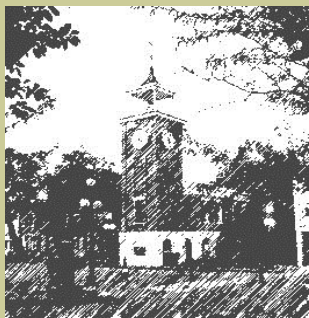




Inside this Issue

- Stables park closed due to vandalism, Page 2
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Calendar

Sept. 5 – Last day of the Smithsonian's Hometown Teams exhibit at the Georgetown County Museum

Sept. 7 – All county offices and facilities are closed in observance of Labor Day

Sept. 8 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

Sept. 17 – Georgetown County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse.

Sept. 20 – "Hogs for Horses" barbecue challenge. Fund-raiser for Hugs for Horses, a free therapeutic riding program for children with disabilities, 3-7 p.m. at Dead Dog Saloon

Sept. 22 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. in the historic courthouse

Sept. 29 – Friends of the Waccamaw Library Fall Luncheon. See page 2

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 2015

Making progress: Capital projects moving forward

County staff and contractors have been busy across all regions of Georgetown County with about 60 capital projects currently in progress or pending on the county's roster. These range from construction and renovation work, to road paving and other continuous projects.

Projects being funded under the Capital Project Sales Tax, which went into effect on May 1, are also included in the list. Road improvements and construction of new fire substations are likely to be the first sales tax projects residents see completed, according to a recent presentation to County Council members. As of the last week of August, the first batch of roads being resurfaced with about \$9 million in sales tax funds was about to be sent out to bid. Resurfacing of all roads on the sales tax paving list (45 miles of roadway and 104 projects) is to be completed by June 30, 2017.

Construction of the first three of nine rural fire substations to be built with sales tax funds is on target for completion in mid-December. Site preparation is under way for substations in Yauhannah and Williams Hill, while permitting work is ongoing for a substation in



Renovation work is progressing quickly at the Howard Center. The photo above shows a wall being built in the gym area.

Carvers Bay. This project is anticipated to have a direct financial impact on many county residents by lowering home insurance costs for those not currently within five road miles of a fire station.

Renovation work at the Howard Center on Hawkins Street in Georgetown is one of the projects that has seen the most progress this summer. This is not a sales

See "Capital Projects," Page 9

Lowcountry Rice Forum to take place in Georgetown Sept. 17-19

The Georgetown County Library will be the proud host of the 2015 Lowcountry Rice Culture Forum — an event that draws enthusiastic participants to different areas of the Southern coastal region every other year.

This year's forum explores the significance of rice cultivation in the South and its legacies by focusing on the effect of South Carolina's former rice industry on the arts and culture of yesterday and today.



Painting by artist Jonathan Green, who will participate in the Rice Forum this month.

The forum will run from Thursday, Sept. 17, through Saturday, Sept. 19, and will feature lectures,

entertainment, tours and exhibits around the county.

"We are so happy with the presenters and partners that are making this possible," said Dwight McInvaill, library director. "There are stellar scholars from around the nation, noted artists including Jonathan Green, and amazing performers including the Columbia City Ballet and Ron and Natalie Daise."

The line up is expected to draw visitors from throughout the region and further. All-access pass-

See "Rice Forum," Page 10

Stables park field complex temporarily closed due to vandalism

The Stables Park field complex off Petigru Drive in Pawleys Island remains partially closed after multipurpose fields were damaged last month in an act of vandalism. A vehicle was driven onto the fields, destroying the grass and possibly damaging the irrigation system.

Estimates on the cost of repairing the fields are still being prepared. The park is currently in use for recreation department programs and team practices, but the gates are temporarily being locked to keep vehicles out when staff is not onsite. The property can still be accessed by foot.

"It's very disappointing that someone would do this," Beth Goodale, Parks and Recreation Department director, said of the vandalism. "This is a facility that sees a lot of use and where a community playground was just been built and opened thanks to the support of residents. Now someone does something like this."

The park, which opened in 2012, had been gated when not in use to prevent this type of vandalism. After the playground was completed earlier this summer, the

county installed fencing around the fields to keep vehicles from driving on the grass and started leaving the park open to the public so community members would be able to use and enjoy the playground and a walking trail that runs through the park when staff wasn't on site.

