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Calendar

Sept. 17 – Sales Tax Public Information meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Andrews Elementary School.

Sept. 19 – Planning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., at the historic county courthouse, 129 Screven St.

Sept. 24 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., at the historic county courthouse.

Oct. 1 – National Night Out, 6-8 p.m. at Beck Recreation Center. See page 6.

Oct. 3 – Sales Tax Public Information meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Plantersville Elementary.

Oct. 8 – County Council meeting, 5:30 p.m., at the historic county courthouse.

Oct. 10 – Sales Tax Public Information meeting, 5:30 p.m. at Howard Auditorium.

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

The Georgetown County Chronicle



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

Volume 13, Issue 1

September 2024

Empathy in Action event asks residents to step into shoes of those battling mental health, substance abuse issues

Deadline for registration is Sept. 17; no cost

Navigating the process to receive help for mental health or substance abuse issues can be a daunting and exhausting journey – for the patient and their loved ones.

People often face a maze of barriers, including long wait times, endless paperwork, confusing eligibility requirements and a lack of clear communication from service providers. Each step forward can feel like two steps back, as they encounter miscommunications, conflicting advice, and a system that often seems indifferent to their urgent needs.

A group of community partners seeking to improve the process will offer Georgetown County residents a unique opportunity this month. Empathy in Action, an exercise featuring 35 real life scenarios experienced in South Carolina will allow individuals to step into the shoes of people struggling with mental health and/or substance abuse issues, to see first-hand the frustrations and hurdles involved in getting treatment.

It's an exercise in understanding, said Georgetown



County Probate Judge Leigh Powers Boan, who is one of the organizers.

"We're looking for people who know that we need to do something and making a positive impact on these issues matters to them," Boan said. "Maybe it's something they've experienced with someone in their own family or a close friend or neighbor. If we haven't experienced it ourselves, we all have someone connected to

See "Empathy," Page 8

Members sought for brownfields grant steering committee

Community members in Georgetown, Spring Gully and Andrews have an opportunity to help bring change to their neighborhoods.

Georgetown County received a \$500,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency earlier this summer. Over the next four years, this grant will allow the county to assess potential brownfield sites – former commercial properties that may be contaminated – for redevelopment and betterment of the communities they are located in.

To help ensure outcomes that will be most beneficial to the communities eligible for these grant funds, the County is seeking volunteers for



An example of a site that could be eligible for assessment under the brownfields grant.

an Environmental Steering Committee.

The committee will be tasked with aiding in brownfield community outreach and ensuring that community involvement with environmental issues is carried forward in future County planning, including brown-

field redevelopment.

While people living in the communities eligible for the grant are preferred, any Georgetown County resident can volunteer to serve on this committee. Applicants should be willing to volunteer their time to attend quarterly meetings held in the evenings.

Georgetown County is also looking for community input on sites that may be abandoned, unsightly, or pose a potential environmental hazard to be considered for assessment.

To apply for this committee, nominate a site, or learn more about brownfields and the assessment grant, visit gcounty.org/brownfields.

Damascus House offers hope to addicted inmates

Georgetown County Sheriff Carter Weaver and Damascus House Ministry, Inc. asked inmates at the Georgetown County Detention Center to take a leap of faith this past April and join an intensive three-week in-house study program offering assistance with overcoming drug and alcohol addiction.

Sixteen inmates volunteered for Damascus House, a program designed to transition addicts to disciples on a road to Christ-centered hope and a future. It is conducted in an allocated block of the Detention Center, and is the only program of its kind in the state with inmates housed together, attending class instructed by full-time staff each day of the week. Ten completed a study session with some coming up just short through no fault of their own.

"Coming into this program, I was afraid of being rejected and judged," said one participant, "but through working my program I have learned that God does neither."

Rejection and judgment are all most of these inmates have ever known. Abuse of drugs and alcohol have wrecked their lives, marriages and families. Overcoming that guilt seems insurmountable. Their transition begins with something they least expect: forgiveness.

