



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

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

April 3 – Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, 5 p.m. at the Howard Center, 1610 Hawkins St.

April 7 – County offices are closed in observance of Good Friday.

April 11 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

April 12 – Board of Elections meeting, 5:30 p.m., 303 N. Hazard St.

April 20 – County Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., County Council Chambers, 129 Screven St.

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

Volume 11, Issue 3

March 2023

GCEMD named Agency of the Year

The Georgetown County Emergency Management Division has been named the 2023 Agency of the Year by the South Carolina Emergency Management Association. The surprise announcement was made during the association's annual conference Feb. 20-24 in Charleston.

Nominees for the award are judged by their emergency management peers and the award is given to the emergency management agency that has made the most significant improvement or difference in their community during the past year in mitigating, responding to or recovering from a disaster.

"I was completely shocked when we were called on stage, but I'm not surprised given the strong team that we have here in Georgetown County," said Brandon Ellis, Director of Georgetown County Emergency Services, which includes the Emergency Management Division.

The Georgetown County Emergency Management Division was nominated for this year's award by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division due to local preparedness, response and recovery efforts



Georgetown County Emergency Services Director Brandon Ellis, center, accepts the Agency of the Year award, presented by retired County Emergency Manager Sam Hodge, left, and SCEMA President Kristy Burch.

for Hurricane Ian last fall. The nomination cited the county's ability to quickly respond to impacts from tropical cyclones through not only a robust planning

See "GCEMD," Page 4

Renovations under way at library's main branch

Work on renovations which will include a new auditorium began this week at the Georgetown Library on Cleland Street. Crews are working on the Church Street side of the building, tearing out the old pavement. The library remains open for business and should be able to remain open until this summer. After that, construction will require closure for several months. At that time, some of the library's operations and collection will move to the Howard Center on Hawkins Street. To read more about the renovations and what to expect as they progress, check out our January newsletter online at <https://www.gtcounty.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/318>.



Sarvis honored for work with Special Olympics



Georgetown County Sheriff's Office Captain Robert Sarvis has earned the most prestigious award presented to an officer who supports Special Olympics South Carolina. Sarvis received the Joseph Pellicci Keeper of the Flame Award this month at the Law Enforcement Torch Run Awards Luncheon. The award is named after an officer who led the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics until his death at the age of 53. Sarvis, who has spearheaded the Sheriff's Office Polar Plunge for Special Olympics since its inception, helped turn the chilly day into one of the top fundraising events for Special Olympics South Carolina. Sarvis, right, is pictured with last year's winner, Major Matt Shaw of Lancaster County Sheriff's Office, and athlete Ashley Workman.



GRANT WRITING 101

with Library Director Dwight McInvaill

March 30, 2023 @2:00pm

Finding the right funding source and writing a competitive proposal can be a daunting task. However, with the right guidance and resources, it can be an achievable and rewarding endeavor.

Join us for this FREE event.

Southern Georgetown Library 4187 Powell Rd (843) 545-3389

Council recognizes 4-H winners



Georgetown County Council recently recognized local winners of two statewide 4-H youth development contests. At top, Council Member Everett Carolina is pictured with winners of the S.C.



Small Garden 4-H Group Award. They are (from left) Shakari, Shakayla, Shakhyla, Shakenya and Byron Ruffin. Shakari attends Georgetown High, Shakayla attends Georgetown Middle School and the three youngest attend Sampit Elementary School. Winners were selected from more than 130 entries from across the state. Above are winners of the 2022 Coastal Carolina Agriculture 4-H Healthy Lifestyles Meal Challenge, another statewide contest. They are, from left, Aundrea Simpson, 1st place; Shakari Ruffin, 2nd place; and Shakayla Ruffin, 3rd place. Simpson is an S.C. Virtual Charter School student.

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

Singer/songwriter to talk about experiences in Nashville music scene



Marshall Chapman will speak about her experiences on April 6 at the Waccamaw Library.

S.C. native and acclaimed singer/songwriter Marshall Chapman will give a free talk at the Waccamaw Library next month as part of the library’s “First Thursday” speaker series, sponsored by the Friends of the Waccamaw Library.

