



The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

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Calendar

July 20 – National Hammock Day Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Hammock Shops Village. See Page 6.

July 22 – Recreation Commission quarterly meeting and open house at Choppee Regional Recreation Center, 5:30 p.m.

July 23 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., Howard Auditorium, 1610 Hawkins St.

Aug. 2 – Last day to register for fall youth sports. See Page 6.

Aug. 5 – County Council District 1 drop-in, 4-7 p.m., Murrells Inlet Community Center. See page 3.

Aug. 6 – Senior P.R.E.P. event with Emergency Management, 10 a.m. to noon at Walgreens in Pawleys Island. See page 10.

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

Volume 12, Issue 9

July 2024

Smile and winning attitude paved the way to success for Richardson

When people meet Gary “Yam” Richardson of Georgetown, it’s often his smile they notice first and remember later. It’s warm and genuine. It makes people feel at ease and want to smile back.

That smile paired with a polite, friendly demeanor opened the door to a successful career for Richardson, 34, who is now an airplane mechanic at the Georgetown Airport. His work ethic and drive to succeed did the rest, allowing him to make the most of the opportunity presented.

It all started because Richardson worked at a gas station near the airport where Airport Manager Jim Taylor would buy gas.

“Gary worked the counter there. Every time I walked in, he would be smiling,” Taylor recalled. “He conversed with me; he’d seen the Georgetown County Airport logo on my shirt and asked me what we did, who’s out there.”

In turn, Taylor would ask Richardson questions, like if he played football. Richardson did and had been something of a star player for Georgetown High School as a student.

“It was always a good conversation, no matter what we talked about,” Taylor said.



Gary Richardson is pictured in the shop at the Georgetown Airport, where he is now an airplane mechanic.

So when Taylor had a job opening at the airport, he asked Richardson if he’d be interested in applying. He’d advertised the position and hadn’t found the right applicant.

“I got to thinking, ‘maybe Gary,’” Taylor said.

The more he thought about it, the more sense it made. Airport staff are usually the first point of contact for prospective businesses, destination travelers and many other visitors. That makes a winning smile, a

See “Richardson,” Page 8

Clinics aim to bring services to veterans in their home communities

More than 100 local veterans took advantage of a one-stop claims clinic at the Howard Center in Georgetown on July 17. The event was hosted by Georgetown County and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as part of a new outreach campaign from the Department’s Regional Office in Columbia.

It won’t be the last such event, vowed Shelia Jackson, who was appointed as director of the Regional Office just over a year ago. In the next couple of months, she hopes to have another, bigger event. One that would include bringing medical professionals to Georgetown, allowing veterans to see a VA doctor on the spot right



Veterans fill out paperwork at a one-stop claims clinic in Georgetown earlier this month.

here in their own community. It would help address the backlog that exists for appointments at VA hospitals and allow veterans to have claims decided that same day.

It’s all part of an impactful initiative Jackson and her team have set to bridge the communication gap

between the VA and the veterans the agency serves. It starts with community clinics, like the one in Georgetown, and builds from there as the department regains trust and develops better relationships with veterans. The ultimate goal is to make sure veterans are aware of and can access the benefits they have rightfully earned.

A 20-year Army veteran herself, Jackson said the first thing she noticed when she came to S.C. is there were many veterans the agency wasn’t reaching. She wanted to fix that.

“We started on this massive outreach campaign,” Jackson said. “We have to go out there and reach

See “Veterans,” Page 7

New fee rates for development go into effect this month

Changes to fees charged on new development in Georgetown County took effect with the start of the county's new budget year on July 1.

County Council agreed last winter that restructuring of impact fee rates was needed

and settled on a phased-in approach that will introduce changes gradually over the course of three years. While rates for commercial development will increase, the rates for most single-family residences and multi-family units are reduced.

"We used to have a flat fee for residential units and now they'll be based on square footage," said Holly Richardson, Georgetown County's director of planning and code enforcement. "Before, a 5,000-square-foot house would have paid the same as a 1,200-square-foot house. Now, someone would pay more for a bigger structure."

Impact fees apply to new construction only and do not apply to mobile homes. Impact fees have been in place in Georgetown County since 2008. The new fee amounts are based on a study prepared by Tischler Bise last year. The implementation of the fees will be phased in with 75% of the new value being charged in the first year, 85% in the second year and 100% in the third year.

