



Inside this Issue

- 'State of Our County' program to take place at Howard Auditorium, Page 2
- Parks & Rec. offers free fitness memberships for veterans, Page 3
- Airport runway project to finish early, Page 3
- Donation will improve beach access at Litchfield, Page 5
- Opticom system goes live, improving safety in emergency response situations countywide, Page 7

Calendar

Nov. 11 – Georgetown County offices and facilities are closed for Veterans Day.

Nov. 13 – NFL Youth Flag Football Super Bowl. See page 5.

Nov. 13 and 14 – Annual County Fire-EMS toy drive for Toys for Tots. See page 5.

Nov. 17 – Community meeting on broadband expansion. See page 7.

Nov. 18 – Georgetown County Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Historic County Courthouse.

Nov. 18 – County Library Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Georgetown Library.

Nov. 25 and 26 – Georgetown County Offices and facilities are closed for Thanksgiving. For landfill and recycling center holiday hours, visit gtcounty.org/newsroom.

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

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Volume 10, Issue 3

November 2021

How to better protect your home from flood threats



Floodwaters are shown on roads and yards off Highway 701 in Georgetown after a storm event.

In a coastal county with five Rivers, flooding is a major concern for most residents. A huge number of homes in the county are required to have flood insurance — and many more homeowners take out policies voluntarily. Flood insurance, unfortunately, can be quite expensive. But there are some steps residents can take to help reduce their rates.

In the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, Georgetown County has a rating of 7. This gives all residents with flood insurance a 15% discount on their rates. Should the county's rating decrease, additional discounts would be applied.

Understanding and complying with flood regulations for properties — and encouraging friends and neighbors to do so as well — is the biggest thing people can do to help the county improve its rating, said Steven Elliott, Georgetown County Building Official.

"All of the newer houses now are compliant, but they may be built next door to one that is not compliant," Elliott said. "Should that house become compromised and a structural wall be blown out by wave action from an incoming hurricane or rising floodwaters, and the house topples, your compliant house next door could be damaged or destroyed too. Neighbors just talking to each other can go a long way in making sure everybody is protected."

For every number the county's rating drops, residents see an additional 5% discount, Elliott said. So, if the county went from a rating of 7 to a rating of 5, the discount would increase to 25% for everyone in the county who carries flood insurance.

For residents who suspect their home may not be compliant with newer flood regulations, Elliott has some advice to help them protect their home and hopefully save some money in the long run.

"Well, the first thing I would suggest you do is get an elevation certificate," Elliott said. "Have a licensed surveyor come out and check the elevation of your property, the elevation of your lowest finished floor, the elevation of mechanical equipment, and document that on the flood of a certificate and then they can take that certificate. Then they can bring it to me and I can sit down and go through it with them step by step, and show what they can do to mitigate any problems. In some cases it's as simple as needing some hydrostatic vents."

A property owner who made the recommended changes could then take their new elevation certificate to their flood insurance agent and likely receive a reduced rate.

The Building Department also recommends that

See "Flood Insurance," Page 8

‘State of Our County’ set for Dec. 1

The Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce will host its annual “State of our County, State of Our Cities” program on Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The event will take place at Howard Auditorium, 1610 Hawkins St., Georgetown. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Local leaders including County Administrator Angela Christian, and representatives from the City of Georgetown and Towns of Andrews and Pawleys Island, will be featured speakers. These officials have been invited to discuss current challenges and opportunities, as well as ways in which business leaders can partner with local governments to create a stronger community.

The event includes a box lunch. Tickets are \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. The event space at Howard will allow for COVID-19 safety protocols, including social distancing. Following the presentations and a question and answer session in the auditorium, participants will move to the gym for lunch. Tables will be available for dining in, or ticketholders may pick up their lunch to go.

To register, call (843) 546-8436 or go to visitgeorge.com.

Free admission to all state parks Nov. 26

South Carolina State Parks are having a very special kind of Black Friday sale this year to encourage people to #OptOutsideSC and get outdoors on the day after Thanksgiving.

