



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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- Aaron Bostic chosen as assistant chief for County Fire-EMS, Page 7.

Calendar

Jan. 19 – County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

Jan. 24 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

Jan. 30 & 31 – Public meeting on flooding. See page 4.

Jan. 31 – County Council retreat, 8:30 a.m., County Airport, 129 Airport Rd.

Feb. 14 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

Feb. 16 – County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

Feb. 20 – County offices are closed in observance of Presidents Day.

Feb. 28 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2023

Georgetown Library renovations on the way



Officials pose with shovels during a ground breaking ceremony at the library on Thursday, Jan. 12.

The Georgetown County Library is gearing up to begin renovations on its main branch on Cleland Street. County officials held a groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 12 to kick things off. Construction work is scheduled to begin by Feb. 1.

While the library will be able to remain open for approximately the first six months of construction, it will need to close for several months beginning this summer. Some of the main branch's collection and operations, including its summer reading program and children's services, will move to the Howard Center on Hawkins Street during that time.

"We'll have access to the large auditorium there, so we'll be able to do lots of exciting things there," said Dwight McInvaill, Georgetown County Library Director.

"The really wonderful thing is that we'll be able to establish closer relationships with the community around Howard as well."

The 33-year-old library opened in 1989 and has since had only one minor period of renovation, in 2007. Decades of wear are starting to show across every inch of the facility from sagging ceilings to hazy light fixtures. The structure remains sound, but the renovations — which include a 3,120-foot expansion — will make it shine again.

"It needs a lot of TLC because people have loved it so much over the years," McInvaill said. "It's really going to sparkle again when it's done."

Work is expected to take about a year, he added.

See "Library," Page 10



Parts of the Waccamaw Neck bikeway will close this month as the state moves forward with planned and controlled burning at Huntington Beach State Park.

The bikeway runs through Pawleys Island north to the Horry County Line, including a section that traverses the park's forest. Parts of that section will close intermittently beginning this week until controlled burning is complete. The work is expected to take about a month. The path will be open during the process as much as possible whenever authorities deem work does not pose a danger to riders on the path.

The state announced plans for controlled burning

See "Bike Path," Page 3

Two new, one returning Council Members take oath

The Waccamaw Neck has two new County Council representatives. Clint Elliott and Stella Mercado both joined the council this month, replacing retiring council members John Thomas and Steve Goggans. They took their oath of office on Jan. 10, along with Council Chairman Louis Morant, who was re-elected in November for a second term. Morant was also re-elected as Council Chairman during the first council meeting of the year immediately following the oath ceremony. All were elected to a four-year term.

Elliott, representing District 1, is an environmental scientist, a longtime Murrells Inlet resident and a native of the Yauhannah community of Georgetown County. He graduated from Pleasant Hill High School and Clemson University, where he earned a degree in microbiology. He is employed by the Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority and manages all of its drinking water labs. He serves on the board of the Waccamaw Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association and has been active in efforts to rebuild oyster beds in the inlet that are vital to fishing. He is a graduate of the Leadership Grand Strand program and served on the alumni committee. He and his wife, Marodith attend Belin Memorial United Methodist Church.

Mercado, representing District 6, is co-founder and CEO of Mercom, a technology firm located in Pawleys Island. She and her husband, Mark, live in Litchfield with their two sons, Alex and Nicholas, 11 and 8. They also attend Belin. A resident of the Waccamaw Neck for 20 years, she has served on the boards of Teach My People, Coastal Montessori Charter School and its PTO, Coastal Carolina University Wall College of Business and Charleston Defense Contractors Association, and was appointed by Gov. Henry McMaster to the S.C. Research Authority. She has a degree in International




Pictured from left are Stella Mercado, Louis Morant and Clint Elliott.

Relations and Spanish from the University of Virginia and completed the Executive Program at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

Morant, a Georgetown County native, was first elected to represent District 7 in 2018. He is sole proprietor of Morant and Morant, the law firm he started with his late brother, Johnny, in Georgetown. He and his wife, Marthena, live in Plantersville. They have an adult daughter, Maya. Chairman Morant has a Bachelor of Science degree from Savannah State University and a law degree from the University of South Carolina. He formerly served on the Georgetown County Planning Commission and as vice chairman of the Georgetown County Water and Sewer District Board of Directors. He also served on the Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council Board of Directors and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

We congratulate Elliott, Mercado and Morant and thank them for their service to the county.




