



# The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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## Calendar

**Nov. 3-4** – Making and Crafting Fair at the Waccamaw Library, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. See page 4

**Nov. 10** – County offices and facilities are closed for Veterans Day.

**Nov. 11** – Dedication and reopening of Choppee Auditorium, 3-5 p.m. See page 10.

**Nov. 13** – Joint County Council/Planning Commission workshop, 5:30 p.m., Howard Auditorium, 1610 Hawkins St.

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

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

**Nov. 23-24** – County offices and facilities are closed for Thanksgiving.

Volume 12, Issue 2

November 2023

## Apprenticeship program introduced for HEOs

**S**hatarra Duncan isn't your typical Georgetown County Heavy Equipment Operator. It's not just that she's female. Or that she's young and petite, looking downright tiny next to the giant yellow off-road articulated dump truck she drives around.

Duncan is unique because she's the first of her kind in Georgetown County; the first to enroll in a new county initiative aimed at recruiting and training Heavy Equipment Operators, better known as HEOs. It's an essential job within the county's organizational structure, but one that has become increasingly difficult to fill as demand for this skillset grows nationwide.

"These days we are really struggling to find qualified people," said Ray Funnye, director of Georgetown County Public Services.

The department currently has 27 HEO positions. Of those, five are vacant and five are filled by individuals who are beyond retirement age – some in their 70s – and continue to work because they enjoy it. Two more will reach retirement age within the next 18 months.

"We could be down to 50 percent staffing like that," Funnye said with a snap of his fingers. "They could decide to walk out any day."

That's what led him, with assistance from Human



**Shatarra Duncan is the first apprentice selected for Georgetown County's new Heavy Equipment Operator training program. She said she hopes the program will attract more women to the field.**

Resources Director Walt Ackerman and the full support of County Council, to create an HEO Apprentice program. It's similar to a recruit program the county's Emergency Services Division created last year for firefighters. It trains individuals in-house and has been

**See "Apprenticeship," Page 9**

## Proposed sales taxes would shift tax burden from residents

**G**eorgetown County Council passed resolutions on Oct. 24 to move ahead with plans to put in place two new sales taxes: a Local Option Sales Tax and a Capital Project Sales Tax.

Both options would require the public's approval at the ballot box in 2024. Both would also shift some of the tax burden from county residents to visitors. If approved, the taxes would go into effect in May 2025.

If referendums for both taxes pass, each would add a 1-cent tax on every \$1 spent on items subject to sales tax. Groceries, prescriptions and

other items exempt from the state's 6% sales tax would also be exempt from the additional 1% taxes.



A Local Option Sales Tax, better known as LOST, is imposed by counties for the specific purpose of reducing the property tax burden for residents. County officials project the tax would generate approximately \$10 million per year, of which 71% would go directly to property tax rollbacks. Taxes on both primary and secondary residences, including those within municipalities, would receive rollbacks.

“It's a way to just make living here more affordable.”

— Angela Christian, County Administrator

The remaining 29% of revenue generated can be used for government operations and projects.

**See "sales tax," Page 8**

## IN MEMORIAM: County mourns firefighter killed in motorcycle accident

Garrett J. Coyne Jr., 28, was killed in a motorcycle accident on Oct. 5 in Murrells Inlet. He was a father to two young daughters and a beloved member of Midway Fire and Rescue.

While working at Melville Ponds Campground in Portsmouth, RI, he met Katelin, who would later become his wife in 2015. They went on to have their two beautiful daughters in March of 2021 and January of 2023. Garrett followed his dream to become a firefighter and advanced EMT. He served on Bristol Fire Department as well as Tiverton Fire Department before relocating to Georgetown County to become part of the team at Midway.

Garrett will be remembered for his resiliency, quick wit, dry sense of humor, and being the greatest husband and "girl dad," his family said.

He is survived by his wife, Katelin Coyne; daughters Reagan MacKenzie and Addison Reese; father Garrett J. Coyne Sr. and his wife Lillian; mother Debbie Jones; brother Austin Coyne; uncle/godfather Christopher Coyne; and grandparents Peter and Connie Coyne.

