

The Georgetown County Chronicle

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

**Welcome, Davis
Aircraft Products!**

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Calendar

June 8 – Vouchers will be issued to senior citizens for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. See page 7.

June 10 – Summer programming begins for the Boys and Girls Clubs. See Page 13.

June 11 – Public hearing on the 2014 budget, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

June 20 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

June 25 – County Council gives third reading of the budget, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

Volume I, Issue 10

June 2013

Proposed millage increase would equal less than \$12 on \$100K home

Public hearing is June 11

When Georgetown County's proposed 2014 budget went before County Council for second reading consideration on May 28, it included a 5 percent pay increase for all employees.

The budget still has to undergo a public hearing on June 11 and third reading on June 25 before it is finalized. If given final approval, the move would not only restore the 3 percent employees lost in 2009 — an act that allowed the county to avoid layoffs during a diffi-

cult financial period — it would also begin the process of bringing salaries back in line with where they would have been had cuts and a freeze in yearly cost of living raises that went in place the same year not occurred.

A 14.52 percent increase would be required to bring salaries up to the level they would be at had salaries not been cut and the freeze not put in place.

Like other residents throughout the county, county employees have experienced rising costs for food, fuel and other items, but their salaries have not increased

See "Budget," Page 4

Free workshops help residents get ready for hurricane season

As the start of the Atlantic hurricane season approaches, Georgetown County Emergency Management is increasing its preparedness efforts and wants to help county residents get ready too.

The department will host a series of free hurricane preparedness workshops at locations throughout the county during the first week of hurricane season, which begins June 1.

The peak of the Atlantic hurricane season normally isn't until around September, but it's never too early to start preparing, said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County Emergency Manager. However, it can easily be too late.

"The last thing you want to do is wait until a storm is barreling toward our coastline to start thinking about things like what to do with pets during an evacuation or whether your home insurance policy will cover what you need it to if we get a hurricane."

Many residents don't realize the state has a 15-day waiting period



Changes to evacuation zones and procedures will be among topics discussed at a series of free hurricane preparedness workshops this month. The schedule is as follows:

- June 3 — Beck Recreation Center, 2030 Church St., Georgetown
- June 4 — Murrells Inlet Community Center, 4450 Murrells Inlet Road
- June 5 — Waccamaw Regional Rec. Center, 83 Duncan Ave., Pawleys Island
- June 6 — North Santee Community Center, 1484 Mt. Zion Ave., Georgetown
- June 7 — Plantersville Community Center, 1458 Exodus Dr., Georgetown

All workshops begin at 6 p.m. and will last about an hour.

for new wind or hail coverage to go into effect, and even longer for flood coverage. A homeowner who waits until a storm is on its

way to change their insurance policy will be out of luck.

Those are the kinds of things
See "Hurricane," Page 2

Hurricane

Continued from Page 1

that will be addressed at the workshop. Participants will also be given hurricane guides and other resources to help with their planning, Hodge will review recent changes to local evacuation zones and the state's evacuation procedure, and there will be a brief overview of forecasts for the 2013 hurricane season.

Frank Johnson, chief meteorologist for WBTW News 13, will lend his expertise as a special guest speaker at the workshop in Murrells Inlet. Ed Piotrowski is tentatively schedule to speak at the Pawleys Island event.

The workshops will be an excellent introduction to hurricane season for new residents in the area, but are also an

excellent refresher for those who have been here longer. Even those who think they know everything they need to about getting ready for hurricane season are likely to learn something new, Hodge said.

Georgetown County Emergency Management has participated in similar hurricane workshops on the Waccamaw Neck in past years, but Hodge sees a need to offer this type of information in parts of the county that are farther inland, as well. While most people focus on areas east of Highway 17 during hurricane season, storm surge could affect areas well into Georgetown and flooding could pose life-threatening danger even in the western reaches of the county.

"Every family, individual, business and group in Georgetown County should

have a disaster plan in place that includes what to do in a hurricane," Hodge said.

Residents should also recall that South Carolina hasn't been hit by a major storm since Hurricane Hugo, which made landfall near McClellanville on Sept. 21, 1989. Since then, the area hasn't seen wind speeds over around 85 miles per hour.

"After that, life gets back to normal the very next day," Hodge said. "When a major hurricane makes landfall here, life doesn't get back to normal the next day, the next week, or even the next month."

There's no avoiding that sort of threat on the coast, so the best thing to do is be as prepared as possible, Hodge added.

For more information about the upcoming workshops, call 545-3273.

What are the procedures following a hurricane or other disaster?

First, a damage assessment team assesses the damage of the affected and evacuated area. This team consists mainly of public safety personnel.

If only minor damage exists specifically to utilities such as electricity, water and sewer, and roadways, county officials make the decision for the time for re-entry.

If major damage occurred to buildings, utilities or roadways, the county provides property owners a time to visit and survey the damage of their property. To gain access to their property, owners must have a copy of the property title or tax receipt, or utility bill bearing the address of the property and picture identification. A driver's license showing a physical address is acceptable.

