



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

Jan. 20 – Last day to complete Comprehensive Plan input survey. See page 7.

Jan. 20 – Tea and Poetry Series resumes at Waccamaw Library, 10 a.m. See page 5.

Jan. 20 – Georgetown County Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., historic county courthouse.

Jan. 25 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St., Georgetown.

Feb. 3 – County Council Budget Workshop, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Howard Center.

Feb. 3 – County Transportation Committee Meeting, 5 p.m. at Howard Auditorium.

Feb. 5 – Polar Plunge fundraiser hosted by the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office. See page 4.

Feb. 7 – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 5 p.m. at the Howard Center.

Feb. 8 – Georgetown County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St., Georgetown.

View more events at gtcounty.org

Volume 10, Issue 5

January 2022

Public invited to comment on redistricting plan

Following a workshop on Jan. 11, Georgetown County Council selected a draft map to move forward with as it works to adopt a redistricting plan, as required by law. The map, known as Plan 1-843A, is still subject to change prior to adoption based on public comments. The map may be viewed online at gtcounty.org/redistricting.



Members of the public inspect a copy of Redistricting Plan 1-843A following a County Council workshop on Jan. 11 in Council Chambers.

The public will have three opportunities to review and comment on the map, as well as pose questions prior to adoption of a redistricting plan. Community meetings on redistricting are scheduled as follows:

- Jan. 18, 6 p.m. at Northwest (Choppee) Regional Recreation Center, 8259 Choppee Rd., Georgetown.
- Jan. 19, 6 p.m. at Howard Auditorium, 1610 Hawkins St., Georgetown.
- Jan. 24, 6 p.m. at Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center, 83 Duncan Ave, Pawleys Island.

An online public comment form is also available at gtcounty.org/redistricting.

Plan 1-843A is the third redistricting plan option presented to County Council. Two maps showing options for federally mandated redistricting were drafted

by the State office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA), and delivered to Council in mid-December. After reviewing the two maps and having individual meetings with County Administrator Angela Christian, it was clear Council had a definite favorite: the map labeled Plan 1-843. However, all of the council members had concerns about various aspects of that map.

Those concerns and feedback from each council member were used to create a third map, 1-843A.

"Based on the feedback we received from each Council Member, they were clear on the changes they wanted to see made," Christian said. "The county in-

See "Redistricting," Page 9

New economic development director hits the ground running

Tiffany Harrison didn't have much time to come up for air her first two weeks on the job as Georgetown County's new Economic Development Director.

"That's ok; I didn't really expect to," she exclaims with a smile and a breezy wave that indicate she's perfectly happy to be on the go and functioning in high gear. She's full of energy and optimism as she takes important roles in Georgetown on the challenges of one of the most County government.



Economic Development Director Tiffany Harrison hands out business cards during a meet and greet hosted by the Alliance for Economic Development.

"I am an optimist, but I'm also a realist," Harrison said. And after two weeks on the job, assessing and evaluating, the initial outlook is good.

"On the back of my business card, it says 'an ocean of opportunity,' and that's exactly the right tag line for Georgetown County," Harrison said. "There is an enormous amount of opportunity here, and I'm excited about it. I feel like we've got

See "Harrison," Page 9

Pee Dee has Community Cleanup, other communities invited to host



The Pee Dee Community Project of Georgetown County hosted a successful volunteer litter cleanup on Jan. 17, with assistance from Georgetown County Environmental Services. They plan to continue the cleanup on Jan. 22, weather allowing. Volunteers should meet at the Pee Dee Community Center. The Environmental Services Division is available to assist with community cleanups all across Georgetown County! For groups that organize volunteer cleanups, the Division can provide materials, including bags, safety vests, gloves and signage. Additionally, the Division will provide pickup of all litter that is collected and transport it to the Landfill. For more information, call Maureen Mulligan at (843) 545-3452 or email mmulligan@gtcounty.org.

COVID causes basketball programming delays

Due to a rise in the number of local COVID-19 cases, and a resulting shortage of coaches and staff, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation will delay both league basketball and free play basketball.

All Jr. NBA Youth Basketball practices for all regions are canceled this week. The department is hopeful practices will be able to resume next week, with games starting on a one-week delay.