Services took place at Holy Cross Faith Episcopal Church. There will be a celebration of life for Garrett in Rhode Island at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the International Association of Fire Fighters Foundation.



**Coyne**  
1995-2023

## Veterans Day Parades scheduled

The City of Georgetown and the Town of Andrews have announced plans for their Veterans Day Parades.

Georgetown's annual Veterans Day Parade is set for Thursday, Nov. 9 at 4 p.m.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the ending of the Korean War and all Korean War veterans will be grand marshals. Korean War veterans may ride on a provided vehicle or decorate their own.

High school bands, ROTC units, scouts, patriotic organizations, dance groups, motorcycle clubs and other organizations are asked to participate in honoring all veterans.

Line up will begin at 3 p.m. at East Bay Park and entry numbers will be assigned once the line up is complete.

Please note that all bands, ROTC units, dance schools and other performing entries will not stop and perform as in previous parades. All performing entries are asked to play patriotic music and perform as they march. To receive your entry number to participate in the parade, please call or text Paige Sawyer, 843-546-3745.

The Andrews Parade will be Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. Lineup begins at noon on Main Street near the Food Lion parking lot. Immediately after the parade, a Korean War Memorial service will take place at Andrews Veterans Memorial Park, 1067 N. Morgan Ave.

For more information, about the Andrews parade, contact Thom-as Alford, 843-833-3267.



**A float from the 2022 Veterans Day Parade in Georgetown.**

GEORGETOWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Carter Weaver

# NOW RECRUITING POLICE EXPLORERS

POST #333

**Open To:**  
Georgetown County  
10th, 11th and 12th graders

**Why Join:**  
In-depth, hands-on experience  
in law enforcement. You even  
get an Explorers uniform.

**Come Experience:**  
Ride alongs, actual police  
training, practice with  
equipment, serve at local events

For more information and an  
application, please call or email

Corporal Tiffany Kinloch  
tkinloch@gtcounty.org

or

Corporal Gene Wilson  
gwilson@gtcounty.org

843-546-5102

## 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](http://www.gtcounty.org) or through our social media accounts. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, sign up at [gtcounty.org](http://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](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org). We welcome your feedback.

[www.gtcounty.org](http://www.gtcounty.org)

## 'Library of Things' comes to Southern Georgetown

Of course libraries aren't "just for books," and haven't been for a long time now. But the Southern Georgetown Branch has added some items to its collection that most people probably wouldn't expect to check out from their local library. Branch Manager Sharea Drayton calls it the "Library of Things."



"It's something I've always wanted to implement," Drayton said. "I was looking for a way to set Southern Georgetown apart from the other Georgetown County Public Library branches and thought it was time."

Need to bake a cake for a 50th birthday? You can check out special number-shaped pans at the library. Trying to help your elementary school-aged child with their vocabulary? The library has flash card kits for loan. Want to explore nature with your child? Borrow a backpack filled with a butterfly net and other items to help them make memories and learn about their environment.

"Our special library has items such as silicone and metal bakeware, a projector, telescope, S.C. Park pass and more," she said. "We also have the giant versions of classic games like Checkers, Sorry!, and Twister."

Users must have a valid Georgetown County library card and no outstanding fees greater than \$5 to borrow from the Library of Things. Borrowers must also have a valid government-issued photo ID and agree to sign a waiver. The length of the checkout period varies depending on the item.

"We're excited to offer a wide range of cool items in hopes of attracting new patrons to the Southern Georgetown Library," Drayton said. The branch is looking to add more items to the Library of Things and would gladly accept donations of new or gently used things such as a record player, portable PA speaker, metal detector, bubble machine, button maker, tiller or more.

