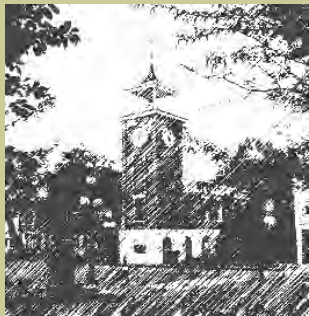




# The Georgetown County Chronicle

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



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- Building Department sponsors energy code workshops, Page 3
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- Severe Weather Awareness Week activities, Page 5
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## Calendar

**March 1** – Pushing the Limits, Part 2 in a scientific discussion series, 5:30 p.m., Georgetown Library.

**March 4** – Veterans Affairs public information meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

**March 12** – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

**March 26** – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the old courthouse.

**March 29** – County offices closed for Good Friday.

Volume I, Issue 7

March 2013

## New service makes more property data available online

The part of Georgetown County's website that allows the public to access property data from the Assessor's Office, including values and owner information, has undergone extensive improvements.

The link for that part of the website went live this week and can be accessed from the electronic government services menu at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org) or directly at <http://www.qpublic.net/sc/georgetown/>.

The information now available is more comprehensive, incorporating digital mapping, and will be updated weekly ensuring the public has access to the freshest data possible, said Georgetown County Assessor Susan Edwards. The data is accessed and used extensively by the public for a variety of purposes, she added.

"The appraisers especially use it all the time," Edwards said.

But use by various sectors of the

public is growing.

"I feel the taxpayers will find this program more user-friendly," Edwards said.

More detailed maps, improved search functions and comparable sales data are among newly available information. The old site had "tabular data only," including values and ownership information. Updates were made annually.

**See "Assessor," Page 8**

## Festival, activities surround Waccamaw Library groundbreaking

After years of dreaming, planning and fundraising, ground will finally be broken at the site of a new Waccamaw Library off Willbrook Boulevard in Litchfield.

The ceremony is set for 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15, and will be accompanied by a festival and family activities from 3-7 p.m. The public is encouraged to bring a lawn chair, sit and enjoy.

"A community often has one chance in a lifetime to build a new library," said Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County library director. "On March 15, we will break ground at the site for our new Waccamaw Neck Branch Library. We would like to invite folks to come enjoy this exciting milestone in providing a new public library which will benefit the Waccamaw Neck so greatly through enjoyable educational, economic, technological and civic opportunities."

The festival, planned to celebrate the new library, will feature activities and entertainment for kids, giveaways from the Friends of the Waccamaw Library, and more. Entertainment will include performances by the Pawleys Island Concert Band, Starshine Performance Troupe, the Beach Singers, Waccamaw Intermediate School's steel drum band and Murrells Inlet Community Theatre group. Renowned Gullah artist Jonathan Green will be present as a special guest. He's in town for a Moveable

**See "Library," Page 12**



Above are images the Friends of the Waccamaw Library used in fundraising efforts for a new library. The Friends and Georgetown County envision a new Waccamaw Library that utilizes the latest technologies, has space for outdoor learning, and that will serve as a community center. A groundbreaking ceremony is set for March 15.

# March 31 is last chance for reduced tax penalties

A few people have stepped forward to take advantage of a limited time offer to avoid tax penalties by reporting tax discounts they believe they may be receiving illegally.

However, there are still quite a few people the Assessor's Office knows are in violation of tax laws, but who haven't come forward.

On April 1, the county will begin notifying violators that have been identified and seeking out others who haven't yet been identified. Those people will receive corrected tax bills for the current year and the year prior.

Anyone who reports they may be illegally receiving discounts they aren't entitled to by the end of the business day March 31 will receive a corrected bill only for the current tax year.

In particular, Edwards said,

***"There are still quite a few people the Assessor's Office knows are in violation of tax laws, but who haven't come forward."***

she knows of a number of folks on the Waccamaw Neck who are renting their properties, but still claiming the home as their primary residence for a lower tax rate. Renting a property for more than 14 days a year is one of a number of factors that could make a property owner ineligible to receive certain tax discounts.

There are also a number of people claiming the Homestead Exemption tax credit for a property that has changed hands. The former owner qualified for the tax credit, but the new owner may not.

The law allows property owners to claim a lower tax rate (4 percent instead of 6 percent) on a home that serves as their primary residence, but

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.

Changes that could affect eligibility include, but are not limited to:

- 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

- Any other change in ownership.

Qualifications for a legal residency discount or Homestead Exemption vary on a case-by-case basis. The County Assessor or Auditor's Office are happy to help property owners determine whether they qualify for discounts.

If a property owner suspects they are receiving a tax discount or credit they don't qualify for, they should call the Assessor's office at (843) 545-3017. That's also the number to call if someone suspects they do qualify for discounts, but aren't receiving them.

**Georgetown Men  
Endorsing Non-violence,  
a project of the  
Georgetown County  
Sheriff's Office,  
will be host to an**



## ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BARBECUE AND FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

**March 24, Greenfield Plantation  
1-4 PM**

**Featuring music by the Fat Jack Band, a live auction  
and registration for a concealed weapons permit class  
- Become a G-Men member for \$100 -**

**All proceeds benefit the Family Justice Center  
For information call 436-6066**

## Get the Chronicle

In 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](http://www.gtcounty.org) or through our Facebook page. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, e-mail [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto: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.