It's not been an easy road for organizers or inmates. About half who start do not finish for various reasons, from release to rule-breaking. The successful inmates realize why they are in the program: They are worth saving. Inmates are required to attend weekly Celebrate Recovery evening sessions to model required after-care best practices. Damascus House employees Vic Wilson and Dillon Dowler make individual assessments, treatment plans and remediation therapies. The inmates will soon pass a milestone: 300 indi-



vidual program days.

"Damascus House is committed to its ongoing Georgetown County Detention Center Program. We are seeing positive results in the lives of the men who have completed our program's content, said Jim Coggin, president and CEO of Damascus House Ministry, Inc. "The life story of our program leaders reflects the grace and mercy our program offers the men enrolled."

Both program leaders are former addicts themselves.

Damascus House completed its fourth 21-day session in August, the last in its piloting phase. Recently, higher risk inmates have been incorporated as signs point to a broader acceptance and appreciation for the success of the classes.

Georgetown County has the highest rate of people hospitalized for opioid overdoses in the state and is second in the number of overdoses, according to the South Carolina Department of Health. This is a local problem that Damascus House and Sheriff Weaver hope to address with this initial effort and long-term plans for a transition and recovery facility.

"Importantly," Coggin said, "our board is confident that we will have the resources to sustain our GCDC program indefinitely while we build and operate the future Damascus House Addiction Regeneration Campus we have planned for Georgetown County."

"We are providing life-saving alternatives to those who are often discarded by society," Weaver said. "Our partnership with Damascus House will give faith and hope, which are essential to positive change and recovery."

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

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.



Use our tax calculator at gtcounty.org/LOST

Sheriff's Office earns national law enforcement accreditation



Sheriff Weaver and Lt. Chris Geno accept their accreditation plaque from CALEA Executive Director W. Craig Hartley, Jr., and CALEA Commissioner Marlon Lynch at a ceremony in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office has earned national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). The honor comes after extensive review of our agency's policies, staff and command interviews, and public comment.

The CALEA program helps improve the delivery of law enforcement services by maintaining standards of professional excellence developed by veteran public safety practitioners. These best practices are considered foundational for contemporary law enforcement agencies. The program provides the framework for addressing high risk modern issues, and ensures deputies are prepared to meet community service expectations and manage critical events.

CALEA accreditation helps law enforcement agencies work with

their community and with each other in true community-oriented policing, resulting in enhanced integrity, transparency and accountability. It leads to support from government officials, greater accountability within the law enforcement agency, and reduced risk and liability exposure.

"After 38 years of service, I can honestly say that this is the most important step any police agency can take to serve its citizens," said Sheriff Weaver.

Hangin' with Gronk



GCSO Deputies were honored to provide off-duty security to NFL greats Chris and Rob Gronkowski as they filmed an episode of their show Ice Shaker Beach Games last month on Garden City Beach. In this photo, Deputies Troy Dingess, Caleb Messinger, James Malinowski, and Matthew Watkins are with brothers Chris, Rob, Gordie, and Dan, and their dad Gordon Gronkowski.

2024 ADULT FALL READING CHALLENGE

Pick up your Fall Reading Challenge
at the
Waccamaw Neck Branch Reference Desk

Return completed challenge by
Monday, Oct 21, 2024
to enter for a chance to win **PRIZES!**

GEORGETOWN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Citizens' Academy

FALL 2024

Hands-on learning about law
enforcement taught by GCSO officers

Tuesday nights October 8 - 29 6:00 - 8:00 pm	GCSO Headquarters 430 N. Fraser Street Georgetown, SC	Applications are at the Sheriff's Office or GCSheriff.org
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LEARN ABOUT:

Patrol, Criminal Law, Arrests, Investigations, K-9 Unit, Traffic Stops, Forensics, Victim's Advocate Services, Vice and Narcotics Unit, and much more!

Questions? Contact Lt. Chris Geno, (843) 436-6088 or (843) 546-5102

Stimpson is Employee of the Quarter

Kevin Stimpson of the Public Services Department was recently recognized as Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2024.

Stimpson is a senior construction project manager with the Public Works and Construction Services Division. He has worked for the County for 8 years, having started in 2016 as an entry-level heavy equipment operator. He quickly demonstrated talents that warranted greater responsibility. By his third year, he was promoted, advancing in 2022 to Senior Construction Project Manager, where he works on construction and drainage projects.