## County recognized for excellence in financial reporting

For the sixth consecutive year, Georgetown County government has 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 on Oct. 26. The award was presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the county's most recent annual comprehensive financial report. The attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

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

The report may be viewed online at [www.gtcounty.org/finance/FinancialStatements.html](http://www.gtcounty.org/finance/FinancialStatements.html)

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

GEORGETOWN COUNTY COUNCILMAN LOUIS MORANT ALONG WITH CHOPPEE SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND FRIENDS INVITE YOU TO:

### DEDICATION AND RE-OPENING OF

### Choppee Auditorium, Ball Field & Health Complex

Nov 11, 2023 | 3-5pm

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

## JUNIOR NBA BASKETBALL

**REGISTRATION:**  
OCTOBER 23RD - DECEMBER 1ST

**AGES:**

- 5-6, 7-8 (CO-ED)
- BOYS: 9-10, 11-12
- GIRLS: 9-12
- CHEERLEADING (5-8) & (9-12)

**COST:**  
- \$35

REGISTER AT [GTC Parks.org](http://GTC Parks.org)

For more information call 843-545-3320

[@GTC Parks](https://www.instagram.com/GTCParks)

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

# Waccamaw Library to host inaugural fair for crafters and makers

Whether you're the crafty type or just always wanted to be, the Waccamaw Library is where you'll want to be this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3 and 4.

The branch is hosting its first ever Making and Crafting Faire, with a full slate of events scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. There are activities for all age groups and skill levels, and plenty of opportunities for crafters to show off their own creations and pick up a new hobby or 10 all in the same place.

"This is a great event for people who are enthusiastic about the idea of crafting and making, whether or not they've actually engaged in it before," said Donald Dennis,

the organizer for the event, who is also the Games, Technology and Teen Services Librarian at the Waccamaw Branch. "We're hoping to attract people who are excited and interested in crafting and who want to do more with it."

The schedule includes crafting show and tells; a dungeon building competition; cosplay crafting demonstrations; lasercutting and engraving; moldmaking and casting; modelling activities; needle felting; holiday card making; button and pin making; micro soldering; rocketry; sewing demonstrations; and an introduction to 3D printing, among other activities. [View the complete schedule.](#)



Dennis said he's hoping the event will become an annual tradition, giving the library another way to put some of its resources to use in the community. That was the driving force behind introducing the event.

"We've got a lot of maker resources here at the library and a variety of crafting experience," Dennis said. "We also know there are quite a few handcrafters here in the area – we've got a knitting club that meets at the library and other folks like that. So, we thought it would be neat if we could sort of showcase what we have and help other crafters and makers connect. Plus, we've got this laser here and we want people to know about it."

A lasercutter, vacuum forming machines, foam cutters and a 3D printer are just some of the equipment library staff will be teaching people to use during the fair.

"These are very versatile tools and we want to get as much use out of them as possible," he said.

The library is located at 41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island. There is no cost to attend or participate.

**WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY**

## MAKING & CRAFTING FAIRE

Get crafty at the library  
Friday November 3rd and Saturday November 4th  
10am-5pm

Show off your crafts, explore what maker resources are at the library, and see what other local crafters are creating.

Free activities for Children, Teens, and Adults, and local crafts available to buy.

### DEMOS AND ACTIVITIES

- Crafting Show & Tell**  
Show off your crafts  
Friday and Saturday starting at 10
- Dungeon Building Competition**  
By Angry Wizards Creations  
Saturday from 10-11
- Cosplay Crafting Demos**  
Schedule to be announced

### LASER CUTTING AND ENGRAVING SESSIONS

Ornaments and Gift Tags	Friday & Saturday 10:00-4:00
Laser Basics, Care and Cleaning Laser Cutter/Engraver	Friday & Saturday at 10
Laser Templates – Patches, Pens, Pencils, and Coasters	Friday & Saturday at 12
Boxes and Complex Projects	Friday & Saturday at 2
Engraving Glasses and Tumblers on the Laser	Friday & Saturday at 4

### MOLD MAKING & CASTING SESSIONS

Silicone Mold Putty, Thermal Plastics, UV Resins	Friday & Saturday at 11
Alginate Molds, and Plaster Casting	Friday & Saturday at 1
Vacuum Form Molds, Bucks, and Potato Gems	Friday & Saturday at 3