## Building department workshop addresses new national requirements

### More workshops planned

More than 250 people showed up for a free workshop the Georgetown County Building Department had last month at Beck Recreation Center.

The workshop, co-sponsored by the City of Georgetown, was the first in a series of such events the department is having to address the International Energy Conservation Code of 2009.

The code went into effect in South Carolina on Jan. 1 as the minimum level of energy efficiency at which buildings can be constructed. It represents one of very few major changes to how buildings have to be constructed to take effect in decades, said Robert Cox, the county's chief building official.

Contractors, architects, engineers, utility company employees, and others from the building community filled the Beck gym for the first presentation, eager to find out as much as possible about the new regulations. Discussion focused on changes from the 2006 code, building thermal envelope, design changes, tests and certifications and other technical aspects of the building industry impacted by the code.

A second workshop targeted at mechanical contractors was held in conjunction with McCall Supply Company and was also a success.

"So much of the code involves

heating and cooling units in homes that it's a big concern for that group," Cox explained.

Now a third workshop is planned for this month in conjunction with the Horry-Georgetown Homebuilders Association.

The date and time are to be announced.

As indicated by the name of the code, its purpose is to conserve energy and make the U.S. more "energy smart," Cox said.

"The goal is to reduce the amount of energy used, so we decrease the amount of energy that needs to be manufactured and become less dependent on oil and so on," Cox said. "With this code, it's all about doing that through changes in the building process."

The code covers everything from more energy efficient insulation and lighting to making building envelopes tighter and preventing heat from escaping outside during the cold months, or cool air from escaping during

**"Energy efficiency improvements will make your money back."**

**- Robert Cox**



Georgetown County's building official, Robert Cox, addresses recent changes to the energy code during a February workshop at Beck Recreation Center. Similar workshops are planned.

the summer.

Aside from the environmental benefits of more energy efficient homes, there's a financial benefit for homeowners and the end product is a selling point for developers.

"Energy efficiency improvements will make your money back," Cox said. "It's money in the homeowner's pocket every month" through savings in utility bills, he explained.

"Studies have been done and the savings depend on the size of the house and how energy efficient it is, but there is a payback for every one if you follow this code," Cox said.

For more information about changes brought about by the adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code of 2009, or to learn more about future workshops on the subject, contact the Georgetown County Building Department, (843) 545-3116.

You can also get information about upcoming workshops and other events in Georgetown County on our website at [www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org) and via our social media pages. Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/gtcountysc](http://www.facebook.com/gtcountysc) and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/gtcountysc](http://www.twitter.com/gtcountysc).



About 250 people fill seats at the Beck Recreation Center for a recent workshop on the International Energy Conservation Code of 2009.



## Job fair aims to connect veterans with employers, improve skills

Veterans will be the focus of the next job fair at the Georgetown Library, set for Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The free fair is the third the library has been host to since last summer, but the first with a specific group of people in mind.

"These men and women have done so much for us, and we're hoping to help them achieve bright and prosperous futures," said Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County library director. "We're looking forward to collaborating with S.C. Works Waccamaw and with other community partners to provide veterans with an opportunity for job fulfillment.

The fair will feature local businesses looking for employees, résumé help, online job search classes, one-on-one interview skills practice sessions, tutorials on finances and information on veterans groups and services.

The last fair, in February, attracted 240 job seekers and 15 employers looking for workers. That's nearly 100 people more than attended the first job fair last year.

**What:** Veterans Job Fair

**Where:** Georgetown Library, 405 Cleland St.

**When:** March 9, 10 a.m. to noon

"We were astounded by the turnout," McInvaill said. It "underscores something we've all witnessed — that the recent recession has hit workers hard in our community. We hope this can be one of many steps to get our area back to work and our economy back on track."

Participating businesses included Georgetown Memorial Hospital, Envirosep Heat and Fluid Recovery Systems, WasteZero, Home Depot, Georgetown County Family YMCA, Winyah Fitness, Georgetown County School District, the City of Georgetown, Georgetown County Public Services, Georgetown County Fire and EMS, Americorps Vista, New York Life, Brittain Resort Services, Goodwill Industries, Hard-ees and Avon.

The Georgetown Library also has a Small Business Center that



**At top:** The Georgetown Library is packed during a job fair last month. **Above:** Ray Funnye, the county's director of public services, talks with job seekers about opportunities available within his department.

offers personal job search assistance, small business marketing assistance, and many other resources, including a free basic computer skills class every Monday at 10:30 a.m.

To learn more about the job fair, the Small Business Center and resources offered through the library, call 545-3300 or visit the library online at [georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov](http://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov).

### Public Information Meeting for Georgetown County Veterans

**A special meeting will take place this month to address recent changes at the Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Office. Veterans will also have an opportunity to ask questions.**

**When:** March 4, 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** County Council Chambers  
(in the old courthouse on Screven Street)

**Information:** Call 545-3330

### Free iPad workshops at the Waccamaw Library



Learn how to navigate your tablet with ease and which apps are worth your time.

**Every Wednesday at 5 p.m.**



# Preparedness is key when it comes to severe weather

March 3-9 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Carolina, and Georgetown County Emergency Management will use the occasion to help make the public more aware of how to deal with severe weather situations.

Tips for staying safe during severe weather will be released daily through the Emergency Management Department's Facebook and Twitter accounts. The department is also encouraging all county residents to participate in a statewide tornado drill March 5 at 9 a.m.