A vehicle entered a small gap in the fencing that allows access to the playground on Aug. 13 and drove around on the fields, destroying the grass. County staff has started making repairs, but the damaged fields will be out of use for some time. The park gates will remain closed when staff isn't present until more fencing can be added to close the gap where the vehicle entered and other actions can be considered.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office are seeking any information on the incident and who the perpetrator(s) may be. Acts of vandalism to public property are taken seriously by Georgetown County. In past cases, vandals have been caught up to a year after the incident and, in addition to facing charges, were ordered by a judge to



Vehicle damage done to fields next to the playground at Stables Park.

pay restitution. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, (843) 546-5101. Anonymous tips can also be sent via text to 274637. Text the word "GCSOTIP" followed by your message. This service is for crime tips only. The Stables Park tennis facility off Gilman Road is unaffected and remains open.

25th Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE

The Friends of the
Waccamaw Library's
Fall Luncheon:
A Silver Celebration of
'Creativity'
September 29
11:30-2
Pawleys Plantation

Tickets are \$35, available at the Library

Get the Chronicle

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

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

That's also the place to send questions and comments about this newsletter and its content. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

www.gtcounty.org

Keep up the good work, WRRRC Walker of the Year!



Charles King, a regular at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center, celebrated his 93rd birthday on Aug. 4. In honor of the occasion, facility manager David Cooper presented him with a certificate of achievement for being the center's "Walker of 2014 and 2015." King and his wife Rebecca go to the center nearly every morning for their daily walk. A little over a year ago, when they first came in, neither was able to walk very far. They would walk a short distance and sit down to rest, then get up and start again. Thanks to their persistence and determination, Cooper said, Mrs. King now walks a mile per day and Mr. King walks two miles per day. Mr. King was also presented with a birthday card signed by staff and other regulars at the center, who were all excited to wish him a happy birthday.

Instructors needed for classes at local rec., community centers

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is looking for individuals interested in sharing their knowledge on subjects ranging from arts and crafts to sports and fitness.

The county has space available at recreation and community centers throughout the county that can be utilized by independent instructors. If your course is selected to be made available in a county facility, we will help you reach an audience of potential students.

Anyone interested in becoming an instructor should call (843) 545-3532 for an appointment. Please have your résumé, course plan and any necessary materials ready to showcase.

ATTENTION GEORGETOWN COUNTY BUSINESSES:

Georgetown County Environmental Services Division offers FREE pickup of paper and cardboard recyclables. Members of our Commercial Recycling Program are provided with containers and weekly pickup.

To sign up, fill out an application at www.gtcounty.org/recycling or call (843) 545-3483.



Local twirler wins title



Staff at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center would like to congratulate member Tanner Rogerson for her recent recognition as the Intermediate USA/World Open Solo Baton Champion at the USA Twirling Championships. Tanner, 11, practices her sport daily at the center and is an honor roll student at Georgetown Middle School. The Championships took place at the University of Notre Dame in late July. Tanner competed against the best twirlers from all 50 states, as well as other countries in open events. In addition to her solo title, she placed 2nd in the USA/World Open X-strut and 3rd in the USA/World Open 2-baton and USA Intermediate Pageant X-strut. She also won 3rd runner-up to Intermediate Miss Majorette of America, 10-12 division.

Anti-bullying program is Sept. 24

The Waccamaw Library will host a presentation of Porkchop Productions' award-winning performance, "Sticks and Stones," at 3 p.m. Sept. 24. The production is for ages 4 and up and will take place in the library auditorium.

"Sticks and Stones" is described as a "light-hearted romp through a very serious epidemic our children face every day." This highly acclaimed performance illuminates and educates students on the issue of bullying.

Told in Porkchop's signature whimsical style, this play addresses the major steps to implement when confronted with a bully and focuses on recognizing a bully, avoidance, non-aggressive confrontation, telling versus tattling, self-confidence, why people become bullies, and humor in the face of adversity.

Porkchop has worked with several community and state organizations in the Carolinas to obtain the most effective and comprehensive information to design a performance that will educate and inspire, as well as entertain.



Noted Lowcountry artist to exhibit at Waccamaw Library

During the month of September, the Waccamaw Library will proudly display "Life, History and Roots of the Lowcountry," an exhibit of the work of Pat Puckett. Following a 23-year career in interior design, Puckett has devoted her time to painting in oils, interpreting the natural beauty of the local landscapes with bold brushstrokes and rich color. A resident of Georgetown and Key West, Fla., she grew up in the Lowcountry.