### MINIATURES, MODELLING, AND TERRAIN

Stamping & Carving Foam for Ruins and Dungeon Tiles	Friday & Saturday at 11:30
Flocking, Painting, and Dry Bushing	Friday & Saturday at 1:30
Miniature Owlbear Paint-and-Take	Friday & Saturday at 3:30

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Felt Craft Making	Friday & Saturday from 10:00-4:00
Butterfly Magnets	Friday & Saturday from 10:00-4:00
Holiday Card Making	Friday & Saturday from 10:00-4:00
Button & Pin making	Friday & Saturday from 10:00-4:00
No Sew T-shirt Bags	Friday & Saturday at 10:00, 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30
Introduction to 3d Printing	Saturday at 10:30 and 2:30
Micro Soldering	Saturday at 12:30 and 4:30
Needle Felting	Friday & Saturday at 2:00
Rocketry	Saturday at 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30
Sewing Demos	Friday at 10:30, and 3:30

**QUESTIONS**  
843-545-3343  
ddennis@gtcounty.org

Waccamaw Neck Branch Library – 41 St Pauls Place, Pawleys Island

## JOIN OUR TEAM

View and apply for open county positions at [gtcounty.org/jobs](http://gtcounty.org/jobs).

We offer terrific benefits, government holidays, and a no-wait, no-copay health clinic for employees and family members covered under their insurance.



## Municipal residents to decide several races on Nov. 7

Municipal residents are the only voters in Georgetown County who will have elections to vote on in this year's General Election on Nov. 7. Sample ballots are available to view on the Elections Office's website under the "[Upcoming Elections](#)" tab.

The office of Mayor is on the ballot in the Towns of Andrews and Pawleys Island, though only the Andrews mayoral race is contested. Three council seats are up for grabs in the Town of Andrews and the City of Georgetown, while four are on the ballot in the Town of Pawleys Island.

Voters who want to skip potential lines on Election Day have the option to vote early at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, located at 303 N. Hazard St., Georgetown. Early voting is available through Nov. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Absentee ballots must be received in the Elections Office no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day. More information is available at [gcounty.org/vote](http://gcounty.org/vote).

## Newly Certified!



Georgetown County is proud to announce it now has seven SCDHEC-certified landfill supervisors. Craig Smith (second from left) recently received his certification, joining colleagues James Dorsey, Scott Walker, Van Brave, David Thompson, George Montgomery and Anthony Vereen. Certificates must be renewed every three years. These certifications ensure that all solid waste facility operators are professionally trained and up-to-date on the latest in solid waste technology and South Carolina's environmental laws and regulations. The certification program also aims to increase operators' awareness of the impact of their work on human health, safety and the environment. Congratulations to Craig, and thanks to all our certified landfill supervisors for their hard work and diligence in following all rules and regulations for the good of our county and its residents!

**Taste of Georgetown**  
 Saturday, November 4  
 Noon to 3 p.m.

Front Street, Georgetown, SC 29440

Join us for the 11th annual Taste of Georgetown, benefitting the Family Justice Center of Georgetown and Horry Counties! This year's lineup features 25 local restaurants, each with an amazing selection of food. Admission is free. Food tickets will be available on site. Tickets are 10 for \$15 or 20 for \$25.



More information at [tinyurl.com/Taste-23](http://tinyurl.com/Taste-23)



The Friends of the Georgetown Library's

# YULETIDE HOME TOUR

Tour of historic homes, places of worship, and museums

**December 9th, 2023**  
**1:00 - 5:00 PM**

**\$20 per person (member of any Georgetown Library Friends group)**  
**\$25 per person (non-member)**

For more info, visit [www.myfogl.org/projects](http://www.myfogl.org/projects)

## Revised tree ordinance comes with bigger penalties for illegal removal, damage

By Holly Richardson, Planning and Zoning Director

Georgetown County Council recently approved changes to the sections of the Zoning Ordinance that contain tree regulations. The most significant change involves enforcement and will mean more severe penalties for those who violate the rules laid out in those sections.

Previously, penalties for unpermitted tree removal or damage were \$500 per tree. The new enforcement requirement allows for a fine of up to \$500 per inch of the tree's diameter at breast height, or DBH. Additionally, permits for the affected property may be withheld up to three years. Under the new rules, fines can add up to huge amounts very quickly, which is why we want to make sure residents and developers understand the new rules.