Chapman will present “Tales from Outlaw Country: A South Carolina Star’s Time in Nashville” at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 6. Chapman was an integral member of the 1970s “outlaw country” music scene, alongside greats such as Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson. Chapman is also an accomplished author, whose books include “They Came to Nashville” (Vanderbilt 2010) and “Goodbye, Little Rock and Roller” (St. Martin’s 2003).

Chapman recently gave a free performance at the library as part of its musician series, where she proved to be an engaging storyteller. You won’t want to miss this!

Beatles tribute band returns to library

Get ready to hear your favorite hits from the Fab Four! On Tuesday, May 2 at 6 p.m., the Waccamaw Library will host Yesterdaze: A Beatles Tribute. The duo will give audience members a chance to “get back” to Beatlemania and enjoy some of the greatest rock ‘n’ roll songs ever.



Yesterdaze plays to a packed house during a previous performance at the library.

Tom Santopietro, who spent his early years in the music industry as a sound technician with bands such as The Beach Boys, will open for Yesterdaze by performing his piano improvisations of familiar songs. The concert is part of the 2023 Friends of the Waccamaw Library Musician Series, which is free and open to the public. The Library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island.

Also coming up in the Musician Series is a performance on April 13 by Tom Cowieson, accomplished singer, songwriter and guitarist. He will treat his audience to a full slate of genuine Americana, blues and roots music. The show starts at 6 p.m. and is free and open to all.

To find more upcoming programs at your local library, visit the calendar page on our website, gtcounty.org.

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).

250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

Planning Meeting
 March 23rd, 2023
 6:00PM
 Georgetown County Museum
 @120 Broad Street

1770/1789
 1776/1783
 1770/1789
 1776/1783

Email georgetowncounty250@gmail.com for more information

Georgetown County 250

Stay Connected

WITH YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SC

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f, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube icons

GCEMD

Continued from Front Page

process, but also by completing recent equipment purchases to include high-water vehicles using emergency management grant funding, which allowed for rapid response operations as Hurricane Ian made landfall in Georgetown County. Additionally, the county's efforts to quickly mobilize damage assessment team members post landfall helped with rapid data collection, effectively expediting the implementation of federal assistance programs for residents, businesses and local governments throughout the impacted area.

"We were actively working to develop our post storm strategy as Hurricane Ian was preparing to make landfall. With information rolling into the Emergency Operations Center from our stakeholders in the field, we were able to identify the areas that needed to be assessed without wasting any time the next morning," Ellis said.

This isn't the first time that the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division has been recognized as the best in the state. In 2015, the division received the same award under the leadership of now retired Emergency Manager Sam Hodge.

"This recognition would not have been possible without the outstanding partnerships that we have with all of our stakeholder agencies. It was extra special for me to have not only my predecessor, but my mentor and friend Sam Hodge present the award to me," Ellis said.

Purchasing Officer earns national professional designation renewal

Nancy Silver, Georgetown County Purchasing Officer, has achieved renewal of the Certified Procurement Professional designation from the National Institute of Government Purchasing. The renewal is good for three years and requires successful completion of the competency-based qualifications set forth by the NIGP Certification Commission.



Nancy Silver

The designation targets current and aspiring leaders in the procurement profession. The program offers unique attributes when compared to other procurement-related professional certifications. It is the only procurement certification anchored in the public procurement competency framework and the only certification that targets mid- to executive-level procurement leaders. The exam required for designation assesses the technical competencies, skills, abilities and behaviors required for a procurement leader on the job in today's world.

Silver was hired in the Georgetown County Purchasing Division in 2012 and was promoted to Purchasing Officer in 2018. She joins more than 1,050 procurement professionals across the nation and 50 in South Carolina who have earned the distinguished Certified Procurement Professional Designation. The attainment of this certification demonstrates her commitment to lifelong learning and professional development and to the continuing success of her team at Georgetown County.

Friends of the Georgetown Library

**SPRING
COMMUNITY
YARD
SALE**

**MARCH 25th,
8:00AM - 12:00PM
405 Cleland St.**

Sellers: \$15 single space, \$20 double.