Puckett

"I am blessed to live in such a beautiful coastal setting sur-

rounded by magnificent beauty," Puckett said. "It has given me countless subjects and inspiration for my paintings."

Puckett is on the culinary, symphony and visual arts committees for the Pawleys Island Festival of Music and Art, and has chaired the "Seaside Palette En Plein Air" event in Georgetown for the past two years. She is a member of the Seacoast Artist Guild and guilds in Charleston and Key West.

For more about Puckett's work, visit patpuckettfine-art.com.

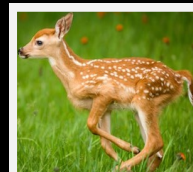
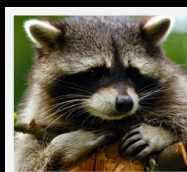
For information about the exhibit, contact Steele Bremner at the library, sbremner@gtcounty.org.

Georgetown County FARMERS MARKETS



Find fresh produce, baked goods and more!

- Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at 122 Screven St. (in Downtown Georgetown)
- Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at 10593 Ocean Hwy. in Pawleys Island
(beside the Island Shops)



GOING WILD photo contest

Georgetown County is accepting images of wildlife for its latest photo contest. This contest focuses on mammals of Georgetown County. Wild animals only.

No pets. Deadline for entries is Nov. 15, 2015.

Send entries to jbroach@gtcounty.org.

Details and contest rules at www.gtcounty.org.



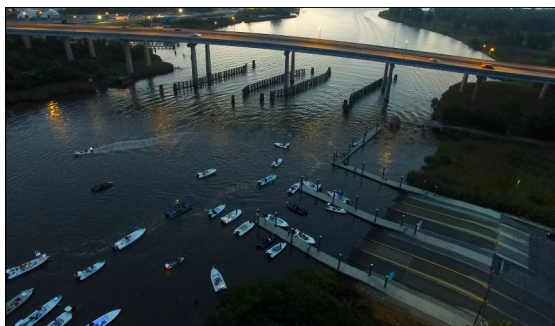
Join the LEGO team at your library!
Ages 6 - 9



Georgetown Library
(843) 545-3310

Waccamaw Library
(843) 545-3349

Another successful Redfish Tour stop; two more set for 2016



Left: Billy Cook of Georgetown had the tournament's Big Fish, weighing in at 5.31 pounds. The fish won him \$700. Center: An aerial view of the marine complex during boat launch. Right: Dodd Wood of Anderson and Glenn Finley of Belton were the tournament winners, taking home \$31,000 in prizes including a \$26,000 boat package for two fish weighing a total of 8.7 pounds.

On it's third visit to Georgetown County since last summer, the Inshore Fishing Association Redfish Tour attracted 83 boats and 166 anglers. That's an increase in participa-

tion of about 30 percent since its first visit last year. County Administrator Sel Hemingway hopes to have 100 boats registered at the next event. The IFA has committed to

making two more stops here in 2016, with dates to be announced later this year.

Hemingway said it's the community that deserves the credit for the county's success in keeping this tournament coming back.

"Whether it's at the restaurants or anywhere these anglers are seen out in the community, people go out of their way to go over and thank them for being here. It's that element that really adds to the success of these events and makes them want to keep coming back here. That has more impact than the number of fish they catch."

Read more at www.gtcounty.org.



Halloween Kickball Tournament

Come enjoy food, drinks, cornhole, music
and a double elimination tournament

Games start at 9 a.m.; championship at 4 p.m.
Teams are co-ed with max of 10 teams
10-12 players per team
Ages 18 and up only

Registration open through Oct. 23

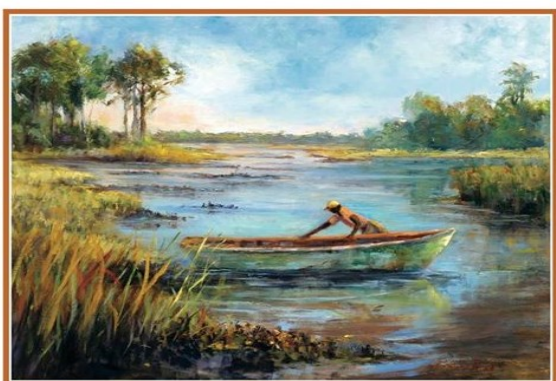
Registration is \$150 per team through Oct. 2.
Fee increases by \$10 each week after. Includes T-shirt.
Food sponsored by Moe's Original Bar B Que