IMPACT FEES

- One-time fee on new development
- Helps fund needs created by new development
- Changes in fees go into effect July 1

| Development Type | Parks & Recreation | Law Enforcement | Transportation | Total |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Residential (per dwelling unit by square footage) | | | | |
| 500 or less | \$424 | \$429 | \$325 | \$1,178 |
| 501 to 1,000 | \$578 | \$585 | \$514 | \$1,677 |
| 1,001 to 1,500 | \$772 | \$782 | \$753 | \$2,307 |
| 1,501 to 2,000 | \$899 | \$910 | \$909 | \$2,718 |
| 2,001 to 2,500 | \$994 | \$1,007 | \$1,026 | \$3,027 |
| 2,501 to 3,000 | \$1,069 | \$1,083 | \$1,119 | \$3,271 |
| 3,001 to 3,500 | \$1,133 | \$1,147 | \$1,197 | \$3,477 |
| 3,501 to 4,000 | \$1,188 | \$1,203 | \$1,264 | \$3,655 |
| 4,001 to 4,500 | \$1,236 | \$1,251 | \$1,323 | \$3,810 |
| 4,501 to 5,000 | \$1,275 | \$1,291 | \$1,374 | \$3,940 |
| 5,001 to 5,500 | \$1,315 | \$1,331 | \$1,421 | \$4,067 |
| 5,501 to 6,000 | \$1,350 | \$1,367 | \$1,463 | \$4,180 |
| 6,000 or more | \$1,382 | \$1,399 | \$1,502 | \$4,283 |
| Nonresidential (per 1,000 square feet) | | | | |
| Retail/Restaurant | \$0 | \$2,475 | \$1,423 | \$3,898 |
| Business Park | \$0 | \$1,095 | \$696 | \$1,791 |
| Office | \$0 | \$954 | \$606 | \$1,560 |
| Hospital | \$0 | \$949 | \$602 | \$1,551 |
| School | \$0 | \$1,718 | \$1,092 | \$2,810 |
| Mini-Warehouse | \$0 | \$128 | \$81 | \$209 |
| Warehousing | \$0 | \$151 | \$96 | \$247 |
| Manufacturing | \$0 | \$419 | \$266 | \$685 |
| Light Industrial | \$0 | \$429 | \$272 | \$701 |
| Nonresidential (per unique demand indicator) | | | | |
| Nursing Home (per bed) | \$0 | \$269 | \$171 | \$440 |
| Day Care (per student) | \$0 | \$361 | \$229 | \$590 |
| Lodging (per room) | \$0 | \$704 | \$447 | \$1,151 |

LET'S TALK. MICROPLASTICS.

MONDAY, JULY 22ND [A*]
4PM
HACCAMAH LIBRARY IN THE AUDITORIUM

WE INVITE YOU TO LEARN ABOUT MICROPLASTIC AND PLASTIC POLLUTION IN A TALK PRESENTED BY NOAA AFFILIATE ALYSSA WENTZEL. LEARN WHAT CURRENT EFFORTS ARE BEING DONE TO REDUCE THE LOAD OF MICROPLASTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

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

Public Services Dept. receives prestigious awards from APWA

Georgetown County swept the awards portion of this year's S.C. American Public Works Association conference, taking home three prestigious honors. Georgetown County won Project of the Year for Phase 1 of its Brick Chimney Road project, GIS-Centric Asset Management System of the Year, and received a special recognition from the Association's Lowcountry Branch for serving as host for the regional Backhoe Rodeo for the last 20 years.

"These accolades are a testament to the dedication, hard work and excellence of our entire team," said Ray Funnys, director of the Georgetown County Public Services Department, which houses Public Works. "These awards would not have been possible without the unwavering support and collaboration of staff in our Public Services Department and county government in general. Their dedication to public service and commitment to excellence have been instrumental in our achievements. I am immensely proud of these accomplishments and look forward to continuing our work together to achieve even greater milestones."