Admission will be free at all state parks in S.C. Nov. 26, including Huntington Beach State Park in Georgetown County. Additionally, tours at the state parks’ three historic homes — Hampton, Redcliffe and Rose Hill plantations — are free.

S.C. State Parks said it also plans to offer 12 Days of Deals in December, which will include a variety of discounts and fun activities to encourage people to get outside and explore.

Admission at many Georgetown County parks and facilities, like Rocky Point, is always free, so get out there and explore!

Georgetown ranks for 4th year in Best Small Coastal Town Contest

For the fourth consecutive year, the City of Georgetown has ranked in America’s top choices for Best Coastal Small Town in the prestigious USA Today/10 Best Readers' Choice travel award contest. After winning the moniker of “Best Coastal Small Town” in 2018, Georgetown has remained one of the coastal towns vying for the annual honor year after year.

In the 2021 contest, Georgetown fell just shy of reclaiming the title, placing second to winner Bucksport, Maine. The Top 10 was announced Friday, Nov. 5.

The second-place stature was Georgetown’s best annual showing since its 2018 win. In 2019, Georgetown finished in fourth place, and in 2020, South Carolina’s third-oldest town finished seventh.

County employees have holiday food drive



Employees across Georgetown County departments collected non-perishable food items over a two-week period in October and November for their second annual holiday food drive. In all, the county collected and delivered 2,000 pounds of food to Helping Hands of Georgetown, which will distribute it to local families in need. Pictured from left are county staff members Bruce Wilkinson, Randy Akers and Joey Manigault with Ronald McInnis of Helping Hands.

WE ARE HIRING!

- A WIDE VARIETY OF POSITIONS
- GREAT BENEFITS
- NOT JUST A JOB. BUT A CAREER!

GTCOUNTY.ORG/JOBS

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

Airport runway project to finish early

A resurfacing project on the main runway at the Georgetown County Airport is proceeding ahead of schedule. Airport Director Jim Taylor said the runway might be able to reopen as early as mid-November, though that won't mark the completion of the project. The new surface will still need to cure for 30 days, but the runway will be able to be in use during the curing process.

The base on the runway had been completely installed and milled, and the top coat was being applied as of Nov. 4. The project, which started October 11, was initially expected to take 40 days. Addition of the grooving and final markings, which will occur after curing, will cause minimal interruptions.

"Overall, the project is way ahead of schedule," Taylor said. "The runway condition warranted resurfacing, but more importantly to me and our users and our future users, by milling three inches off the top of the runway and putting four inches down, we'll increase our weight bearing capacity up to the neighborhood of 85 to 100,000 pounds. That affords us the opportunity to land larger aircraft here."

The Georgetown County Airport is currently in a transition phase, Taylor added. "We've been known as a hobbyist airport, a destination airport. We cater to people flying into their second or third homes — the hobbyists, the retired guys that have an airplane and want to go point A to point B. But we're building a larger clientele of business travelers and business aircraft."

One of the best things about having the runway project finish early, Taylor said, is that the main runway will be open for Thanksgiving travelers.

County offers free fitness memberships for veterans

To commemorate Veterans Day and honor those who have served in the military, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation will offer free fitness center memberships during the months of November and December. Free memberships will be available to both veterans as well as current members of the military.

In addition, starting in January of 2022, Parks and Recreation will offer a reduced-price fitness center membership to all veterans and those currently serving. This new price is \$5.00 per month.

"As the spouse of a veteran, I am excited to announce this great amenity for those who have served our Nation," said Beth Goodale, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services in Georgetown County.

To register, veterans and service members must sign up at one of the Department's four regional recreation centers. For the purposes of this program, a veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the following forms of identification when registering:

- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card
- Department of Defense Identification Card for currently serving members

For more information or to register, call (843) 545-3320 or email cwallace@gtcounty.org.