North by Night
More heroes of the Underground Railroad

Andrews Library
105 N. Morgan Ave, Andrews, SC
January 24th @ 4pm

Southern Georgetown Library
4187 Powell Rd
January 25th @ 4:00pm

All ages are welcome to come and meet some familiar names and many more who have gone unnoticed by history!



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

Recycling Centers to standardize operating hours beginning Jan. 30

The hours of operation for recycling centers across Georgetown County will be more consistent and predictable beginning Monday, Jan. 30. The Environmental Services Division has announced plans to standardize center hours.

When the changes go into effect, all centers will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. The standard operating hours for centers at the Landfill, Old Pee Dee, North Santee, Yauhannah and Browns Ferry recycling centers will be permanently modified.

"Environmental Services is making these changes to improve our services and consistency across the centers and reduce the number of scheduling conflicts," said Michelle LaRocco, Division manager.

Center weekday hours for Old Pee Dee will change to 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Browns Ferry, North Santee and Yauhanna centers will now all have the same schedule: 6 a.m. to noon Mondays and Thursdays, and noon to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. North Santee, Yauhannah, Browns Ferry and Big Dam centers will continue to be closed on Wednesdays. All centers except Murrells Inlet, Pawleys Island and Johnson Road will continue to be closed on Sundays.

Residents with questions may call (843) 545-3443.

Bike Path

Continued from Front Page

at Huntington Beach State Park last year and hosted a community meeting in Murrells Inlet in November. The controlled burn is part of wildfire mitigation efforts. The accumulation of "woody fuels" such as dead and downed trees from years of hurricanes, storms and beetle damage have created a high wildfire risk for the area, which poses a risk to homes in the area.

"Huntington Beach State Park is a prime example of where the wildland and urban landscapes collide, emphasizing the importance of mitigation efforts like this to be undertaken," said Drake Carroll, S.C. Forestry Commission fire prevention coordinator. "In addition to improving not only the health of the forest itself, but also the sheer aesthetics of the land and the viability of the wildlife habitat it supports, this project will greatly reduce the wildfire risk to the park and its neighboring communities."

Georgetown County asks that bikeway users be patient with the closings during this time. Closures will be limited as much as possible.

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).

2023 Youth Baseball & Softball



Interested in playing Dixie Youth Baseball or Softball?
Scan the QR code to register today!
Registration: 1/1/23 - 2/15/23

For more information call 843-325-6473



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



MONEY MATTER\$

Financial Workshop

- *Saving For YOUR Future
- *Knowing YOUR Credit
- *Getting YOUR Best Rate
- *Finding YOUR Right Options
- *Budgeting for YOUR Family

Saturday, March 4
11am
Southern Georgetown Library
4187 Powell Road, Georgetown



Guest Speaker:
Nikki Ewing
GKCU Vice President of Marketing



www.gkcu.org
Georgetown Andrews Kingstree Pawleys Island

Altman retires from Elections Board

The Georgetown County Board of Elections and Voter Registration recognized retiring board member Billy Altman on Jan. 11 for 20 years of service. The January meeting was Altman's last as a board member. He and his wife are moving to Columbia.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the 20 years I have been involved in the voting process in Georgetown County," Altman told those in attendance. "We've come a long way, we've seen a lot of new things, and we have had some issues that we overcame. I think the voting process is probably one of the most important -- if not the most important -- public processes that a county, a state or a country has, and I hope I have contributed something to that."



Billy Altman

Altman was born in Johnsonville, the third oldest of six children. His family lived on his grandparents' farm growing up and helped out with daily tasks. Altman was the first in his family to go to college. He attended the University of South Carolina and studied electrical engineering. He is a proud Gamecock to this day. Shortly after college, he entered the Air Force as an enlisted officer and married his high school sweetheart, Ann. They've been married for 56 years.

Altman is retired from ExxonMobil, where he worked in several roles. The majority of his career was spent in California. But his work also allowed him to travel the world, including Japan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Venezuela and more. He retired after 31 years, finishing his career in Houston, Texas. He and Ann then settled in Murrells Inlet.

Altman was appointed the Georgetown County Board of Elections and Voter Registration in 2004. He immediately developed a reputation being a dedicated and competent volunteer, which led him to be elected board chairman. He served in that position for many years.