The Brick Chimney Road project was designed with three phases and the goal of connecting Highway 701 with Highway 17 Alt. to alleviate traffic in downtown Georgetown and surrounding residential areas. Phase 1 was completed last summer and included paving Brick Chimney Road, which was previously a gravel road and in constant need of grading, no matter how often work was performed. The first hard rain would undo all staff's efforts.



Staff members who worked on the award-winning projects.

"Before the project began, everyday drivers had a long, slow and dusty ride with loose rock on Brick Chimney Road," Funnys said. "In addressing multiple problems, Brick Chimney road improvements serve as a gateway project to the overall goal of connecting US Route 701 to US Route 17 Alt. by turning Brick Chimney Road into a four-lane road that will have trucks and travelers bypass downtown Georgetown, residential areas and a railroad."


Residents requesting assistance from the Georgetown County Public Services Department are likely familiar with the GIS-Centric Asset Management System, though they may not realize it. Whether requesting road repairs, drainage work, mosquito control or one of the many other issues the department handles, online requests are now all submitted through the county's GIS-centric Asset Management System. Georgetown County Public Services recently took on the task of implementing the system as way of improving its level of service and as a replacement for an outdated work order system that hadn't kept up with advances in technology. The county's previous asset management system was cache of spreadsheets, data systems and Geographic Information System (GIS) data that was not centralized.

The new system encompasses strategic planning and activity monitoring aimed at optimizing asset performance.

Georgetown County's equipment – or assets – continue to increase along with the county's population and staff workloads. Personnel, however, have not increased, which means the county needed to find a way to increase efficiency to maintain its level of service. Its new GIS-centric Asset Management System achieves that. The system expanded the existing GIS system and leveraged it to incorporate geospatial technology within asset management. Essentially, the system uses mapping and technology to help the county prioritize activities, and allocate staffing and equipment more efficiently.

Members of the public can request service from the department via the county's website and a platform that connects to the asset management system. Residents can easily report issues and request services – including exact coordinates and photos – and provide feedback, as well as track the status of requests they have submitted and receive updates on the resolution of reported issues.


The system has allowed the county to achieve substantial cost savings, estimated at \$110,000 annually.



Council District 1 Drop-in

Meeting with County Council Representative Clint Elliott

Council Member Clint Elliott will have a drop-in meeting with constituents on Aug. 5 at the Murrells Inlet Community Center. Residents are invited to drop in at their convenience to chat with their council representative between the hours of 4 and 7 p.m.



Monday Aug. 5
4-7 p.m.

at **Murrells Inlet Community Center**
4462 Murrells Inlet Road

More than 3,300 property owners to receive assessment notices this month

Georgetown County mailed notices of assessment to 3,318 property owners on July 15. The county is required to send notices to property owners if their taxable real property values will change by more than \$1,000.

The number represents a small fraction of the county's 57,330 real properties. Those receiving notices are mostly property owners with newly purchased or newly constructed homes. This is unrelated to the countywide reassessment that will occur next year.

Property owners will have 90 days to appeal the new values if they disagree with the value calculated by the Assessor's Office. Instructions and an appeals form are included on each notice.

Sheriff's Office earns gold status for traffic safety efforts



Traffic Unit Deputies Cody Bailey and Aaron Yarborough traveled to Columbia June 20 for the S.C. Department of Public Safety Annual DUI Enforcement Recognition and Law Enforcement Target Zero Challenge Ceremony. The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office earned Gold Level status for local traffic safety efforts, one of only two agencies to attain the distinction in the 15th Judicial Circuit. Through enforcement and education, the GCSO Traffic Unit works to combat impaired, distracted and reckless driving, especially during high-volume holidays and weekends.

SROs getting ready to go back to school



Georgetown County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers attended the annual S.C. Association of School Resource Officers conference in Myrtle Beach last month. Training included juvenile law updates, stop the bleed, Narcan certification training, gang training, mental health awareness, school safety techniques, responding to bomb threats and swatting incidents. Training included SRO officers from across the state of South Carolina with keynote speakers and instructors from across the nation from multiple jurisdictions from state and federal agencies.

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.

JOIN OUR TEAM

View and apply for open county positions at 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.

Council to consider third reading of CPST projects list July 23

After a thorough six-month process that included numerous meetings across the county, a list of proposed capital projects is set for final consideration by Georgetown County Council.