It is not the County's intention to increase revenues with these increased penalties, but to deter unpermitted tree removal. County Council and staff put much thought and effort into the best way to alter the ordinance to achieve that. We strongly urge residents to contact the Zoning Department at 843-545-3128 prior to removing any protected trees in order to avoid such penalties. If you have a question about whether or not a tree is protected, please contact us.

Other significant changes are listed below. Note that this is not a complete list. You can view the complete ordinance at <https://www.gtcounty.org/180/Land-Development-Zoning-Ordinances>. Tree regulations are included in Articles III and XIII. Section references are provided below.

1. The definition of a "tree professional" now refers to a

certified arborist, a board certified master arborist, a registered forester or an individual with a degree in urban forestry who is actively engaged in horticulture or forestry. (1300.19)



Richardson

2. Canopy measurements are now required for protected and grand trees. (1301.6.1)

3. Grading or paving within the tree protection zone is prohibited. The tree protection zone is the area around the base of a tree equal in feet to the DBH of the tree. (1300.20 and 1301.11.2.5)

4. The Zoning Administrator may waive setbacks by 50% beyond the minimum requirement if necessary in order to save a grand tree. (1301.15)

5. A variance process specifically for tree removal was added. Variances go to the Zoning Board of Appeals. (1301.16)

6. Tree regulations are divided into the Urban Overlay Zone (the Waccamaw Neck) and the Rural Overlay Zone (the rest of the unincorporated county).

a. Some trees were removed from the protected tree list for the rural section and the size of protected trees was increased from 10-inch DBH to 12-inch DBH. (1302)

b. A protected tree can be removed if it is within 10 feet of a habitable/accessory structure in both zones. This was increased from 8 feet. (1302.2.4)

c. Protected trees on occupied single family parcels are still exempt in the Rural Overlay.

d. A buffer is required in the Rural Overlay for major subdivisions or multifamily develop-

ments with more than 10 units or major thoroughfares. (1302.3)

e. Longleaf pines of at least 15-inch DBH have been added to the Urban Overlay for non-single family parcels only. They are not considered grand trees at any size. (1303.1)

f. Protected trees on occupied single family parcels in the Urban Overlay will now require a permit to remove and must meet one of the criteria found in the Ordinance. (1303.2)

7. Commercial timber harvesting and forestry are exempt based on state law. Unless done as a part of a previously approved development plan, tree removal under these exemptions



can result in a restriction on rezoning to a higher density or a commercial zoning for up to three years.

We understand that many residents and developers may have questions about these new regulations and our staff is more than happy to assist. We thank you for helping us to spread the word about these changes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the new tree ordinance.

**GEORGETOWN COUNTY FIRE-EMS**

**HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE**

Firefighters will collect items Nov. 11 & 12, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. outside Walmart in Georgetown

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

## Council requests to have state road named in honor of Johnny Morant



Georgetown County Council voted last month to ask the General Assembly to rename an 8-mile section of Exodus Drive (S.C. Highway S-264) in honor of the late Johnny Morant. The council unanimously passed a Resolution to that effect on Oct. 10, with members of the Morant family (pictured) in attendance to support the effort. Morant, who passed away in 2020, served on Georgetown County Council for 25 years before retiring in 2018. The last decade of his tenure was spent as Council Chairman. Through the years, he offered thoughtful leadership, which helped Georgetown County navigate periods of intense growth and rapid change. Every resident of Georgetown County “has directly benefitted from the contributions of Johnny Morant,” the Resolution states. “He exemplified the strength held by pillars of any community and is a guidepost for those who followed.”

