



# MONTHLY

A publication for our residents and visitors SEPTEMBER 2025

## Fandom Fest heads to Southern Georgetown Library

Get ready to celebrate your favorite worlds, characters and stories! Fandom Fest is coming to the Southern Georgetown Community Library on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Southern Georgetown Community Library, this free, all-ages event is a vibrant celebration of fandom culture, creativity and community. Whether you're a Potterhead, a Marvel superfan, a Trekkie, or part of any other fan community, you'll find something to love at Fandom Fest. Visitors can look forward to cosplay contests, trivia challenges, themed crafts, fandom stations, photo ops and special guest appearances—all in a fun and inclusive atmosphere, right at your local library.



A young woman cosplays as a character from the Star Wars universe.

“Our goal is to create a space where everyone can embrace their passions, meet fellow fans and explore what the library has to offer,” said Branch Manager Sharea Drayton. “Fandom Fest is about celebrating imagination and connecting our community through shared interests.”

Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library, all activities are free and open to the public. Costumes are encouraged but not required, and attendees can also learn how to join the Friends of the Library group to support future programs like this one.

Children’s Assistant Ashley Reed shared why this event is so meaningful. “As a cosplayer with a background in social work, I believe cosplay can be a therapeutic activity,” she said. “It offers a platform for self-expression, fosters community connections, boosts confidence, provides emotional escape, and builds valuable skills. Cosplay can help combat social anxiety, improve self-esteem, and give people a sense of belonging. Everyone should experience a cosplay event at least once, and Fandom Fest is the perfect opportunity.”

For more information, contact Drayton at 843-545-3389 or Reed at 843-545-3311.

### Inside this issue:



Dunbar native Melissa Jefferson-Wooden takes title of Fastest Woman Alive.



Library receives major grant to honor the American Revolution



Investment in new trash collection equipment pays off in tourist season trial.

## Planning & Zoning Dept. begins 'unified development' process

Georgetown County is embarking on an important new planning initiative with the launch of its first-ever Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) — and residents are invited to help shape it from the start.

A public kickoff meeting will take place Monday, Sept. 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Georgetown Library auditorium, 405 Cleland St. Community members will have an opportunity to meet the project team, learn about the purpose and goals of the UDO, and discover how they can stay involved throughout the process.

The UDO will bring together all of Georgetown County’s zoning and land use ordinances into a single, user-friendly document. In addition to consolidating and simplifying the County’s existing regulations, the UDO will serve as a tool for implementing the land development and zoning strategies outlined in Georgetown County’s recently adopted Comprehensive Plan.

“We are excited about this first step in a long-awaited update to our Zoning Ordinance and Land Development

# Melissa Jefferson-Wooden is the fastest woman alive

A hometown hero has claimed the top spot on the global stage. Dunbar native Melissa Jefferson-Wooden stunned the world at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo this month, capturing gold in the women's 100 meters with a blistering time of 10.61 seconds. The performance set a new championship record and officially made her the fastest woman in the world — and the fourth-fastest in history at the distance.



Jefferson-Wooden's rise has been nothing short of remarkable. Just last summer, she earned a bronze medal in the 100 meters and a gold in the 4x100 meter relay at the 2024 Olympics. Earlier this year, she swept the 100 and 200 meters at the U.S. Championships, posting personal bests in both events. Over the course of this season, she has been undefeated in the 100 meters, never once clocking above 11 seconds — a testament to her consistency, power and mental discipline.

Her Tokyo victory places her among an elite group of sprinters, behind only Florence Griffith-Joyner, Elaine Thompson-Herah and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce on the all-time list. At just 24 years old, she has hinted that Griffith-Joyner's legendary 10.49-second world record is no longer just an untouchable goal, but something she believes is within her reach. Jefferson-Wooden now turns her focus to the 200 meters, with hopes of becoming the first

**FAST FACTS**

**Hometown:** Dunbar community of Georgetown County  
**Age:** 24 **Parents:** Melvin & Johanna Jefferson  
**Recent PBs:** 100m – 10.61 sec; 200m – 21.84 sec  
**Major Titles :** 2025 World Championships 100m Gold; 2024 Olympics 100m Bronze, 4x100m relay Gold

American woman in more than a decade to sweep both sprint titles at a world championships.

Reflecting on her gold-medal race, Jefferson-Wooden told reporters, “When the gun went off, I just thought, ‘Come on, get out strong.’ The rest of the race went like a blink of an eye.” She credits her success to staying grounded under pressure, focusing on execution over outcome, and surrounding herself with people who push her to be her best.

For Georgetown County and its residents, Jefferson-Wooden's achievement is a source of immense pride. She embodies what can happen when local talent is nurtured and supported, showing young athletes across our community that their dreams are within reach. From running on local tracks to standing atop the world podium, she has shown what is possible through hard work, determination and heart. Her success puts Georgetown County on the global map not just by location, but as a place where excellence is born.