"Billy's contributions to Georgetown County are unmatched and are very essential and still impactful to the way elections are conducted in this county," said Aphra McCrea, director of Georgetown County's Office of Elections and Voter Registration. "We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have known Billy and to have worked with him over the last 20 years."

S.C. Office of Resilience to have public input meetings

Residents of Georgetown and Williamsburg counties are invited to attend public input meetings on drainage and flooding issues this month. The meetings, hosted by the S.C. Office of Resilience and contractor McCormick Taylor, will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 and 31.

The Jan. 30 meeting will be at Howard Auditorium, 1610 Hawkins St., Georgetown. The Jan. 31 meeting will be at Santee Community Center, 1484 Mount Zion Ave, Georgetown. A brief presentation will begin at 6 p.m. Attendees will be asked to share their knowledge and experiences with local flooding and drainage issues. The goal is to identify and propose alternatives to mitigate drainage and flooding problems.

This meeting should be attended by anyone who has experienced flooding or drainage problems, as well as anyone interested in learning more about this study and the Office of Resilience.

Anyone who cannot attend, but would like to provide input, may contact Hassan Ismail, project manager, at hismail@mccormicktaylor.com or (803) 251-9845.

Four receive Sheriff's Award for service



Georgetown County Sheriff Carter Weaver presented members of the Sheriff's Office Civil Process staff with the 2022 Sheriff's Award. Each member has served their community for more than 50 years, including the jobs they held before GCSO. Receiving the awards were, from left, Richard Martin, Fred Key, Jo Camlin and Phillip White.

JOB VACANCY

FULL TIME

MIS (IT) TECHNICIAN, LIBRARY

This employee functions as an IT technician for the Georgetown County Library with general on-location oversight by the Library Director. This position requires demonstrated ability to function capably as a computer hardware/software technician and Microsoft domain administrator.

Minimum two years of IT training along with three to five years of documented work experience in the IT field or any combination of equivalent training and/or experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. CompTIA A+ certification preferred.

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First Thursday series announces lineup

The successful Friends of the Waccamaw Library “First Thursday” speaker series is back. Presentations are held in person at the Waccamaw Library, located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island, and begin at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month. The programs are free and open to all. Videos of presentations are also available afterward on the [Georgetown County Library YouTube channel](#).

The lineup for Spring 2023 features an engaging array of speakers and topics: Dr. Erin R. McCoy will dive deep into the meanings and cultural significance of popular music and lyrics during the Vietnam War period; Cindy Hedrick, author and former director of SC CARES animal sanctuary, will discuss how eliminating meat-based diets benefits the health of individuals, animals and the global ecology; Marshall Chapman—a South Carolina native, author, and accomplished singer-songwriter—will share her experiences from the Nashville music scene with fellow “outlaw” country artists including Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson; historian Kevin Duffus will describe the harrowing scene of a German U-boat’s torpedo attack on a British tanker off the North Carolina coast in 1918 and the heroic rescue efforts that ensued; and astronomer Ian Hewitt will explore with us the amazing constellations that fill our heavens.

The next program on Feb. 2 features Erin R. McCoy, Ph.D., speaking on “Music and the Viet Nam War.” Surveying different genres of music and lyrics from the Viet Nam War era, from Top 40 hits to deep cuts, McCoy will explore the music’s global culture as well as the songs’ social and historical contexts.

McCoy is author of “A War Tour of Viet Nam: A Cultural History” (McFarland 2021) and Associate Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of South Carolina — Beaufort.

For a complete lineup and description of all upcoming First Thursday programs, visit the [library page](#) at gtcounty.org.

Ladies Ensemble to give free concert at library



The Pawleys Island Ladies Ensemble is the next featured act at the Friends of the Waccamaw Library’s Live at the Library musician series. They will perform Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. at the library, located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

The ensemble blends 12 voices to create beautiful versions of traditional hymns, Broadway tunes and pop songs. Their soulful, family-friendly show will warm hearts in the middle of the winter-time.

Performing live on March 16 at 6p.m. will be South Carolina native and acclaimed Nashville singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman. She was an integral member of the 1970s “outlaw country” scene, alongside Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson. With 14 albums to date, Chapman is a celebrated performer, and her songs have been recorded by numerous artists, including Jimmy Buffet, Emmylou Harris, and Tanya Tucker.