Once utility companies restore power and it is safe for entry, county officials notify property owners that they may return to their property.

Georgetown County Parks and Rec Upcoming Summer Programs

Summer Camp ~ June 10–August 2

Ages 5-12/8am–5pm/\$45 per child per week

Beck Recreation Center /Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center

Summer Hoops Camp ~ June 10-July 3 (M-Th)

Ages 7-12/5:30pm–7:30pm/\$15 per child

Beck Recreation Center/Choppee Gym/Andrews Gym
Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center

Lacrosse Camp ~ July 8–10

Ages 8-13/8am–10am/\$35 per child (nonrefundable)

Stables Park, Pawleys Island

Soccer Camp ~ July 15-July 19

Ages 5-12/9am–Noon/\$15 per child

Stables Park, Pawleys Island

Youth Development Football Camp ~ July 20

Ages 8-13/9am–1pm/FREE (Pre-registration required)

Beck Recreation Center (Field) *Conducted by all area football coaches.

Volleyball Camps ~ June 24-27 @ Waccamaw High School
10am–Noon with Coach Jill Schoen & July 8–11 @ Georgetown
High School with Coach Jamie Walker

Waccamaw Football Camp ~ June 17-19/\$20pp

Ages 8-13/ 8:30am –12pm w/ Coach Davis/Wacc High School

Waccamaw Baseball Camp ~ June 10-13

Ages 8-12/9am–12pm/Wacc High School/\$35pp

For information, call 545-3275 or visit www.gtcounty.org

Get the Chronicle

At Georgetown County, we want our residents and property owners kept abreast of what's going on inside their local government. That's why we created the Georgetown County Chronicle. It's a vehicle for information about county services and events, important messages from county officials and behind-the-scenes glimpses at how government works.

You can find the Chronicle on our website at www.gtcounty.org or through our Facebook page. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail jbroadch@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

Davis Aircraft Products opening facility in Andrews

\$5.5 million investment expected to create 100 new jobs

Davis Aircraft Products, a maker of aviation tubing systems, will relocate its manufacturing operations to its new Georgetown County facility. The \$5.5 million investment is expected to generate 100 new jobs.

"We are pleased with the opportunity to move forward with the plans to locate our new operations in Georgetown County. With our new operations, we will be able to attract new customers and increase our market presence. We appreciate all the support we've received from state and local officials," said Bruce Davis, CEO of Davis Aircraft Products.

The company will produce its patented Wolfbend product line, used in fuel delivery systems of aircraft. The plant is expected to begin operations in spring 2014.

"South Carolina is becoming the 'it' state for doing business, and more companies are recognizing the benefits of locating their operations here. We celebrate Davis Aircraft Products' decision to invest \$5.5 million and create 100 new jobs in Andrews," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

Since January 2011, South

Carolina has recruited more than \$9 billion in capital investment and more than 23,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector.

"Today's announcement provides another boost to our rapidly growing aerospace and aviation sector. Davis Aircraft Products investment brings another aerospace supplier to our state, and brings new manufacturing jobs that will have an impact in Georgetown County and beyond," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt.

"Georgetown County is thrilled to welcome Davis Aircraft Products to our community. They are a quality aviation company serving as a prime example of the technologically advanced companies we are recruiting to our area. We look forward to working with Davis Aircraft Products for years to come as they continue to excel as a leader within their field," said Georgetown County Council Chairman Johnny Morant.

"On behalf of the Town of Andrews I want to let Davis Aircraft Products know how excited our town is over their decision to establish their business in our community. We are thrilled about the job prospects presented by this aviation company locating in our area. We will partner with Davis Aircraft

Products to make sure all of their local needs are met as they grow within our town," said Town of Andrews Mayor Rodney Giles.

The company will begin hiring for the new positions in spring 2014. Anyone interested in job opportunities with company should e-mail

sales@davisaircraftproducts.com.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved a Governor's Closing Fund grant of \$300,000 for building upfit.

For more information about the company, visit

www.davisaircraftproducts.com.



Pictured are scenes from a June 3 ceremony announcing Davis Aircraft Products' relocation to Georgetown County. Above, Perry Collins and Andrews Town Council Member David Tisdale check out some of the parts the company will manufacture as Larry Wolf, far right, explains how they work. Below, a crowd gathers for the ceremony. At bottom left is the company's facility in Andrews. At bottom right, Bruce Davis, company CEO, right, talks with County Administrator Sel Hemingway.



Assessment of sinkhole damage set to take place in mid-June

Two Georgetown County facilities damaged by a sinkhole in late 2011 will undergo an assessment this month to determine required repairs and how best to proceed with those repairs.

The buildings — the Judicial Center and the main branch of the library, both on Cleland Street — are the most affected of six county-owned structures in the City of Georgetown that show cracking and fatigue as a result of the sinkhole.

A structural engineer inspected the buildings immediately after the damage was incurred. However, since it was deemed the damages caused no safety issues, all parties agreed it was best to delay repairs until com-

pletion of a drainage project the S.C. Department of Transportation had under way. That project was completed in April.