Stimpson embodies the results and benefits of promoting from within, said Public Services Director Ray Funnyc. Over the last year and a half, he has successfully completed more than 20 projects. In the 2025 fiscal year, he is set to supervise road construction and drainage projects with a combined value of approximately \$7 million. This includes overseeing \$2 million in construction projects and \$5 million in drainage projects, highlighting the significant trust and responsibility placed in him.

Additionally, his contributions were pivotal in the recent American Public Works Association re-accreditation process, which assesses adherence to industry best practices. His efforts in this rigorous evaluation demonstrate his commitment to excellence and continuous improvement.

Throughout his tenure, Stimpson has consistently exhibited a professional demeanor, facilitating effective communication and trust within the Public Services Department.



Stimpson, left, is pictured with County Council Chairman Louis Morant at the Aug. 27 meeting.

Summer Soccer Champions



The Georgetown County Adult Soccer League wrapped up its summer season with a series of playoff games on Aug. 3 and Aug. 17. Eight teams fought their hardest to win the championship. On Aug. 3 at 8 a.m., the No. 1 seed Myrtle Beach defeated No. 8 Georgetown United by a score of 5-2, and No. 4 Pawleys Island Hurricanes took down the No. 5 Legends, 9-5. At 9:15 a.m., the No. 3 Pitbulls won 4-1 over No. 6 South Strand Fútbol Group, and the No. 2 Has-Beens were victorious over No. 7 Internazionale Atlas, 7-2. On Aug. 17, the No. 4 Pawleys Island Hurricanes were forced to forfeit, giving No. 1 Myrtle Beach their first win of the day. The No. 2 Has-Beens notched a 5-3 win over the No. 3 Pitbulls, setting up a 1-seed vs. 2-seed matchup in the Championship Game. In the end, it was No. 1 Myrtle Beach taking the win and the league championship as they cruised to a 4-0 victory to cap an undefeated season. Although the summer league was the last adult soccer league of 2024, there will be more opportunities to get in on the action in 2025. For more information regarding registering a team for this league, please contact Randy Akers at (843) 359-6419 or bakers@atcounty.org.

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.



FOREST'S NOT-SO-SPOOKY HALLOWEEN TRAIL AND OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

Seeking Partners for:

- Candy Distribution
- Food Trucks
- Trunk-or-treat Competition
- Hay Ride Operators

OCTOBER 26TH

Choppee Regional Recreation Center
8259 Choppee Road

Deadline for Partner submission is Oct. 11th
If interested, Call TL at (843) 520-6921 for more information

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



Walker accepted into leadership academy

Harley Walker, an operations coordinator with the Georgetown County Stormwater Division, has been accepted into the American Public Works Association Emerging Leaders Academy Class XVIII.

The year-long national program provides intensive leadership and management training within the context of the public works field. It encourages professional growth through a strong network of peers and offers an in-depth introduction to APWA at the national, chapter and branch levels.

Eligible candidates are professionals who have been working in the field of public works for no more than 10 years, or who have been working for longer than 10 years but have been promoted into their first leadership role within the past three years. They must have demonstrated an interest in advancing their careers within the profession and have sought growth in responsibility in their organization outside their normal job responsibilities.

Walker joined the Georgetown County team in late 2022 and was promoted less than a year later. She received the Georgetown County Public Services Department's Employee of the Year award in 2023, and is one of the department's most valued team members, expected to continue rising up the ranks to eventually become a member of the leadership team, said department director Ray Funnye. "This is an awesome opportunity for Harley and for the county," said Funnye. "We all benefit from investing in young employees with leadership potential, and Harley is full of potential. I expect her to go far."



Walker

Oct. 4 is deadline to apply for accommodations tax grants

Groups and organizations interested in applying for Georgetown County accommodations tax grants have until 5 p.m. on Oct. 4 to submit their applications.

The application period opened Aug. 26. Grants are available for projects and events occurring in the 2025 calendar year.

Proceeds from the county's share of the state tax on hotel rooms and other vacation rentals — also known as A-tax — are distributed to organizations through grants for tourism-related events and activities. Recommendations on grant awards are made by an advisory committee comprised of representatives from the county's tourism industry. County Council will make final award determinations in December.