Indoor open play basketball was scheduled to resume Jan. 18, but has also been postponed. It is now expected to resume Jan. 24. Find updates at gtcparks.org.

County seeks local veterans to receive Quilts of Valor

Georgetown County veterans and active service members are being sought as nominees to receive Quilts of Valor during a ceremony in April. The deadline for nominations is March 1.



Quilts for the ceremony will be provided through the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which seeks to recognize "the service and sacrifice of those who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces to protect our freedoms." The quilts are hoped to bring comfort and healing.

Any service member or living veteran who served in any branch of the U.S. military and received an honorable or general discharge is eligible to receive a Quilt of Valor. Members of the activated National Guard and activated or active duty-special work (ADSW) reservists are included. The Army National Guard and Air Force National Guard are components of the Army and Air Force respectively. Merchant Marines activated from 1941-1945 are also eligible. Additionally, anyone who served at the Dover Mortuary Facility is eligible.

Nominations should be submitted online and a copy of the nomination should be emailed (dmurphy@gtcounty.org) or faxed (843-545-3312) to the Georgetown County Veterans Services Office prior to March 1. Please make a note on your nomination form that the nomination is for the Myrtle Beach area #565.

If you have questions or would like more information, call the Georgetown County Veterans Services Office at 843-545-3330 or email dmurphy@gtcounty.org.

Get the Chronicle

At Georgetown County, we want our residents and property owners kept abreast of what's going on inside their local government. That's why we created the Georgetown County Chronicle.

It's a vehicle for information about county services and events, important messages from county officials and behind-the-scenes glimpses at how government works.

You can find the Chronicle on our website at www.gtcounty.org or through our 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

Looking for a job in IT?

WE ARE HIRING NOW

We have a variety of positions available, including **Network Engineer**.

Work as part of a great team, enjoy state benefits and government holidays!

Apply at gtcounty.org/jobs

SCAN ME

Hydraulic equipment purchase helps first responders save lives after wreck involving log truck

A recent purchase under Georgetown County's Capital Improvement Plan helped Georgetown County Fire-EMS save a life last month. The purchase was of new, state-of-the-art battery-powered rescue tools to update existing tools that were ready for retirement. Coupled with two new light-duty rescue trucks, the tools provide an enhanced technical rescue capability for the Georgetown County Fire-EMS coverage area.

On the evening of Monday, Dec. 6, first responders were called to put these new resources into action when they were dispatched to a wreck involving an SUV and a log truck. Units from Station 9 near the Airport were first on the scene and found an adult and a child trapped in the SUV. The scene was a shocking one, even for experienced emergency personnel, with twisted metal and logs impaling the entire vehicle from the impact. It could have been a tragic event, but the quick action of first responders combined with the new rescue tools helped ensure all involved in the wreck were able to walk away from the scene.

"The battery-powered rescue tools provide a platform that allowed our limited staff engine company (one firefighter) and medic crew (one paramedic and one EMT) to quickly deploy the initial set of rescue tools and begin the extrication process without having to set up additional components such as hydraulic hoses and gas-powered pumps," said Emergency Services Director Brandon Ellis. "The first arriving personnel were able to quickly and efficiently



extricate the pediatric patient from the vehicle and begin patient care. As additional manpower from two other county fire stations, the City of Georgetown Fire Department and members of the county fire administrative staff began to arrive on scene, we were then able to focus and begin the process of extricating the adult driver, which offered a more complex entrapment scenario."

Not only did the men and women of Georgetown County Fire-EMS perform exceptionally during this complex rescue effort, Ellis added, their ability to perform these lifesaving efforts could not have been as efficient or effective without the resources purchased through the Capital Improvement Plan.

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation wants you to mark your calendars for something big!

SAVE THE DATE

TRACK & FIELD NAMING CEREMONY

Saturday, April 23, 2022
at Beck Recreation Center

With special guest:
Olympic Gold Medalist & Georgetown native Anthuan Maybank!

Stay Connected

WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

@GtCounty

Firefighter helps MUSC demonstrate in-ambulance MRI scan

Minutes matter when the brain is being deprived of oxygen. Doctors at MUSC Health's Comprehensive Stroke Center constantly work with their community hospital colleagues on initiatives to cut down the steps that need to happen



Hewitt

between the time a stroke patient is wheeled through the ambulance bay until treatment can begin. For example, by developing a TeleEMS program so emergency medical technicians can consult with stroke specialists while inside a patient's home or the back of the ambulance.