The county has contracted with GS2 Engineering and Environmental Consulting Services to complete the assessment. The \$72,781 cost of the work is fully refundable through the Insurance Reserve Fund.

The assessment is expected to take several days and will be scheduled to cause as little disruption as possible to normal operations within these facilities, said Holley Causey, Georgetown County risk manager.

The results from the assessments at the Judicial Center and the library will also be used to determine repairs for the other dam-

aged county buildings. These facilities include: the Department of Social Services office, Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments office, the magistrate/summary/traffic court building and Winyah Gymnasium.

The assessment process will also involve Kyzer and Timmerman Structural Engineers and Tych & Walker Architects, the firm responsible for designing the judicial center. Both firms have conducted monitoring and observation of the damaged buildings since 2011.

Monitoring will continue until each building is restored to its original condition, Causey said.

Budget

Continued from Page 1

to help them absorb those changes in costs, noted County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

Council gave the directive to move forward with a draft budget that includes the 5 percent increase during a budget workshop on May 23. That was one of several options presented, and means a millage increase is also be part of the proposed budget for the first time in seven years.

The decision was not one council members made lightly, but based on a number of factors, including an ongoing campaign by taxpayers to get salaries raised for emergency services workers, council deemed this option to be the best one.

“Several years ago, we asked employees to step up and share the burden” of a budget shortfall during the worst part of the recession, said Council Member Austin Beard. “They were willing to go arm in arm with us, and I think it’s inherent upon us to do our best for them; to restore and strengthen the faith they had in us then.”

The millage increase would amount to a total of \$7.20 on a home valued at \$100,000 in the Midway Fire District if that home is listed as a primary residence, and \$11.60 on that same home in all other areas of the county. The difference in cost is due to differences in the county’s two fire districts. While Midway covers a smaller, urban area, Georgetown County Fire/EMS has an expansive and more rural area to cover, and a

relatively low tax base.

The proposed budget calls for an increase of .6 mills in the general fund, .4 mills in the law enforcement fund, 1.9 mills for County Fire/EMS and .8 mills for Midway Fire Rescue.

Recommending a millage increase was a last resort after scrutinizing the budget carefully to look for areas where cost savings could be achieved. However, the county’s leadership was working with an already lean budget. County leaders cut all they could back in 2009 and have continued to work costs down and look for new areas of saving in every budget since. Still, council members asked staff to take a final swipe at cuts before second reading.

Though most of the public outcry over salaries has been directed toward emergency services personnel, council members agree salaries need to be addressed across the board and not for one specific group or region.

“We need to look at all of our employees, even though we don’t hear from them,” said Council Member Lillie Jean Johnson. She used public services employees as an example and asked folks to consider the importance of the jobs they do. “They need the same kind of consideration,” she said.

Jerry Oakley, council vice chairman, agreed. He noted he has heard “overwhelming” support for salary increases for Midway Fire and Rescue employees and that many residents in that district have asked for a tax increase if it means giving Midway staff higher salaries.

“I’ve never seen a higher level of support for anything,” he said.

However, it’s not right to give a higher salary to someone doing a job in one area of the county without giving one to someone in another part of the county doing the same job. He sees an across the board increase as the best short-term solution for addressing the call for higher pay for emergency services personnel and helping employees who have important job functions but lack the public support of emergency services workers. The county will also conduct an internal wage study, looking at every department and position, and comparing the wages its employees earn to those in competing jurisdictions to determine what further action needs to be taken to address employee pay.

“When we look at the bottom of it all, it comes back to the same thing,” said Council Chairman Johnny Morant. “I think we all realize we have great employees; very dedicated employees. That’s something Georgetown County has always been proud of.”

He added that he hopes the public will see the need to address the pay issue and be receptive to that.

The budget meetings on May 28, June 11 and June 25 will all begin at 5:30 p.m. and take place in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the historic courthouse in Georgetown, at 129 Screven St.

The complete county budget will be posted online later this month at gtcounty.org and will be available in library branches.

Public advisory: Reports received of man posing as employee

Georgetown County government recently received a report of a white male identifying himself as a county employee after being spotted in front of an area home shortly after the homeowners left the house. Several homes in that neighborhood had recently been broken into.

The man said he was performing an inspection for the county. However, when asked to show identification, he refused, claiming he wasn't required to do so.

The public is advised that any Georgetown County employee performing job duties on private property

will show an employee identification card if asked. The card is normally displayed on clothing when employees are in the field.

Additionally, employees assigned to inspections, assessments and other duties in the field will normally be driving county-owned vehicles with the county's seal on the sides and government-issued license plates. These vehicles are usually white and will most likely be one of two models: Jeep Liberty or Ford Escape.

If you have questions, contact Georgetown County Human Resources, (843) 545-3074.

Council moves to summer schedule

Beginning this month, Georgetown County Council will have only one regular meeting per month through August.

Council adopts this summer meeting schedule every year.