November Happenings...
at the Georgetown Library
@405 Cleland Street, Georgetown

November 16 Art Class @ 4 PM
Myrtle Beach Art Museum, "Painting with Yarn"

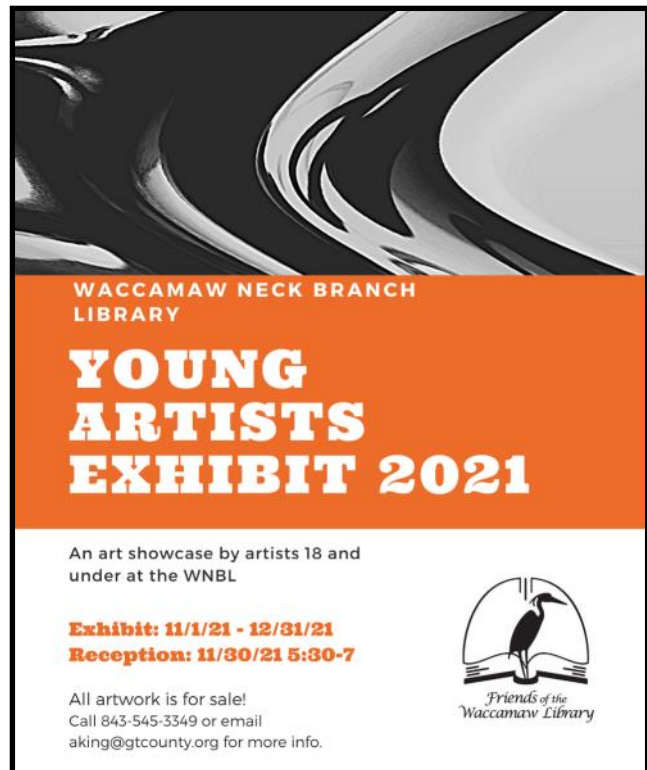
November 17 Story Time @ 10 AM
"Gobble, Gobble!"

November 18 Family Night @ 4:30 PM
"Let's Be Thankful" with Stories & Crafts

November 24 Story Time @ 10 AM
"Turkey Time"...Come decorate a Turkey!

November 29 Fish Printing & a Fish Story @ 4 PM *
Interactive Program with the *North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*
Registration Required

Sign Up TODAY!
843-545-3311/3310




WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY

YOUNG ARTISTS EXHIBIT 2021

An art showcase by artists 18 and under at the WNBL

Exhibit: 11/1/21 - 12/31/21
Reception: 11/30/21 5:30-7

All artwork is for sale!
Call 843-545-3349 or email aking@gtcounty.org for more info.



Yuletide Home Tour returns Dec. 11



Halls will soon be decked with boughs of holly when the Friends of the Georgetown Library's annual Yuletide Home Tour once again takes place. This year's event is planned for Saturday, Dec. 11, from 1-5 p.m. It will feature beautiful residences adorned in holiday finery, as well as a couple of splendid church sanctuaries that grace Georgetown's Historic District. There will also be a festive Santa Shoppe featuring local vendors with crafts available for purchase just in time for holiday giving! Tour tickets can be purchased at any Georgetown County Library branch. Cost is \$20 for Friends of the Georgetown Library and \$25 for non-members. The tour is self-guided and maps will be provided. For more information, contact Bob Willey at rwilley1019@gmail.com or Trudy Bazemore at tbazemore@gtcounty.org.

Holiday Cutting Board Painting Party



Join us at the
Waccamaw Neck Branch Library on
December 10th at 10am to
Paint a Cutting Board with Fun Holiday Images!

Sign up required

Sign up at the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library
Adult Reference Desk.

Contact Kendra Corey at kcorey@gtcounty.org for
more info!

One board per person



Digital Library adds new photo collections



In this Feb. 1929 photo from the Santee Gun Club collection, members of the Reath family enjoy coffee on the porch of the Clubhouse.

The Georgetown County Digital Library has been busy adding new collections to its online archive. The most recent addition is comprised of photos and ledgers from the collection of the Santee Gun Club, located just south of Georgetown.

The club, originally organized in 1898, was one of the most well known hunt clubs in the South and its members were some of the wealthiest men in the nation, including former President Grover Cleveland. The photos were taken in the 1928-1933 period by club member and famed artist Richard E. Bishop. Also included are shooting logs from the Reath family, who were members of the hunt club for many years.