Some things still need to happen at the hospital before treatment can begin, though, like scans of the brain to confirm a stroke and determine what type it is. But a neuroradiologist with her eyes on the stars wondered if a new portable MRI that she hopes to use in space might also be of use to patients in rural areas of South Carolina.

"I realized that if you have a scanner that can be used in extreme environments such as space, it can also be very useful for patients here on Earth," said Dr. Donna Roberts, who studies how zero gravity and microgravity affect astronauts' brains.

To that end, she got together with Christine Holmstedt, medical director of the Comprehensive Stroke Center; Dr.

Sami Al Kasab, associate medical director of the MUSC Health Teleneuroscience Program; and Michael Haschker, manager of telehealth technologies in the MUSC Health Center for Telehealth, to test the idea.

If it were possible to do an MRI scan in the ambulance, then not only would doctors be better prepared when the ambulance arrived, but the stroke specialists could determine whether the patient could be treated at a community hospital or would need to go directly to a specialized stroke center.


Haschker then recruited Lt. Dale Hewitt of Georgetown County Fire-EMS to help with the demonstration. Hewitt and his wife, Jessica Hewitt, R.N., a nurse leader in the Emergency Department at Tideland's Georgetown Memorial Hospital, were the catalyst for the development of the TeleEMS program, and Dale Hewitt jumped at the chance to volunteer his time driving an ambulance around while the MUSC team tested whether an MRI scan could be successfully completed in the back.

Spoiler alert: It can. The team used a portable MRI developed by Hyperfine. "Portable" in this case is a relative term. The machine is 1,400 pounds and roughly the size of an office printer turned on its side. But that still makes it smaller than the average

MRI machine. It's designed to be wheeled around a hospital to conduct brain scans at the bedside for patients who can't be moved.

"What I was completely impressed by is that it has automatic motion correction," Roberts said. "And so, as we're driving along in the ambulance, we could see that as we bounced over the roads you could see the scanner actually move. So the question was, would it still be able to function and acquire diagnostic images? That was the biggest thing that this demonstration showed, that the scanner itself was able to sense the motion and correct that in real time and so the pictures came out crystal clear. We were amazed by how nice the pictures were."

Haschker said that reducing the time to treatment is especially important for those who live in rural areas. "South Carolina is a leader in stroke, but we're also a leader in stroke care. We want to have one of the most advanced stroke care programs in the United States, and we have a lot of data, so we know that a lot of care can be delivered when the patient is in the ambulance. The MUSC team will write up a report of their practical demonstration. They think it's the first MRI scan performed in an ambulance.





American Red Cross Blood Drive

**WACCMAN
NECK BRANCH
LIBRARY**

41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island, SC


Feb. 28 | noon-5pm
1.800.REDCROSS.

Schedule online at redcrossblood.org





2022
GEORGETOWN COUNTY
**POLAR
PLUNGE**
AT LITCHFIELD INN
2.5.22

Registration 10 am | Costume contest 11 am
Plunge at 11:30 am



Help us support
**Special
Olympics
South Carolina**



<https://give.classy.org/2022GeorgetownPlunge>

For more information contact:
Lt. Robert Sarvis at Georgetown County Sheriff's Office
rsarvis@gtcounty.org or 843-436-6042

The Waccamaw Library and the Poetry Society of S.C. are pleased to announce



**The 2021
Litchfield
Tea and Poetry
Series**



Monthly presentations through April, each featuring thought-provoking poets with S.C. connections.



Programs are free, open to the public and start at 10 a.m. at the Waccamaw Library.

January 20



An emerging voice of the current South, **Ashley M. Jones** is author of "Magic City Gospel," "dark//thing" and "REPARATIONS NOW!" Her writing has already garnered several awards, including the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award, the Silver Medal in the Independent Publishers Book Award, and the Lucille Clifton Poetry Prize. She teaches in the Low Residency MFA program at Converse College.



Elizabeth Robin, retired high school teacher, has three collections through Finishing Line Press: "Where Green Meets Blue," "Silk Purses and Lemonade" and "To my Dreamcatcher" (forthcoming 2022). She is the winner of the 2021 Carrie McCray Nickens Poetry Fellowship from the S.C. Academy of Authors and the S.C. Writers Association. Judge Tiana Clark commented that Robin's imagery "is fresh and allows for strangeness, devastation and delight."