The drill is a major undertaking by the National Weather Service to test communication and safety procedures, but is also an excellent way for members of the public to practice precautions at home or at work that could save lives in the event of a real emergency. The signal for the drill to start will be sent out using EAS and NOAA weather radios.

South Carolina isn't a place people often think of when it comes to tornados, but they can happen anywhere. There have been six days with tornados reported in South Carolina since 2002. In that period, tornados caused eight injuries and more than \$1 million in damage. The strongest tornado reported in South Carolina since 2000 was an EF2 (winds between 111 and 135 miles per hour) on Oct. 11, 2002.

Other forms of severe weather, including hail, strong winds and lightning strikes are more common for this area. There were 31 days since 2000 with severe hail—the larg-



est reported hail was 4.5 inches in diameter on May 10, 2011. There were 38 days with severe wind, causing \$186,000 in property damage.

Lightning causes an average of 55-60 deaths, 400 injuries and \$1 billion in insured property damage every year, according to the National Weather Service. Straight-line winds during thunderstorms can exceed 125 miles per hour and cause destruction equal to a tornado.

"The severe weather period for us really starts in mid-April to May," said Sam Hodge, Georgetown County emergency manager. "That's when we really start see-

ing the afternoon thunderstorms, along the coast especially, and those bring the potential for tornados, lightning strikes and hail."

For tips on staying safe during severe weather, check out Georgetown County Emergency Management's pages at facebook.com/GCEMD and twitter.com/GCEMD. Information can also be found on the S.C. Emergency Management Division's social networking pages at facebook.com/SCEMD and twitter.com/SCEMD.

## Tornado Facts

■ A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a cumulonimbus cloud, such as a thunderstorm, to the ground.

■ Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms within the funnel. The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but **tornadoes can move in any direction** and can suddenly change their direction of motion.

■ The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph but may vary from nearly stationary to 70 mph.

■ The strongest tornadoes have rotating winds of more than 200 mph.

■ Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.

■ Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over warm water. They can move onshore and cause damage to coastal areas.

## Work ethic earns recognition for Celletti

Joe Celletti, a firefighter/paramedic with Midway Fire Rescue has been named the Georgetown County Emergency Services Department's Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2012.

An employee with the county for three years, Celletti is also the recent recipient of Midway's Tom Boyd Memorial Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year Award.

Celletti displays leadership by example and has demonstrated

excellent patient care and judgment in the field, according to Midway Battalion Chief Jeff Pifer. Celletti has proven to be a "go-to" employee, who consistently "comes to work early with a positive attitude and gets the basics of his job done," he added.

"He can be counted on to take on extra duties from mentoring our new firefighters to handling EMS training exercises for the entire shift," Pifer said. "The officers of MFR can be

assured that he is guiding the new medics in the right direction."

He called Celletti an example to others in work ethic and said Celletti takes on any assignment without complaint and is always busy.

"He is a leader in the station with daily duties and is a leader in physical fitness. He finds time every shift for physical training and influences others to participate also," Pifer said. "Joe is consistently at or near the top



**Celletti**

in all quarterly fitness evaluations. His level of fitness makes him an asset on any physically strenuous incident scene."

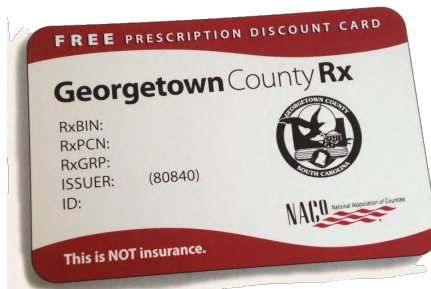
## Prescription discount cards available at county facilities

Free prescription discount cards are available to the public through a partnership between Georgetown County and the National Association of Counties.

The cards can be obtained at any Georgetown County library branch or recreation office. Cards can also be printed online at [www.nacorx.org](http://www.nacorx.org).

Discount cards are not the same as insurance and cannot be used in conjunction with insurance or Medicare, but they can save money on prescription medication that is not covered by insurance or Medicare, **including medicine for pets**. However, the card only works for pet medication if the medication can also be prescribed to treat humans.

The cards save an average of 24 percent when used. There are no limits on how many times discount cards can be used, no



age or income requirements, and cards can be used any time a prescription is not covered by insurance. One card can be used for the whole family.

### How it works

Prescription discount cards are extremely easy to use. A card provides immediate discounts at participating pharmacies. Just present your card when you fill or refill

prescriptions. There are no claim forms or other paperwork to fill out.

The prescription discount card is accepted at more than 60,000 retail pharmacies nationwide, including many of the leading chains. Ask your local pharmacy if they participate, or search at [nacorx.org](http://nacorx.org) using the "Find a Pharmacy" link.

Over-the-counter medications are generally not eligible for discounts with the discount card. However, discounts are available for many diabetic supplies.

For more information about where in Georgetown County you can pick up a prescription discount card, call Jackie Broach at (843) 545-3164 or e-mail [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org). For information about the program and participating pharmacies, call 1-877-321-2652 or visit [www.nacorx.org](http://www.nacorx.org).



Free, educational fun  
for all ages, at the  
Waccamaw Library!

Saturday, March 9th

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Jerry Walls' Amazing Animals presents:

**Animal Tracks -  
Nature Detectives**



Live animals and lots of interactive fun help you become an expert nature detective. Know what animal you're tracking, before you've even seen it!

