



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

May 21 – Capital Project Sales Tax Commission virtual meeting, 9:30 a.m. Watch live at youtube.com/gtcountysc.

May 21 – Bingo at the Waccamaw Library, 10 a.m. to noon. Free.

May 22 – Intermediate ukulele concert at the Waccamaw Library, 12:30-1 p.m.

May 27 – County offices and facilities are closed for Memorial Day.

May 28 – County Council workshop, 4 p.m., Historic Courthouse, 129 Screven St. Regular council meeting follows at 5:30 p.m.

June 1 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Paper Shredding event, 9 a.m. to noon. See Page 6.

See more meetings and events on the calendar at gtcounty.org.

Volume 12, Issue 7

May 2024

On the road again: New Bookmobile goes into service

A brand new Bookmobile hit the streets in Georgetown County this week, and it couldn't come soon enough for many residents across the county.

"Several of our daycares and some of our older residents have called saying 'when are you coming back,' because we've been off the road for about a month," said Hailey Davis, who serves as both the Bookmobile Supervisor and Branch Manager for the Andrews Library.

Daycares, nursing homes and assisted living facilities are some of the biggest users of the bookmobile, which circulates anywhere from 500 to 1,200 items per month. It's a valuable asset for residents across the county who can't travel to their local branch. After the new Bookmobile arrived, staff had to move all the materials over from the old vehicle and spent a couple



The new Bookmobile, left, beside the old one.

of weeks training, during which time Bookmobile service was suspended.

Davis said she thinks patrons will be pleased when they get their first look at the new Bookmobile. The custom vehicle was built over the course of about a year by Matthews Specialty Vehicles in Greensboro, N.C., and boasts a number of improvements over its predecessor.

For starters, it's about two feet longer and has more shelving, a more efficient layout and a driver's seat that spins around to a librarian's desk to maximize space. It will also introduce mobile Wi-Fi that can be used by patrons and a drop-down screen that can showcase upcoming programs or other important information.

See "Bookmobile," Page 7

Public input sought on natural hazard and disaster concerns

Georgetown County and the communities within it are in the process of updating the Georgetown County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Per the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that local communities have and regularly update their All-Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive federal disaster mitigation funding. This plan will identify local risks associated with natural hazards and help the County and area municipalities identify ways to reduce local impacts and vulnerabilities to natural disasters.

Public input is needed to help shape this plan. Public participation in this planning effort will help ensure the public's concerns are addressed in the plan and ensure that the communities within it are eligible for federal mitigation dollars. The public is invited to complete the Resident Survey, which is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/GC-Hazards. The survey will be available through June 15.

For those who would prefer a printed copy of the



survey, copies are available at the Georgetown County Administrator's Office, located at 716 Prince Street, Georgetown. Surveys are also available at county library branches and municipal town halls. Please return completed paper surveys to the Georgetown County Public Information Office at 716 Prince Street, Georgetown, SC 29440. Paper copies must be returned no later than June 15.

For more information about this planning effort, please contact Brandon Ellis, Georgetown County Emergency Services Director, at bellis@gtcounty.org or 843-545-3545. Questions may also be directed to Leigh Kane, Local Planning Services Director with the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments at 843-436-6125 or Lkane@wrcog.org as their agency is assisting with this planning effort.

IN MEMORIAM:

Donnie Evans

Donald Alton "Donnie" Evans, 63, died April 26, at Grand Strand Medical Center.

Born on Dec. 11, 1960, in Georgetown, he was a son of the late James "JC" Evans and the late Jeanette Cox Evans. He was retired from Sampit Lumber Mill and Georgetown County Parks and Recreation. In his spare time, he enjoyed surfing, going to the beach, riding four-wheelers, and spending time with his beloved dog and beloved grandchildren.