The list forms part of a referendum on a proposed 1% Capital Project Sales Tax, which would fund the projects if the referendum is approved by voters in November. Before that, however, it must clear another hurdle: a vote by the County Council to place it on the Election Day ballot.

The referendum text and accompanying project list were developed by a special committee through a process strictly regulated by state law and closely monitored by the public. County Council must approve or deny the referendum text in its entirety and cannot make any changes to the project list as presented by the committee.

According to state law, the committee was tasked with creating a prioritized list of projects to be funded in order of their priority ranking if the Capital Project Sales Tax is approved. The tax, set to begin in May 2025, is expected to raise about \$10 million per year over eight years. The referendum also includes a contingency list of projects, which would be addressed in order of priority with any remaining funds after the initial project list is completed.

"I think everybody is very pleased with the way the community was engaged, the quality of the projects and the outcome of what we put together," said Mark Hawn, who served as chairperson of the Capital Project Sales Tax Committee.

The initial list contains 22 projects, while the contingency list is made up of 19. Projects on both lists are located in all seven County Council districts and are heavily weighted toward health, safety and quality of life. Of the 22 projects on the primary list, seven are water and sewer projects totaling \$34.4 million. Six of 19 projects on the contingency list are water and sewer projects.

Stormwater and drainage projects are also included throughout both lists, along with new fire/EMS facilities and a new Emergency Operations Center for the Emergency Management Division and 911.

Residents can view the draft resolution, as well as the projects lists and the proposed projects sorted by council district at gtcounty.org/cpst. More information about the committee and its process are also located on that web page.

A referendum on a 1% Local Option Sales Tax, designed to decrease property taxes paid by residents, will also appear on the ballot in November. Georgetown County is planning regional public information meetings on the two referendums in mid-August to September. Look for a meeting schedule to be announced in early August.

A speakers bureau has also been organized to address local groups about the taxes. To request a speaker for your group, email jbroach@gtcounty.org. More information is also available at gtcounty.org/2024taxes.



Learn more about the proposed CPST and LOST, and how they would impact your family

BOOK A PRESENTATION NOW.
EMAIL JBROACH@GTCOUNTY.ORG

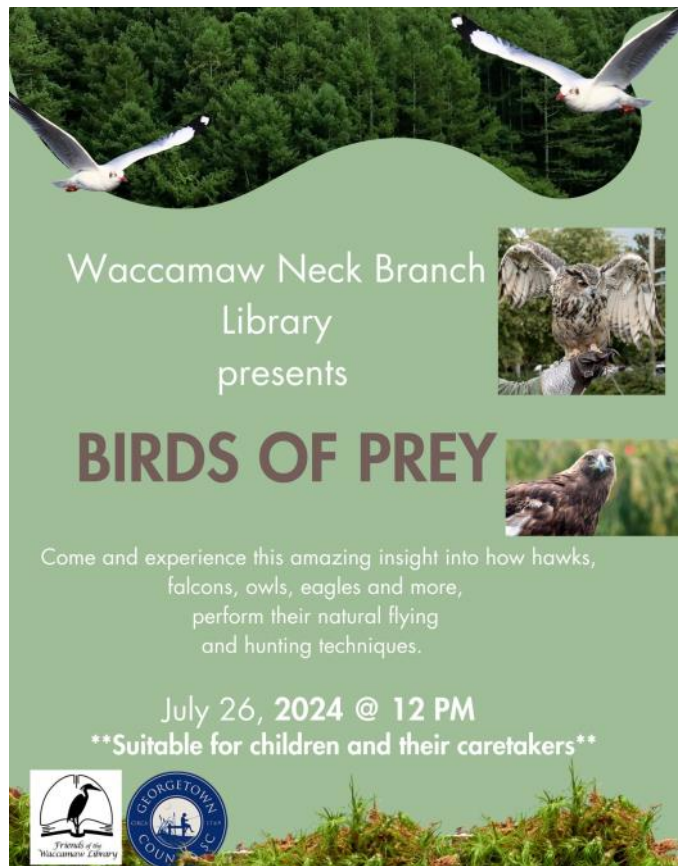


How much could LOST save you on your taxes?