The online archive has also recently added a collection of location cookbooks, most dating to the early 20th century and featuring recipes from many local churches and civic organizations. To find these collections and others, visit www.gcdigital.org and start exploring Georgetown County's history in photographs today!

THIS MONTH at the library

Toys for Tots

The Georgetown and Carvers Bay Library branches are collecting new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. Patrons are invited to drop off toys at these sites until Dec. 10.

When Ghosts Come Home

If you missed New York Times best selling author Wiley Cash at the Waccamaw Library on Nov. 4, don't worry. You can watch his full presentation, titled "When Ghosts Come Home: Wiley Cash & the New Southern Gothic," on the Library's [YouTube channel](#).

Monday Knitting

Knitters of all experience levels are invited to meet at the Waccamaw Library on Mondays from 1-3 p.m. for group knitting sessions. Bring your own needles and yarn.

Stores of Front Street

For a long time, many of the most prominent merchants on Georgetown's historic Front Street were of Jewish descent. Descendants of these merchants recently told their stories at the Georgetown Library during a program titled "Stores of Front Street." The [full program](#) is available to be viewed on the library's YouTube channel.

Community Yoga

Work on relaxation, flexibility, balance and strength building during community yoga sessions at the Waccamaw Library every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. The class is free; but donations are welcome.

Find more programs

To find more library programs, visit gtcounty.org/library.

First youth Super Bowl set for Nov. 13



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation will host its very first Youth NFL Flag Football Super Bowl on Saturday, Nov. 13, at Beck Recreation Center. Festivities will run all morning and into early afternoon, with pre-game events beginning at 9 a.m. Games start at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The day will also include a Parade of Teams, half-time events and concessions. In the ages 5-8 Division game at 10 a.m., the River Conference's Andrews Saints will take on the Coastal Conference's Waccamaw Vikings. In the ages 9-12 Division game at 11:30 a.m., the Coastal Conference's Waccamaw Patriots will take on the River Conference's Northwest 49ers.

Donation to improve Litchfield beach access

The Grand Strand Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation donated \$20,000 to Georgetown County to help underwrite the cost of rebuilding a 75-foot beach access walkway



at Litchfield Beach. The walkway will improve the access at First Street to better serve public beach-goers.

"We are just incredibly grateful to Surfrider Foundation," said Ray C. Funnye, Georgetown County Director of Public Services. "Their stewardship of our beaches — arguably one of our key resources in Georgetown County — will allow the reconstruction of this walkway that ties into a heavily-used portion of Litchfield Beach, providing for years of safe enjoyment by our residents and visitors. We are excited for this work to begin and be completed in time for the 2022 summer season."

This beach access improvement at Litchfield Beach is part of a larger beach access program that the chapter has championed. The chapter's past beach access improvements include securing a commitment from the town of Surfside Beach to construct a wheelchair-accessible ramp at the 13th Avenue South beach access, as well as raising the funds for that project, and more recently purchasing beach mats to create a modular accessway across sandy beach to improve accessibility during chapter and partner beach events.

"As an organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our coasts, improving beach access for all has been one of the main foci of our chapter's efforts," said Aubin Hooker, chair of Surfrider Foundation Grand Strand. "We are grateful to our local communities for their support, which has made this donation and project possible, and we are proud to support the improvement of beach access in Georgetown County." Project construction will begin in the coming months, and more information on the construction phase will be made available to the public at gtcounty.org.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY FIRE-EMS

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Firefighters will collect items Nov. 13 & 14, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. outside Walmart in Georgetown

Please consider donating new, unwrapped toys to this cause. Donations may also be dropped off at the Georgetown County Fire/EMS Headquarters Station, 3605 Highmarket St., Georgetown.

THE SALVATION ARMY TOYS FOR TOTS

Christmas 2021

Christmas Assistance Sign-Ups!
Children 0 - 14years old

ONLINE SIGN-UPS!*

October 1st - November 30th

SAAngelTree.org

Simply go online and fill out the application to apply!

