



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

July 9 – Free ice cream social at Beck Recreation Center, 4-6 p.m. See Page 4.

July 11 – Planning Commission Workshop at Howard Auditorium. See page 5.

July 14 – GSATS meeting to discuss Hwy. 17 Corridor Study. See page 5

July 15 – Georgetown County Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Howard Auditorium.

July 27 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., Howard Auditorium. Council only meets once a month in June, July and August.

July 30 – Summer Olympics Day program from Parks and Recreation, 5 p.m., Beck Recreation Center.

Aug. 3 – National Night Out, 6-8 p.m. See page. 6.

For more upcoming events, check out our full calendar at gtcounty.org.

Volume 9, Issue 8

July 2021

County launches new website, online news stream

Spring was a busy time for Georgetown County, and its public information team in particular. Not only did the county launch a [new website](#) in May, but it also premiered the first installment of a new project — an online video news stream — on its [Youtube Channel](#). Viewers can subscribe the channel to be notified of new video posts.

“It has been a huge amount of work for our very small team, but it will make information about and from the county much more accessible to the public,” said Jackie Broach, Georgetown County’s Public Information Officer. “That obviously is the main objective for the Public Information Department, and these two projects move us forward significantly.”

This was the first overhaul of the county website, located at gtcounty.org, since 2013. In addition to a more contemporary look, the new website has a more intuitive search feature and gives residents the ability to submit many forms online, including job applications and Freedom of Information Act requests. It also allows residents to report problems online and sign up to have news and event alerts delivered via email and text message.

“We really wanted to make it easier for people to



Maya Morant and Randy Akers are pictured hosting the June episode of Georgetown County News.

get in touch with county staff and find the information they need,” Broach said. “That was a main objective of the website update, and I think we hit the mark. We have had overwhelmingly positive feedback.”

The County contracted with CivicPlus for the redesign. The company specializes in local government and has more than 4,000 clients nationwide.

Broach said the county will increase information and forms available online going forward, and is also working to make more video content available. The news

See “Information,” Page 6

Economic Development Department to host industry job fair

Georgetown County Economic Development will help local industries connect face-to-face with potential employees this month. The Department, in partnership with Horry-Georgetown Technical College, will sponsor its first-ever job fair on July 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the college’s Advanced Manufacturing Center, located on the Georgetown campus.

The fair will allow job seekers the opportunity to talk with recruiters and apply on the spot for positions with some of the coun-

What: Free job fair to connect potential employees with industrial jobs

Where: HGTC Advance Manufacturing Center, 4003 S. Fraser St., Building 1000, Georgetown

When: July 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ty’s largest employers and most successful companies, including AgruAmerica, International Paper, Interfor and SafeRack. Government employers including the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Office will also be on site with job opportunities, and more employers and industries will be added

leading up to the event. Brian Tucker, Georgetown County’s Director of Economic Development, said plans for the job fair were spurred by concerns from industry leaders about hiring.

“In this post-COVID boom, our industries — like most area businesses — are growing, and are looking for good people to join their teams. We heard over and over again some of our existing industries talk about their need for additional help,” Tucker said. “Our industries generally offer solid, livable wages and we decided it

See “Job Fair,” Page 6

Morant graduates state Institute

Maya Morant, marketing director for Georgetown County's Economic Development Department, has completed courses at the S.C. Economic Development Institute.

She started classes in early 2020, but the program was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions. She and her classmates were finally able to complete the course and graduated this June. The sessions took participants to different areas of the state including Lake City, Beaufort, North Augusta and finally to Orangeburg for the last session.

At each session, Morant and her classmates were able hear and learn from economic development professionals, consultants, community leaders, engineers and others from across the state.

The Institute is hosted by the S.C. Economic Developers Association.

"It was an incredible opportunity and I am thankful for the guidance I received from the institute and am forever grateful to be part of the Economic Developers Association," Morant said.

Georgetown County congratulates Morant on her accomplishment.



Maya Morant

Finance Dept. takes top honors

The Georgetown County Finance Department has received the highest form of recognition available in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The Department was presented last month with the international Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. The award is for the department's exemplary work on the county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020. This is the fifth consecutive year the department has received this honor for its work on the comprehensive report.

"We're very proud of our staff and the exemplary work they do, and we are delighted to see their talents and efforts recognized on an international stage," said Georgetown County Administrator Angela Christian. "Our employees in Finance work behind the scenes, so they rarely get the recognition they deserve. It's a privilege to see their work recognized this way and to shine a spotlight on all of them."