As Jefferson-Wooden continues to chase history, Georgetown will be cheering her every step of the way. From her earliest coaches to her family, friends and neighbors, this community has helped shape a world champion — and her journey is far from over.

**WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH LIBRARY**  
**MAKING & CRAFTING FAIRE**

**OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2025**  
**10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

Vendor Registration is open, tables are \$25 each.  
<https://tinyurl.com/5b4mycym>

Join us to show off and sell your crafty creations.

Waccamaw Neck Branch Library  
 41 St Pauls Place,  
 Pawleys Island SC 29585

**About this publication**

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 Georgetown County Monthly.

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 our newsletter on our website at [www.gtcounty.org/newsroom](http://www.gtcounty.org/newsroom) or through our social media accounts. If you'd rather have it delivered to your inbox, sign up at [gtcounty.org](http://gtcounty.org) by clicking the “News & Alerts” icon on the home page.

If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact Jackie Broach at (843) 545-3164 or [jbroach@gtcounty.org](mailto:jbroach@gtcounty.org). We welcome your feedback.

# Investment in new trash collection equipment pays off

A recent investment in new trash collection equipment is paying off for Georgetown County Parks and Recreation. As tourist traffic slowed after Labor Day, Department Director Beth Goodale reviewed the results of the county's first full season using a new compacting trailer and a fleet of bright yellow trash bins. The verdict? Cleaner beaches, increased efficiency, safer working conditions and significant environmental benefits.

"Basically, it's everything we hoped," Goodale said. "This equipment allows our staff to get more done in less time, frees them up for other projects, uses taxpayer dollars more effectively, and keeps public areas cleaner. It has made a huge difference in our operations."

## A Smarter Way to Handle Trash

Last winter, Parks and Recreation received about \$75,000 in state accommodations tax (A-Tax) funds to purchase the new equipment. Those funds, collected from hotels and short-term rental properties, are reinvested in projects that promote tourism.

The county replaced more than 400 of its old 50-gallon drums with 206 wheeled, lidded 96-gallon bins. The larger containers reduced the total number of bins needed by more than half and eliminated the need for plastic liners. Without liners, the county has cut about \$14,000 in annual costs while keeping nearly 60,000 plastic bags out of the landfill every year.

The new compacting trailer, which holds 15 cubic yards of garbage, allows crews to collect much more trash before unloading at the landfill. That efficiency is valuable when trucks operate on the far reaches of the county, where a single round trip to the landfill can take hours. The new system has reduced collection days from five or six per week to just two, freeing limited staff for other duties.



Bob Lewis, crew chief, turns on the compactor, during a busy day collecting trash from public accesses and parks on the Waccamaw Neck.

The time saved has allowed crews to remove abandoned tents, chairs and large debris from beaches far more often. "In the past, we could only get to that a few times a season. Now we're doing it several times a month," Goodale noted.

Theft of county trash bins has also dropped sharply—from about 80 per year with the old containers to just four this year. Goodale credits their bright yellow color. "People think they're ugly," she said with a laugh. "But because they're so distinctive, if one goes missing, it's obvious where it came from. Apparently that's a good deterrent."

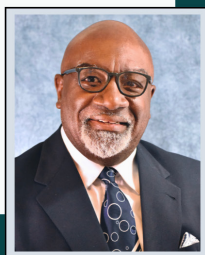
In total, the project cost about \$163,000, which covered 260 cans, the compacting trailer, and startup manpower. With 206 cans currently in use and extras in reserve, the system is designed for long-term success.



## Council District 3 Town Hall Meeting

Share concerns and feedback, ask questions and more with Council Member Bishop Ernie Cooper

Come meet with fellow community members and Bishop Ernie Cooper, District 3 County Council Representative, to discuss issues and concerns in the community. All are welcome to attend, meet Bishop Cooper, ask questions and share feedback on community needs.



Tuesday  
**Sept. 30**  
6 p.m.

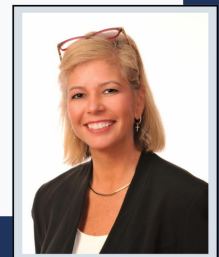
at  
**Santee Community  
Center**  
1484 Mt. Zion Dr., Georgetown



## Council District 6 Drop-in

Meet 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. 20. Residents can drop in at their convenience to chat with their council representative one-on-one.



Monday  
**Oct. 20**  
11 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

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

## A-tax grant applications accepted through Sept. 30

Georgetown County will continue accepting applications for accommodations tax grants until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 30. Grants are available for projects and events occurring in the 2026 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 eligible 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 [www.gtcounty.org/atax](http://www.gtcounty.org/atax).