*Online sign-ups will only be accessible during the above dates.

Midway chief announces retirement

Midway Fire Rescue Chief Doug Eggiman will retire at the end of this year, ending a career that spans more than 30 years. He made the announcement on Oct. 11.

"I have been considering it for several months and a few recent positive events, along with some health issues, have helped me come to the conclusion that it is the right time for my family, myself, and the department," Eggiman said.



Eggiman

Eggiman joined the department as a volunteer in August of 1985. Just over a year later, he became one of the first three paid firefighter/EMTs in the department's history.

"It is surreal to think that I have been doing this over 35 years, 36 years if you count my volunteer time," Eggiman said. This career has afforded me many great opportunities to develop friends across the nation as I took classes, taught classes and served in leadership positions in state and multi-state associations. This department has been like another child for me as I watched and helped it grow over the years."

Georgetown County Fire-EMS also recently lost its longtime chief, Mack Reed, to retirement. Read more about Eggiman and his career in our January newsletter.

Library accepts Rainey Portrait



Georgetown County Library Director Dwight McInvaill was part of a ceremony on Nov. 9 that celebrated the renaming of the Georgetown Post Office in honor of Joseph Rainey. Born enslaved, Rainey was the first African American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, the first to preside over the House, and the longest-serving Black lawmaker in Congress during Reconstruction. The ceremony took place in Rainey Park on Front Street and included presentation of a proclamation to Lorna Rainey, a descendent of Joseph Rainey. A portrait of Joseph Rainey was presented to McInvaill and will be displayed permanently at the Georgetown Library on Cleland Street. Pictured from left are: Congressman Tom Rice, who organized the ceremony, Lorna Rainey, McInvaill and City of Georgetown Mayor Brendon Barber. Born in Georgetown, Rainey introduced few bills, but was one of the House's most able orators and labored tirelessly in committee. During his more than eight years in the House, he worked to pass civil rights legislation, fund public schools, and guarantee equal protection under the law, according to history.house.gov.

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).

Stay Connected
WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT



@GtCounty






Help us plan for the future



Georgetown County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. We'd like you to be involved throughout the process. A new survey is now available to gather public input on what future growth should look like.

GTCOUNTY.ORG/COMPPLAN



County installs Opticom system to aid emergency response



Georgetown County had a ribbon cutting ceremony at Midway Fire-Rescue on Nov. 3 to celebrate the newly-installed Opticom system. The system includes traffic pre-emption emitters installed in fire and rescue vehicles across the county. These devices work with traffic signals to let the signals know when an emergency vehicle with lights and sirens activated is approaching. The traffic light will be signaled to change to green to allow the vehicle to pass safely. The goal is to improve traffic safety and shave time off of emergency response times, potentially saving lives. Opticom was purchased and installed by the county following a grassroots effort by members of the community. One of those members, Karen Yaniga, was a featured speaker during the ribbon cutting, along with County Council Member John Thomas and Midway Fire-Rescue Chief Doug Eggiman.



Council returns to historic courthouse

This month Georgetown County Council moved back to County Council Chambers in the historic Screven Street Courthouse after more than 18 months away. Council meetings moved to Howard Auditorium in 2020 to allow for better social distancing during the pandemic. Council members said they wanted to move back to Council Chambers this fall, but some practices initiated during the pandemic will remain. For example, council meetings will continue to be livestreamed on the county's [YouTube channel](#) in an effort to make them more accessible to the public. County Council meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. Due to the holidays, council only meets once per month during November and December. For more information about Georgetown County Council, including a meeting schedule, visit gtcounty.org/council.

HTC BROADBAND UPDATE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2021
6:00 P.M.
CHOPPEE RECREATION CENTER
8259 CHOPPEE RD., GEORGETOWN, SC

Learn more about HTC's broadband expansion plans for Georgetown County, including a construction timeline, service offerings, and pricing information. Light refreshments will be served.

Harold West is Employee of the Quarter

Harold West, an employee of the Public Works and Construction Division for 17 years, has been named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of this year.

