up now for 'ShakeOut'

On Oct. 18 at exactly 10:18 a.m., Georgetown County will take part in the Great Southeast ShakeOut.

It's the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history and Georgetown County Emergency Management is encouraging families and businesses to participate with us. So far more than 600,000 participants have registered to take part in the event, with more than 71,981 in South Carolina.

The Shake Out also involves four other southeast states and Washington, D.C.

Part of S.C. Earthquake Awareness Week, the ShakeOut is similar to other emergency preparedness drills sponsored in South Carolina. The signal to begin the drill will be broadcast at 10:18 a.m. on NOAA tone-alert weather radio and broadcast media. Once the signal is broadcast, all participants should "drop, cover, and hold on" as if there were a major earthquake occurring. Participants should stay in that position for at least

Join Us for the Largest Earthquake Drill in U.S. History.

October 18, 2012

www.shakeout.org/southeast

The Great
SouthEast
**Shake
Out**

60 seconds.

Earthquakes occur with no warning, leaving only seconds to seek protection, so it's important for people to have a plan and know exactly what to do should an earthquake occur, said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County Emergency Manager. Contrary to popular belief, standing in a doorway is not an earthquake-safe plan.

How to register: To sign up to participate in the Great Southeast ShakeOut, visit shakeout.org/southeast. Be sure to include the total number of people taking part in the drill with you.

The ShakeOut drill is open to everyone in participating states. Many private citizens, government agencies, schools, businesses, universities and other groups in our state have already registered.

Resources to help with earthquake planning are available for download on the ShakeOut site and at scemd.org

The ShakeOut is intended to highlight the need for everyone in the Southeast to be prepared for a large-scale disasters. The largest earthquake recorded on the eastern seaboard occurred in 1886 with a magnitude of 7.3 on the Mercalli Scale. Its epicenter was in Summerville and it was felt from Chicago to Cuba.

South Carolina experiences 10 to 20 measurable earthquakes a year according to geologists with the College of Charleston.

Fire Prevention Week activities planned

National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 7-13, but Georgetown County Fire/EMS and Midway Fire Rescue will spend the whole month of October participating in activities that stress fire safety to people of all ages.

This year's theme is "Have 2 Ways Out!" and that will be the focus of messages from both departments next month. From kids to senior citizens, it's imperative that every person have and practice at least two ways they can get out of any room in their home or office building in case of an emergency.

"The main door you use every day is fine, but you have to realize you may not be able to get out that way if there's a fire," said Jesse Cooper, fire marshal for Georgetown County Fire/EMS. Cooper said he especially stresses that to senior citizens, who may have additional difficulties to overcome in an escape.

"A lot of senior citizens use walkers

or canes, or they've got to worry about having their glasses," Cooper said. Those are things elderly residents need to keep in mind as they plan, but also to be prepared to do without.

"Maybe they can't find their cane right away," he said. "They need to practice crawling out. The important thing is that they get out safely, so they need to practice and put it in their mind that they need to go without the cane or the glasses if they have to, just so long as they get out."

When making a plan with kids, it's also a good idea to go over how to report an emergency to 911, said Bob Beebe, spokesman for Midway.

The departments offer free materials to help families plan their escape routes. The materials can be picked up at any fire station.

For information, call Cooper, 545-3271, or Midway fire Marshal Todd Blomdahl, 545-3620.

Scholar's Forum continues

The Scholar's Forum is back in session at the Georgetown Library. Meetings start at 10 a.m. on Tuesday mornings.

Among this month's programs is an Oct. 16 lecture by Dwight McInvaill, county library director, on "The Beautiful World of Alice Huger Ravenel Smith."

Other topics for this month include: A discussion with an expert on kidney health on Oct. 2, information on how to become a published author on Oct. 9, a talk about the Georgetown Memorial Wall on Oct. 23 and eerie stories of local ghosts on Oct. 30. Get more information at georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov.

Midway to celebrate 50th year

Midway Fire and Rescue is turning 50 this year, and they're not letting the milestone pass without some proper recognition.

An anniversary celebration set for Sunday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. is in the works. The public will be invited, so mark your calendars. The event is still in the planning stages.

TRICK-OR-TREAT!

Halloween event for kids returns to county judicial center

The third annual Fall Festival hosted by 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.



Opening activities, Play Day planned at Stables Park

The Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center at Stables Park will host a U.S. Tennis Association Free Tennis Play Day on Oct. 6 from 3-6 p.m.