## Be a part of the Manners Club!

This new program for kids  
meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon  
on the first Saturday of every month  
at the Waccamaw Library.

Join Mr. and Mrs. Manner to learn  
how to behave and why.

For information call 545-3623.

## 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](http://www.gtcounty.org).  
You can also find us on Facebook,  
Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.  
Just search for GtCountySC.





## Public services director is one of three on continent named Randolph fellow

Ray Funnys, Georgetown County's director of public services, has been named an International Jennings Randolph Fellow by the American Public Works Association.

He is one of three across North America to receive the honor.

As a fellow, Funnys will conduct a topical public works study tour and make presentations at an APWA partner association's annual membership meeting. Additionally, in April he will attend the Czech-Slovak International Public Works Conference in Senec, Slovakia, where he will make a presentation on American small cities/rural communities employing public-private partnership strategies as a means to provide critical infrastructure service delivery.

After the conference, Funnys will complete a study tour in Czech Republic and Slovakia to focus on the topic of electronic waste management with plans to further develop and maintain



**Ray Funnys**

public works international relationships and work in collaboration with international partners.

Funnys's goal is to study, exchange and evaluate best practices for electronic waste collection and disposal in European countries, he said. The tour of study will allow him to research the benefits and effects of electronic waste on the economy and environment of European Union states.

Consumer electronics ac-

count for up to five percent of the total materials flowing into the municipal solid waste stream, and are the fastest growing component of these waste streams, growing five times faster than any other types of waste.

"The Czech/Slovak Republic has become more entrenched in the recycling arena, and this study will give us an insight about how Czechs and Slovaks have established its comprehensive electronics recycling system, including associated costs and/or revenue that ensures safe and environmentally sound handling, recycling and disposal of electronic products and components," Funnys said.

Funnys has worked for Georgetown County for 20 years. He began his professional career in Atlanta in 1979 as an office engineer for Parsons Brinkerhoff/Tudor Engineering, where he performed construction administration for rapid transit systems, negotiated contracts and monitored pro-

ject schedules and payments, as well as provided on-site inspections to ensure compliance and resolution on conflicts.

In his current position, which he has held since 2002, he is responsible for management and direction of seven major divisions, including public works, airport operations, environmental services, facilities services, capital projects, fleet services and stormwater engineering. He oversees about 100 employees and a budget of \$20 million.

Funnys has a master's in management/leadership from Webster University and a bachelor's in civil engineering technology from Savannah State University.

He also has a number of professional certifications.

Funnys has received numerous awards and designations for his work, including being named one of the American Public Works Association's top 10 public works leaders in North America in 2010.

## Dwyer joins county team as environmental coordinator, has programs ready for kids

Jen Dwyer, a marine biologist who previously worked for Disney, is Georgetown County's new environmental coordinator.

Dwyer also worked for DEP as a chemist and spent the last six years as a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband, Bill, have a daughter, Sydney, 12, and a son, Logan, 6. The couple moved their family back to the area from Florida about five years ago, she said.

"My husband grew up here and we met here," Dwyer explained. She was a student at Coastal Carolina University, where she earned her degree in marine biology, at the time. "We came back because it's an awesome place to live."

Dwyer has dual master's degrees in environmental management and geographic information systems from the Florida Institute of Technology. She joined the county staff at the end of January.

In her position, she will coordinate educational programs for schools and help communicate recycling incentives to the public. She is stationed at the landfill on Highway 51 just outside Georgetown, which has a nature center where kids can learn about environmental processes, including how waste breaks down in the landfill, creating methane gas, which is converted to energy through a partnership with Santee Cooper.

Dwyer has also introduced a macro invertebrate program at the nature center, that will allow kids to measure water quality at the landfill by looking at organisms that live in the water.

She also plans to take the program into classrooms.

To schedule a visit to the nature center, call Dwyer at 545-3452 or send an email to [jdwyer@gtcounty.org](mailto:jdwyer@gtcounty.org).



**Jen Dwyer is the new environmental coordinator for Georgetown County Public Services.**

## Assessor

Continued from Page 1

The improvements are the result of a switch in vendors. The county recently contracted with qPublic, a Florida-based company that provides web-based solutions for data delivery. Its systems are designed with the public and ease of use in mind, said Todd Bergren, a sales manager for the company. Georgetown is the 21<sup>st</sup> county in South Carolina to contract for services through qPublic. The company provides services for more than 300 counties nationwide.

For \$7,000 a year, qPublic handles all aspects of making the information available, streamlining the process and freeing up

county staff to attend to other duties.

As in the past, the system allows the public to sort and search through data by parcel number, alphabetically or by setting a value range. However, options have been added to search by radius within a selected area and print mailing labels for properties within the specified radius. This feature is one that has proven popular with the public in other areas, and that can be useful internally for a number of tasks, including notifying property owners of zoning changes requested in their area.

Mapping features will be faster, "much more intuitive," and easier to use overall, Bergren said. Users will be able to easily measure latitude and longitude and get exact dimension for areas they specify with-

in a lot. A user could, for example, get the dimension of a pond on a particular property, or a timber company could use the feature to measure an area marked for cutting.

Property maps can be interfaced with current satellite images from Google Earth or historical aerial photographs to give the user information about the physical features of a parcel or parcels they're looking at.

Additionally, the system makes it easy to transfer data gathered in a search to spreadsheets.