The grant program is administered by the Georgetown County Finance Department in accordance with program guidelines. For more information about accommodations tax grants, visit gtcounty.org/atax. Potential applicants may also contact Glenda Long in the Finance Department at (843) 545-3251 for more information.

Did you know you can watch Georgetown County Council meetings online?

Watch at [YouTube.com/GtCountySC](https://www.youtube.com/GtCountySC).

"I VOTED" STICKER DESIGN CONTEST

Voting will only take place on Facebook from Oct 7-18; Winner will be announced at the Wooden Boat Show Oct 20. Top five designs will be displayed for the public

Theme: "Vote for the Future"

Must fit in a 2" by 2" circle

Must say "I Voted"

Questions? Contact 843-545-3339




For all Georgetown County K-12 students

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR STICKER DESIGN BY OCTOBER 3RD

EMAIL TO: AMCCREA@GTCOUNTY.ORG
 DROP OFF AT 303 N. HAZARD ST. GEORGETOWN
 SUBMIT BY GOOGLE FORM

GEORGETOWN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

RETURNING THIS FALL:



TACKLE FOOTBALL

COACHES NEEDED


2024 SEASON TACKLE FOOTBALL

\$50

REGISTRATION ENDS OCT. 9TH, 2024

AGES 9-10 & 11-12

REGISTER AT GTC Parks.org OR AT YOUR REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER



County recognized for excellence in financial reporting for 7th year

For the seventh 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 Sept. 10. 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 by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes "demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report, according to the association.

The report may be viewed online at <https://www.gtcounty.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=39>.

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.

"We can never take these accomplishments for granted," Christian said. "It takes a lot of team work to make it happen and I'm very proud of our team for this success and all the effort they put in. We're looking forward to continuing this tradition of excellence in years to come."



NOW HIRING

GAME OFFICIALS

FLAG FOOTBALL
FOOTBALL
BASKETBALL

MUST BE 16+

- FREE TRAINING
- PART TIME WORK
- COMPETITIVE PAY

Contact RecAdmin@GTcounty.org for more information




NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2024

POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**OCTOBER 1, 2024
6 PM - 8 PM**

Free food, treats, beverages, displays, games, prizes and so much more !!

at Georgetown County Parks and Rec. Beck Center
2030 Church Street, Georgetown, SC



CHECK OUT OUR GAMES!
WEDNESDAYS
AUGUST 21ST - OCTOBER 30TH

GAME NIGHT

BOARD GAMES 3.00 PM

RPGS TO

CARD GAMES 9.00 PM

FREE ENTRY

WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY
41 ST PAULS PLACE, PAWLEYS ISLAND
FOR AGES 10 TO ADULT

QUESTIONS? ASK IN THE TEEN ROOM
OR EMAIL DDENNIS@GTCOUNTY.ORG

S.C. 261 over Pennyroyal Creek to close for repairs

State transportation officials will temporarily close a portion of S.C. 261 over Pennyroyal Creek for repairs beginning Sept. 16. The road is expected to reopen by the end of October.

SC 261 will be open to local traffic only during the closure, except at the bridge site. The closure will allow the S.C. Department of Transportation to make culvert repairs. A detour will use Choppee Road and Carvers Bay Road. The tour will add about six miles for motorists.

SCDOT officials said they identified a critical need for repair of the culvert during a routine inspection in August.

For questions or more information, call Resident Maintenance Engineer Timmy Britt, 843-546-2405.

County honored for excellence in communications

Georgetown County Public Information Officer Jackie Broach has been awarded with the 2024 Award of Excellence for photography by the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO).

NACIO's Awards of Excellence program honors the innovative, creative, and outstanding work of county government communicators throughout the nation. Broach won both the Superior and Excellence Awards in the Photo or Photo Series category. She won the Excellence Award for a photo of the Nao Trinidad replica when it was docked in Georgetown last winter. She won the Superior Award for a portrait of Shatara Duncan, an apprentice heavy equipment operator, that accompanied a news release about the county's new Public Works apprenticeship program.