As a Special Projects Supervisor, Mr. West performs numerous tasks, such as resolving and installing drainage systems throughout the county. He assists all area supervisors in maintaining their area's roads and roadside ditches. He helps other departments in the Department of Public Services investigate and resolve issues when beyond their capacity. He is also skilled in operating all equipment in the Public Works Department.

Throughout his department, West is considered an extremely valuable employee. He is exceptional at assessing an issue and devising a plan to get the job done and resolved promptly.

Just recently, he completed the site work at three county Fire Substations and cleared the right-of-way for power lines to the Plantersville Fire Substation. He has repaired the drainage system at the Sherriff's Office, and cleared and prepared a new laydown yard for Public Works. These are just a few examples of his efforts, all done while also assisting Areas 1, 2 and 3 with their normal road maintenance.

Along with his quick thinking and equipment operation skills, he is also a team player. He works well with others and has a good rapport with his staff and fellow employees. He often meets with local residents to investigate issues of concern, and he devises a course of action and explains to them the county's position. He is prompt when responding to the public and often receives positive feedback from the public.



Harold West

Paddling for a Cause



Georgetown County Sheriff Carter Weaver, right, and Horry County Sheriff Phillip Thompson escorted the "Paddle the Marshwalk Pink" breast cancer awareness event on Oct. 29 in Murrells Inlet. The Georgetown County Sheriff's Marine Patrol was happy to ensure safe passage for nearly 50 paddlers.

New Criminal Justice Academy grads



On November 5, six candidates from the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office graduated from the SC Criminal Justice Academy. In this photo, Captain Ernest Hampton, Lt. Melvyn Garrett, and Sgt. Chuck Weaver congratulate graduates (left to right) Daniel Caprar, Mike Yilmaz, Brian Wainscott, Robert Amon, Javier Castro, and Matthew Watkins.

Holiday Closures

Georgetown County offices & most facilities will be closed on the following dates this holiday season:

Nov. 25 & 26 Thanksgiving

Dec. 24 - 28 Christmas

Dec. 31 New Year's Day (observed)

Facilities that normally have weekend hours may have different closures. Visit gtcounty.org for information.



Flood Insurance

Continued from Front Page

residents be aware of the zone they live in and the potential for not only coastal flooding, but inland flooding.

"Most people remember the extensive flooding our area saw in 2015 and 2016," Elliott said. "People who have never seen that kind of water before got flooded and not all of those homes are in the flood zone. You don't have to be in a flood zone to flood. But you also don't have to be in a flood zone to be eligible for flood insurance, so you can protect yourself by carrying flood insurance even though your zone may not require it. And educate yourself about what is needed to be compliant."

Residents can find out what flood zone their home is in by entering their address at gtcounty.org/gcemd. If you have questions about the flood insurance program or making your home safer, contact the building Department at (843) 545-3116 or visit gtcounty.org/building.

Veterans Benefit Administration dealing with backlog as a result of pandemic

By David Murphy

Georgetown County Veterans Affairs Officer

Hello Veterans! Happy Veterans Day and happy Thanksgiving to everyone. The U. S. Marine Corps celebrates its 246th Birthday on Nov 10. Please give them a salute and thank them for their service.

Lately I have been receiving phone calls about the status of claims that have been submitted and why it seems to be taking longer that expected to receive statuses and updates. I wanted to share with you some information from the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) to hopefully enlighten you on what's going on:

"The VBA, within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) understands how important it is for veterans and their families to have their claims processed in a timely fashion. While the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed exams and access to some federal records we need to process claims, VBA is working hard to address the backlog issue."

A video message from Willie Clark, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, addresses the backlog and [may be viewed on YouTube](#).

As of this month, there are approximately 260,000 backlogged claims (pending more than 125 days) and a total inventory of 620,000 pending claims. Veterans Affairs identified more than 70,000 claims to review for additional entitlement stemming from the presumptive relationship between Agent Orange and Parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism. In August, the VA also began granting disability benefits for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for those Veterans who served in numerous theaters of operations since 1990 to present and who now suffer from chronic respiratory conditions.