Registration forms are available
at the Georgetown Library

For more info,
contact Bob Willey at rwilley1019@gmail.com

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SPRING
HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS
WASTE
COLLECTION**

**APRIL 29
9AM TO
NOON**

at Waccamaw
High School

Four receive Hurst Green Cross Award for ‘fearless rescue’

An award that honors rescues made using the Jaws of Life was recently presented to four staff members at Georgetown County Fire-EMS. The Hurst Green Cross Award was presented to Lt. Acey Taylor, Lt. Matthew Howell, Firefighter Dylon Stokes and Firefighter Ryan Lukac earlier this month.

The award, presented by the Hurst company, is a symbol of recognition for those who have used Hurst Jaws of Life products to saw lives, according to the company. “It’s our way of celebrating the bravery shown by rescue teams worldwide,” according to the Hurst website.

The award was presented to Howell, Taylor, Stokes and Lukac for their response to a wreck involving a school bus. The bus was carrying more than 30 passengers including elementary school students and their adult chaperones. The wreck also involved a small utility van with heavy front end damage that required the driver to be extricated from the vehicle. “The crews worked flawlessly to remove him,” said County Fire-EMS Chief Jim Falkenhagen. Leadership at the department called it a “fearless rescue.” The four were nominated for the award by Lt. Melvin Holt.



Howell



Taylor



Lukac



Stokes

• Food • Fun • Fellowship •

PALMETTO GIVING DAY
GIVE BACK. GIVE TOGETHER. GIVE MORE.

ORGANIZATIONAL FAIR

Hosted by
FRANCES P. BUNNELLE FOUNDATION

Palmetto Giving Day is a 36-Hour Online Giving Event for Georgetown County, SC. It is an awesome opportunity to show our community what matters to you!

Meet the nonprofit Organizations!

March 23 • 4:30-6:30pm
Beck Recreational Center
2030 W. Church Street • Georgetown, SC 29440

Join us and learn more about the participating nonprofit organizations that you can support on Palmetto Giving Day, scheduled for May 2-3, 2023!

RSVP
npofair.rsvpify.com

Applicants needed to fill seat on Elections Board

The Georgetown County Legislative Delegation is seeking individuals interested in serving on the Georgetown County Board of Voter Registration and Elections. A position on the board was left open by the recent retirement of longtime member Billy Altman. The deadline for applications is at 5 p.m. March 31. Applications are available on the Delegation page at gtcounty.org or by sending an email to the delegation clerk, Sabrina Todd, at stodd@gtcounty.org.

To be considered, applications must be legible and contain the applicant's: physical address (no PO boxes will be accepted), last four digits of social security number, email address, date of birth, voting precinct, SC House District and SC Senate District. For more information, call Todd at 843-545-3029.

Filing change for some rental property owners

Beginning this tax year, the owners of furnished residential rental properties will no longer need to file residential rental returns with Georgetown County. Returns will now be filed with the S.C. Department of Revenue using their free online tax portal. The county and the state have agreed to this change to make filing easier for tax payers.

A letter about this change went out earlier this month. To read the letter in full, visit our website at gtcounty.org. For more information, email BPP@dor.sc.gov or call 803-898-7700.

Ellis takes the helm at SCEMA

The 2023 South Carolina Emergency Management Association's annual awards dinner on Feb. 23 was a busy time for the Georgetown County Emergency Management Division. Not only was the division named Agency of the Year, but Brandon Ellis, Georgetown County's Director of Emergency Services was sworn in as the Association's President.



Brandon Ellis

Ellis takes over leadership of the Association following the expired term of Past President Kristy Burch from Florence County Emergency Management.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to continue to build upon the foundation set by those before me," Ellis said. "This association is all about its membership and our goal is to continue to grow the emergency management profession in South Carolina."

Ellis plans to continue to grow the Association using its strategic plan developed in 2018 as a baseline for moving the emergency management profession forward.

"We have some really amazing emergency managers in South Carolina, many of whom have proven themselves in recent years as our state has been subject to various emergency and disaster situations, not to mention COVID-19" Ellis said.

During his tenure, Ellis plans to focus on expanding upon the association's core values, while also connecting with leaders from other public safety associations to build stronger partnerships throughout South Carolina. Ellis's term will run through the spring of 2025.