See the full series schedule on the [library page](#) at gtcounty.org.

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Book Candle

Create Book Candles using old books!

(* Ages 18+)

Registration Required

Friday, February 10th @ 10am
at the
Waccamaw Neck Branch Library

To sign up, email Kendra Corey at
(kcorey@gtcounty.org)
or call 843-545-3351

41 St. Paul Place
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

LaRocco appointed to SC recycling council

Michelle LaRocco, manager of the Georgetown County Environmental Services Division, has been appointed to the S.C. Recycling Market Development Advisory Council by Gov. Henry McMaster.

The 14-member council advises on building the growth of the state's recycling industry and makes recycling market program recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly each year. It supports the economic growth of the state's recycling industry through building recycling markets, increasing material recovery and promoting the recycling value chain.



Michelle LaRocco

LaRocco resides in the Pawleys Island area and has been employed with Georgetown County since December 2017. She has also been a participant in the Carolina Recycling Association for the last five years. This professional association is for key players in local recycling and waste reduction in North and South Carolina and is comprised of government, business and private industry representatives.

She has a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University and also studied environmental biology at Barnard College. Additionally, she participated in the American Public Works Association's Emerging Leaders Academy in 2019.

Broach earns national designation

Georgetown County Public Information Officer Jackie R. Broach has successfully completed the process that awards the professional designation of "Public Information Officer" (PIO). The Commission on Professional Credentialing met on Dec. 5 and voted unanimously to confer the designation.

Broach becomes one of only 17 PIOs worldwide to hold this designation, and is the first PIO in South Carolina to receive this designation.

The Designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competence. In addition, all applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan.

The PIO designation program uses a comprehensive peer review model to evaluate candidates seeking the credential. The Commission on Professional Credentialing awards the designation only after an individual successfully meets all the organization's stringent criteria.

Broach is also a FEMA-designated Master PIO and resides in Georgetown with her husband, Randy Akers, and their daughter, Adelaide. She has a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Francis Marion University and worked as a print journalist for 15 years prior to being hired as the County's first PIO in 2012.



Jackie Broach

2023
GEORGETOWN COUNTY

POLAR PLUNGE
AT LITCHFIELD INN
2.4.23

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

Help us support **Special Olympics South Carolina**

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

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

Andrews Library Presents...

African-Americans
Who Helped Shape the History of Georgetown County

with Ginger Haithcock

February 16, 2023
4:00PM

Andrews Library, 105 N. Morgan Ave. Andrews
843-546-4621

Bostic named assistant fire chief

Aaron Bostic was recently hired as the new assistant fire chief for Georgetown County Fire-EMS, taking over for retiring assistant chief Tony Hucks. Bostic is no stranger to local emergency services, having served at Midway Fire-Rescue since 2015 and rising through the ranks to Lieutenant. Most recently, he worked to coordinate disaster and emergency services at the county's Emergency Management Division. But firefighting was always his first love.



Aaron Bostic

"If you asked my mother what I wanted to be growing up, she would immediately and undoubtedly tell you a firefighter," Bostic reminisced. "I've always been fascinated with fire trucks, fire stations and firefighters. I can remember all the way back when I was a young boy watching my father run from our house to Star Volunteer Fire Dept. — about a 300 yard sprint — when the pager would go off."

As soon as he was old enough, Bostic joined the junior volunteer fire department in Seven Lakes, N.C., becoming a full member of the fire department when he turned 18. After graduation, he attended UNC — Charlotte and majored in fire safety engineering. Immediately upon graduation, he joined the fire department in Southern Pines, before moving to serve at Midway.

Bostic is excited about the challenge that comes with being assistant chief, not only in terms of service to the community but support for fellow firefighters.

"Moving forward, I believe the most important thing to keep in mind is a community first attitude," Bostic said. "Along with that, I want to make sure Georgetown County Fire-EMS has the appropriate tools, knowledge and expertise to provide the residents of Georgetown County with the best fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services possible."

County recognized for financial reporting

Georgetown County government has — for the fifth consecutive year — received the highest form of recognition available in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The county's Finance Department was presented with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award was presented by the Government Finance Officers Association for the county's most recent comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management, association officials said in presenting the award.