"At NACIO, we are honored to recognize the exceptional talents of our Awards of Excellence winners. Your innovative approaches, compelling storytelling and dedication to your profession is commendable," said Jennifer Finch, NACIO President. "These awards celebrate your achievements and underscore the impact of your work in shaping effective and meaningful communication. Congratulations for your outstanding contributions and for setting an example for others to follow."

As an active affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo), NACIO works to promote the value of professional PIOs and communicators to county governments. Counties of all sizes compete against each other category in all award categories.

OCTOBER 12, 2024
PARADE & OLYMPIAN CELEBRATION HONORING

2024 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST
2024 OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST
2023 WORLD CHAMPION GOLD MEDALIST

MELISSA JEFFERSON

PARADE
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: FRONT STREET, GEORGETOWN, SC 29440
MEETING POINT: EAST BAY PARK

OLYMPIAN CELEBRATION
TIME: 3:00 PM TO 7:00PM
LOCATION: CHOPPEE COMPLEX
8259 CHOPPEE RD
GEORGETOWN, SC 29440

Empathy

Continued from Front Page

us who has or will. This event is about awareness, but it's also more. It's to open eyes to things you haven't seen before or understood before – not just from the perspective of the person experiencing the addiction or mental health issues, but also the problems experienced from a service standpoint."

She recommends the event for anyone. "There is no wrong person for this." But she'd especially like to see area policymakers attend, whether from the government or private sector. By understanding, we can all work together to effect change.

"It matters to have our decision makers at the table with both our public and frontline workers who live the experiences," Boan said. She asks that participants come prepared to not only immerse themselves into the simulation, but be open and intentional about gaining a greater understanding of the problems, possibilities and places where each of us can make a positive impact on these issues in our community.

How to participate

The event will take place from 2-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Howard Center Gym, located at 1610 Hawkins St. in Georgetown. There is no cost to participate and there is room for up to 100 people to take part, representing different segments of the population. Volunteers will play the roles of various service providers. An emcee will facilitate the activities and schedule, with the first 2 hours dedicated to the exercise and the last 30 minutes reserved for discussion.

The more people who are at the table with an understanding of the problem and a desire to find solutions, the more likely problems in the system are to be resolved, Boan said.

The event is cosponsored by

Georgetown County including the Probate office and the Sheriff's Office, in addition to the Waccamaw Center for Mental Health, Georgetown County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, Tidelands Health, Access-Favor, Georgetown County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and its Open a Door campaign, the Palmetto Project, and VA Ralph H. Johnson Health Care System.

Anyone interested in participating can do so by calling Aimee Bowen at 803-454-3850, sending an email to abowen@scorh.net or visiting <https://shorturl.at/kfsiv>.

The Behavioral Health Coalition

A volunteer group of community partners, the Georgetown County Behavioral Health Coalition, has been meeting since the end of 2017 with the goal of breaking down barriers to receiving help for mental health and substance abuse issues. Their first objective was to identify those barriers through learning about all the agencies involved and the problems they encounter as they perform their service. With a professional facilitator and a gaps analysis, they identified two primary drivers of "pain points:" A lack of community awareness and a lack of inter-agency coordination.

"The good news is those are issues we can solve," Boan said. "The hard news is that it really does take all of us.

For those seeking help, every call that goes unanswered, every appointment that's delayed, and every piece of conflicting information adds to a sense of hopelessness and frustration. It's a battle that leaves many feeling lost, overwhelmed, and disheartened.

The Empathy in Action event is just one step in working toward a solution, but Boan said she hopes it will be an important one.

Public meeting series will answer questions about sales tax referendums

Throughout the months of September and October, Georgetown County staff will continue an education campaign focused on two sales tax referendums that will appear on the ballot in November.

Georgetown County residents will be asked at the ballot box to decide on two 1% sales taxes — a Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) that would utilize visitor spending to help reduce the property tax burden on residents and a Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) that would fund health and safety projects across the county. The two taxes will appear on separate referendums and county voters may choose to implement one, both or neither. Whatever they choose, county officials want to make sure they are armed with the tools to make an informed decision.