To register, call (843) 545-3319
or (843) 520-9621
or email jblomdahl@gtcounty.org



TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL

WOODEN BOAT SHOW



GEORGETOWN
SOUTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2015
ON THE WATERFRONT
AT FRONT AND BROAD STREETS

WWW.WOODENBOATSHOW.COM

Improper disposal of batteries, other household waste is costly problem

An incident that shut down a Georgetown County recycling center and led a hazmat team, DHEC and the state Highway Patrol to be called on Aug. 13 was traced to the improper disposal of a car battery.

It's an excellent example of why it's important for residents to follow recycling convenience center rules and dispose of potentially hazardous items as directed, officials said. They could end up paying thousands of dollars in emergency response costs otherwise.

The battery was placed in a roll-off container for household waste at the Pawleys Island Recycling Convenience Center on Grate Avenue. An employee at the center noticed something that looked like smoke rising from the container and, upon investigation, discovered a liquid substance that appeared to be eating through the side of the container. He reported the substance at around 9 a.m. and Midway Fire Rescue responded with its hazmat team to contain and identify the substance, ensuring it didn't pose a risk to employees at the center or residents of the surrounding community.

Midway spent more than two hours at the convenience center testing the substance, emptying the container to locate the source, performing a precautionary health and safety check on the two center employees and then breaking down its hazmat operations before the Public Services Department could get to work getting the center ready to reopen.

In all, the convenience center was shut down for half a day by the



The Pawleys Island Recycling Convenience Center after a large trash bin had to be emptied to locate the source of a suspicious substance.

incident, during which time the public was redirected to the Murrells Inlet convenience center. Additionally, the Highway Patrol closed Grate Drive for part of the day, and fire departments from other jurisdictions had to be contacted to provide response for any other incidents in the Midway district while Midway responders were tied up at the landfill.

"All this occurred because someone did not dispose of a car battery properly, and the center employees, residents and rescue workers were put at risk," said Midway Chief Doug Egginan. "It's definitely a teachable moment and demonstrates how much trouble

such a simple thing can bring about."

Midway determined the cost for their response totaled nearly \$4,000. This does not include staff time from any other departments or agencies. Federal law allows emergency response departments to bill parties responsible for such incidents for all costs associated with handling a call.

Had the responsible party been identified in this case, improper disposal of a car battery could potentially have been a very costly error.

This is not the first time emergency responders have been called because of something that was improperly disposed of. The Pawleys Island Recycling Convenience Center was temporarily closed in 2012 when someone found a hand grenade in a roll-off container. The device was later found to be inactive.

Tips for proper disposal of special materials:

Recycling convenience centers in Georgetown County have special receptacles for lead acid batteries, which would include car batteries. These receptacles allow for safe storage of discarded batteries at the center until officials properly dispose of them. Attendants are always on hand at recycling centers during operating hours to direct residents on proper disposal areas and procedures if they have questions, said Ray Funnye, director of Georgetown County's Public Services Department.

For many types of household hazardous waste — household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients — the retailer may offer a take-back program for recycling of unused portions of the product. If that is not an option, the Georgetown County Environmental Services Division will accept these items, which may include paint, cleaning materials, oil, batteries, pesticides and fertilizers. However, special care is needed when disposing of such items, and it is important that residents follow the division's instructions for disposal, Funnye said.

The division accepts residential household hazardous waste only. A guide for disposal of some of the most common household hazardous waste items follows:

- **Automotive products:** Used oil, batteries, filters, gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, transmission fluid and brake fluid may be disposed

of in fuel/oil mixture tanks. Lead acid batteries and antifreeze may be disposed of at recycling convenience centers in designated receptacles.

- **Paint:** Latex paint, oil-based paint and related items such as turpentine, paint stripper, rust remover, paint thinner and varnish may be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at the Georgetown County landfill on Highway 51. Paint may be solidified by the consumer, using sand or other absorbent materials.

- **Lawn products:** Pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers, herbicides, bug spray and related items may be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at the Georgetown County landfill.