Council meetings are set for June 11, July 9 and August 13. Additionally, there will be a special meeting of council on June 25 for the specific purpose of giving final reading to the Fiscal Year 2014 budget. As always, other special meetings may be called if urgent business arises. To sign up to receive meeting notifications by e-mail, send a request to tfloyd@gtcounty.org.

Council will resume its twice monthly meeting schedule in September. For more information, call (843) 545-3058.

Georgetown County farmers markets are back!



Find fresh, local produce, baked goods and more at the farmers markets in Georgetown and Pawleys Island.

Open at East Bay Park on Saturdays and at Parkersville Park on Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

For information, call 545-3333.

Safety Month benefits workers, taxpayers

Georgetown County Council has declared June to be Safety Month in Georgetown County.

During the month-long celebration, members of the county's Central Safety Committee will emphasize the importance of Safety in the workplace to increase safety awareness for all employees. This effort is also intended to help reduce workers compensation and property damage claims, which are costly to the county. It may also reduce on-the-job injuries.

This year's theme for Safety Month is "Safety Starts With Me."

SOUTH CAROLINA'S
HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK
Come Surf Fish with a Park Ranger!

SURF FISHING

Who: Anyone who would like to learn more about surf fishing and try to catch some fish!

When: Thursday, May 30th 2013 1 pm

Where: Huntington Beach State Park

Meet at shelter #3

FREE with park admission

Come surf fish with a Park Ranger! Learn proper surf fishing techniques, how to choose the right bait, what rigs and weights to use, what fish to target, and the proper rod and reel to use.

Bring your own gear if possible; a limited number of rods and reels will be available for those who need to borrow them. Bait will be provided.



Auditor says goodbye

Linda Mock, Georgetown County's auditor since 2005, will leave behind not only her post, but the Palmetto State as well when her term ends at the end of this month.

Mock, who lives in the Pawleys Island area, chose not to seek re-election last fall. It was time instead, she decided, to be reunited with her husband, Mike. The former director of Emergency Services for Georgetown County, Mike has resided for the last three years in Virginia, where he is in charge of emergency services for Carroll County.

The couple, who recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, are looking forward to living in the same state again. Yet Mock knows she's going to miss the life she has in Georgetown County and the people who have helped make her eight years as auditor enjoyable ones.

"I will definitely miss both the taxpayers and my staff, and the other county employees I've had the pleasure of working with through the years," Mock said a bit wistfully. "I've enjoyed every day and I enjoy the people who come in."

Of course, some who walk through the door aren't happy when they do so, but Mock said she likes the challenge of making sure they are happy by the time they leave.

"It's problem solving 101," she said. "You just have to enjoy the fact that you're in a position to help people."

She and her staff spend at least as much

time talking with people about ways they can lower their tax bills as they do issuing tax notices, she said.

Mock believes her efforts over the last eight years will help make for a smooth transition as Brian Shult, also a Pawleys Island area resident, steps into her shoes next month.

"I count pulling together a great staff as one of my accomplishments," Mock said. "I also led the office in making the move to new software, which makes our operations more efficient."

Under Mock's leadership, her department's office space in the courthouse on Screven Street in Georgetown was also re-configured. That in conjunction with cross-training employees has already boosted efficiency.

As for Mock's own future, she's calling this retirement, but said it may simply end up being a pause between chapters.

In her role with the county, Mock has managed the annual calculation of 80,000 tax notices representing about \$99 million. The auditor also interprets and enforces the state code of laws and local ordinances. Mock manages a staff of seven and an annual budget of approximately \$280,589.

Before being elected auditor, Mock was a Keller Williams Real Estate agent from 2003 to 2005, and executive director of Murrells Inlet 2007 (now Murrells Inlet 2020) from



Georgetown County Auditor Linda Mock is pictured in front of the historic courthouse, where her office is located. Her last day with the county is June 30.

1997 to 2003. She also served as president and CEO of the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce for five years. As part of Murrells Inlet 2007, she had a part in construction of the MarshWalk.

Though Mock plans to pack her bags for Virginia shortly after her term ends, she said it's not entirely goodbye.

"Georgetown County will always be my home," she said. And she and Mike plan to visit often.

White named new vice president of state association

The S.C. Association of Clerks of Court and Registers of Deeds unanimously elected Alma White as vice president of the statewide organization during its recent conference at North Myrtle Beach.

White has served as Clerk of Court for Georgetown County for 12 years and has held membership in the association since 2001. She previously served as vice president from 2009-2011. In addition, she serves on the organization's legislative committee and the Family Court Case Management Committee.

Featured speakers and presenters for the 4-day conference at Kingston Plantation April 29-May 1 included South Carolina Chief Justice Jean Toal, South Carolina Court

Administration Executive Director Rosalyn Frierson, Motivational Speaker Becky McCrary, South Carolina Legal Services Executive Director Andrea Loney and several others. White also received a certificate at the conclusion of the ethics training session during the conference. The next training session is scheduled in Spartanburg a part of the fall conference.

On May 16, White also participated in the Prosecution Continuing Legal Education Series, "The South Carolina Preservation of Evidence Act: Duties of and Liability for Evidence Custodians." The South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination presented this particular training in Columbia.