## Club collects stuffed animals for child victims

The Kiwanis Club of Pawleys Island is collecting new and gently used stuffed animals for the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office to use in traumatic situations involving children. A collection box has been set up at the front of the Waccamaw Library, by the Friends of the Library store.



## Reassessment notices arrive in mailboxes this month

Georgetown County began mailing property reassessment notices to all county property owners on Sept. 15. As notices start arriving in mailboxes, county officials are reminding residents that these notices are not tax bills. The notices simply reflect the updated assessed value of properties, as required by S.C. law every five years.

"Market values across the county have risen sharply since the last reassessment, but that doesn't mean residents will see the same type of increase in their tax bills," said Walt Ackerman, Georgetown County Director of Administrative Services. "South Carolina law places limits on how much taxable value can rise in a reassessment cycle, and it also requires millage rates to be rolled back so counties cannot profit from reassessment."


By law, taxable value cannot increase more than 15% over a five-year period, unless the property has been sold or significantly improved. If a property is sold, it is reassessed at its full market value during the year of sale. Otherwise, properties are only reassessed countywide every five years.

The goal of reassessment is to ensure property values fairly reflect current market conditions. Because it is a revenue-neutral process, counties are not allowed to collect more in property taxes as a result of reassessment alone.

"People should expect to see very little change to their tax bill as a result of reassessment," Ackerman said. "If everybody's property went up 15%, millage would be rolled back 15% and taxes would remain the same. But not everybody's values are going to go up 15%; some might only go up 10% or 12%, so the tax rate is going to be rolled back to equalize the revenue."

To help residents navigate the reassessment process, Georgetown County has launched a new webpage: [gtcounty.org/reassessment](http://gtcounty.org/reassessment). The site includes answers to frequently asked questions, details on how values are calculated, information on the appeals process and more.

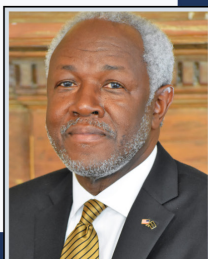
For additional information, call (843) 545-3017. Read the full version of this article at [gtcounty.org/newsroom](http://gtcounty.org/newsroom).



# County Council District 7 Community Chat

Meeting with County Council Representative Louis Morant

Council Member Louis Morant will meet with constituents at the Choppee Regional Recreation Center on the evening of October 21. All members of the public are invited to attend, ask questions and talk about issues impacting Council District 7.



**Tuesday**  
**Oct. 21**  
6 p.m.

**at**  
**Choppee Regional Recreation Center**  
8259 Choppee Rd.,  
Choppee Community




## JOIN US FOR THE PUBLIC KICKOFF

Georgetown County is drafting their first Unified Development Ordinance. Come meet the project team, discover more about the initiative, and share your thoughts as we kick-off this exciting new effort.

 **Tuesday, September 30th**

 **6:00-8:00PM**

 **County Library - Main Branch**  
405 Cleland St.  
Georgetown, SC 29440

## From clerk to Finance Director: Langston to retire after 27 years

After 27 years of service to Georgetown County, Finance Director Karis Langston will retire Oct. 3, closing out a career that began with an entry-level role in Accounts Payable and culminated with a seat at the directors' table.

Interestingly, the job she first applied for with the county wasn't even in finance.

Her journey with the County began in 1998, when, as a single mother seeking stability and strong benefits, she applied for an administrative assistant position in Public Works. She didn't get that job, but Public Services Director Ray Funnys (who also retired this summer) recommended her for an opening in Finance. Sabrena Posey was the department's director at the time and hired Langston as an accounts payable clerk—a decision that set Langston on a new career path.

"Looking back, I can see how God was directing my steps even then, opening one door after another and placing the right people in my path," Langston reflected.

Over nearly three decades, Langston rose through the ranks: Accounts payable supervisor, budget analyst, budget/financial analyst, and finally, finance director in 2021. She credits her colleagues, mentors and faith for guiding her through challenges and milestones alike.

"What's kept me here all these years is without a doubt the people," she said. "I've been fortunate to work alongside individuals who care deeply about what they do and who support one another through challenges and victories. That sense of community has made Georgetown County feel like home."

Her commitment to integrity and consistency shaped her leadership philosophy. She often recalled Posey's example of balancing kindness and strength, and she cites colleagues including another former Finance director Scott Proctor, former internal auditor Carol Mabe, and current Administration Services Director Walt Ackerman as invaluable mentors in both technical knowledge and management.

### Facing Challenges with Faith

During Langston's tenure, the County weathered both financial and operational storms. Langston remembers the 2008–2009 recession as one of the hardest periods.

Later came natural disasters—ice storms, floods and three hurricanes in a five-year span—and a ransomware attack in 2021 that forced the organization to rebuild critical systems overnight. It was "a completely new kind of crisis."