- **Household products:** Ammonia-based cleaners, oven cleaners, drain cleaners, furniture polish, mercury thermometers, fiberglass epoxy, swimming pool chemicals, toilet cleansers, floor care products and related items may be disposed of at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at the Georgetown County landfill.

Georgetown County's Public Services Department recognizes it can be inconvenient for residents in some areas of the county to take items to the landfill, Funnye said. To make it easier for residents to properly dispose of items requiring special care, the county periodically hosts community household hazardous waste collection events. For more information about recycling in Georgetown County, visit www.gtcounty.org/recycling.

Library fall lineup has something for all ages

With the start of a new school year also comes the roll-out of a new lineup of fall programs at the Georgetown and Waccamaw library branches. Programs offer fun activities for babies on up to teens.

The fall lineup is below, but check the library website regularly for new additions and special events.

At the Georgetown Library:

- Mother Goose Story Time, Tuesdays at 10 a.m., for ages birth to 3 years. Includes stories, games, songs and crafts.
- Junior FIRST LEGO League. First meeting is Sept. 8 at 3:30 p.m. For ages 6-9. Register at (843) 545-3310.
- Minecraft Club. First meeting is Aug. 31, 3:30 p.m., for all ages. Come share in the



Kids at Mother Goose story time.

Minecraft universe.

At the Waccamaw Library:

- LEGO Leagues. Mondays at 3 p.m. for ages 6-9, and Tuesdays at 3 p.m. for ages 9-14. Call (843) 545-3623 to register.
- Art with the Myrtle Beach Art Museum, first Wednesday

of each month, 3-4 p.m., for ages 7 and up.

- Canine Angels, second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, 3-4 p.m. For all ages. Kids read to attentive pooches.
- LEGO free build, Fridays after school. For all ages.
- Minecraft Club, Fridays after school, all ages.
- Open Mic Scary Stories, Oct. 15, 3-5 p.m., for all ages. Kids share their favorite tales.

Also look for great, fun programs at the Andrews and Carvers Bay library branches, including teen game time and story times for ages 2-5. Story times are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at Andrews, and Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. at Carvers Bay.

Monthly workshop series covers basics of starting a business

The Georgetown County Library System will team up with Grand Strand SCORE through the rest of this year to offer a free workshop series to get individuals on the right track to entrepreneurial success.

The workshops are for anyone interested in starting a new business and will teach basic steps, including legal, organizational, planning, financial, marketing and more.

Workshops will take place once a month at the Waccamaw Library from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the following dates: Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15. Registration is not required.

For more information, call (843) 545-3363.

NEW!

Georgetown County
Parks and Recreation presents

Start Smart Tot Soccer



Parents and kids will learn the basic fundamentals of soccer while kids develop motor skills, have fun and get active. Parents will be required to assist their child in this program.

Each child receives a free T-shirt!



**For kids ages 3 & 4
Tuesdays, Sept. 22 - Oct. 13
5:30 - 6 p.m.**

at South Island, Andrews, Pawleys Island
and Northwest Region
Cost is \$10 per child

Call (843) 545-3275 or (843) 545-3202,
or register at www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation

BILLY BLANKS'

TAE BO®

**At the Waccamaw Regional
Recreation Center!**

Classes on Mondays, 6-7 p.m.

\$10 per class

Ages 15 and up only

For information or to sign up, call (843) 545-2330

Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Presents

Barre Fitness

Tuesdays and Thursdays

8:15-9:15 a.m. at the

Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center

\$10 per class

Instructor: Gina Clapham

Call (843) 655-0196 for information
or email ginaclapham@yahoo.com

Kickball for grownups growing in popularity



Six teams and 72 players participated in the Georgetown County Parks and Recreation Friday Night Lights Adult Kickball Tournament on Aug. 14. The sport is drawing enough interest that the county is considering starting an adult kickball league. The winning team in the tournament, Das Boot, is pictured. Members are Candy Burch, Rock Burch, Ashley Paul, David Cole, Joel Long, Jon Brien Baldwin, Chico Patel, JB Brown, Holly Lee, Sarah Libby and Lauren Hearl. Find upcoming parks and recreation programs at www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation/currentprograms.html.

County introduces sports programs for tots

Beginning this fall, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation will roll out sports programming for preschool-age kids.

Known as Start Smart, these programs will take place at facilities around the county and teach children ages 3-4 the basic fundamentals of various sports, while giving parents a chance to be involved in teaching their kids.