It will be the first event to take place at the new park in Litchfield and marks the start of a gradual introduction of programming at the park during the month of October. Ribbon cuttings for the center and multi-purpose fields at the park are set for Oct. 22 starting at 4 p.m. A week of activities is planned around the ribbon cuttings. Details will be released later in the month.

The Free Tennis Play Day is open to everyone, but pre-registration is required. Racquets will be provided.

For information, call David Bromberg, 318-2265.

Voters registration deadline nears for November election

Oct. 6 is the last day to register to vote in time for the November 2012 general election.

Registration forms can be downloaded at www.georgetowncountysc.org/voterreg. Voters who are already registered can use that web page to request absentee ballots or check their registration information, which is always a good idea before an election, said Donna Mahn, the county director of elections and voter registration. Incorrect information can slow voters down when they head to the polls.

Mahn also asks that voters be prepared for lines at all precincts on Election Day and exercise patience.

For information about registration and absentee ballots, call 545-3339.



Autumn at Mansfield

The road leading to Mansfield Plantation, just outside of Georgetown, offers visitors a scenic view with just a hint of fall colors. See more photos from Mansfield and other areas of the county on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/gtcounty.org](https://www.facebook.com/gtcounty.org), and on Instagram.

Photo/Jackie R. Broach



Annual Mutt Strut, 10/6

The sixth annual Mutt Strut for St. Frances Animal Center will be Oct. 6 at Francis Marion Park on Front Street from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Get information about pet care and pet health, and take advantage of a low-cost vaccination clinic, grooming, a microchip clinic, and community dog baths.

Library luncheon and auction 10/9

The Friends of the Waccamaw Library's 22nd annual luncheon and auction is Oct. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Litchfield Country Club.

The auction again focuses on jewelry and accessories, after switching from art last year. Tickets are \$30 per person. Call 545-3623 for information

Fire station open house, 10/10

Georgetown County Fire/EMS Station No. 5, located at Nine-Mile Curve, will have an open house from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Oct. 10.

More happening *around town*

The event will include valuable information for residents about fire safety. Materials will be distributed on topics including child safety seats, portable space heater safety and smoke detectors.

The event will also focus on educating children about fire safety. There will be kid-friendly activities and games that will make learning fun.

County's biggest yard sale, 10/20

The Georgetown Friends of the Library invite sellers to reserve space at the community's biggest yard sale, set for Saturday, Oct. 20.

The sale is in the parking lot at the Judicial Center, behind the Georgetown Library. It starts at 8 a.m. and ends at noon.

Cost for space is \$10 and sellers keep all the proceeds from what they sell.

To reserve space, sign up at the library during regular operating hours.

"Come be a part of the sale and grab a great read for the weekend," urged librarian and sale organizer Sheila Sullivan.

For information, call 545-3310.

Guided birding tour, 10/20

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation offers guided birding and nature trips at Hobcaw Barony on the third Saturday of every month from September through May.

Tours meet at Hobcaw at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person and pre-registration is required.

Beginner baton twirling

Baton twirling classes for beginners (ages 5 and up) are offered at the Howard Recreation Center. Classes are \$40 a month. For information, call Cathy Crowell, 957-0834.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Oct. 6, 2012, 9 a.m. to noon
67 St. Pauls Place, Pawleys Island (off Willbrook Blvd.)

A Georgetown County Public Service Event
In cooperation with Midway Fire Rescue

Please join us in keeping pollutants out of the drainage system.

We can ONLY accept the following materials:

Paint, oil, batteries (rechargeable and alkaline, incandescent bulbs, household cleaners, non-commercial pesticides and fertilizers.

For information, call 545-3524.



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Visit our website at www.gtcounty.org
or find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Look us up at [Facebook.com/GtCountySC](https://www.facebook.com/GtCountySC)
and @GtCountySC.



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

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven Street
Georgetown, S.C. 29442-1270

Phone: (843) 545-3063
Fax: (843) 545-3292

Find us on the web!
www.gtcounty.org



PHOTO CORNER



Library card sign-up day

The Waccamaw Library had special activities for kids last month as part of National Library Card Sign-up Month. Kids who signed up on designated days were able to take home two free books to keep and a toy. Clockwise from above: Sarah Katherine Kopp, 3, checks out a pop-up version of "The Wizard of Oz;" Emily Kelso, 6, tries to pick out a book; and Jack Kongdon looks over a selection of Goosebumps books.

Photos/Jackie R. Broach



Waccamaw vs. Andrews

The Waccamaw Red and Andrews Black recreational football teams are seen during a game in Pawleys Island last month. See more photos on our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram.

Photos/Jackie R. Broach