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program was established in 1945 to encourage state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles in preparing their reports. Winning agencies must show evidence of the "spirit of transparency and full disclosure" in their work. The report submitted by Georgetown County was judged to meet the high standards of the program, which include clearly communicating the county's financial story and motivating potential users and user groups to read the report.

The county's winning report may be viewed online at gtcounty.org.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SC

NATURE WALK & Scavenger Hunt

During the nature walk you will be given a list of plants to find. There will be mini treasure chests hidden along the trail. As you find the different plants and treasure chests you will take pictures to receive credit. The team and/or individual with the most posted photos will receive a gift bag! ALL AGES WELCOME!

Tuesday, July 13th, @ Rocky Point
 Tuesday, July 20th @ East Bay Park
 Tuesday, July 27th @ Stables Park
 Meet at all locations at 10AM

Register online at gtcparks.org or at your local recreation center. Call 843-545-3320 for more information.

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 social media accounts. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, sign up at gtcounty.org by clicking the "News & Alerts" icon on the home page.

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact Jackie Broach at (843) 545-3164 or jbroach@gtcounty.org. We welcome your feedback.

www.gtcounty.org

Council approves \$90.6 million budget

Georgetown County's Fiscal Year 2022 budget was approved by Georgetown County Council on June 22 and is available for public review. The [full budget document](#) is available on the Finance section of the county website.

The balanced budget totals \$90.6 million and represents a 3.2% increase over the previous fiscal year's adopted budget.

"Several distinct goals and initiatives were included in the budget for Georgetown County, and many challenges were faced," said County Administrator Angela Christian. "However, it is our belief that we have addressed the major issues within the budget."

Some of Christian's top goals in the budget included technology upgrades and an increase to the minimum wage for all permanent part-time employees. Among the biggest challenges was rising health care costs. These issues are addressed more fully in an [executive summary of the budget](#) that was presented to County Council and made available to the public.

The 2021-22 budget document does not include provisions for the use of the \$12 million Georgetown County will receive from the America Rescue Plan Act of 2021. To date, the county has received a little over \$6 million of the funds anticipated and expects to receive the remaining funds sometime next spring. Staff is working diligently to prepare a proposal on how to allocate the funding following the guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

While the 2021-22 budget did not include cost of living raises for employees, it is the county's intention to compensate employees who worked during the pandemic with a one-time stipend in August. The county will also reimburse itself for any allowable expenses. Once these initiatives have been implemented staff will examine allowable Capital and Operational expenditures. It is the county's goal to have a completed outline of uses for the America Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding by this coming fall.

New Auditor, Treasurer take office



Georgetown County's two newest elected officials took their oaths of office on June 30 in a small ceremony in the historic county courthouse. Miriam Mace, left, was sworn in as the new county Treasurer, and Kenneth Baker as the new Auditor. Both were elected in November 2020 and took office on the first day of the new fiscal year, July 1. Prior to beginning their new four-year terms, both were employees in the County Assessor's Office.

Farmers Market vouchers for seniors to be distributed

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has set a new date for distribution of farmers market vouchers for senior citizens following a delay in delivery of the vouchers.

Georgetown County residents who applied for and were approved to receive farmers market vouchers under the state's Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program can pick up their vouchers on Wednesday, July 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Howard Gymnasium, 1610 Hawkins St., Georgetown. Applicants who were approved should be notified via email by the S.C. Department of Social Services. Georgetown County does not approve or deny applicants.

For more information about the program, including how to apply in the future, visit the [program website](#) at dss.sc.gov. For distribution information, call (843) 545-3320.



New from GTCOUNTY.ORG

🔔 Sign up for alerts!
✕

Did you know you can now sign up online to receive news alerts, meeting notices and more from Georgetown County Government? It's easy and free!

Alerts available via text message or email.
Choose which topics you want to be notified about.



HAVE YOU MET libby?

You can borrow e-books and audio books for **FREE** at your Library!

Just contact your local Georgetown County library branch to setup a PIN. Then download the Libby app to start reading or listening on your device. It's that easy!



Parks and Recreation announces lineup of programming for all ages

July is National Parks and Recreation Month and Georgetown County is celebrating with an ice cream social on July 9 and a wide-ranging line of new programming. The ice cream social will be from 4-6 p.m. at Beck Recreation and is free to attend for all ages.