Survivors include one daughter, Kristina Evans Griffin (Travis) of Georgetown; seven grandchildren, Kenley Griffin, Karsyn Griffin, Travis Griffin Jr., Chad Griffin, David Michael Elliott, Brandan Elliott and Junior Elliott; three great-grandchildren; and a cousin he thought of as a brother, James Evans (Cheryl) of Georgetown. He was preceded in death by a son, Michael Elliott; and a son-in-love, Anthony James Carter.



Evans
1960-2024

Laurie Smith Jr.

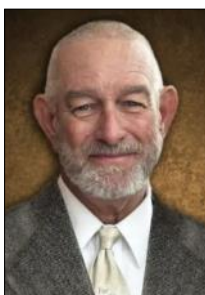
Laurie Coleman Smith Jr., 62, a loving father and the devoted husband died April 19 at MUSC Health Black River Medical Center.

Mr. Smith was born the son of Laurie Coleman Smith Sr. and Wilma Faye Fulton Smith on August 18, 1961, in Hemingway. He was the oldest of five children. He was a 1980 graduate of Andrews Academy and attended Williamsburg Technical College. He was a skilled mechanic and a former employee of Southern Wood Products and Smith Logging where he worked as a Timber Cruiser and mechanic. For over 30 years, he was employed with International Paper Santee Woodyard Division as Shift Leader. He was also a volunteer with Georgetown County Fire- EMS Station 16. Additionally, he was an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 329, and was a lifelong member of Black River Original Free Will Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. His hobbies included hunting and fishing — skills he taught his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife of 42 years Jane Harrington Smith; three children, Christina S. Woolley (Bruce), Stephen Coleman Smith (Whitney), and Emily Elizabeth Smith; four grandchildren, Blair Woolley, Keaton Woolley, Sydney Smith, and Colby Smith; his mother Wilma Faye Fulton Smith; four siblings, Janet Smith, Ginger Smith (Robert Keller), Ted Smith (Kim), and Kelby Smith (Brent); his extended family and God Mother to his children, Mildred E. Smith; numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, and nieces; and his fur baby, Sadie.

He was predeceased by his father, Laurie Coleman Smith Sr.; parents-in-law Joseph "Joe" (Doris) Harrington and Mrs. Lee Isla Josey; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard "RD" (Myrtie Via) Smith; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Talulah) Fulton.

Mr. Smith was laid to rest at Piney Forest Cemetery.



Smith
1961-2024

Edwards named honorary Friends board member for years of service

Ralph Edwards of Belle Isle was recently named an honorary Board member of the Friends of the Georgetown Library. Edwards served as Secretary of the group for a decade before retiring in February and, along with his wife Aggie, faithfully supported the Friends throughout those years. On May 10, he was presented with an official proclamation and an award for "Making the Difference" from the Friends Board of Directors. Aggie was presented with a bouquet of flowers. The proclamation reads:

"Upon the recommendation of the President of the Friends of the Georgetown Library and by unanimous approval of the Board of Directors, honorary board membership is conferred upon Ralph Edwards who has rendered notable and distinguished service to the Board and the Friends over a lengthy period of time. Be it known that an honorary board member shall have none of the obligations of membership on the Board but shall be entitled to all the privileges." In addition to serving as Board Secretary, Ralph and Aggie have been very active in Friends of the Georgetown Library activities, including having served on the Yuletide Home Tour committee, volunteering as docents for the Tour, helping to organize annual book sales and participating in the group's semi-annual yard sales. "He was and continues to be good a Friend/friend," Friends President Bob Willey said of Ralph. All five of Georgetown County's library branches have Friends groups that support the library system and library programming. Friends of the Library groups are always seeking new volunteers. For more information about Georgetown County Library Friends groups, enquire at your local branch.



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

Love named Chief Magistrate

John A. "Tony" Love has been promoted to the position of Georgetown County's Chief Magistrate. He previously served as Associate Chief Magistrate under Isaac Pyatt, who retired in late January after serving as Chief Magistrate for 20 years.