February 17



Marianda Dekine's forthcoming collection of poems, "Thresh & Hold," won the 2021 New Southern Voices Poetry Prize. They are the author of "I am from a punch & a kiss" and their poems are published or forthcoming in several magazines and reviews. They are a Watering Hole Fellow, a Tin House Scholar and a Palm Beach Poetry Festival Langston Hughes Fellow. Dekine lives in Georgetown.



In "The Butterfly Bruises," **Palmer Smith** recasts her travels along the Carolina coast as meditations on the ocean, the South vs. the North, nature vs. technology, and the imagination of the introvert. Her work appears in Arc Journal, Refresh Magazine and Poethread, among others. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Smith is an M.A. student at the University of Virginia and a summer MFA student at Sewanee.

March 17



J. Drew Lanham is an Edgefield native and a celebrated, widely published author and wildlife biologist. His books include the award-winning memoir "The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature" and the poetry-prose collection "Sparrow Envy: Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts." He is Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Clemson University. An open mic event follows.

Airport recognized for safety measures

The Georgetown County Airport and its Fixed Base Operator (FBO) have been recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration for efforts in increasing safety. Certificates were presented by the FAA this month to Airport Manager Jim Taylor and Barry Brock of the FBO, Seven



Barry Brock, left, and Jim Taylor of the Georgetown County Airport are pictured with their certificates from the FAA.

Rivers Aviation, in honor of the achievement.

"They have been great partners and very receptive to anything that has been asked of them, said Walter McElveen, a local FAA FAASTeam liaison.

Phones and tablets and computers, Oh My!



Thursday Tech Talk

In the Teen Room at the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library

**11am-12pm
The Second and Fourth Thursdays
January 13 - May 26, 2022**

Need help with your phone, tablet, or PC? Join us for our twice monthly tech chats.

Donald Dennis will be available to field questions and troubleshoot problems.
ddennis@gtcounty.org for more information



Sheriff's Office recognizes Employees of the Year

At a lunch for staff celebrating Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, Sheriff Carter Weaver announced his agency's Deputy, Detention Center Employee, and Telecommunicator of the Year, and presented the awards in a brief ceremony. The award winners are as follows. We offer our congratulations and thanks to them for their dedicated service.



Grayson

Deputy of the Year

Lt. Matthew Grayson earned the honor of Deputy of the Year based on his 39 years of stellar service with the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office. He has held numerous positions in that time, including patrol deputy, sergeant, and currently lieutenant in the Civil Process Division.

"He goes above and beyond to make sure all of his work assignments are completed

and that everyone involved feels they have been treated fairly and justly," said Captain Ernest Hampton, who nominated him. "Lt. Grayson is a prime example of what every employee who falls under the umbrella of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office should strive to be like."

Detention Center Employee of the Year

Sgt. Brittany Byers received the Detention Center Employee of the Year award, thanks to her motivation to make the Detention Center run more efficiently and effectively. She is one of the best trained and intuitive sergeants at the Detention Center and was lauded for her willingness to learn, eagerness for growth, her can-do attitude and calm demeanor.

"Sgt. Byers is a great listener and is not



Byers

afraid to step up and be the voice of her subordinates or inmates when it comes to their questions and concerns," said Detention Center Director Neil Johnson.

Telecommunicator of the Year

Susie Tuck earned the Telecommunicator of the Year award, based on a highly caring and productive 33 years holding numerous positions including dispatcher, lead dispatcher, and Operations Supervisor.

"She continually goes above and beyond," said 911 Director Joseph Williamson. "For the past few months, she has been filling in for an open Lead Telecommunicator position and has been doing a great job at that along with keeping up her duties as Operations Supervisor. She is a prime example of loyalty and dedication."



Tuck

Is getting in shape part of your new year's resolution?



Georgetown County Parks & Rec. has plenty of programs to help!

- Weight and cardio rooms • League sports • Zumba
- Barre Fit • Line dancing • New programs added regularly

We have facilities located throughout the County, and more facilities coming online.

Freelance program instructors are always wanted.

Call to inquire.