The summer schedule too offers something for all ages and a variety of interests, from activities to get your heart pumping to more passive pursuits to help you get in tune with nature.

"We're trying out some new things and we're really excited about it," said Beth Goodale, director of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation. "I think the community is going to be really excited too. There really is a lot on our schedule to enjoy this summer."

One of the programs Goodale is most excited about is the department's new "GO" series, short for **Georgetown Outdoors**, which aims to get residents exploring some of the great outdoor resources right here in their own backyard. The program will take participants to tour Samworth Wildlife Man-



agement Area on July 10, Huntington Beach State Park on July 24, Hasty Point Plantation on Aug. 7 and Rocky Point Community Forest on Aug. 28. Activities at the sites include hiking, educational programs, geocaching and wildlife viewing. Space is limited to 15

Mini treasure chests will also be hidden along the trail for participants to find and photograph to receive credit. The team or individual with the most credits wins a gift bag. The program is open to all ages.

Friday, July 23, will be **Outdoor Movie Night** at Beck Field Complex. The department will show Disney's "Moana" beginning at 8 p.m. (Rain date is July 30). Snacks will be available for purchase at the field's concession stand. Families should bring chairs or blankets from which to enjoy the film.

For budding artists, a free **Rock Painting** event will take place on July 16 from 3-6 p.m. at Beck Field Complex. No registration is required and all supplies will be provided.

In regard to sports, the county's **Playground Legends** basketball program will take place on Friday evenings throughout the month and will have some of the "old-timers" who used to play on the courts at Black River Road drop by from time to time to share their expertise and moves with younger generations.

Additionally, each week in July, individuals of all ages will be invited to their local recreation center to learn about a featured sport of the week and then put their new knowledge into action in a friendly game. Programs are from 2-4 p.m. on Mondays at Choppee, Tuesdays at Waccamaw, Wednesdays at Beck and Thursdays at Andrews. Featured sports will include Kickball, flag football, Pickleball and Ultimate Frisbee.

The Department is also hosting **Volleyball** on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11 a.m. at Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center. And registration is open until Aug. 23 for **Fall Youth Sports**, including Tackle Football (ages 9-12), Flag Football (ages 5-12), Cheerleading (ages 5-12) and Cross Country (ages 5-12). The season begins Sept. 20.

For more information about any of these programs, call (843) 545-3320 or visit gtparks.org.




Parks & Recreation Fall Sports Registration

AUGUST 30TH, PARENTS MEETING BEFORE 1ST PRACTICE

Register online at gtparks.org or at your local recreation center. Call 843-545-3320 for more information.

SEASON BEGINS SEPT. 20TH 2021



SPORTS

TACKLE FOOTBALL FEE: \$25:00 Ages: 9 - 12

FLAG FOOTBALL FEE: \$30.00 Ages: 5 - 12

CHEERLEADING FEE: \$25.00 Ages: 5 - 12

CROSS COUNTRY FEE: \$15.00 Ages: 5 - 12

AGE CONTROL DATE IS SEPT. 1ST

FALL 2021

REGISTRATION DATES ARE FROM JUN. 18TH - AUG. 23

NO LATE REGISTRATION OTHER THAN TO FILL A ROSTER

EARLY REGISTRATION INCENTIVE DATES: JUN. 18TH - 20TH AT \$12.50

@ GTC PARKS 

people per trip, with transportation provided from Beck Recreation Center.

The program is open to all ages, but those under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation will also host three Nature **Walk and Scavenger Hunt** events this month. Dates are July 13 at Rocky Point, July 20 at East Bay Park and July 27 at Stables Park. Walks begin at 10 a.m. and participants will be given a list of plants to find on their adventure.

COACHES NEEDED

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is in need of certified youth coaches to assist with its sports programming. For individuals wishing to be become certified, certification training will be offered from 4-6 p.m. on the following dates:

- July 17 — Beck Recreation Center
- July 31 — Andrews Recreation Center
- Aug. 7 — Waccamaw Recreation Center
- Aug. 21 — Choppee Recreation Center

New Register of Deeds contract to allow digitization of historic documents

The Georgetown County Register of Deeds Office recently signed a new contract that will not only increase efficiency, but also create a significant savings for the county.

The Office is now working with Business Information Systems. Under the county's new agreement with the company, staff will be able to scan oversize documents and plats in-house rather than mailing them out for scanning. Plats are generally 24x36 inches. This means customers bringing in documents can get them back the same day rather than receiving them in the mail several weeks later. Registrar Marlene McConnell said the county will see a significant saving just on postage. The annual contract with the new vendor comes at an annual cost of \$16,000 – a savings of more than \$50,000 over the previous vendor.