Alma White

Community safety awareness event set for June 8 in Georgetown

Georgetown County Fire/EMS will host a community safety awareness event at Ringle Heights Baptist Church in the Georgetown area on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is open to everyone and lunch is included.

The event is intended to demonstrate the dangers of drunken driving, as well as operating vehicles, including four-wheelers, without the proper safety precautions. The day will start with the staging of a vehicle accident involving a car operated by an intoxicated driver.

The public will watch as paramedics arrive on scene, followed by the coroner. A helicopter will land to transport any survivors in the mock accident, and the public will have the chance to talk with the flight crew once the exercise is over. The Highway patrol will be on hand to deal with the driver of the vehicle, putting him through a field sobriety test and then putting him in handcuffs.

Community safety awareness events are held periodically throughout the county and provide valuable information for the public, but also are good training for emergency workers.

"We take this seriously and the ones that help me with this know that," said George Avant, project coordinator. "We do this and we hope that somebody will be affected by it; that it might save a life."

This is expected to be the last community safety awareness event until the fall. Once the exercise is through, lunch will be served and there will be opportunities to talk with those involved in the mock wreck and get more information.

The event will also include child safety seat checks, and smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers will be given away.

Ringle Heights is located at 78 Ruben Ave., Georgetown.

Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers



**Vouchers will be issued
June 8, 2013**

**Beck Recreation Center
(2030 Church Street, Georgetown)**

9am until 1pm

All eligible Georgetown County Seniors (must be 60 yrs. or older).

Please bring proof of identity and proof of age.



In accordance with Federal Law and U. S. Department of Agriculture policy, the Department of Social Services is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Call 545-3275 for more information.

Emergency services course helps students go from graduation to jobs

Ten students who participated in the fire and emergency services course at Andrews High School this semester are set to receive their Firefighter I certification.

The students — several of which will graduate this month — completed written and skills exams in May. Certification will allow them to move straight into a firefighting job, and three are in the process of filling out applications to work for Georgetown County Fire/EMS.

The course, taught by Terry Skidmore, division chief of training for of County Fire/EMS, was introduced as an elective at Andrews High in 2009. It is intended to help the department recruit and train future paid and volunteer firefighters, EMTs and paramedics. The program has been so successful that it will expand to Georgetown High School in the fall, and has also been taught at Carvers Bay High School.

Many of the students in the class signed up because they had a longtime interest in firefighting. Hannah Cumbie, a 10th-grader, wants to go to college and be a neo-natal nurse. However, her brother, Nicholas, is a firefighter with Andrews Volunteer Fire Department and, having spent some time with him at the station, she wants to follow in his footsteps as a volunteer.

David Greene, a graduating senior, thought he might want to be a career firefighter before Skidmore's class. After the class, he's sure that's the right choice for him. "I want to go out and help my community; to make a difference and try to save some people's lives," Greene said.

Josh Hanser, another senior, will be joining Greene in the job hunt. But unlike Greene, Hanser didn't have any interest in firefighting prior to Skidmore's class.



Students in the fire and emergency services course at Andrews High School participate in a training exercise. They are, from left: Ethan McDaniel, Anna Nesbitt, Nick Knight and instructor Terry Skidmore. See more photos at [facebook.com/gtcounty](https://www.facebook.com/gtcounty)

"I hadn't thought about it at all," he said. "They (the school) picked this class for me, but I'm glad they did. It's really fun to experience the sort of things we have. It's exciting. You don't ever know what to expect."

The students had an opportunity to spend some time shadowing County Fire/EMS staff over spring break, responding to calls and even participating in a training exercise in which new thermal imaging cameras were tested.

It was during that training exercise, at the "burn building" at the Nine-Mile Curve station, that Nicholas Knight, a graduating senior, decided he wants to be a firefighter. He had always wanted to be a welder before that, he said. He was already considering changing his career path when he went to training that morning, but standing in front of that building, with smoke pouring out around him, he knew firefighting was the right choice for

him.

Kaleb Thomas, a 10th-grader had a similar story.

"I didn't think I wanted to be a firefighter until I started going to the station," he said. "The first day I sat there and we didn't have any calls all day long. The second day, as soon as I got there at 6 o'clock in the morning, a fire call came in."

Thomas rode along and "there was a bunch of people hollering and screaming at me to unroll the hose and pull 'em out of the trucks." After that, he helped respond to a possible fire.

On another day, he rode along with Skidmore to a fire call at a house not far from his own home. That day, he watched firefighters rescue a person from the roof of the burning house.

"It just hit me that was what I want to do," Thomas said.

He'll have the option of enrolling in the second level of the course next year.

"I came into the class thinking it would be easy, then come to find out there's more to it than that," said Dean Lambert, another 10th-grader. "You work hard, you learn team work, you learn all kinds of safety stuff. It's a different experience than what I thought it would be."

Yet one thing all the kids in the class agree on is that it's a good experience, even for those who don't see firefighting in their futures, like Ethan McDaniel, an 11th-grader.