The Local Option Sales Tax isn't your typical tax. It was created to remove some of the tax burden from residents and, if approved, will actually result in a tax savings.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SC
CIRCA 1769

Use our tax calculator at gtcounty.org/LOST



Waccamaw Neck Branch Library presents

BIRDS OF PREY

Come and experience this amazing insight into how hawks, falcons, owls, eagles and more, perform their natural flying and hunting techniques.

July 26, 2024 @ 12 PM
Suitable for children and their caretakers

Friends of the Waccamaw Library

Chamber to celebrate National Hammock Day with inaugural festival July 20

The rope hammock — a hand-woven bed between two wooden spreader bars, and a clew knot with a ring for hanging — perfectly represents the relaxation and laid-back atmosphere of Georgetown County. That’s why “the Hammock Coast” was selected more than a decade ago as the county’s tourism marketing moniker. As such, hammocks are kind of a big deal here, and so is National Hammock Day!

The holiday will be an even bigger deal this year with a full-day of festivities planned in Pawleys Island.

For the last six years, the Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce and its tourism marketing office have hosted a special event to celebrate Hammock Day. This year, they decided to step it up, partnering with the Original Hammock Shop and Hammock Shops Village to host a Hammock Day festival. The event will take place on Saturday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Officially, National Hammock Day is observed on July 22, but organizers wanted to take advantage of the weekend to allow more families to participate.

The celebration will take place rain or shine, and locals and visitors are invited to swing by the Hammock Shops Village at 10880 Ocean Highway to enjoy shopping, games, live music and free giveaways throughout the day. Up for grabs will be free official Hammock Coast T-shirts and other Hammock Coast swag from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (while supplies last). There will also be chances to win an Original Pawleys Island Hammock every hour, as well as tickets to Brookgreen Gardens.

To enter for a chance to win a hammock, people only need to swing by the Chamber and Hammock Coast booth in the Village or at the Original Hammock Shop. No purchase is required. However, attendees can score an extra entry when making a purchase at any store or restaurant in the Hammock Shops Village.

Food trucks will also be on site, along with brews by New South Brewery. There will be kids activities, including inflatables, face painting and cornhole. And live beach music by The Tams and The Embers is scheduled from 1 to 5 p.m.

“We have all celebrated Hammock Day every year in our own unique way to give back to the community, provide entertainment, and welcome visitors and educate them on what our iconic coast-



line has to offer,” said Todd Nifong, vice president of sales and marketing for Pawleys Island Hammocks. “It was only natural for us to consolidate this into one main event for everyone to come together and enjoy.”

Hopes are to grow the event and have festivities span multiple days in the future.

With a big crowd anticipated, overflow parking will be available at South Atlantic Bank and the McGill Law Firm complex. Parking entrances will be on Lachicotte Drive and the Hammock Shops Village south entrance. Parking shuttles will be available to take attendees from lots to the event.

All shops and restaurants will be open during the event. Free water will be provided for attendees and food vendors will be available all day. Bring a chair to enjoy the concert in comfort!

FOGL The Friends of the Georgetown Library Present...

FARMERS MARKET BOOK SALE

Every Saturday, 9:00AM-1:00PM

Old City Hall Site, at the corner of Fraser & Front Street, Georgetown

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](https://www.GTCParks.org) or at your local recreation center.

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

Summer lectures celebrate library's 225th anniversary

It's time for the second half of the Georgetown County Library system's free summer lecture series in celebration of the library's 225th anniversary! Summer programs will take place July 25 through August at the freshly expanded and renovated Georgetown branch, with its new state-of-the-art auditorium.

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.

In honor of the library's 225th anniversary, the series will explore Georgetown County's past and present, including its settlement, ethnic diversity, freedom and civil rights struggles, religious life, foodways, literature and arts, wildlife and ecology, and, of course, library history. The model for the GCL 225th Anniversary Celebration is "Time Machine, 1799-2024" and the motto is "Learning Springs Eternal."

Presentations are scheduled for this summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m.

- **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



As an exciting complement ecological author John Lane's presentation on Aug. 14, Lane, an avid kayaker, will return the following day to help guide a two-hour kayak paddle on the Waccamaw River with River Reader Kayaking. The event is free, but space is limited.

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.

Look for the fall schedule in next month's newsletter.