A resident of the Pawleys Island area and a native of Horry County, Love spent 25 years with the S.C. Highway Patrol, retiring as Post Commander for Georgetown and Williamsburg counties. He was appointed to the bench in 2015 to serve the Georgetown region of the county. He was named associate magistrate two years later and worked closely with Pyatt in that role. He said it's a great honor to have been selected to succeed Pyatt and serve the community he loves.

He sees the role as one where he has the opportunity to help people.

"It's my goal to try to help everybody that I can and give back to the community," he said. "People make mistakes in life. I understand that and those are the ones I want to try to help the most."

One of the things he's most proud of is his work with the county's drug court, a diversionary program through the Solicitor's Office that helps nonviolent offenders with substance abuse problems.

"That's a very rewarding court because you get to literally watch people change before your eyes and become contributing members of our community again," he said. "It's amazing to watch. Of course not everybody makes it through. If they fail the course, they do go and serve their sentences. But a lot do succeed. I enjoy watching people become successful in life when they've been at their rock bottom. It's very rewarding."

Love said he wants people to feel comfortable coming to court and know they will be treated fairly while he's on the bench. He tries to treat everyone how he would want his mother to be treated, he said.

"She was very influential in my life and I know she would have been scared to come to court anytime. I don't want anyone to have that type of feeling," he said. "Even if someone is found guilty or whether they receive any leniency – regardless of what the outcome is – I want them to feel confident in coming in here and knowing that their voices are going to be heard. I want them to understand that I'm going to be fair to everybody, no matter what their background is."

Judge Steven Pop has been promoted to fill Love's former role as Associate Chief Magistrate, but his seat on the bench as magistrate for the Georgetown area is currently vacant. A new judge will be appointed by the legislative delegation in the near future.



Judge Tony Love

Child Support Amnesty Day set for June 5

Non-custodial parents who are delinquent in child support are invited to the Georgetown County Judicial Center next month to negotiate options to get caught up. Georgetown County will host Family Court Amnesty Day on Wednesday, June 5, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Those interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should report to the second floor of the Judicial Center, located at 401 Cleland St., Georgetown.

Amnesty Day allows delinquent child support payers an opportunity to negotiate past due payments with representatives from the S.C. Department of Social Services, without fear or risk of arrest on outstanding Family Court bench warrants. (Outstanding general sessions bench warrants are not included.)

Recipients of child support are also invited to participate in Amnesty Day negotiations. Only parties involved in cases should attend. The goal is to facilitate child support payments in the best interest of the children who are in need of support. This process is not designed to relieve anyone of child support payments, but to help get non-custodial parents back on track with making support payments.

For more information, contact the Georgetown County Clerk of Court's Office at (843) 545-3047 or familycourt@gtcounty.org

GCSO welcomes three new K-9 officers



At the end of April, the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office welcomed three new K-9 officers. Pelle, Ares and Vito have undergone extensive training with their handlers, who are veteran deputies with the Sheriff's Office. The three dogs are Belgian Malinois brothers who specialize in narcotics detection and tracking. They join K-9 Dukat, who has been serving the agency with distinction for three years. Pictured from left are the handlers with their new K-9 partners: Sgt. Brian Delval with Pelle, Deputy Mike Yilmaz with Vito, and Deputy Dean Doxtater with Ares.

County to break ground on new jail June 7, local subcontractors sought to bid on trades

An invitation was issued May 15 for subcontractors to submit bids to work on the county's upcoming jail construction project. A copy of the project plans and instructions on how to bid are available at: <https://mbkbids.com/georgetown-county-detention-center>. Local subcontractors are encouraged to submit bids. The deadline to submit bid proposals is June 12 at 1 p.m.

The county will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the \$65 million project on June 7 at 10 a.m. at 2185 Browns Ferry Rd. Plans are to build an 85,800-square-foot facility on the site to replace the old jail that opened in March 1996. The new jail will have an initial 256 initial beds.

New Detention Center program helps inmates battle addiction

A new program at the Georgetown County Detention Center launched April 29 to help inmates struggling with addiction. The Damascus House Ministry, founded by the Pawleys Island Community Church, will give affected inmates assistance with their battle with drug and alcohol addiction.