"I'd like to go to college and be an engineer," he said. "But I'm glad I took this class."

Many of the students said they've already found a use for skills such as knot tying, and CPR is a useful skill for everyone to have.

"This class changed the way I think," said Christian Weatherford, a 10th-grader. "Lives can be so fragile. But I feel like I can help people now because of what I learned in this class."

County followed City's wishes in East Bay Park plan

The following editorial is by Sel Hemingway, County Administrator.

We at Georgetown County were surprised recently by remarks from some City of Georgetown officials to the effect that the county has been unwilling to make improvements at East Bay Park.

The county and the city have long had, and continue to have, a good working relationship, at least from the county's perspective. The county has been completely willing to allow the city to guide the direction of development and activities at the park, which is demonstrated by the projects currently planned for the park in the county's Capital Improvement Plan. Those projects were dictated several years ago by city officials, who wanted the park to be reserved for passive recreational activities and open space. Additionally, the county has demonstrated a willingness to alter plans for the park as opinions shifted over the years.

To clarify the county's position on East Bay Park and help the public understand fully how current plans for the park came about, the following sequence of events is offered:

Conversations about the future of East Bay Park date back to at least June 2007, when the county was in the midst of Visions II, which later developed into the Capital Improvement Plan. The city, at that time, was working with a consultant, Ken Simmons, and a task force to put together a master plan for Morgan Park. Among the goals of the plan was a coordination of the planning for East Bay and Morgan

parks. Ernie Nance was chairman of the task force, while Brendan Barber was a member of the task force. Lynn Wood Wilson was Mayor of Georgetown and Steve Thomas was the city administrator. Keith Wilson of Keep Georgetown Beautiful was also involved in the endeavor as staff.

In December of that year, Georgetown County Council formally adopted the Capital Improvement Plan. I was the council chairman and would take over as county administrator a few months later upon the retirement of Tommy Edwards.

In conversations with Mayor Wilson and Steve Thomas during that period, they asked questions regarding plans for the development of East Bay Park. We wanted to do whatever the city wanted to do, but we needed to figure out where we were going to place the components for our regional parks. I was told in no uncertain terms that the focus for the East Bay area was to be on Morgan Park. City officials wanted East Bay to be a passive recreation destination for walking, fishing and those types of activities.

We had no problem with that and were happy to participate in providing the "passive element," so off we went.

The county began working in that direction, approving as part of the Capital Improvement Plan a \$100,000 line item for Morgan Park under "community enhancements." That line item is still included as a placeholder in the plan, although funding was pushed back outside the plan's time frame once the city changed its vision for the park.

As time passed and the coun-

ty moved forward with its planned annual updates of the Capital Improvement Plan, the city experienced a change in leadership. Steve Thomas left his position in the fall of 2008 and was replaced by Chris Eldridge in early 2009. In August 2009, Jack Scoville was elected Mayor and stepped into his new role the following January.

It was after that, in 2010, that discussion arose again about plans for East Bay Park. City officials, again, wanted to know what was in store for East Bay. The county's plans hadn't changed and the city's new leadership was brought up to date on the guidance county officials had previously been given regarding the park. However, the city now wanted to go in a new direction. Plans for Morgan Park had been set aside, so following the city's wishes, the \$100,000 line item for Morgan Park was pushed back at the next review of the Capital Improvement Plan.

In 2011, Scoville brought up a desire for a dog park at East Bay. The City administrator indicated to county officials that the city's budget might provide some resources for a dog park and other improvements at East Bay. There was also talk about a shade system around the playground and the area where the Farmers Market is set up on Saturdays. The possibility of converting the road around East Bay Park for one-way traffic was also introduced as a means of creating an area for walking, biking and

skating.

Those items were incorporated into the county's plans for the park in response to the wishes of the city's administration.

When Eldridge stepped down last year and Carey Smith took over as acting city administrator, the question of East Bay Park's future was again raised. What followed was a meeting between Smith and his assistant and county staff including myself, Beth Goodale, the county's recreation director, and David Gantt, the county's capital projects manager. The result was the development of a conceptual plan that included a dog park and conversion of the road around the park to a one-way street.

However, that meeting also led to the addition of a tennis component at East Bay Park at Smith's urging. Tennis courts for the Georgetown region had up until that point been planned for 8 Oaks Park, in keeping with the city's request for only passive activities at East Bay. Plans for the courts were changed to accommodate the city's request and the courts are currently scheduled to be constructed at East Bay, with funding available in 2017.

That's where we were until last month.

The county has always been clear in its position that it is willing to provide recreational opportunities at East Bay Park for residents of the city and all areas of the county, and that it is willing to allow the city to guide the direction of those opportunities. That has not changed.

The county has never given any indication that it wishes to end the lease agreement for East Bay Park. We see East Bay

See "East Bay," Page 10



Hemingway

County selected as ‘great outdoors community’

Georgetown County is pleased to have been selected by the S.C. National Heritage Corridor as one of the first places to participate in the South Carolina Great Outdoors (SCGO) project.