Veterans

Continued from Front Page

the veteran where they are in their environment, at their leisure, and at their time. Our whole vision and mission is to bring service to them for benefits that they so richly earned."

The clinics bring the full resources of the regional office directly to veterans. The claims clinics function as mini regional offices, offering on-the-spot assistance and resolutions to veterans' queries.

When the VA reached out to Georgetown

County Veterans Services Officer David Murphy about bringing a clinic to Georgetown, he was delighted and eager to take part in the initiative to bring services to Georgetown County veterans. He said the immediate feedback he received when the July claims clinic was announced is proof of how needed these outreach events are.

"It's been a good day," he said as the first clinic wound down. "I'm really excited because a lot of the veterans, they don't understand the other side of the VA — what happens in Columbia. They come to us and we help them file a claim, but we don't have

access to all their records. We can't give them a decision. But the people we have here today, they're the decision makers, they can give them answers on the spot."

The success of these initiatives relies heavily on community support. Jackson expressed her gratitude to local partners who help spread the word and ensure that veterans are informed about valuable services available at the clinics.

For more information on upcoming events and how you can support these initiatives, contact Georgetown County Veterans Services at 843-545-3330.

Richardson

Continued from Front Page

bright personality and being a good conversationalist huge assets for airport staff.

"To shine, to smile, to extend your hand for a handshake and help people with their bags. It puts a great first impression in people's heads," Taylor said.

So the next time Taylor stopped in for gas, he decided to find out if Richardson wanted an opportunity to try something new.

"I'm thinking 'what would I do at the airport,'" Richardson recalled. "He said 'just come on out here, I'll give you a tour and you let me know if you like it.'"

Richardson decided to give it a shot. And he excelled.

He excelled so much that it wasn't long before someone else made him an offer. Sam Boyle, president and CEO of Tumeq, the company that owns the airport's fixed base operator Seven Rivers Aviation, saw how Richardson conducted himself at the airport.

"He was impressed by his skill set, and that is a skill set," Taylor said. Boyle asked if there would be any ill feelings if he "stole" Richardson for his company.

"He approached me and said, 'How'd you like to learn how to work on planes? You're a little too smart to be cutting grass,'" Richardson said.

He accepted and the company created a maintenance apprenticeship position for him, where he has learned to work on aircraft. He repaired his first engine just this spring.

Richardson graduated from Georgetown High School in 2008 and attended Georgia Military College for a semester before deciding that wasn't a good fit for him. He moved to Springfield, Mass., for a while and got his commercial driver's license. He drove trucks and

traveled for a bit, but his hometown was always calling to him. He took custody of his daughter, now in middle school, and decided to settle back in Georgetown near family in 2018. That's when he took the job at the gas station where he met Taylor.

Before that fateful conversation about a job helping Taylor at the airport, Richardson said he had never given any consideration to careers in aviation or really even known it was an option to be considered.

"I mean, I guess I knew somebody had to work on airplanes, but it's not something I thought about," Richardson said. "I didn't know anything about planes. To be honest, I couldn't have told you the difference between a metric wrench and a standard one. I've been training since September of last year and in April I overhauled my first motor."

Though it's a career path he never imagined for himself, Richardson said it's one he enjoys and intends to continue on.

"It's a great opportunity and there's lots of room to grow, so I like that.

"It's also cool to tell people, 'hey, I work on planes,'" he said flashing that radiant smile. "You're never really doing the same thing every day, and there's so many different planes – some I haven't even seen yet. It challenges you every day. That's what I like about it."

Appropriately for a job in Aviation, Taylor said the sky is the limit for Richardson if he stays on this track.

"At the end of two years, hopefully he has acquired the skillset to take the test to become a certified A&P – airframe and powerplant mechanic," Taylor said. "If he puts in another five years beyond that, he legitimately could write his own ticket and go anywhere in the country. It's awesome."