The plat scanner, four customer lookup stations and a flatbed scanner were included in the new contract.

Additionally, staff will be able to begin scanning in historic records it has on file that date back to 1868. By doing this in-house rather than bidding out the project, the county will save an estimated \$200,000 at minimum. With the new system, records on the county's website will automatically update every 15 minutes. Previously, staff had to manually update every evening in order for that day's scans and transactions to be reflected.

"We're really excited about it," McConnell said. "This is going to allow us to do a lot of things we have been wanting to do and to serve the public much more efficiently."

The scanning in of historic documents will be a long-term project, due to the volume of records on hand. But, eventually, all of the county's plats, mortgages and other documents in the office, will be available for the public to search online. "It's going to help the citizens – surveyors, paralegals – tremendously. And it's going to save a lot of money over time," McConnell said.

Meeting to focus on Hwy. 17 Corridor Study

Findings of the draft U.S. Highway 17 Corridor Study will be the focus of a meeting of the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) group on Wednesday, July 14. The meeting will take place from 5-7 p.m. at the Murrells Inlet Community Center, 4462 Murrells Inlet Road. An open house format will be used for the meeting.

The project study area covers the Waccamaw Neck area of Georgetown County from the Waccamaw River bridge to the Horry County line. The project consultant, AECOM, has analyzed the existing conditions and developed 2040 transportation improvement recommendations to help maintain Highway 17 as a safe and efficient corridor.

The draft document can be viewed on the home page of the GSATS website, www.gsats.org. The website also includes videos that provide a simulation of the key recommendations along the corridor. Comments following the meeting or in reference to the materials on the GSATS website may be directed to Daniel Newquist at dnewquist@wrcog.org.

Planning Commission workshop set for July 11

The Georgetown County Planning Commission will meet in a special session on Monday, July 11, at 1 p.m. at Howard Auditorium for a workshop.

The workshop consist of a brief training session for Commission members, said Planning Department Director Holly Richardson. An agenda will be posted at gtcounty.org on July 9. For more information, contact tcoleman@gtcounty.org.

Stay Connected

WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT



@GtCounty






Georgetown County Recreation & Aging Services
hosts

Coffee

and



CONVERSATION

Tuesdays at 10am

07/06 Choppee Recreation Center

07/13 Howard Center

07/20 Andrews Recreation Center

07/27 Waccamaw Recreation Center

Special Guest

Jackie Broach, Georgetown County
PIO, presenting the County's new
website and monthly YouTube show.



FREE : Registration Not Required

Information

Continued from Front Page

stream represents a huge push toward significantly ramping up the video component of the county's information efforts. The county launched the stream with a 30-minute news show that contained a broad range of hyper-local, county-focused segments. To make news as timely as possible, the county will push out segments individually via a Georgetown County News playlist on YouTube. All of the footage and information for the stream is generated, recorded and edited in-house by existing staff.

"We're doing a lot with a little," Broach said. "The Public Information Team has one full-time staff member and three from other departments who pitch in in addition to their own duties. But our team is extremely dedicated and goes the extra mile to achieve our goal of making Georgetown County government as accessible and transparent as possible."

Job Fair

Continued from Front Page

was time to create an opportunity for our residents to engage with those existing industries and see what they have to offer."

Employers interested in participating in the job fair are asked to contact Maya Morant, marketing director for Georgetown County Economic Development, at (843) 545-3161 or mmorant@gtcounty.org. Job seekers do not need to register to attend the event.

Sheriff to host National Night Out

Sheriff Carter Weaver and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office will host the 36th annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, Aug. 3, at Pawleys Island Community Church.

The event is free and everyone is invited. It will take place from 6-8 p.m. on the church lawn at 10304 Ocean Highway.

This fun, family event will include inflatables, games, a deejay and plenty of food. But National Night Out also has a more important purpose. It is a community-building campaign designed with four main goals in mind:

- To heighten crime prevention awareness;
- To generate support and participation in anti-crime programs;
- To strengthen neighborhood spirit and community-police partnerships; and
- To send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

In short, National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community, and provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.



Sheriff Carter Weaver is pictured at a previous Night Out Event with residents.



For the protection of our sea turtles & other wildlife please

LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS ON GEORGETOWN COUNTY BEACHES!