Upcoming meeting dates are as follows, with all meetings beginning at 5:30 p.m.: Tuesday, Sept. 17 at Andrews Elementary School; Thursday, Oct. 3 at Plantersville Elementary School; Thursday, Oct. 10 at Howard Auditorium; and Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center. The meeting at Howard will be recorded and can be viewed on the county's [YouTube Channel](#).

Meetings have already taken place in Choppee, Carvers Bay, Murrells Inlet, Pawleys Island and Sampit.

The county is also happy to schedule presentations for community groups, civic organizations and others. Anyone who would like to host an informational meeting should email jbroach@gtcounty.org.

Find more information on the referendums at gtcounty.org/2024taxes.



Council District 6 Drop-in

Meeting with County Council Representative Stella Mercado

Council Member Stella Mercado will be stationed at the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center to meet with constituents throughout the day Oct. 15.

Residents can drop in at their convenience to chat with their council representative one-on-one.



Monday
Oct. 15
11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

at
Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center
83 Duncan Ave., Pawleys Island

KNOW ALL THE DETAILS BEFORE YOU VOTE!

Local Option Sales Tax

≡ LOST ≡



charged on taxable items. EXCLUDES groceries, prescription medicines, gas.

The LOST is unique among taxes in that it is designed to save residents money on property taxes! For the owner of \$200,000 home, it could save you an annual

\$381

It also saves you money on vehicles and boats!



Capital Project Sales Tax

≡ CPST ≡



charged on taxable items. EXCLUDES groceries, prescription medicines, gas.

The CPST would fund **22** important projects that would improve health, safety and the quality of life for county residents. Projects are included in every part of the county and new stipulations would require any extra funds to be spent on a contingency list approved by voters.



A series of public education meetings will take place across the county to provide information about the two sales tax referendums, which will be on the November 2024 ballot.

**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



NEVER FORGET

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2024, Midway Fire Rescue held a brief, poignant ceremony in remembrance of the lives lost in the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001. The event included remarks from Midway Chaplain Wil Keith, Emergency Services Director Brandon Ellis, Midway Chief Brent McClellan, and Assistant Chief Jim Crawford who served at Firehouse 33 in Pittsburgh at the time of the attacks.

The ceremony was followed by a reflection walk, in which a number of firefighters walked in full turnout gear. The walk began at 8:46 a.m., the time the first plane hit in 2001, and lasted 102 minutes, which is the amount of time that lapsed before the last plane crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

On that morning in 2001, 2,976 people from 93 nations lost their lives in New York, at the Pentagon and on Flight 93. 343 firefighters died in the response, more than 111 from linked illnesses, and more than 7,000 members of the Fire Department of New York continue to feel the physical and mental effects of the event.

"Today we pause to remember that day of horror and pray for those left scarred by those terrible events," Keith said.

Crawford recalled watching the horrors of that day unfold live on TV while working in Pittsburgh and worrying about friends who worked at FDNY. The following day, 20 Pittsburg firefighters were deployed to Ground Zero and assigned to dig out Vessey Street, which was buried under 6 feet of debris. After two hours of digging, they found the first civilian victim.

"The saying 'never forget' means just that," Crawford said. "The United States was attacked that day, no different from Pearl Harbor. Americans were killed in a very vicious way. Firefighters, police officers and EMS workers ran into battle and many never returned. So, on this day, keep your thoughts toward those who lost their lives and for the families who will never forget."

Ellis quoted John 15:13 as why he and many others signed up for a career path that would regularly put them in harm's way in the service of others.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' On September 11, 2001, these words were on full display in the most profound way," Ellis said. "...Those heroic actions shined a glimmer of hope on one of the darkest days in American history. Those actions weren't out of self-fulfillment, but out of love for their fellow man. The men and women who serve in public safety don't put on their uniforms and come to work because they seek the label of 'hero.' They do it because the Lord has called them to serve their community in ways few others can."

Ellis commended those in attendance for honoring the vow to never forget, and challenged them, along with those in our community and beyond its borders, to continue upholding that promise.



Lt. Alex Roman represented Georgetown County Fire and EMS on the morning of Sept. 11 in the 11th annual 9/11 Silent Walk in Charleston. Along with hundreds of others, he crossed the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge to reach the flight deck of the U.S.S. Yorktown. The walk is in remembrance of all those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, or from related illnesses in the years since.