Call (843) 545-3275 for information

2022 Youth Baseball & Softball



Interested in playing Dixie Youth Baseball or Softball? Scan the QR code to register today!

For more information call 843-325-6473



@GTCParks

<http://secure.rec1.com/SC/georgetown-county-sc/catalog>

Blankenship named Employee of the Quarter

Judy Blankenship, the Georgetown County Planning Department's Senior Planner, has been named the county's Employee of the Quarter for the second time. She is one of only two employees ever to receive the highly competitive honor twice.

Blankenship joined the Planning Department in 2008 and has made herself invaluable to the department, earning a promotion to senior planner last year. She is known for her well-established relationships with surveyors and engineers across the county, and shows tremendous patience in dealing with customers of all types, from residents to developers and attorneys.

Since her promotion, she has taken on the additional tasks of scheduling, coordinating and running countywide plan review meetings; training new employees; assisting with the department's permitting software upgrade; and reviewing new planned developments and flexible design districts — all without letting go of any previous job duties.

Blankenship is consistently willing to undertake any task, big or small, to accomplish the goals of the department and keep things running smoothly, said Planning Director Holly Richardson. "She does not just get her work done on time — she completes it early because, as she often says, 'you never know what might happen at the last minute.'" She performs her job with quiet strength and integrity, and represents Georgetown County well in everything she does."



Judy Blankenship is pictured with County Council Chairman Louis Morant.



Pictured from left are County Council Chairman Louis Morant, Battalion Chief Jeff Pifer, acting Midway Fire-Rescue Chief Jim Crawford and Emergency Services Director Brandon Ellis.

Pifer is County's Manager of the Year

Battalion Chief Jeff Pifer of Midway Fire Rescue was recognized this month as Georgetown County's Manager of the Year for 2021. He has been with Midway since 1997 and currently serves in the department's Operations Division.

Pifer is a tenured and respected member of the Department, who has demonstrated his dedication to Midway and the community in numerous ways through the years. The health and wellness of the department's staff are of particular interest to Pifer, and this is evident in his commitment to the many programs he manages for the department.

Pifer is also devoted to recruitment and retention of staff at Midway. He is "intimately involved in every aspect of the hiring process for our department and is constantly ensuring the department is recruiting the best members possible for Midway and the community we protect," said Emergency Services Director Brandon Ellis.

Pifer is also very active in community outreach, assisting frequently with fire and life safety public education programs, commercial fire inspections, and installing smoke alarms in homes that don't have them.

"He is the first to step up and assist with an injured bird at the beach, or removing a snake from someone's home," Ellis said. "He's also the first to offer to fill-in during emergencies. He does whatever it takes to make sure his community is safe and protected."

Recently, Pifer was responsible for organizing a group of off-duty firefighters to come to help a retired and elderly Midway staff member with removal of a large tree that had fallen on the family's garage. This type of behavior is typical of Pifer, Ellis said.

Pifer is also a lifetime learner, continually seeking out educational opportunities to assist him in better performing the duties and responsibilities of his position. He holds numerous certifications and is also a state fire instructor. Pifer lives in the Hagley area with his wife Ronda, their daughter Gracie and an assortment of pets.

Survey Deadline Extended to Jan. 20

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

GTCOUNTY.ORG/COMPPLAN



County recognizes Welch, West as Volunteers of the Year

Georgetown County recognized two outstanding individuals for volunteer services this month. Allen Welch, a volunteer with Midway Fire-Rescue for the last six years was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for 2021. Meanwhile, Harold West, an employee of Georgetown County's Public Works Department, who is also a longtime volunteer with Georgetown County Fire-EMS, was recognized as Employee Volunteer of the Year for 2021.



Allen Welch

Welch, a Navy veteran and the husband of Midway employee Josann Welch, started volunteering at the department in 2015. His experience allows him to make contribute to the department in a wide range of ways.

His knowledge of and experience operating large vehicles gives him the ability to assist with moving vehicles, including for critical repairs, freeing up staff for other duties and allowing them to remain ready and in position to respond to emergencies.

Welch also assists with the Firefighter Rehabilitation Unit, which is vital to the well-being of firefighters operating at emergency

scenes. Additionally, he shares his logistical skills with the department to help them during long-term events, including hurricanes.