## ‘I Voted’ sticker contest winner



Brianna Parfitt of Coastal Montessori Charter School is the winner of a sticker contest hosted by the Georgetown County Office of Elections and Voter Registration. The contest asked students in grades K-12 to design a sticker to be handed out to voters who cast ballots on Election Day. Nearly 500 entries were received and staff selected five finalists. Members of the public were then asked to choose the winner by “liking” their favorite entry on Facebook. Parfitt’s design received 116 votes and will be turned into a sticker for distribution at the polls. Aphra McCrea, director of the Office of Elections and Voter registration, said she created the contest to “promote civic education” among students in the county. She hopes to make the contest an annual event. Runners up in the contest were Tamia Fulton, Andrews Elementary; Opal Price, Maryville Elementary; Amira Valentin Urbina, Maryville Elementary; and Cyde T of Coastal Montessori Charter School.



**SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS ON THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN'S LAND USE ELEMENT**



*Help shape your community and plan for the future!*



For more information visit [gtcounty.org/complan](http://gtcounty.org/complan)



Send written comments to: [landuse@gtcounty.org](mailto:landuse@gtcounty.org)



For more information call (843) 545-3158

## Story & Music Time

Georgetown County Main Library  
@Howard Recreation Center  
1610 Hawkins Street, Georgetown



*Come join us every*  
**Wednesday, 10:30AM\***  
*Music, Stories, or Both!*



\*Lap baby-5 years old

## “Lynching’s legacies” to be discussed as part of library civil rights series

“Lynching’s Legacies in the U.S. South” is the topic of a presentation that will be given by Mari N. Crabtree, Ph.D., at the Southern Georgetown Library this month. The presentation is part of a series taking place in conjunction with the “Justice For All: South Carolina and the Civil Rights Movement” traveling exhibit, which will be on display at the library until Dec. 15. The exhibit uses oral history recordings, film clips, photographs, postcards, diaries, and manuscripts to highlight overlooked chapters in the history of the movement.

Crabtree is associate professor of African American Studies at the College of Charleston and author of “My Soul is a Witness: The Traumatic Afterlife of Lynching” (Yale 2022). Her presentation is scheduled for 11 a.m. Nov. 16. Both the presentation and the Justice For All exhibit are free and open to the public.

The presentation series will finish on Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. when Bobby J. Donaldson, Ph.D, is scheduled to discuss fascinating elements of the civil rights movement in S.C., drawn from the exhibit.

## Sales tax

*Continued from Front Page*

“It’s a way to just make living here more affordable and take some of the burden off of the homeowner,” said County Administrator Angela Christian. “It will allow visitors to share the burden of the cost of providing services, not to just our citizens, but with all the visitors and tourists and everybody else who comes to our community.”

Thirty-two of the state’s 46 counties already have a LOST in place.

Residents who have lived in Georgetown County for a few years are probably already familiar with the Capital Project Sales Tax. Voters approved one in 2014 and it raised \$41 million over its four-year lifespan, funding projects including road resurfacing, dredging in Murrells Inlet and fire service enhancements.

Projects to be funded with a new CPST have not yet been selected. County Council must first appoint a committee to create a proposed list of projects, which has to be approved by taxpayers as part of the referendum. The types of projects that can be included are limited by state law and would include things such as highways and roads, new facilities, water and sewer projects, flood control projects, stormwater facilities, dredging, beach accesses and beach renourishment.

Plans are for council to make committee appointments during its Nov. 14 meeting. The committee would then have its first meeting in December and would present recommendations to Council by the end of April.

The full discussion from the Oct. 24 meeting can be viewed on the County’s YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/gtcountysc](http://youtube.com/gtcountysc).




**GEORGETOWN COUNTY COMMUNITY SENIOR CHRISTMAS**

*Wish List*

Donation Deadline 11/30/23

<input type="checkbox"/> Crossword puzzle books	<input type="checkbox"/> Mints
<input type="checkbox"/> Word Search books	<input type="checkbox"/> Nail File
<input type="checkbox"/> Note Cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Body Wash
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-slip Socks	<input type="checkbox"/> Snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Small First Aid Kits	<input type="checkbox"/> Pill Organizers
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Lotion	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial Tissue
<input type="checkbox"/> Finger Nail Clippers	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick
<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitizer	<input type="checkbox"/> Hot Coco Packs
<input type="checkbox"/> Bar Soap	<input type="checkbox"/> Tea
<input type="checkbox"/> Vaseline	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift Cards