The Damascus House is a nonprofit, Gospel-centered, drug and alcohol addiction ministry that addresses the root of the behavior, the traumas and experiences that led to chemical dependence. At the detention center, inmates apply for an intensive, three-week program, during which they live in the same cell block and meet six hours a day. Guided by Damascus House Program Leaders Vic Wilson and Dillon Dowler, participants will support each other as they work through past grief and trauma, and take responsibility for their choices.

"There are lessons and counseling each day, and each man keeps a journal in which they take a daily moral inventory," explained Wilson. "They explore how they're doing, how they have treated other program members or their family."

"We work a lot to change false ideas, especially the idea that addiction is only affecting the addict. There's a focus on taking responsibility, right down to going back and making your bed if you didn't make it, or apologizing if you've been unkind to another program participant."

Participants also commit to attending the detention center's Alcoholics Anonymous and Celebrate Recovery meetings. Sign up is, of course, optional, but Weaver said he wants to give incarcerated

residents suffering from substance use disorder every chance to break free from the cycle.

"I see it as my responsibility as a Sheriff and as a human being to do everything in my power to help those stricken by addiction to break the cycle and live productive lives," Weaver said.

The Damascus House Ministry has been coalescing since the summer of 2022, when Pawleys Island Community Church noted the growing drug problem in Georgetown County. The church found inspiration from Dunklin Memorial Church in Okeechobee, Fla., which has been running a Christian regeneration program for men in addiction for 62 years, including a campus for residential treatment.

"Our church felt that we had received a calling, and the program in the Georgetown County Detention Center is a step toward answering that call," said church member and Damascus House Ministry President Jim Coggin. "We are so grateful to have Vic and Dillon, who were both successful recovery program leaders in Florida, to lead this initiative."

This is the first program of its type in the state, and plans are to continue it indefinitely. When each three-week course concludes, inmates from a different block will have a chance to join.

Like the Sheriff's Reentry Program, which trains inmates in high-demand trades and life skills and has a 1% recidivism rate among its more than 150 graduates, the Damascus House Ministry gives inmates a chance to let down their guard and work on tough personal goals.

Public Services Dept. achieves fourth APWA accreditation



The Georgetown County Department of Public Services has received full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the fourth time. This accreditation formally verifies and recognizes that the agency is in full compliance with the recommended management practices set forth in APWA's Public Works Management Practices Manual.

Open to all governmental agencies with responsibilities for public works functions, initial accreditation from APWA is for a four-year period, during which time semi-annual updates will be required to demonstrate continuing compliance. After that time, there is a re-accreditation process which builds on the original accreditation, encouraging continuous improvement and compliance with newly identified practices.

The purpose of accreditation is to promote excellence in the operation and management of a public works agency, its programs and employees. Accreditation is designed to assist the agency in continuous improvement of operations and management, and in providing a valid and objective evaluation of agency programs as a service to the public and the profession.

"We are a small county with big heart," said Ray Funnye, director of the Georgetown County Public Services Department. "In 2011, we were the second agency in the state of South Carolina to become accredited. It's wonderful that our staff was able to again be reaccredited. Our staff worked so hard for this."

Committee closes in on CPST project list

A list of projects that will be on the ballot in November as part of a Capital Project Sales Tax referendum will be presented to Georgetown County Council during a workshop on May 28. It will be council's first look at the proposed list, which it will have to approve or deny in whole.

The committee has been meeting all year in different regions of the county. When the deadline to submit projects to the committee passed in April, the committee had received 61 projects for consideration, valued at nearly \$211 million. They worked hard in the weeks following to prioritize the list and draft a short list of projects that will be included as part of the ballot referendum on the proposed tax. They were required to propose about \$70 million worth of projects to be funded with tax dollars, as well as a backup list in case the tax generates more than projected.