The program was born after staff in the Parks and Recreation Department saw how many small children were present and didn't have anything to keep them occupied at sports programs and events for older children, said Sidney Gray,

youth sports and program specialist. The staff saw an opportunity to have something fun and educational for those kids, and get them ready to enter programs that will be available to them when they're older.

The first Start Smart program will focus on soccer and will take place from 5:30-6 p.m. on four consecutive Tuesdays beginning Sept. 22. Locations are South Island, Andrews, Northwest and Stables Park. Cost is \$10 per child and registration closes Sept. 18. For information, call (843) 545-3275 or visit gtcounty.org/parks_recreation/currentprograms.html.

Local program for startups looking for entrepreneurs

Startup.SC, a Georgetown County-based incubator program that helps entrepreneurs turn ideas for websites and tech-based businesses into reality, is currently accepting applications.

Residents of Georgetown and Horry counties who have an idea they believe could turn into a thriving business can submit their application online at <https://startup.sc/incubator/apply/>

The incubator program focuses on creating a customized plan to assist entrepreneurs with developing a minimum viable product, business model and customer acquisition strategy. The Startup team provides a continuum of assistance to entrepreneurs throughout the incubation stage, nurturing ideas into scalable startups.

SCDOR introduces one-stop online tax portal for businesses

The S.C. Department of Revenue will introduce MyDORWAY, a new taxpayer portal that allows business owners to register their business, file tax returns, make tax payments, calculate penalties and interest, and view related correspondence, all in one location.

MyDORWAY is expected to launch early this month and will replace eServices, such as eSales or eWithholding, according to the department. The ePay service will no longer support sales or withholding payments (current, delinquent or pay plan), but will remain available for other taxes until the three-year implementation of MyDORWAY is complete.

Guides and webinars are available to individuals learn more about MyDORWAY. For more information, visit dor.sc.gov/services/mydorway.

Find us online!

Whether you're looking for jobs, the latest news or to contact a specific department, online is a great way to stay updated or get in touch with us.

Visit our website at www.gtcounty.org. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. Just search for GtCountySC.



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation presents

Line Dancing Classes in Georgetown

You never need a partner! Classes are at the Beck Recreation Center

Mondays & Wednesdays — Soul Line Dancing with instructor Claudette Morrison
4-5 p.m., \$3 per class or 6-7:30 p.m., \$5 per class

Active Older Adults Class — every other Tuesday starting Sept. 8 — 4-5 p.m., \$3 per class

Call (843) 359-0840 for information or register at www.gtcounty.org/parks_recreation



Blankenship named Georgetown County Employee of the Quarter

Judy Evans Blankenship of Murrells Inlet, a level 2 planner with the Georgetown County Planning Department, was recognized on Aug. 25 as the county's Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of this year.

An employee of the county for seven years, Blankenship's many duties include preparing reports and recommendations for the Planning Commission, as well as reviewing all plats and subdivisions. Additionally, she prepares elements of the county's comprehensive Plan and advises the public regarding development issues.

In every respect of her job, Blankenship consistently proves herself to be an asset to the county, said her supervisor, Planning Department director Boyd Johnson.

Johnson nominated Blankenship for the award and she was selected from a pool of candidates by a panel of county directors.

Some of Blankenship's recent accomplishments include authoring the economic development element of the comprehensive plan and completing a draft of the revised population element of the plan. She previously drafted the housing element and greatly assisted in revising the land use element. This is tedious work, Johnson notes, but Blankenship does it with a smile.

"Judy is always willing to take on special assignments and see them through with minimal supervision. This is very important in the Planning Department, as unique and sometimes unusual issues arise frequently," Johnson said.

He added that he has never known Blankenship to not take on a new task with a good attitude and called her a good model for other employees in the department.

Blankenship's duties involving plat review involve much interaction with the public, including surveyors, engineers and property owners. This is an ongoing activity and Blankenship handles it with



From left are Greg Troutman, human resources director, Judy Evans Blankenship and County Council Chairman Johnny Morant.

excellent customer service skills. "Judy consistently works with professionals and the public on matters that can be difficult, and does it in a manner that positively represents the county," Johnson said. "She is respected by the area surveyors for knowing the requirements and providing consistent answers. She enforces the provisions of the land development regulations in a legal, common sense manner. She is also well-liked and respected by her co-workers."