"We hope that your example will encourage other government officials in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence in financial reporting," said Michele Mark Levine in a letter from the association announcing the award.

The report submitted by the county was judged to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report, according to the association.

Georgetown County Administrator Angela Christian said the county strives to be transparent in all the county's operations and finances, and the county's finance staff works hard to find ways to meet that goal.

Karis Langston, Director of Finance for Georgetown County, echoed this statement and added praise for her staff. "We've worked very hard at making sure that everything is balanced and that we've done everything we're supposed to do, that we've recorded things the correct way, and that we've put them into a concise and readable document for everyone to review," Langston said. "I am very proud of my staff. It's a lot of hard work on their part. They make us look good every day."

Litchfield Tea and Poetry showcase returns for 17th year

"If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry," wrote celebrated poet Emily Dickinson.

Experience this head-topping, scintillating power of poetry live and in-person as the Litchfield Tea and Poetry Series returns to the Waccamaw Library for its 17th year.

Beginning Jan. 19 at 10 a.m., the venerable series features an impressive slate of S.C. writers. All programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library and are free and open to the public. The Library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island. This year's featured poets are: Lawrence Rhu and Jane Zenger, reading at 10 a.m. Jan. 19; Angelo Geter on Feb. 16 at 4 p.m., followed by an open mic session; Ashley Mace Havird and David Havird on March 23 at 10 a.m.; and Miho Kinnas and

Yvette R. Murray April 20 at 10 a.m.

Readings are followed by audience Q&A and book signings with the poets. All told, the 2023 Series will present a can't-miss opportunity to engage with dynamic, diverse representatives who prove that the state of poetry is strong across S.C.

Rhu is Professor of the Italian Renaissance emeritus at the University of South Carolina and has written books on the American and European Renaissances and published an edition of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*. His poems appear in *Poetry*, *Two Rivers*, *Quorum*, *Fall Lines*, *Pinesong*, and other venues. Three of his poems earned awards from the Poetry Society of South Carolina and another poem won the 2018 Faulkner-Wisdom Poetry Award in New Orleans. In 2020, *Conversations: The Journal of Cavelli-*

an Studies published a dozen of Rhu's poems together with his essay on poetry and philosophy, "Other Minds and a Mind of One's Own."

Zenger is the author of *Night Bloomer*, which intersperses youthful memories and vivid adventures of travel with the difficult situation of her husband enduring the final stages of dementia, weaving together intimacy, frustration, tenderness and joy. Columbia Poet Laureate Ed Madden praised the way Zenger's "voice ranges through memory, from tragic loss to humor and anger (sometimes both at once)." A retired career educator who studied poetry with famed writer James Dickey at USC, Zenger lives and writes in Cedar Creek, and has published in *Fall Lines*, *From the Green Horseshoe*, and elsewhere.

Worzalla recognized by council

Karen Worzalla, senior accountant with the Georgetown County Finance Department, was named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2022. She has been employed with Georgetown County for nine years.



Worzalla was promoted from Accountant to Senior Accountant in September of 2021. In her day-to-day duties, she is responsible for overseeing all the accounts receivable functions within the Finance Department, as well as the county as a whole. She maintains the county's general ledger and reviews entries for accuracy. She is also responsible for daily interfaces with software used by the Treasurer and Building Departments, and balancing those with the county's bank accounts.

Worzalla is an "unsung hero" of the Finance Department according to her director, Karis Langston. Most notably, because of her willingness to help others solve difficult issues. When others mention to her that they are encountering an issue, she will frequently take it upon herself to run reports, sort spreadsheets, analyze results and take a number of other steps to help solve the problem.

Additionally, since her promotion to Senior Accountant, Worzalla has taken on leadership responsibilities on the accounting side of the Finance Department. She has been instrumental in the training of new hires and is extremely patient and thorough when training on new procedures. She has worked closely with other departments on their software upgrades, to ensure that these new systems will properly interface with the County's New World finance software. Some of these interfaces must be done on a daily basis, which may require her to look through hundreds of transactions to make sure that they are recorded accurately.

Worzalla is also responsible for balancing all county bank statements each month. She has been working with several other County departments over the past year, training them on what to look for when accounts are out of balance to help them stay up-to-date on monthly reconciliations. This has helped these departments to refine their internal processes and streamline reconciliations so that accounts are balanced in a timely manner.