The county is one of five pilot communities chosen, said Lauren Cobb, tourism marketing director for the county’s Tourism Management Commission.

The statewide initiative aims to promote South Carolina as a premier international outdoor travel destination. The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor will manage the project, and is collaborating with state and national organizations to develop an outdoor travel website and marketing campaign set to launch early

next year. Georgetown County was chosen as a pilot community to kick off the Great Outdoors



project, which includes an in-depth inventory, assessment and marketing efforts all geared towards promoting the outdoor assets already available in Georgetown County.

“While billions of dollars are being spent on outdoor travel each year, South Carolina is in

the position to capitalize on our vast unique resources while also protecting them” said Michelle McCollum, execu-

tive director for the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. “Georgetown County is the definition of amazing outdoor opportunities, and we are excited to begin.”

“This is a great opportunity to team up with the South Carolina National Heritage

Corridor and promote Georgetown County and The Hammock Coast brand to a national and international audience” said Bob Seganti, chairman of the Georgetown County Tourism Management Commission.

The Hammock Coast is the brand name the Tourism Management Commission selected in 2010 for its marketing efforts.

Funds for the SCGO project in Georgetown County are being provided by The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, Progress Energy and the Georgetown County Tourism Management Commission.

For more information on the Great Outdoors project visit www.scgreatoutdoors.org.

East Bay

Continued from Page 6

Park as a valuable resource for the residents of the city and surrounding areas. We’ve tried to listen to the city and respond accordingly.

Additionally, it should be noted that East Bay Park receives a considerable level of use in its current state.

The county is willing to continue management of East Bay Park, but if the city’s administration wishes to end the agreement, the county will again accommodate the city’s desires in that area, as well as in regard to the tennis courts currently planned for the park. Funding for the courts will remain in place in the Capital Improvement Plan, and the county is willing to leave the courts at East Bay Park, or move them to 8 Oaks Park, where they were placed in original plans.

The County’s current Capital Improvement Plan contains projects totaling more than \$22 million to serve the residents of the City of Georgetown and the surrounding areas. These projects, many of which

have been completed, include:

- 8 Oaks Park – baseball/softball
- South Island Park – multi-purpose fields/ playground
- Beck Gym renovation
- Howard Gym renovation
- Howard Auditorium renovation
- Street paving projects
- Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex
- Tennis courts
- Swimming pool
- Library improvements – Heritage Center

Georgetown County worked hard to ensure the Capital Improvement Plan includes projects that would improve the quality of life for residents in every region of the county and we believe that was accomplished. Through the plan, the county will continue to provide recreational opportunities to City residents — the same as it will to residents of every other region of the county — regardless of what happens with the lease agreement for East Bay Park.

Have questions or comments about this newsletter?

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

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Public service employees shine in regional Backhoe Rodeo

Despite being disrupted by a downpour that sent spectators running for shelter, the 19th annual Backhoe Rodeo at the Georgetown County Landfill was a “profound success,” said Ray Funnyc, the county’s director of public services.

The regional competition took place Thursday afternoon and involved 18 backhoe operators from jurisdictions including Georgetown County, the City of Georgetown, Horry County, the City of Myrtle Beach, the City of Conway, Charleston County, the Town of Surfside Beach and the City of Charleston. In addition to giving the competitors an opportunity to showcase their skills, the event — a part of American Public Works Week — is intended to put the spotlight on all public works employees and how vital they are to communities.

“The theme for this year’s celebration was ‘Because of Public Works,’ and it’s all about how public works impacts the quality of life in communities around the world,” Funnyc said. “It’s because of public works that we are able to have clean water, safe streets and neighborhoods, efficient transportation systems and clean communities.”

Participants in the rodeo amazed onlookers with their performances in three separate events. The first event had each competitor use the bucket of a backhoe to pickup a baseball attached to a chain, and use the chain to guide the ball through a maze. Competitors were also asked to guide a hoop over a distorted pipe lined with obstacles. In the last event they had to pick up items set on top of traffic cones and transfer them to a designated location.

Each participant had a maximum of three minutes to complete each event, though most were able to maneuver through the difficult tasks in a fraction of that time. The goal was to get the best combined time for the three events.

First, second and third place awards in the Backhoe Rodeo were claimed by Charleston County employees this year. Matthew Bishop claimed the top prize and will move on to the state championship, while Marvin Green took 2nd place and Kevin Brown was in 3rd.

In addition to the Backhoe Rodeo, Georgetown County Public Services was host to the Safety Olympics on Thursday. The program was a fun way for the department to promote safety, health and teamwork amongst its staff. The department also visited students at Browns Ferry Elementary School this week to demonstrate heavy equipment used in the public works industry.

“It was a great experience for the students, but also for the heavy equipment operators,” Funnyc said. “This whole week has been a tremendous success in recognizing our professionals who serve the public good every day with a quiet dedication.” Georgetown County thanks everyone who participated in these events and helped make this year’s American Public Works Week a memorable one.