Blankenship also frequently takes the initiative to resolve problems when she encounters them. She is studying to take the AICP certified planner test. This test is difficult and takes many hours of off-duty preparation. Additionally, she serves on the county's Morale Committee and is her department's United Way campaign leader.

Capital Projects

Continued from Front Page

tax project, but rather is funded under the county's Capital Improvement Plan.

Staff in the county's Public Services Department has nearly finished installing ductwork throughout the building, and a separation wall being constructed in the gym area is more than half complete. More than 130 yards on concrete have been poured throughout the facility to level the floors to one working height. New auditorium seating has been ordered and is waiting in boxes on the auditorium stage.

Public Services has the majority of its crews working on this project until completion, scheduled for early fall.

Final design of a new Northwest Regional Recreation Center to be built in Choppee is in progress, with anticipated completion for the facility set for late next year. A public meeting to present conceptual drawings took place in late August. It was well attended and Parks and Recreation staff reported that members



Fire substation sites are being prepared in Williams Hill and Yauhannah. A third is being permitted in Carvers Bay. These substations should be complete by mid-December.

of the Choppee Community Association plan to reach out to other communities in the Northwest region that have not traditionally embraced facilities at Choppee to get them involved in dialogue as the project proceeds.

Repairs to the Waccamaw Neck Bikeway are in the early stages, with items marked for solicitation of quotes for work. Several sections of the bikeway have been determined in need of repairs due to tree root encroach-

ment and/or aging of the asphalt surfacing.

Additionally, county staff is moving forward with plans for intersection improvements at Petigru Drive and Martin Luther King Road in Pawleys Island. Staff is working to arrange a public meeting for late September to present project plans.

For more information about these and other projects, send an email to Jackie Broach at jbroach@gtcounty.org.

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

Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

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129 Screven Street
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Rice Forum

Continued from Front Page

es are available for \$55, or folks can choose to attend single events. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (843) 545-3316.

A sampling of events taking place during the Rice Forum:

Documentary Premiere

Thursday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. at the Waccamaw Library. Free. This brand new documentary features convivial interviews with Georgetown County Gullah artists and cultural leaders. Introduction by interviewer Dr. Valinda Littlefield of the University of South Carolina, as well as some of the featured artists.

Rice Culture Influences on the Arts

Friday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Waccamaw Library, \$20. Three panel discussions will explore how South Carolina's rice-growing past echoes into the present through the artwork and outlook of its residents.

"Off the Wall and onto the Stage," a ballet performance based on art by Jonathan Green

Friday, Sept. 18, 8 p.m. at Winyah Auditorium, \$20. The Columbia City Ballet, South Carolina's premier professional ballet company, will bring the vivid Lowcountry artwork of Jonathan Green to spectacular, graceful life. Followed by a casual soirée to meet the performers.

Gullah Concert Featuring the Freedom Readers Children's Choir

Saturday, Sept. 19, 4 p.m. on the Kaminski House lawn. Free. The Freedom Readers Children's Choir presents music that takes its cue from the South Carolina Lowcountry, after an introduction on Gullah music from Dr. Eric Crawford of Coastal Carolina University.

"God's Trombones"

Saturday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. at Winyah Auditorium, \$20. Performing and visual artists Ron and Natalie Daise will present dramatic readings from "God's Trombones: Seven Negro Poems in Verse" by James Weldon Johnson.



The art of Jonathan Green is the subject of an exhibit and a ballet performance during the forum.

Other Forum Events:

Please note the following events are not included in the all-access pass, and require a separate reservation.

Plantation Tour

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2-5 p.m. at Hobcaw Barony, \$20. Maximum Number of Participants is 28.

For reservations, call (843) 546-4623. A three-hour bus tour of the former rice plantation, an African-American village on the property and Hobcaw House, highlighting the history of rice cultivation and the transition to a hunting retreat for the Baruch family of N.Y.

Jonathan Green Exhibit and Brunch

Saturday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Georgetown County Museum, \$20. Maximum number of participants is 60. For reservations, call (843) 545-7020. Noted Charleston artist Jonathan Green shows pieces chosen especially for the forum and talks about influences on his work. A brunch with Green at the Big Tuna follows at noon.

For more information, including venue addresses, visit the Georgetown County Library website, at georgetowncountylibrary.sc.gov



Ron and Natalie Daise will present dramatic readings during "God's Trombones."