"The experience, professionalism and knowledge Allen brings to our organization as a volunteer is invaluable," said recently retired Chief Doug Eggiman, who nominated him for the award. "He has provided critical assistance to the Division of Fire and Life Safety on several occasions. A few examples include assisting the Division, as well as the Operations Division with the Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program. He has spent many weekends across the Midway Fire-Rescue district performing yearly maintenance on countless fire hydrants, ensuring they are operating properly."



Harold West

West, who has worked with the county's Public Services Department for 19 years, has served as a volunteer firefighter with County Fire-EMS for 18 years. He is described as an "extremely dedicated volunteer firefighter and driver operator of fire apparatus" at his station. He takes the utmost pride in the equipment, station, and in

See "Volunteers," Page 9



INTRO TO HIKING

Learn hiking basics, safety & where to explore next in the Lowcountry!

FEBRUARY 1ST @ 9AM
WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY
41 ST. PAUL PLACE
PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC
843-545-3623

Presented by Boy Scout Leaders
Doug Wahl & Graham McElveen



PIANO PICNIC

WITH TOM SANTOPIETRO

Mondays in January noon-1pm
Bring a bag lunch, listen to piano music & socialize!

Waccamaw Neck Branch Library
41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island, SC



Redistricting

Continued from Front Page

corporated their ideas into a third draft plan and sent it to the RFA to make sure it met all the legal requirements.”

Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing and give third and final reading to a redistricting plan at its Feb. 8 meeting.

Districts on the federal, state and local levels must be redrawn every 10 years after new census numbers come in to reflect changes in the population and ensure fair and equal representation for all residents.

The primary differences between the newest draft of the map and Plan 1-843 are as follows:

- Whereas Plan 1-843 consists of one “majority minority” and two “majority influential” districts, the newest map has only two “majority minority” districts (Districts 3 and 7). Whereas District 4’s population makeup is just over 50% black in Plan 1-843, the percentage is 22.89 in the alternative plan. However, the minority population for Districts 3 and 7 is considerably higher in the alternative plan than in Plan 1-843. The percentage of minority residents in the county as a whole decreased from 2010 to 2020, according to the census, making it a significant challenge to ensure minority representation.

- Plan 1-843 moved the DeBordieu community from District 2 into District 4. Plan 1-843A keeps it in District 2, instead moving the Kensington community from District 2 to District 4. Council members said they wanted to see communities with like interests – such as coastal communities – remain grouped together.

- No incumbents were unseated by redistricting under Plan 1-843. In the alternative plan, two current school board members – Lynne Ford and Pat DeLeone – would no longer reside in the districts they represent. The district lines for County Council are also used by the Georgetown County School Board.

- District 1 County Council Member John Thomas and District 6 Council Member Steve Goggans would no longer reside in the districts they represent under Plan 1-843A. Both announced previously that they did not plan to seek re-election when their terms expire at the end of this year.

- Litchfield Country Club is currently included in District 1, which primarily covers Murrells Inlet. Litchfield Country Club is shifted to District 6 under both Plan 1-843 and Plan 1-843A.

- Districts 1 and 6 are shifted significantly in the alternative plan. Both areas gained a large number of new residents over the last decade. District 1 shrinks to include only the

northernmost portion of the current area covered by the district. District 6 would also move north and take over a large portion of the area currently in District 1, from the current District 7 line all the way to the coastline.

- The lower portion of the area currently in District 6 would move to District 2 and the district becomes smaller, again due to increased population density.

- Perhaps the biggest changes are to District 4, which would absorb Kensington and much of the easternmost portions of District 3 from Highway 17 toward Winyah Bay and southward to the county line. The City of Georgetown’s West End community would be shifted to District 3 and most of the current northwestern portion of District 4 would move to District 7, with District 5 picking up a smaller portion.

- District 7 expands into the northern portion of what is currently District 4 while losing some area to District 5 in the northern portion west of Carvers Bay Road.

- District 5 expands into the central northern part of what is currently District 3.

The 2020 census saw the county’s total population increase by 5.4%. Just under 30% of the county’s population is minority.

The first two maps created by the RFA are also available for public review at gtcounty.org/redistricting.

Volunteers

Continued from Page 8

serving the community and its residents.