We are accepting donations of the items listed to deliver to the senior citizens of Georgetown County.  
 Donation locations are at any Georgetown Recreation facility or Howard gym.  
 Georgetown County Aging Services  
 Vanessa Brown: 843-545-3197  
[ymbrown@gtcounty.org](mailto:ymbrown@gtcounty.org)





**Waccamaw Neck Branch Library**



Crafternoon

Wednesdays

2:30 - 4:00

Children's Corner



For any questions, contact [jlewis@gtcounty.org](mailto:jlewis@gtcounty.org) or call 843-545-3349.

## Apprenticeship

Continued from Front Page

successful, having helped the department tremendously in remedying long-term staffing shortages at Georgetown County Fire-EMS and Midway Fire-Rescue.

Funnye hopes for similar results in his department.

“We’re looking for people who are good employees,” he said. “If they have that – if they’re reliable, they show up to work and they work hard – we can take care of the rest. We’ll train them and get them on the path to a good career.”

He handpicked Duncan as his first apprentice for those reasons. A Sampit resident, she was working in the scale house and Recycling Convenience Center at the landfill, and Funnye saw potential in her for more. Duncan expressed an interest in learning, and the idea for the apprenticeship program was born. They started the paperwork immediately and she began her training about two months ago.

So far, she’s loving it. She’s learning fast and at just 30 years old, could easily advance up the ranks and have a decades-long career, earning a good salary with Georgetown County as a top-tier HEO.

“I’m really like a tom boy, so for me this is fun. I like to learn new things and especially the heavy equipment,” Duncan said. Being small of stature, she said she also likes riding high in the trucks. “It’s just fun to me – carrying the dirt, dumping the plastic, being in the compactor, pushing the trash. Being on the hill (at the top of the landfill), you see a lot of birds. You see a lot of things up there.”

She said the variety of tasks makes every day interesting.

As part of the program, the county will also make changes to how HEOs are classified and advance up the ranks. Currently, the highest paygrade an HEO can achieve is the position of HEO 3, which requires eight years of experience, plus a Class A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) among other things. Going forward, there will be five levels of HEO after Apprentice. Starting salary for an apprentice is \$30,464 with no training or higher education. Applicants for the program must be at least 18 years old.

After one year as an apprentice, employees can qualify to move up to Level 1 HEO and the next paygrade. They can continue to advance a level each year, as long as they can prove they have mastered the tasks required for that level. For example, for Level 1 an apprentice would have to demonstrate proficiency with at least three pieces of heavy equipment, such as a running loader, excavator, backhoe, motor grader, dump truck, etc. At Level 2, additional pieces of equipment would have to be mastered, and at Level 3, a Class A CDL would also be required. Each level would also bring additional compensation.

“It should simplify the process a lot from what we have and allow people to advance more quickly, as long as the employee can demonstrate they have the mastery to move up,” Ackerman said. “It’s based on time put in and skills. Under our current system, we have people now who have the skills, but can’t move up because our time requirement is so extensive.”

Funnye said he plans to continue recruiting from within when he sees an employee with the work ethic and disposition to make them a good candidate. But individuals, including new high school graduates, are also welcome to apply directly to the

program. There are currently five open spots, with more to be added.

If the program is as successful as the Fire-fighter Recruit School, plans are to expand it into other areas of Public Services, such as construction. The county’s Facilities Services Division, which handles everything from building repairs and some new construction to electrical work and HVAC maintenance and repair, is experiencing similar issues with staffing.

“Seventy percent of people in trade fields – carpenters, bricklayers, electricians – are over 55 years old,” Ackerman said. “That’s nationwide. In 10 years, 70 percent of people in those fields are going to retire and there’s nobody to replace them. We have to start doing something.”

Funnye said he is excited and optimistic about the possibilities apprenticeship programs create for Georgetown County.

“We’re ready to start training the next generation and growing a new crop of trained and skilled professionals,” he said. “As leaders, we have to work smarter and plan for the worst. That’s what we’re doing here. We’re planning and preparing for the future of Georgetown County.”