Vanderhost is newest county magistrate



Mary C. Vanderhost, a longtime employee of the Georgetown County Clerk of Court's Office, was sworn in on July 19 as the county's newest magistrate judge. She was recommended for appointment to the position by state Sen. Ronnie Sabb in March and the appointment was confirmed by the governor last month. Vanderhost worked for the state court system since 1996, beginning her career in the Magistrate's Office as a court clerk under the leadership of the Chief Magistrate at the time, Hughie Walker. She moved to the Clerk of Court's Office a year later and worked in Family Court for 27 years. She started out as a clerk and spent the last 23 years of her career as assistant supervisor/court coordinator. She is a graduate of Camden High School and received a bachelor's degree in business management from Morris College. She also has a degree in theology from Zion Bible Institute. She is currently enrolled in the theology masters degree program and is an ordained minister and pastor at Liberty Temple in the Plantersville community. She is the widow of Dwayne Vanderhost and mother of three daughters: Ah'lanea, Christian and Ariana. Above, Vanderhost is sworn in as her mother, Bessie Murphy, holds the Bible.

New Mobi-Mat makes beach more accessible



The South End beach access on Pawleys Island became more accessible this month, thanks to a partnership with the Adaptive Surf Project. The group funded a Mobi Mat at the county-owned parking lot on the South End. It was installed on July 1. This will make a huge difference for residents and visitors with mobility issues. The group has also expressed interest in donating a beach wheelchair and a wheelchair paddle board to further enhance accessibility of our beach and waterways.

Know the rules on county beaches!



Georgetown County Parks and Recreation recently installed new signs at public beach accesses to remind residents and visitors of beach rules. Sheriff's Deputies Porter Magnuson and Ken Davis are pictured with one of the new signs and request that beachgoers take a moment to review the rules before they head out for a day of fun in the sun. Some of the rules include: No glass containers; no tents, cabanas, chairs or other items left on the beach after sunset; dogs must be leashed from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; no digging holes that are deeper than 2 feet, and all holes must be covered in before leaving; and no blocking emergency accesses. Learn more at gtcounty.org/beachinfo.

Staff presents to national audience on floodplain management platform



Georgetown County Building Official Steven Elliott and Senior Planner Matthew Millwood recently joined Jennifer Mak of Forerunner for two important presentations. The focus was on how Forerunner has helped the county improve data collection and public communication. The trio presented at the S.C. Association for Hazard Mitigation conference in Myrtle Beach, and then at the Association of State Floodplain Managers national conference in Salt Lake City. The county started using Forerunner last summer and Forerunner recently published a case study on its experiences, particularly with Hurricane Idalia in August. The county used Forerunner's Preliminary Damage Assessment feature to complete their damage assessments in the field. The full case study is available to read at withforerunner.com/case-study/georgetown-county-sc.

TASTE TEST TUESDAY!

Join us every 2nd Tuesdays to sample a new recipe.

We have limited spaces available, secure your spot now!

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



GEORGETOWN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

RETURNING THIS FALL:

TACKLE FOOTBALL

COACHES NEEDED **2024 SEASON** **AGES 9-10 & 11-12**

TACKLE FOOTBALL

\$50

REGISTRATION ENDS OCT. 9TH, 2024

REGISTER AT GTCPARKS.ORG OR AT YOUR REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

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, 545-3102

P.O. Box 421270
129 Screven Street

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



OUTSTANDING ATHLETES



When the Summer Olympic games begin later this month, Georgetown County will be cheering for its native daughter Melissa Jefferson (pictured at top), who qualified for the U.S. Track and Field Team. Family and friends of Jefferson attended the June 25 County Council meeting to accept a resolution in her honor (pictured at right). We'd also like to take a moment to recognize accomplishments of some of our other young athletes who recently celebrated achievements. Clockwise: The Andrews Belles will represent S.C. this month in the Dixie Softball World Series in Virginia; the Georgetown 12U and 15 U softball team competed in the Diamond Youth World Series in Tennessee; Ayami Prior recently returned from the United World Games, where she was part of Team USA in the basketball competition; and Keyani Dease and Kaylin Brown, members of the Carolina Gold Running Club will compete at the USATF Junior Olympics Nationals at Texas A&M University Stadium this month. Keyani will compete in the track competition, while Kaylin will compete in the javelin throw.



South Carolina Department on Aging
Senior P.R.E.P. event
10 a.m.-12 p.m., August 6
11 N. Causeway Road, Pawleys Island, SC 29585



SENIOR P.R.E.P.
Planning and Resources for Emergency Preparedness



South Carolina DEPARTMENT ON AGING