Nine of the top 20 projects are currently water and sewer projects in western areas of the county, including Browns Ferry, Sampit, Pee Dee and the Town of Andrews. Pawleys Island and Georgetown drainage also made the top tier of projects, along with a new county Emergency Operations Center, a new landfill maintenance facility, a new Coast RTA passenger facility, Pawleys Island north jetty improvements, new outdoor pickleball and basketball courts at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center, redevelopment of Wachesaw Park in Murrells Inlet, replacement of the fire station at DeBordieu and more.

The list may still change before it is voted on by County Council. The next meeting of the committee will be May 21 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be livestreamed at youtube.com/gtcountysc.

First Friday

with Georgetown County

New episodes on the first Friday of every month. Join us as we discuss topics important to residents of our county. Listen on YouTube or anywhere you normally stream and download podcasts.

CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAX

This November, Georgetown County voters will be asked to decide on a proposed 1% tax to fund specific capital projects, such as roads, water and sewer infrastructure, and public facilities. A list of projects to be funded will be approved by the end of May 2024. If approved, the tax would be in place for a limited number of years.

More information at
gtcounty.org/cpst

HURRICANE PREP TOWN HALL SERIES

Wed.,
May 22

3:30-5 p.m.
Andrews Library
105 N. Morgan Ave
Andrews

Fri.,
May 24

10:00am - Noon
SC Maritime Museum
729 Front St.
Georgetown

Sat.,
May 25

10:00am - Noon
Waccamaw Library
41 St. Paul's Place
Pawleys Island, SC

Wed.,
June 12

1-3 p.m.
Murrells Inlet Community Center
4462 Murrells Inlet Rd.
Murrells Inlet

Join us for our upcoming town hall meeting series, in which we will discuss hurricane preparedness for you and your family, as well as an overview of our recently revised hurricane evacuation zones!



www.gtcounty.org/gcemd

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION AND PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

June 1, from 9 a.m. to noon
located at Waccamaw Middle School,
247 Wildcat Way, Pawleys Island

Accepted items include: Paint, household cleaners, batteries (alkaline and rechargeable), incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs, non-commercial pesticides, fertilizers, items labeled "warning," "poisonous" or "toxic," and paper documents with staples, rubber bands or clips.



Gas, oil, antifreeze, 3-ring binders and ammunition NOT accepted.

For more information, call (843) 545-3524



EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT IN JUNE

GLOW IN THE DARK PICKLEBALL

8PM - 10PM

ALL AGES WELCOME!
FREE



Beck Recreation Center
June 7th

Andrews Regional Recreation Center
June 14th

Northwest Regional Recreation Center
June 21st

Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
June 28th

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation
2030 Church St. Georgetown, SC 29440
(843) 545-3320 | www.GTCParks.org



REGISTER NOW GTC Parks 2024 FALL SPORTS

NFL Flag Football

Ages 5-8 and 9-12

\$40



CHEERLEADING

Ages 5-12

\$35



Registration ends August 2nd, 2024
Practice begins August 12th, 2024



Register at GTC Parks.org or at your local recreation center.

Georgetown County Parks & Recreation
2030 Church St. Georgetown, SC 29440
(843) 545-3320 | www.GTCParks.org



Bookmobile

Continued from Front Page

“We’re also finally going to have an awning again, so if it’s hot and sunny, and people are waiting to come in, they’ll have some shade without the Bookmobile Librarian having to pop up a tent,” Davis said.

The shape of the new vehicle is also different. The new Bookmobile is a customized step van platform with a Ford chassis. The old one was a cutaway van platform, also known as a box truck, with a two-part shell, similar to what is used by UPS or FedEx.

One thing that hasn’t changed is the artwork on the outside. It will have the same mural – featuring kids reading while enjoying nature – that the county’s last two Bookmobiles sported. It was drawn by a local student many years ago and has become both recognizable and beloved in the community.