She regularly goes above and beyond, is a dedicated county employee and a consummate professional, Langston said.

JOIN OUR TEAM

View and apply for open county positions
at gtcounty.org/jobs

Ullom named Manager of the Year

Brian Ullom was recognized by Georgetown County Council on Jan. 10 as the county's Manager of the Year.

Ullom is Division Chief of Training for Georgetown County Fire-EMS. He has single-handedly managed the county's recent firefighter recruit classes, helping to alleviate staff shortages, all while maintaining a running continuing education program for all medically certified persons and firefighters within the program.

On a daily basis he manages 62 career and 78 volunteer firefighters and EMTs. He maintains and holds many certifications as a firefighter, paramedic and instructor.



Crippen honored for volunteer service



Midway Fire Rescue Master Firefighter-Paramedic Niki Crippen was recognized by Georgetown County Council on Jan. 10 for her volunteer service. She was named the County's Employee Volunteer of the Year for the many hours she dedicates each year as a counselor and mentor for Camp Can Do, a summer camp co-sponsored by the Burned Children's Fund and the MUSC Pediatric Burn Center.

This camp is specifically designed for burned children, with the goal of giving them a fun, unforgettable summer camp experience while helping them realize that they "Can Do" anything.

Her efforts don't stop there. In addition to her service as a camp counselor, she also coordinates Midway's can collection program. This program allows residents to drop off their used aluminum cans, which are collected and taken to a processing center. Funds generated through this program are then donated to the Burned Children's Fund to support Camp Can Do.

"The compassion and willingness to serve displayed by Firefighter Crippen, not only while she is on duty but also during her free time, is a prime example of selfless public servitude," said Brandon Ellis, Georgetown County Emergency Services Director.

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Sheriff's Office announces Employees of the Year

Sheriff Carter Weaver recently recognized employees of the year for 2022. MSgt. James Ketcham was named Deputy of the Year, while Leslie Horton was named Telecommunicator of the Year; and Cpl. Priscilla Anderson was named Detention Officer of the Year.

Ketcham has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2006 and in addition to his Patrol Division duties has coordinated Project Lifesaver, learned to operate a drone and instructed firearms classes. He has recently transitioned into a role within the Training Division. He was named Deputy of the Quarter for the second quarter last year for his actions while working an off-duty assignment with Myrtle Beach Police Department. During a traffic stop, a driver reached for a firearm. Ketcham grabbed his arm and removed him from the vehicle, likely preventing injury to other officers and vehicle occupants.



Ketcham



Horton

Horton has been with Central Dispatch for 11 years. "She is willing to help out wherever it's needed," said 911 Director Joseph Williamson. "She knows the ins and outs of dispatch and is always willing to share her knowledge with others."

No one puts in more hours than Anderson at the Detention Center, according to Maj. Clark Ard. "She does anything and everything in her power to alleviate as much stress on her supervisors as she can," he said. "Cpl. Anderson is a calming force in most situations, but also a force to be reckoned with in others. Cpl. Anderson is not afraid to tell you like it is, but she is also not afraid to sit down and have a conversation with maximum security inmates and check on their well-being after observing changes in their behavior."

Anderson responded to an incident recently where an inmate tried to take an officer's taser. She helped other officers get the inmate under control and secure the weapon. After the incident, Anderson initiated a briefing with junior officers as a training opportunity.

Sheriff warns community about scam

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office is alerting the public to a scam circulating within a church congregation, claiming to seek donations for cancer victims.

Members of a county church have received emails, purportedly from the pastor, asking them to buy a series of \$200 gift cards and send pictures of the cards displaying the serial numbers. Gift cards are a popular tool of scammers. Once they have the serial numbers, the buyer cannot recover his money. Never agree to buy gift cards and share the serial numbers with people you don't know.

Anyone concerned about being scammed should contact Georgetown County Sheriff's Office at (843) 546-5102.

Sheriff recognizes staff members

Sheriff Carter Weaver recently recognized four employees of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office for their work in recent incidents. Honored were deputies Tanner Ard and Cody Barlow, tele-communicator Maggie Naas and detention center civilian staff assistant Juan Diaz-Reyes.