From top, Harold West of Georgetown County Public Services demonstrates his backhoe operation skills in the 2013 Backhoe Rodeo at the Georgetown County landfill; Spectators wait for the competition to begin; Competitors weren’t deterred by heavy rain that came during the competition.



County Fire/EMS recognizes emergency services employees

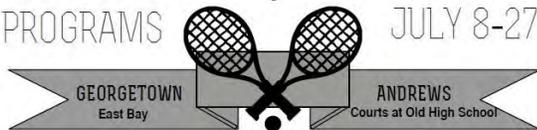


Georgetown County Fire/Rescue recognized its employees with a cook-out last month in honor of National Emergency Services Month. At left, Chief Mack Reed is shown with a proclamation from County Council in honor of the occasion. Below, staff and volunteers packed the department's headquarters station in Georgetown for the event. Read more about National EMS Week in last month's newsletter at gtcounty.org.



GEORGETOWN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

JUNIOR SUMMER PROGRAMS : JUNE 10-29 AND JULY 8-27



For more information about this and other tennis programs, call (843) 545-3450, e-mail dbromberg@gtcounty.org or visit our website at www.gtcounty.org

EMPLOYEE UPDATES

Georgetown County is pleased to welcome the following new employees:

Katrina Cohens is the new administrative assistant to the public services director. She joined the county staff on May 13. She previously worked at Blueprint Leadership Academy, and is a graduate of Webster University and Limestone College. She and her husband, Christopher, have been married for four years, and she has two sons, Darrius, 13, and Jayden, 6.

Ken Baker is not new to investigative work in the field, but he is new to the Auditor's Office, where he is a field appraiser. He previously worked for the Hemingway Police Department and came to the Auditor's Office by way of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee area. He is a graduate of Francis Marion University and brings great value and expertise to his new position, said Auditor Linda Mock. Baker and his wife have a 2-year-old son.

Rich Fazioli joined the Assessor's Office as an appraiser last month, bringing with him 28 years of appraisal experience. Before moving to the area from Ticonderoga, N.Y., he owned his own appraisal business. He has an associate's degree in banking, insurance and real estate and is an approved instructor. He grew up the middle child of nine and has three children of his own: Samantha, Max and Georgette Grace.

D'Asia Green is Georgetown County's new public information intern. A native of Kingstree, she is a third-year public relations major at the University of South Carolina. She is also an intern for Williamsburg County government, and her father, John, is employed with Georgetown County Public Services.

Kristal Infinger joined the county's building department on May 20 as a data entry clerk. She is a Georgetown native and was previously employed by Logic eXtension Resources. She worked there for 10 years and was a stay-at-home mom for the last three years. She has one son, Gavin, 5. She graduated from Georgetown High and attended Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Karen Worzalla, joined the finance department as an accountant. A Pawleys Island resident of six years, she is a former resident of Appleton, Wis. She was previously employed as an accounting assistant/bookkeeper at Webster Rogers in Litchfield. She and her husband, David, have been married for nine years. She has three step-children, Nash, 16, Curt, 26, and Eric, 28.



Cohens



Baker



Fazioli



Green



Infinger



Worzalla

Georgetown County, South Carolina

County Government

Numbers to know

Animal Control, 546-5101
 Assessor, 545-3014
 Auditor, 545-3021
 Clerk of Court, 545-3004
 County Council, 545-3058
 Coroner, 546-3056
 Elections, 545-3339
 Finance, 545-3002
 Planning and Zoning, 545-3116
 Probate Judge, 545-3077
 Sheriff, 546-5102
 Treasurer, 545-3098

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Public services employees take honors at celebration



At top, Ricky Washington, center, is pictured with Stormwater Division Manager Tracy Jones and Public Services Director Ray Funnye. Above left is Shamaine White. Above right is Hal Moon.

Georgetown County Public Services recognized several of its outstanding employees last month during Public Works Week celebrations.

Ricky Washington, a heavy equipment operator, received the Leadership Award for demonstrating outstanding leadership in his everyday duties.

"He consistently demonstrates exemplary leadership and exceptional problem solving skills," said Tracy Jones, who presented the award. His "knowledge, cooperation, innovative solutions and willingness to accept new challenges has increased productivity at the Municipal Recycling Center.

Hal Moon, a project designer, received the Team Player Award for his efforts coordinating with the community and other departments within the county. He has been instrumental in a number of projects, including coordination of computer-aided design standards.

Shamaine White, an administrative assistant and scalehouse coordinator, received the Green Earth Award for her conscientious efforts to preserve county resources by reusing and repurposing supplies and decorations for county events.

We thank these employees for their outstanding service.

Boys and Girls Clubs kick off summer programs

Dozens gathered for a block party on June 1 at the Beck Recreation Center. The event was the kickoff to summer programming for the Boys & Girls Club, a project of the Salvation Army in conjunction with Georgetown County. Kids enjoyed food, music and a variety of games, including water balloon wars.






SUMMER SCHEDULE:

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 1:00-5:00 pm

Begins June 10th, 2013

WHERE: Beck Recreation Center

ADDRESS: 2030 West Church Street

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