The specs for the Bookmobile and the layout for its interior were all created by Davis, along with Sheila Sullivan, the library’s Head of Children/Youth & Outreach Services. Davis was previously the Bookmobile librarian, so she has worked with the Bookmobile since 2015. Additionally, her husband used to be the Bookmobile mechanic, so she has a unique insight on what the needs were for a new Bookmobile. Sullivan also has experience as a Bookmobile supervisor.

“Sheila and I both knew that whatever we designed, our fleet services guys needed to be able to work on it,” Davis said. “I can’t tell you the amount of people that build specialty vehicles and then can’t maintain them.”

That means when there’s a problem, it’s more costly to fix and the vehicle is out of service longer while the vehicle is transported and repaired.

“We both basically fine-tuned the body style based on what we needed for the route,” Davis said. “I chose the step van versus the cutaway and I worked in tandem with our shop maintenance guys. We planned out everything from the types of wheels it needed to the type of engine to the type of generator.”

Once loaded, the vehicle is heavy at the back, due to the weight of the books, and that too has to be planned for. Davis also knew she wanted the vehicle designed so a commercial driver’s license wouldn’t be needed to operate it. That wasn’t required for the previous Bookmobile either, and Davis recalled practicing driving her church’s

Building a Bookmobile

Once the designs were completed, it was time for library staff to sit back and wait while the actual construction started. It’s not a quick process.

It took nearly a year for the chassis to be delivered from the manufacturer to another location in Michigan, where the body was mounted. Matthews Specialty Vehicles dictated to that vendor, Morgan Olson, the placement of door locations, wheelchair lift locations and other features built into the unit before it finally made its way to their team in North Carolina.

“They run about six months or so on the body construction, and then from there, after it’s already touched two other people, it comes to us in Greensboro,” said Caitlyn Braunns, an account executive overseeing the Bookmobile market for Matthews Specialty Vehicles. “It’s really a blank, raw shell when it arrives.”

It goes first through the sales team, then an engineering team. These teams begin work before the vehicle is produced. When it arrives, it finally goes to the production floor, where it usually spends 8-10 weeks.

“That’s when all the magic happens. It’s when we’re installing the walls, the electrical goes in, the carpentry team installs the shelving, the desk, the cabinetry,” Braunns said. “Graphics is one of the last things that happens. Then finally there are quality inspections.”

After being cleared by Quality Control, units are handed over to the Driver Customer Care Team who weight, water and road test the unit. Lastly, delivery and training are scheduled.

Matthews Specialty Vehicles opened in 1992 and the first unit it ever produced was actually a Bookmobile, said Kayla Thomas, marketing coordinator.

van to prepare when she was hired as Bookmobile librarian.

Three backup cameras on the new vehicle instead of the one camera on the old Bookmobile make operating the vehicle safer.

Of course, there were also color patterns, shelving design and more to consider.

“There’s a lot that goes into it that people wouldn’t think about,” Davis said. Things like making sure the shelving has a slight tilt to keep books from flying all over the place every time the vehicle makes a sharp turn.



Interior of the Georgetown County Bookmobile early in the customization process.



The Georgetown County Bookmobile in the Shop at Matthews Specialty Vehicles

“Our units are running around 24 months from order to delivery, but sometimes we spend two years ahead of that working with customers or other entities that are trying to raise grant funding money or maybe pulling from different allocations,” Braunns said. “Our director actually just closed a deal she had been working on since 2017. COVID probably had a little to do with that too. I imagine it slowed things down.”

The new Bookmobile was funded by a \$226,088 Community Development Block Grant awarded back in 2021. The vehicle was originally scheduled for delivery last summer, but lingering supply chain disruptions caused a delay. One of the major objectives of the grant was to provide mobile Wi-Fi and technology capabilities to low-income rural areas.

Find the Bookmobile schedule at gtcounty.org/bookmobile.

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 to celebrate 225th birthday with programs

Come wish the Georgetown County Library a Happy 225th Birthday this summer! Library services were established in Georgetown back in 1799—one year before the founding of the Library of Congress. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the library system will offer an exciting series of free public programs all about Georgetown County, past and present.