All items must be picked up off the beach at the day's end, including chairs, tents, toys and, of course, any food packaging or other litter. Litter laws are strictly enforced. Any items left on the beach at the end of the day are considered abandoned and may be removed.



LIGHTS OUT!

SEA TURTLES DIG THE DARK

- Turn out beachfront lights after dusk
- Close blinds, curtains in beachfront homes
- Do not disturb nesting females or hatchlings by using flashlights, flash photography or lanterns at night
- Fill in any holes in the sand at day's end



See more local beach regulations at www.gtcparks.org



Housand named county IT director

Seth Housand, a longtime employee of Georgetown County's MIS Department was promoted this month to Department Director. He is the first in-house director the department has had in nearly a decade. The county previously contracted with an outside firm to provide management of MIS and its staff.

Housand joined the county's IT team in January 2012 and distinguished himself as a leader in recent years, particularly in the aftermath of a ransomware attack the county fell victim to this January. Housand was vital to the county's recovery efforts following the attack, and that played a significant part in the decision to promote him to director, said County Administrator Angela Christian.

In his previous role within the department, Housand was responsible for general Network maintenance and upgrades, new equipment installations, managing county telecommunications equipment and accounts, was the subject matter expert for county security systems and has overseen technological needs for the county during numerous disasters over the years, in addition to other duties. Prior to joining the county team, Housand was an intelligence analyst for the S.C. Army National Guard.



Housand

Sheriff recognizes employees



From left: Weaver, Flint, Felder, Williamson, Lesley and Mitchum.

Sheriff Carter Weaver recently presented quarterly awards to employees of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office. Those honored were:

- Cpl. Antonio Mitchum and Deputy Cody Thompson were named Deputies of the Quarter. They responded to a structure fire at Morningside Assisted Living on North Fraser Street on April 4. After determining all residents and staff were safely out of the building, Mitchum recognized the need to assist the elderly residents who had gathered in the hot sun and secured bottled water from the sheriff's office for everyone. When he learned it would be several hours before the residents could be

See "Awards," Page 8

GEORGETOWN COUNTY PARKS & REC PRESENT

SUMMER OLYMPICS DAY

JULY 30, 2021 BECK RECREATION TRACK

Compete in events just like the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo! Events will start at 5pm.

Register online at gtcparks.org or at your local recreation center. Call 843-545-3320 for more information.

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Georgetown County FARMERS MARKET



Find fresh produce and more!

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at 122 Screven St., Georgetown
across from the historic courthouse

WaccamawMarkets.org



Georgetown County and partners throughout the community gathered together on Pentecostal Sunday for a ceremony to reinter the remains of enslaved African-Americans who were once laid to rest at Hagley Plantation. The ceremony took place at Holy Cross Faith Memorial Church cemetery in Litchfield 15 years after the remains were first disturbed.

The remains of these African-American individuals have been linked as ancestors of the county's Gullah-Geechee community.

"The names of these individuals and the full stories of their lives are unknown. But they are not forgotten," said Angela Christian, Georgetown County Administrator, who was among the speakers at the ceremony.

The remains are believed to have originally been laid to rest at the cemetery at St. Mary's Chapel, which once stood on the grounds of Hagley Plantation, where it was constructed for the African-Americans enslaved there. The original graves were unearthed during residential construction in 2006 and, as a result, were unfortunately commingled. At that point, they were turned over to the Georgetown County Coroner's Office.

The coroner at the time, Kenny Johnson, requested assistance from a forensic anthropologist, Richland County Deputy Coroner William Stevens, Ph.D., in analyzing the remains.

In early 2007, Stevens transported the remains to the Biological Anthropology Laboratory at the University of South Carolina for further study. He conducted extensive research over a period of years to determine their origin. It was believed that all individuals buried at St. Mary's had been previously relocated. The funeral home contracted for that duty had been long closed and the funeral director had passed away, so further information on the relocation was unavailable. However, the location where the remains were discovered, as well as their age and genetic information obtained from them, led Stevens to conclude the remains had indeed originated at St. Mary's and belonged to African-Americans who were enslaved at Hagley to work the rice fields there prior to the Civil War.

As part of his research, Stevens also contacted descendants of the individuals after genetic analysis was complete.

St. Mary's Chapel was one of 13 chapels constructed in the area for use by enslaved people and was noted to have been of "unusually pleasing design and furnishings." As noted in Stevens' report, "the ceiling and pews were of cypress, with stained glass windows and Gothic arches adding to the dignity of this chapel high above the Waccamaw River." St. Mary's fell into disuse in the early years of the 20th century and burned in July of 1931.