Ard



Barlow

Responding to a vehicle accident in the Pleasant Hill community on Christmas day, Ard discovered a vehicle partially submerged and the driver struggling to keep his head above water. Ard jumped into the cold water and pulled the driver to safety.

"Not only was Deputy Ard's selfless and heroic act inspiring, but it is a credit to the quality of Georgetown County deputies," said Lt. Melvyn Garrett, who nominated him for the award.



Naas



Diaz-Reyes

Barlow responded to a drug overdose on New Year's Day at a residence in the Pawleys Island community. He found the victim on a porch unresponsive. Without time to wait on Emergency Medical Services, Barlow administered two doses of Narcan and used a sternum rub technique to revive the victim. He kept her semi-conscious until EMS arrived. "Deputy Barlow's quick actions and presence of mind probably saved her life. Another credit to the quality of Georgetown County deputies," Garrett said.

Naas has been with Central Dispatch for almost three years and is a Shift Lead. "She is always willing to jump in and help out when needed," said 911 Director Joseph Williamson. "Whether it's working open shifts or getting shifts filled, she is always a team player. She is passionate about her job and has a great work ethic."

Diaz-Reyes is easily one of the most dedicated employees at the Detention Center, according to Major Clark Ard. "Many times he has been called in on his off day," Ard said, "and the answer has always been: 'Yes, I'll be there as soon as I can.'" Diaz-Reyes stays vigilant while on post in the Control Towers and Main Control. He knows the inmate handbook and even though he cannot enter the cell blocks, the inmates respect him and follow his orders from the towers. Officers feel safe when posted with Diaz-Reyes because they know he always has his eyes on them and is ready to call for assistance when needed. Diaz-Reyes is eager to learn new tasks and masters them quickly. He is always looking for ways he can help lighten the load on his shift members and supervisors, Ard said.



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



Library

Continued from Front Page

The renovations will be funded though \$869,425 in capital sales tax dollars, \$568,502 in American Rescue Plan Act funds and a \$1.4 million bequest from the late Jean Flournoy Moody, which was received several years ago. Moody was an almost daily visitor to the library. She participated extensively in library programs, donated to the Friends of the Library and adored the library staff members.

The Moody money will be spent mainly on the expansion. The extra space will allow for a new, large meeting room and administrative complex between the library's current footprint and Church Street. The remainder of the funding will be used for refurbishment and reorganization of the existing 19,330-square-foot building. Resulting spaces will include a new digital video production center, an enlargement of the local history research room and improved storage and scanning areas for the Georgetown County Digital Library, which focuses on historical documents and photographs. In addition, there will be expanded children's and teen areas.

Other improvements will be made throughout the existing structure including reconfigured floor plans for basic library services, new conference room facilities, automated entry doors, high-grade vinyl flooring throughout, bathroom upgrades, LED lighting, ceiling panel replace-



Library Director Dwight McInvaill shows renovation plans to attendees at the ground breaking ceremony, including County Council Members Louis Morant and Lillie Jean Johnson.



The circulation desk at the Georgetown Library.

ments, new HVAC systems, wallpaper removal and painting, exterior repairs and cleaning, new furniture and fixtures, and more needed enhancements.

McInvaill said he believes Mrs. Moody would be delighted with what her bequest is accomplishing at the library she loved.

Classic film series returns to Waccamaw Library

The Waccamaw Library resumed its popular screenings of vintage movies this month. The Classic Film Series returned on Jan. 6 with weekly showings through February.

The films are introduced by local movie expert Bill Harvey, with audience discussion following each screening. Screenings take place on Friday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. at the Library, located at 41 St. Paul Place. The series is sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library, and all screenings are free and open to the public.

This year's lineup showcases



The series wraps with "Thelma & Louise."

an excellent mix that offers something for everyone—comedy, drama, thriller, chiller, Western, buddy movie, and gal pal adventure—and all these classic flicks are well worth seeing on the Library's large screen, said Daniel Turner, head

of programming and outreach for the library. The films collectively feature some of the brightest stars in Hollywood history, including Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Jane Fonda, Mia Farrow, Susan Sarandon and James Stewart. The schedule of films is as follows:

- Jan. 20, "Cat Ballou" (1965),
- Jan. 27, "Rosemary's Baby" (1968),
- Feb. 3, "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (1969),
- Feb. 17, "Arthur" (1981),
- Feb. 24, "Thelma & Louise" (1991).