For more information about the HEO Apprenticeship Program, send an email to [humanresources@gtcounty.org](mailto:humanresources@gtcounty.org) or call (843) 545-3074.

## Holiday Closures

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

Nov. 23 & 24 Thanksgiving

Dec. 25 & 26 Christmas

Jan. 1, 2024 New Year's Day

Facilities that normally have weekend hours may have different closures. Visit [gtcounty.org](http://gtcounty.org) for information.

3rd ANNUAL



GEORGETOWN, SC | 2023  
Nov 4-Dec 9, 2023



[www.healingfield.org/georgetownsc23](http://www.healingfield.org/georgetownsc23)

# Georgetown County, South Carolina County Government

**Numbers to know**

(All begin with area code 843)

Animal Control, 546-5101

Assessor, 545-3014

Auditor, 545-3021

Clerk of Court, 545-3004

County Council, 545-3058

Coroner, 546-3056

Elections, 545-3339

Finance, 545-3002

Parks & Rec., 545-3320

Planning/Zoning, 545-3116

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

Treasurer, 545-3098

P.O. Box 421270  
129 Screven Street

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



## County to re-open renovated Choppee Auditorium

Nov. 11 will be an exciting day on the campus of the old Choppee High School. The campus is now owned by Georgetown County and houses an array of community programs, including St. James Health and Wellness, the Diabetes CORE Group and more.

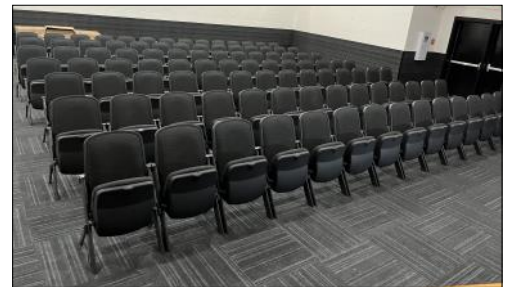
The facility also houses a newly renovated auditorium that will be unveiled Nov. 11 and which is sure to be another heavily utilized resource for the community. The unveiling will take place at 3 p.m., along with a dedication ceremony. The building is being named in honor of Maudest K. Squires, the school's first principal. Meanwhile, the auditorium will be dedicated in memory of Thomas Moultrie, the school's first band director, and Josephine Howard, the school's first choir director. The multipurpose field at the complex will be dedicated in memory of John H. Spears, a former coach at the school.

All members of the public are invited to attend the ceremony, which is hosted by Georgetown County, County Council Chairman Louis Morant and the Choppee School Alumni Association.

One of the first things attendees will notice is that the exterior of the auditorium entrance now matches the health complex entrance. That's just one of many exciting changes. New seating in the auditorium can be unbolted and reconfigured to make the building appropriate for a wider range of uses. Additionally, the facility has new lighting and draperies, the stage floor has been refinished and the bathrooms have been modernized.

"It's a very flexible space now," said Beth Goodale, the county's director of parks and recreation, which manages the facility. "You can use it for stage productions or move things around and just use it for receptions or meetings. I think the community is going to be very happy with it and they're going to get a lot of use out of it."

All members of the community are encouraged to come out and enjoy the festivities. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, email [mmorant@gtcounty.org](mailto:mmorant@gtcounty.org).



From top: The refinished auditorium stage, new auditorium seating and a new sign at the facility.

## Lance-Robb featured in American Libraries Magazine

Marilynn Lance-Robb, branch manager at the Carvers Bay Library, is featured in the latest issue of American Libraries Magazine. Lance-Robb was interviewed for an article on "solo librarianship." According to the article, "at many of the country's 4,000 rural library systems, staffers are operating by themselves, or nearly so." This especially true in small towns and rural communities, like Carvers Bay.



Lance-Robb in a photo that accompanies the article.

The article reports on how Lance-Robb, the only full-time employee at the branch, has "helped hundred of people improve their health literacy and information access." For many in the community, Lance-Robb told the magazine, the library is their only source for online access and accessing important health information.

Read the full article at <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2023/11/01/one-of-a-kind/>.