Users of the site can look for more information to be added in the future.

"A lot of our forms are now available on the website," Edwards said. "I think this is a change the public is going to be very happy with."

## BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

Join us for a blood drive on Wednesday, **March 20**, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
at the Beck Recreation Center on Church St.  
For information, call (843) 545-3164.

### Georgetown County Parks & Recreation

[www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org)



#### Guided Birding Nature Tours @ Hobcaw Barony

Cost: 30pp. Every 3rd Sat. of the month.  
September—May. Begins at 8am and ends at 1pm. Call  
843-933-1372 for tour information.



**Tennis Programs!** Waccamaw Regional Tennis Center @  
Stables Park. Please call David Bromberg at 843-545-3450  
for information. Programs for various age groups!

**Empire for the Arts—Dance & Tumbling Center.** Please call Jelane  
Hubby at 843-504-8484 for more information. Classes being held at  
the Murrells Inlet Community Center.

**Figure & Portrait Art Classes.** Please call artist Bob Johnston at  
843-229-0195 for more information. Classes being held at the  
Murrells Inlet Community Center.

#### Coming in Spring!!

**Eggs in the Park!** Georgetown, Choppee, Andrews & Murrells  
Inlet, call 545-3275 for dates and times.

**Spring Break Camp! Summer Camp! Sports Camps!**

More information to come—please look for our flyers and ads!

## Easter Egg Hunts!



### Join us for Eggs in the Park

**Four free Easter egg hunts  
for kids ages 5-12**

**Presented by  
Georgetown County  
Parks and Recreation**

**March 26, Andrews Rec Center, 6 p.m.**

**March 27, Choppee Rec Center, 6 p.m.**

**March 28, Morse Park, 6 p.m.**

**March 30, Beck Rec Center, 10 a.m.**

*Easter eggs will be filled with toys and candy.  
The Easter Bunny will be present to meet with kids.*

**For information, call 545-3275**



## Library offers second installment in popular science series

### Pushing the Limits

The Georgetown Library is giving residents a new way to look at their surroundings, using real people, real stories and real science. The library's second "Pushing the Limits" science program will be Friday, March 1, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the library auditorium.

"The theme is survival, and you can get a free copy of Clive Cussler's 'Arctic Drift' for signing up," explained program organizer Heather Pelham. "In one short hour, we'll watch two mini-movies exploring science and have a great discussion.

Plus, cookies from Kudzu Bakery and exhibits from local museums and wildlife refuges feed your eyes and stomach!"

The Georgetown County Library is one of 20 public libraries nationwide chosen as a pilot site for the four-part series, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Additionally, it's one of only three where the programs are being filmed.

Pushing the Limits brings together books and video featuring authors, scientists and everyday people who thrive on exploring the natural world.

"Our first program showed

how much Georgetown County residents enjoy exploring scientific themes," said library director Dwight McInvaill. "We filled our auditorium and people stayed after the program, still discussing the compelling ideas that were covered."

Since the beginning of time, humans have imagined and achieved ways to push the boundaries of the physical world. We want to be stronger, smarter, and more aware, and we create stories to bring those dreams to life, McInvaill continued. But many of those stories are no longer just stories; and with great new advances in

science and technology, people are finding ways in which all of us are able to push the limits every day.

To get the free book that accompanies the next program, stop by the library to sign up, or call 545-3327.

### Coming up Next:

#### CONNECTION

Friday, April 5  
Suggested book: *Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson

#### KNOWLEDGE

Friday, May 3  
Suggested book: *The Land of Painted Caves* by Jean Auel

## Winyah Bay Heritage Festival returns to Georgetown March 2-3

The Winyah Bay Heritage Festival, a celebration of South Carolina's Lowcountry hunting and fishing lifestyle as experienced in Georgetown County, is set for March 2-3 at East Bay Park.

Events will kick off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, with dock-diving dog competitions that will run until 4 p.m. Dogs of all sizes and many breeds will show off their best diving and retrieving skills in a pool set up at the park.

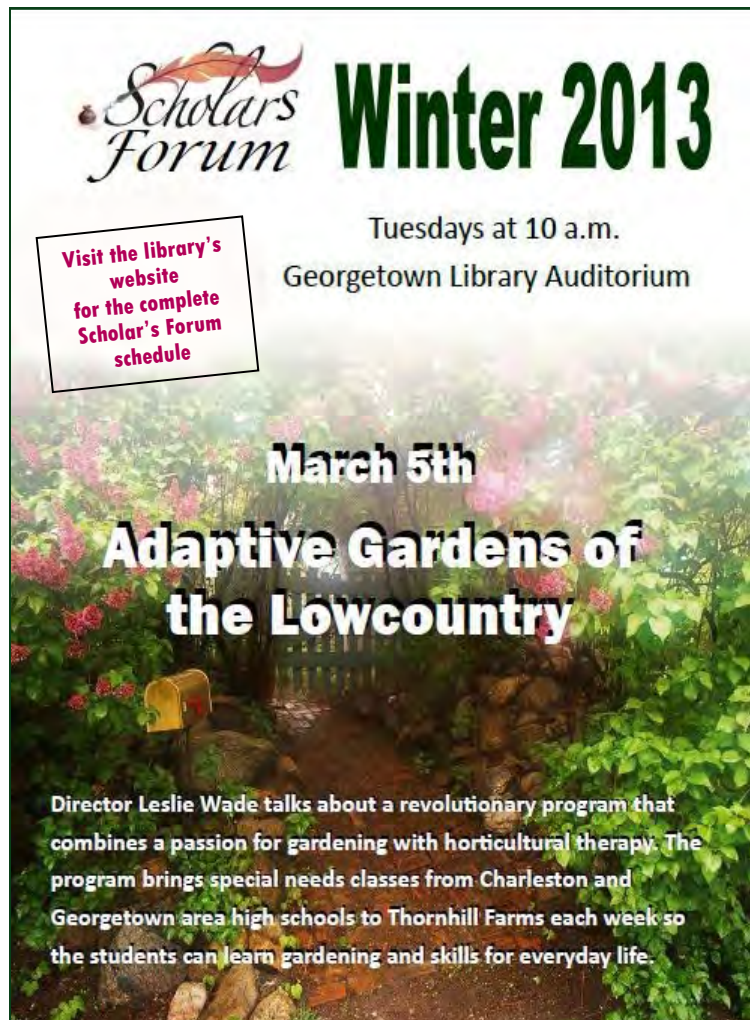
Exhibits will be set up in the Bobby Alford Recreation Center from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. There will also be virtual fishing and shooting stations set up throughout the day, children's painting activities and more. A sturgeon lecture featuring Bill Post of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources is set for 11 a.m.