Awards

Continued from Page 7

moved indoors, Thompson secured an air conditioned fellowship hall at a nearby church and used the church van to transport the residents, their family members and staff nurses to the facility. A county van with a lift was also acquired, and deputies helped the wheelchair-bound to the church.

"Cpl. Mitchum and Deputy Thompson assessed the situation and responded above and beyond the expected actions of law enforcement to assist the residents and provide for their well-being," their nomination form said.

- Cpl. Jason Flint was named Correctional Officer of the Year. "He listens to understand rather than respond, is trustworthy, dependable and supportive," according to his nomination. He upholds the mantra of being fair, firm and consistent and has excellent de-escalation techniques. These skills have assisted Flint in gaining the respect from inmates and co-workers.

- Joseph Williamson and Sheila Felder were named Communications Officers of the Quarter. Williamson was cited for his response to two major incidents in Georgetown County. He responded to the Morningside Assisted Living fire and coordinated with officers from the Salvation Army to provide food and supplies to the displaced residents. He also responded to the site of a serious motor vehicle accident on Highway 51 on June 19 and ensured mass-casualty vehicles

arrived to transport people involved in the accident. His actions improved Emergency Medical Service transport capabilities and expedited patient care. In addition to Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, Williamson was also recognized by Georgetown County Public Safety for his part in a successful response to both instances.

Felder has been a communications officer with Central Dispatch since May 2019. With Central being short staffed, Felder has increased her responsibilities by accepting the duties as second-in-charge of A Shift and taking over a training role for recently hired staff. "Her work is consistent, and she has become a reliable and vital member of the Central Communications team," her nomination form said.

- Jason Lesley was named the Department's Employee of the Quarter. On the Saturday morning of June 19, Lesley, the Sheriff's Public Information Officer, who was off-duty, was traveling on Highway 51 when he came upon a vehicle accident which had just occurred involving a Williamsburg County Transit bus and another vehicle. Being one of the first persons on the scene, he grabbed his fire extinguisher and put out the fire and checked on the bus passengers. He helped some get off the bus and assisted until first-responders arrived. His nomination form said: "While not a deputy, Jason's actions are representative of the core values of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office 'Protect and Serve.'"

Did you know you can watch Georgetown County Council meetings online?

We livestream every council meeting to make it easier for you to stay up to date with what's happening. Watch at [YouTube.com/GtCountySC](https://www.youtube.com/GtCountySC).

**Georgetown
County,
South Carolina**
County Government

Numbers to know*(All begin with area code 843)*

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

Parks & Rec., 545-3320

Planning/Zoning, 545-3116

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven StreetPhone: (843) 545-3063
Fax: (843) 545-3292

Refuge makes plans for public programming at newly acquired Hasty Point Plantation

Situated on the Pee Dee River in Plantersville and spanning more than 770 acres, Hasty Point Plantation is exploding with natural beauty and educational opportunities. And now that it's part of the Waccamaw Wildlife Refuge, officials are working on plans and programming to get people of all ages exploring and learning on the property.

Hasty Point is home to longleaf pine forest, about 50 acres of wetlands, rice fields, massive live oak trees and historic buildings that will help tell the story of the area's past as one of the world's largest producers of rice. More than 100 enslaved people once worked the land at Hasty Point to produce the plantation's cash crop.

The National Wildlife Refuge purchased the property last year for about \$5 million. The purchase was made possible with assistance from Ducks Unlimited, the Open Space Institute and other partners. The Open Space Institute acquired an additional 237 adjacent acres shortly after, which will further increase public access in the area.

"It's such an awesome piece of property and will really offer a lot of opportunities for the public," said Craig Sasser, Refuge Manager at the Waccamaw Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge has been managing part of the property — wetlands and waterfowl habitat — for more than a decade

already, which allowed it to develop a close relationship with the property owner, Bob Scholfield III, who acquired the plantation in 1979. As a result, when Scholfield put it on the market, he was eager to work with the Refuge to allow them to purchase the property and protect it for future generations.

The Refuge is currently working with a consultant on Phase 2 of a plan to open the property to the public. This includes talking with as many stakeholders as possible, interviewing community leaders and learning what kind of programming the public would most like to see on the property. Georgetown County leaders are looking forward to being involved in the process and seeing the property become a valuable public asset for preservation and education.