Firefighters install 120 smoke detectors



Firefighters with Georgetown County Fire-EMS, with assistance from the American Red Cross, had a successful Smoke Detector Blitz in Lamberttown on Feb. 25. They spent the morning and early afternoon going door-to-door to perform smoke detector inspections and install new smoke detectors where needed. Teams visited 47 homes and installed 120 smoke detectors and 13 carbon monoxide detectors. A working smoke detector can be the difference between life and death in a fire.

Color Me
Happy

Coloring Program
for Adults

April 14th @ 10am

Coloring is not just for kids!

Join us for a morning of fun
and relaxation at the
Waccamaw Neck Branch
Library!

Coloring sheets and colored
pencils will be provided.

***No Registration
Required***

Questions? Call 843-545-3351 or email Kendra
Corey at kcorey@gtcounty.org

ANDREWS BRANCH LIBRARY

**Nature Backpacks with
State Park Pass**

**1 week rental with
valid Library card**

CHECK THIS OUT

105 N. Morgan Ave. Andrews, SC
843-545-3621

Student art to be featured on litter prevention signs



Georgetown County Council recognized two students on Feb. 28 for their winning entries in the Palmetto Pride "Litter Trashes Everyone" art contest. Their artwork will be used on litter prevention signs in our community. The winning students are Andrea Abundio, left, a 9th-grader at Georgetown High School, and Carter Gladden, a 4th-grader at Andrews Elementary School. Each was presented with a copy of their sign. The Environmental Services Division also gave a presentation on the county's Litter Action Plan. Watch the presentation on the meeting recording at [Youtube.com/gtcountysc](https://www.youtube.com/gtcountysc).



Community Knitting
Mondays from 1-3pm

BRING YOUR CURRENT PROJECT TO OUR CASUAL KNITTING GROUP!

WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY
41 ST. PAUL PLACE
PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC 29585
843.545.3623

March 23rd-31st

RECYCLED CDs

Come decorate some old CD s! Bring your own if you'd like! Craft for ages 5 and up!

**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



Youth camping, fishing events return to 8 Oaks Park

Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is gearing up for a busy spring and its calendar is filling up fast. As it finishes up registration for youth track and field this month, the department is also making preparations for the return of two extremely popular events at 8 Oaks Park: Take a Kid Fishing Day and Take a Kid Camping. Registration for the camping event will be limited and spots usually fill up fast.

An opening date for registration will be announced soon, but parents, grandparents and others with a special kid in their lives should go ahead and mark their calendars for a big outdoors weekend. Weather allowing, Take a Kid Camping will take place on the night of May 19. Families will be invited to set up tents inside the gated grounds of 8 Oaks and enjoy an array of activities including s'mores making and ghost stories around a camp fire. Previous camping experience is not required. Staff will be on hand to facilitate games and activities, and offer a helping hand to those who might need help with some camping basics.



The following morning, May 20, staff will launch right into Take a Kid Fishing Day at the pond at 8 Oaks. Again, no experience is necessary to participate and staff from Parks and Rec. as well as the S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources will be on hand to lend assistance.

Families looking for some quality time together outdoors can make a weekend of it with these two exciting events. Both are offered free of charge. Look for more information and registration soon at gtcparks.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Here are more exciting events and activities to look forward to this spring from Georgetown County Parks and Recreation:

- The Disc Golf Course at Stables Park will host a drop-in tournament on April 1. See the ad on Page 7 for details.
- The annual Senior Sports Classic will take place at Beck Recreation Center beginning at 9 a.m. on April 21. Call (843) 546-8502 for details.
- Anthuan Maybank Day returns April 22! The Olympic medalist and Georgetown native son will participate in activities for youth at the track at Beck Recreation Center.
- On June 3, an exciting new program will teach kids with disabilities how to surf. The Adaptive Surf Program will take place on the South End of Pawleys Island. Details coming soon!

**IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR
Track & Field**

ALL SPORTS OPEN TO AGES 5-12

Register from February 27, 2023 – March 31, 2023

FEE: \$15 per Child

Meets will be held on Saturdays at the Beck Recreation Center

April 22, 2023 10am

April 29, 2023 10am

May 6, 2023 10am

May 13, 2023 10am

May 20, 2023 10am



Register @ gtcparks.org

****PRACTICE DAYS & TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE BASED ON**

THE AVAILABILITY OF VOLUNTEER COACHES**

Practices Days & Times TBD

For More Information Call 843-545-3320