This year's festival celebrates the Atlantic sturgeon, which is found in fast-moving freshwater riverine environments downstream and, for some species, into the offshore marine environment of the continental shelf.

A youth duck calling clinic is at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. A lesson on turkey calling starts at noon, along with a session on how to throw a cast net, while a shark tooth excavation will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and an auction starts at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, the fun starts all over again and includes the S.C. State Duck Calling Championship.

The festival is a fundraiser for the S.C. Historical Society. For ticketing information, directions a complete schedule of events and more, visit [www.winyahbayfestival.org](http://www.winyahbayfestival.org) or call 545-7020.



*Scholars Forum* **Winter 2013**

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.  
Georgetown Library Auditorium

Visit the library's website for the complete Scholar's Forum schedule

**March 5th**  
**Adaptive Gardens of the Lowcountry**

Director Leslie Wade talks about a revolutionary program that combines a passion for gardening with horticultural therapy. The program brings special needs classes from Charleston and Georgetown area high schools to Thornhill Farms each week so the students can learn gardening and skills for everyday life.

## Dinosaurs kick off story times for March

Dinosaurs will be the theme of this month's first story time session at the Waccamaw Library.

Story times are every Wednesday at 10 a.m. for babies up to age 3, and at 10:30 for kids ages 3 to 5.

Following the dinosaur-themed program will be a special St. Patrick's Day program on March 13. The March 20 program will be all about spring and the March 27 program focuses on farm animals.

Kids of all ages are invited to the library at 10:30 a.m. on March 9 for a

program where they'll learn to identify animal tracks and become "nature detectives."

The Good Manners Club, where kids can learn proper behavior and why it's important, meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon on March 2.

For more information about these and other programs at the Waccamaw Library, call 545-3623.

Information about upcoming programs at all library branches can be found online at [georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov](http://georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov).

## Library's Heritage Center in need of volunteers

The Georgetown County Library's Heritage Center is searching for hard-working individuals who love history and who are interested in sharing their knowledge with library patrons.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the everyday operations of the Center, which include: meeting and greeting library patrons as they enter, providing information on the history of Georgetown County and the many historical venues available to tour today.

"The Georgetown County Library's volunteer program is essential to the operation and continued success of both the library and its Heritage Cen-

ter," said Joyce Talbot, volunteer coordinator. "We couldn't operate without our dynamic volunteers, and we're grateful for all those who take the time to come in and help us out."

The Library's Heritage Center offers visitors a chance to come in and explore the history of Georgetown County through on-demand video documentaries on such subjects as World War II, the Great Depression and the Men and Women of Georgetown.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the library's Heritage Center is asked to contact Joy Talbot at 843-545-3344 or [jtalbot@gtcounty.org](mailto:jtalbot@gtcounty.org)

## Looking for a service project?

Are you looking for a service project for yourself or a civic organization? Maybe an Eagle Scout project?

Georgetown County welcomes community partnerships and county departments are happy to lend support for endeavors that benefit the community. County staff will even help you come up with an idea for your project.

There are many opportunities available in the areas of public safety and emergency services, parks and recreation, and beautification among others. For example, Georgetown County Fire/EMS and Midway Fire Rescue are looking for someone to take on a project that would place reflective markers on roadways in front of fire hydrants throughout the county. The project would increase public safety by making fire hydrants more visible at night and allowing firefighters to locate hydrants more quickly.

See a complete list of suggested projects online at [gtcounty.org/docs/serviceproject2-5-2013.pdf](http://gtcounty.org/docs/serviceproject2-5-2013.pdf).

For more information about community partnerships, contact Jackie Broach at (843)545-3164 or [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org).

## Want to see photos of Georgetown County?



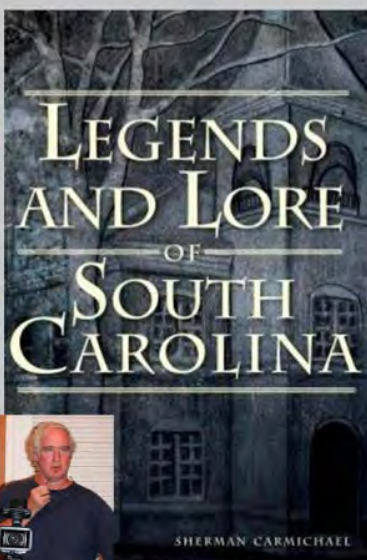
Just search for #georgetowncounty on Instagram or check out our albums on Facebook.