Starting in October, VBA began hiring new staff to ensure veterans' claims are adjudicated quickly and help reduce an expected additional increase in the backlog of claims pending more than 125 days. Veterans Affairs is taking the following proactive steps to help:

- Hire and train 2,000 new employees to assist in claims processing.
- Utilize funds provided via the American Rescue Plan for overtime to ensure timely claims processing.
- Deploy requested fiscal year 2022 budget resources to support Agent Orange presumptive processing, as well as for general Compensation and Pension claims processing.

Several factors have contributed to the recent backlog. Beginning in March 2020, operational changes necessitated by the pandemic resulted in delay of the Federal Records Centers' retrieval of documents and suspended Compensation and Pension examinations. While these actions were necessary, they slowed the processing time for claims.

VA workload has also increased as a result of the aforementioned recent decisions and actions, including a court order mandating the review of previously denied Veterans on the basis of qualifying service in the 12 nautical miles surrounding Vietnam. With continued improvement of ability to obtain C&P examinations and Federal Records, and with all requested resources and staffing received, VBA will address the anticipated increase in additional claims and then further reduce the current claims backlog to 100,000 claims by April 2024.

I hope this sheds some light on why claims may be taking longer. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (843) 545-3330 or dmurphy@gtcounty.org.



Murphy

Details for Veterans Day Parade



The annual Georgetown Veterans Day Parade is set to take place on Thursday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m. Georgetown VFW Post 6444 invites individuals and groups to participate, volunteer, or just come out and watch.

"We're asking everyone to line Front Street and salute our veterans on this special occasion when our country recognizes them and their sacrifices," said Paige Sawyer, a parade organizer.

Parade lineup will be at East Bay Park at 1 p.m. The parade route will travel from the park down Front Street to Wood Street.

For more information, contact Sawyer at (843) 546-3745 or paigebsawyer@gmail.com, or Rodney Ward at (843) 833-3700 or Rodney.ward48@yahoo.com.

TEMPORARY CLOSURES

Pawleys Island Recycling Center

Milling and paving work on Grate Ave. is scheduled to take place Nov. 15-17, weather permitting. As a result, the Pawleys Island recycling center will be closed on those dates.

Waccamaw Library

The Waccamaw Library is closed Nov. 9-11 due to a leak in the fire suppression system over the circulation desk. The issue is expected to be repaired in time for the library to reopen on Nov. 12. Check the Library's Facebook page for updates.

Art Classes!

the ART MUSEUM
visits the Georgetown Library!

Pre-registration is required. Please contact Shelia Sullivan to complete registration.

843.545.3310

ssullivan@gtcounty.org

Time | 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Ages | 6 - 12 years old

November 16th | Painting with Yarn

By comparing and looking at the movement in both Chellis Baird and Jackson Polluck's work, students will create their own paintings using strands of yarn as their paint brush.

December 21st | Printingscape

Students will create their own animal inspired lithograph print in the style of Jacque Hnizdovsky's work.

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 Street

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



County Fire participates in annual training



Georgetown County Fire-EMS recently completed its annual “refresher” training with a controlled burn exercise.

“What they’re doing is working on their skills by going through a simulated structure fire,” said Brian Ullom, the department’s Division Chief of Training. “Usually there’ll be a victim inside. They may have become entrapped and firefighters will have to do what we call a wall breach, where they actually have to break through the sheetrock of a wall and go in between the two studs to get themselves and the victims out.”

The department built a wall inside of the burn building and put sheetrock up so firefighters could have the experience of breaking through the wall and navigating through the studs on either side in full gear to get themselves and a

victim out.

“It’s important because it allows the firefighters to keep their skills up outside of the regular monthly training that they do,” Ullom said. “They have to work together as a team to be able to move the hose lines through the house to be able to locate the fire. They always need to be ready because you never know when they’ll have to locate a victim in a zero visibility situation — maybe even have to rescue one of their own.”

The training took place over three days at the Nine-Mile Curve station and was a success, according to Ullom.

“They got some good experience out here. All the firefighters did good, there were no injuries, so we’re doing good.”