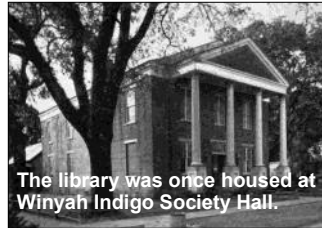
These programs will explore a wide range of topics, including the area's settlement, ethnic diversity, freedom and civil rights struggles, religious life, foodways, literature and arts, wildlife and ecology, and, of course, library history.

Starting in mid-June, the freshly expanded and renovated Georgetown Library—with its new state-of-the-art auditorium—will host anniversary presentations through the summer and fall. The library is located at 405 Cleland St.

To inspire a productive exchange of perspectives, the series will intertwine presentations by regional scholars with those by local experts, all accompanied by lively audience Q&A sessions. The theme for the Library's 225th Anniversary Celebration is "Time Machine, 1799-2024" and the motto is "Learning Springs Eternal."

The first set of presentations is scheduled for this summer and will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m., beginning on Tuesday, June 14, and ending on Thursday, August 29. All programs will be in the Georgetown Library Auditorium, are free and open to the public, thanks to a major grant provided by South Carolina Humanities. Presentations in this set of programming will include:

• June 11 — Dr. Zackary Vernon, Associate Professor of English at Appalachian State University, kicks off the series



The library was once housed at Winyah Indigo Society Hall.

by returning home to his native Georgetown County to talk about his newly published novel set in Pawleys Island.

• June 13 — Ever-popular local historian and prolific author Steve Williams will delve into some of the major contributions made by African-American Georgetownians in our area's rich history.

• June 18 — Library Director Dwight McInvaill, who wrote his M.L.S. thesis at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on the history of the Georgetown Library Society, will explain fascinating aspects of our Library's history and its readership.

• June 20 — another Georgetown native returns home to share his wealth of expertise. Highly accomplished visual artist Charles Edward Williams, now Sun Trust Endowed Professor of Art at North Carolina Central University, will explore the central importance of discovering one's homeland through art.

• June 25 — The Rev. Dr. Betty Deas Clark, pastor of Historic Bethel AME Church, will discuss Georgetown's deep spiritual tradition.

• July 25 — Pamela L. Martin, Ph.D., professor of politics at Coastal Carolina University, will talk about United Nations sustainability goals in Georgetown County. Martin is Executive Director and Founder of Georgetown RISE and her CCU student interns will also be available to discuss their work on implementing UN sustainability goals in our region.

• Aug. 13 — Kevin Kokomoor,

Ph.D., a history lecturer at Coastal Carolina University, will continue our celebration of public learning by exploring Spanish historical influences in our area.

• Aug. 14 — preeminent ecological author John Lane, who served as founding director of Wofford College's Goodall Environmental Studies Center, will give a presentation on alligators. Lane, who is also an avid kayaker, will return on Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. for a second program in conjunction with River Reading Kayaking of Murrells Inlet. He will help guide a two-hour kayak paddle along a section of the Waccamaw River, alongside Master Naturalist Hastings Hensel. Lane is the author of "My Paddle to the Sea: Eleven Days on the Rivers of the Carolinas" and "Still Upright & Headed Downstream: Collected River Writing." River Reader Kayaking and Lane are generously providing this kayak tour for free.

However, spots are limited, so registration is required. To register, please email dturner@gtcounty.org

• Aug. 27 — Madison Cates, Ph. D., asst. professor of history at Coastal Carolina University, will discuss the important history of the long Black freedom struggle on the former plantations that made up what is now Hobcaw Barony.

• The finale of our initial set of summer programs will take place on Aug. 29, with a special talk and cooking demonstration by chef Altor Smith of the Daniel Island Club. Smith, another Georgetown County native, will focus on foods distinct to our area.

Additional 225th Anniversary Celebration presentations will pick up again in September and continue throughout the fall. A schedule detailing these programs will be released later this year.