And don't forget to tag your photos, so others can see them!

## Meet the Author!

Local author Sherman Carmichael will be on hand with a spirited discussion of his new book, a collection of 80 strange and unusual legends rooted in the state's deep history. Carmichael, a talented photographer, has been investigating haunted places in South Carolina since the age of 18.

Saturday, March 23  
10 a.m. - noon  
Andrews Library





## Historical photos available through digital library

This photo of Front Street, circa 1910, is one of many historical images from throughout Georgetown County that are available at the county's digital library. This wonderful online resource is "a portal to the past" that tells the county's history through rare photos, historical newspapers and real estate letters, said Julie Warren, who is in charge of the digital library. Visit the digital library at [www.gcdigital.org](http://www.gcdigital.org).



## Safari art among topics for March

### Waccamaw Neck Computer Club meetings

A photography presentation by Art Siegel on African safari art is among topics to be discussed at upcoming meetings of the Waccamaw Neck Computer Club.

The Club meets on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. in the Waccamaw Library auditorium. Siegel's presentation is set for March 4. Club meetings are open to everyone.

The March 11 meeting will get back to business as usual with demos, a question and answer period, maintenance and more.

On March 18, J. Eveleigh will present an introduction to spreadsheets in genealogy, and C. Fleming will talk about "brick wall" strategies.

For computer help of a more basic nature—covering topics such as setting up an e-mail account—check out one of the Georgetown Library's free computer basics classes on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. For information, call the Waccamaw Library, 545-3623, or Georgetown, 545-3300.

## Waccamaw Library

# Recipe Swap Party!

Saturday, April 6th at 1 p.m.  
RSVP: 545-3623

It's FREE!

mm

Here's how it works!

- Pick a favorite recipe
- Bring a copy of the recipe to the library by March 30th.
- Bring the delicious dish to the recipe swap, and taste all the other creations.
- We'll also have a hilarious 'cooking quiz' and a cookbook with all the recipes at the party!

# GAME TIME

COME PLAY AT THE LIBRARY!



Wednesdays  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Join us for games at the Waccamaw Branch Library in Pawleys Island. Games are appropriate for children and adults.



QUESTIONS? 843-545-3343  
[ddennis@gtcounty.org](mailto:ddennis@gtcounty.org)



## Library

Continued from Page 1

Feast and book signing earlier that day with Marjory Wentworth, South Carolina's poet laureate.

There will also be opportunities to learn about future fundraisers for the library, including brick sales. A table will be set up where people can sign up to become a friend of the library or learn about future programs.

The 17,000-square-foot library—dubbed the Library Center Waccamaw in an effort to reflect its purpose as a community center as well as a place for books and learning—is slated to open in January 2015. The new library will include up-to-date technology (including free Wi-Fi), a large children's area and a community room that will seat 175. There will also be plenty of outdoor seating with landscaping, sidewalks and benches for

relaxing.

The library will be built with just under \$3.2 million approved by Georgetown County Council in 2010 as part of the county's Capital Improvement Plan.

"The journey to TLC-Waccamaw has not been an easy one," said Ted Hiley, co-chair of the Challenge to Build Committee for the library. "For most of a decade, library users and volunteers persisted as they gradually gained support ... all while dealing with the shifting political and economic winds of the county."

Beginning with the Visions 2000 committee, library advocates volunteered thousands of hours and donated tens of thousands of dollars to promote the library project and help keep the need for a new library near the top of Georgetown County's priority list.

"This new library and community center will represent a significant step forward for the Waccamaw Neck," McInvaill said. "And it is a tribute to those who first had a vision for a public library on the Neck, in the years before our beautiful

coastline became a mecca for retirees, summer visitors and golfers."

For more information about the library or the groundbreaking ceremony and festival, visit [www.thefowl.org](http://www.thefowl.org) or call (843) 979-0561.



Waccamaw Neck Library Presents...

# RED TAILS

Saturday, March 16 at 1:00 p.m.  
24 Commerce Drive, Pawleys Island

This action packed adventure features the first African American combat unit to serve in World War II.

FREE SHOWING AND REFRESHMENTS!

**First Thursday Program**  
A fun filled evening presented by  
Murrells Inlet Community Theatre's repertory troupe

## Second Stage

# Pastiche

Redux

Three 10-minute plays:  
*Congratulations, My Dear*  
*The DMV Tyrant*  
*Dalmation*  
plus  
a Shel Silverstein poem, a monolog,  
with a touch of verbal streaming

**March 7th at 7 o'clock.**  
*Admission is free and refreshments will be served.*

*Sponsored by Friends of the Waccamaw Library.*

## Pilau Dinner Fundraiser for Saint Frances Animal Center

**Thursday, March 14th, 2013**  
**at the**  
**Georgetown County Sheriff's Office**

Pick up from  
**11:30—2:30**

**\$6 each**

Plate Includes:  
Chicken/Sausage Pilau  
Green Beans  
Coleslaw  
Bread



For more information please call SFAC  
at  
843.546.0780

**SAINT FRANCES ANIMAL CENTER**

## Treasurer celebrates 40 years



Georgetown County Treasurer Loretta D. Washington-Cooper celebrates 40 years of service to the county this year. Washington-Cooper began her tenure with the county in April 1972, working her way up from file clerk to accounting clerk, then deputy treasurer. She served in that capacity for 10 years before being appointed as treasurer in February 1990 by Gov. Carroll A. Campbell to fill the unexpired term of her former boss. Since 1993, she has run for and won every election for county treasurer.