“He can always be counted on to respond, and he works very hard on the scenes,” said acting Chief Tony Hucks, who nominated West. “He has made a true difference in the Yauhannah and Plantersville communities by promoting the services County Fire-EMS provides and rallying other volunteers to do the same.”

West’s commitment and dedication to the department, the county and its residents is highly respected by West’s peers, Hucks added.

“He sets an example for volunteers and staff. He is always respectful and kind to everyone he comes in contact with,” Hucks said. “His experience is also invaluable.”

West also excels in his paid job with Public Works and was recognized last fall as the county’s Employee of the Quarter. He is one of only two employees to have ever received that honor twice.

Harrison

Continued from Front Page

a good team in place to start doing the real work to move the county forward in a very positive direction and I’m happy to be a part of it. There’s a whole lot of activity here — more activity than I thought — and we’re in a good position with some economic development projects. It makes me absolutely certain that this was the right decision for me and I’m in the right place.”

A Columbia native with 20 years of economic development experience, Harrison comes to Georgetown County from Richland County Economic Development, where she spent the last five years as deputy director. Her first day on the job in Georgetown County was Jan. 3. She spent much of her first two weeks listening and getting a lay of the land.

“I had a lot of really good meetings and great discussions,” she said. “I’m meeting with stakeholders and meeting with people in the community, really just getting an un-

derstanding of what all of our assets are. The next steps are to meet with some of our businesses and industries, getting to know them and their products and understanding what their challenges are, where we have opportunities to work with them. That will be my next few weeks.”

Harrison said she expects to continue to spend her next two to three months on the job listening and learning, but there are also “some very urgent projects” that have to be attended to in the mean time. “So I’m also jumping right in on those,” she added. “I think we’re going to start seeing some results form in the next three to six months.”

Although there are still many people in the county to meet and talk to, Harrison said she’s already being made to feel very welcome in her new home.

“So many people have reached out, just wanting to come meet me and welcome me. It’s a good feeling. They want to get to know me and talk about the future of the county, and that’s so refreshing.”

**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



Sheriff's Office introduces Chaplain Program



Pictured from left are Sheriff Carter Weaver and the Sheriff's Office's new chaplains Bishop John Smith Jr., Pastor Greg Van Dyke, the Rev. Kenny Johnson and Pastor Josue Sierra.

At a luncheon given in appreciation of Georgetown County Sheriff's Office staff as part of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, Sheriff Carter Weaver introduced the Sheriff's Chaplain Program.

"No one is confronted with more situations that demoralize and create emotional, mental and spiritual burdens than those who work in the law enforcement environment," Weaver said. "The Chaplain Program can help enhance employee well-being, both on and off the job. The chaplains respect what we do and they want to help."

Four chaplains were chosen for the program: the Rev. Kenny Johnson of Ringel Heights Baptist Church, Bishop John Smith Jr. of Greater Bible Way Church, Pastor Greg Van Dyke of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, and Pastor Josue Sierra of First Assembly of God Emmanuel.

The Rev. Johnson was a longtime coroner for Georgetown County, before his retirement a year ago. "Having sat in the seats where all of you now sit, my heart goes out to you," he said to the

crowd. "I'm here to help you, pray with you, and pray for you. It's not always a pleasant society we serve these days."

Pastor Josue Sierra, who served in a similar capacity for six years in Florida, urged any officer to feel comfortable approaching any of the chaplains. Pastor Van Dyke agreed, adding that he prays for the agency every day.

"You provide a vital service at every level; 24/7 you put yourself at risk to protect others," he said. "We're here to serve you as you serve us."

Bishop Smith echoed his fellow chaplains, lauding the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office staff. "We are eager to support people who are serving our community, and this agency is a wonderful representative of that," he said.

Weaver reminded those gathered that the very underpinnings of their work can be found in Psalms 82:3-4.

"Defend the weak and the fatherless, uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed," he quoted. "Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

COMMUNITY
PORTRAIT EXHIBIT

Local Artist:
**JOHN
CHARLES**

DECEMBER - FEBRUARY
2022

WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY
41 ST. PAUL PLACE
PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC



John Charles has created 20 portraits of local people who are making a positive difference in our area and to the world.

These portraits are on display at the Waccamaw Library through February. It's an exhibit you won't want to miss!

Charles is a native of Florence and resides in North Litchfield.