## Relive one of our most exciting events and hear the stories of the Tuskegee Airmen



In November, Georgetown County was lucky enough to have retired Lt. Cols. George Hardy and Hiram Mann, documented original Tuskegee Airmen, speak at the Georgetown County Airport as part of our Red Tails event. More than 700 people attended to hear the stories of these men, who will forever be remembered as civil rights heroes, as well as war heroes. A short film on the event has just been completed, courtesy of Framework Productions. Relive the Red Tails event, or experience it for the first time, by watching the film online. It is posted in two parts on the Georgetown County Library's YouTube Channel. Go to [youtube.com/user/georgetowncountylibr](http://youtube.com/user/georgetowncountylibr). DVD copies of the film are also available for checkout at all Georgetown County Library branches. Many thanks to Framework Productions for donating their skills for this project! Also, don't miss watching "Red Tails," the film starring Cuba Gooding Jr., at the Waccamaw Library. The show starts at 1 p.m. March 16. Admission and refreshments are free.

## Computer Basics



**FREE** half-hour classes on using a mouse, setting up email, navigating the screen and much more!

**Mondays at 10:30 a.m.**  
**In the library's new**  
**Small Business Center**



## Disc Golf

Play in the pines!



Did you know East Bay Park has a disc golf course?

The course is open to the public seven days a week. Discs are available for purchase in the park's Bobby Alford Center.

Group reservations are available.

For more information, call 545-3333.

**What is disc golf?** Disc golf is a golf game in which individual players throw a flying disc in a designated area to a basket-style target.



# 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

Finance, 545-3002

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](http://www.gtcounty.org)



### County spotlight:

## Q&A with County Council Member Jerry Oakley

**Q:** Where do you live?

**A:** Litchfield Country Club in Pawleys Island.

**Q:** Where did you grow up?

**A:** My better half sometimes suggests I have not yet completed that process. But, for the record, Greensboro, N.C.

**Q:** What brought you to Georgetown County?

**A:** I began visiting in the early '50s, so over the decades I became very familiar with the area and promised myself one day I would live here. I love the ocean and the "Lowcountry" style.

**Q:** What's the best thing about living in Georgetown County?

**A:** Compared to the rest of the world, it's "tranquil" and I love it.

**Q:** What can you tell us about your professional experience?

**A:** I worked as a radio "Rock 'n' Roll" DJ for a while after college. I wasn't good enough to go very far with that, so I tried advertising sales. That was fun. Later on, I entered the broadcast business with some partners. We operated radio stations in North Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama for a while. I became more and more interested in the advertising/marketing side of the business. In 1984, Tom Swatzel and I, with three other partners, began the process of buying Capt. Dick's in Murrells Inlet, which we operated until 2009, when it was sold to the current owners. So, now I guess I am more or less "retired." Tom and I still own a couple of charter boats.

**Q:** What did you want to be when you were growing up?

**A:** A Navy pilot. I was pretty sure I had an NROTC scholarship when I learned I couldn't pass the physical — couldn't meet the very high vision standards.

**Q:** How long have you served on County Council and why did you want to be a council member?

**A:** I am in my 11<sup>th</sup> year. Tom Swatzel, my [business] partner, served for eight years prior to my election as the representative from our district. Tom had term-limited himself, so there was no incumbent running in 2002. I had always been

fascinated and involved with politics, and I had become interested in Georgetown County government while serving on several boards and commissions, so it kind of just happened.

**Q:** What's the biggest challenge in being a council member?

**A:** Getting correct and complete information concerning the issues of the day out to citizens so they are able to make informed decisions.

**Q:** What's your favorite thing to do with your free time?

**A:** Read about and research issues concerning state and local government. I enjoy travel when we can.

**Q:** What can you tell us about your family?

**A:** Married for 21 years to Kim. We have one daughter, Emily, who is a student at College of Charleston.

**Q:** What's the last movie you saw?

**A:** "Trouble with The Curve." I love baseball and have been a Clint Eastwood fan since "Rawhide" on TV, and I love baseball so it was a natural for me.

**Q:** What three things would you not want to go a day without having?

**A:** A kiss from my bride. A hello "woof" from our two little Maltese pups. A BIG cup of good, fresh brewed French press coffee.

**Q:** Is there anything you absolutely refuse to miss on TV?

**A:** Blue Bloods

**Q:** Are you interested in sports? What team(s) do you cheer for?

**A:** Love sports. Braves baseball. Tar Heel basketball.

**Q:** Who do you admire/wish to be more like?

**A:** That's a tough one, but I would say my maternal grandmother. I never once heard her complain, raise her voice, lose her patience or speak an unkind word about anyone—and as my grandfather had died of pneumonia as a young man, she was a single parent of five daughters during the Great Depression. She would be "my heroine."



County Council Member Jerry Oakley is pictured at a ribbon cutting ceremony at Stables Park last November.