When the ransomware attack occurred, "everything seemed to grind to a halt," Langston recalled. "Systems we relied on every day suddenly weren't there, and the work still had to get done... Where technology wasn't an option, we went back to basics. What felt like a crisis in the moment ended up being a turning point. Out of necessity, we rebuilt stronger."

Through each challenge, she said she relied on determination, teamwork and prayer.

"Integrity has always been important to me, and I've tried to let that guide my work. If people can look back and say I was someone they could count on to be honest, prayerful and committed to doing what's right, then I'll feel I've left the right legacy."

During Langston's first budget cycle with the county, the

annual budget consisted of 14 budgeted funds totaling \$32 million.

Today, the county has 29 budgeted funds and a total annual budget of \$121 million.

Among her proudest professional achievements is her role in the long-range Capital Improvement Plan, known as Visions. The ambitious plan—formulated with extensive public input—funded regional parks and recreational facilities, new libraries, a judicial center, road projects, technology upgrades and more.

"This was more than just a list of projects; it was a shared vision for how our county could grow, improve and better serve the community for decades to come," Langston said. "What made this plan especially meaningful was that the projects weren't decided in a vacuum; they were formulated by a group of county residents. Their input ensured that the priorities reflected what mattered most to the people who live and work here. That collaborative start gave the plan a strong foundation of public support and made it feel like a true community investment."

She also played a key role in developing the Capital Equipment Replacement Plan, which transformed the way the county manages and replaces its fleet.

### Looking Ahead

As retirement nears, Langston is excited about simple joys: sleeping through the night without spreadsheets on her mind, fishing and hunting, enjoying nature, traveling and spending time at home, which she calls her sanctuary.

Asked about the future she gestures to the winding, unexpected path she has already traveled.

"When I started with Georgetown County 27 years ago, I never imagined myself sitting in the Director's chair. It wasn't part of my plan, but looking back, I can clearly see God's hand guiding my career here... Georgetown County will always be my home, and even though I won't be working for the County anymore, I plan to stay involved wherever God leads."

*Read the full article at [gtcounty.org/newsroom](https://gtcounty.org/newsroom).*



**Karis Langston**

**JOIN GEORGETOWN 250**

*Be a part of history!*

**VOLUNTEER TODAY**

**SC250GEORGETOWN.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/**

## Library receives major grant to honor American Revolution

The Georgetown County Library has been awarded a major grant in support of “A Glorious Cause: South Carolina and the American Revolution — A Public History Initiative of the Georgetown County Library.” This project will illuminate South Carolina’s exceptional role in securing American independence while exploring the colonial society that shaped the new nation’s thinkers and fighters.

The initiative is made possible by a \$39,300 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the South Carolina State Library. This federal funding will cover 64 percent of the project’s total costs, with the remaining \$22,100 (36%) provided by non-government sources.

“A Glorious Cause” will highlight not only key figures and pivotal events, but also the rich intellectual and social life of the era—including the literature, art, music, dance and cuisine that helped define the spirit of the emerging nation. Grant funds will support the purchase of 1,000 carefully selected adult nonfiction books on the Revolution, South Carolina’s contributions and colonial society, which will be distributed throughout the library system.

The project will also include a series of 15 free public educational presentations—three at each of the library’s five branches. All presentations will be filmed and shared on the library’s popular YouTube channel to reach a national audience.

In addition, the grant will make the Georgetown County Library system the first public library in South Carolina—and among the first in the nation—to use Reduct, an



A Revolutionary War Reenactor during a local SC 250 event.

advanced AI-powered tool for rapidly and accurately transcribing archived video holdings. These transcriptions will be made available through the Georgetown County Digital Library, a collection founded in 2010 with major support from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation. This digital archive now contains about 60,000 items and attracts more than 7,000 international users each month. It also contributes directly to the Digital Public Library of America, further expanding its reach.

As part of the initiative, the library will also host a traveling exhibit from the South Carolina State Museum, “The American Revolutionary War in South Carolina,” in June and July 2026.

Together, these materials, activities and services will bring to life—on a lasting and widespread scale—a vital story of revolutionary courage, creativity and community that continues to resonate today. Book purchases will begin next month, and public programs will launch in January 2026. The project has received enthusiastic support from Georgetown 250, the Georgetown County Museum and the Friends of the Georgetown Library.

**WACCAMAW NECK BRANCH  
LIBRARY PRESENTS**

**LOWCOUNTRY LEGENDS**

SHARED BY HISTORIAN  
**LEE BROCKINGTON**

**TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>  
AT 10AM**




**GEORGETOWN COUNTY COMMUNITY  
SENIOR CITIZEN'S  
60 and older**

**CHRISTMAS bucket list**

- HOT COCO PACKS
- WORD SEARCH BOOK
- NON-SLIP SHOES
- SMALL FIRST AID KIT
- HAND LOTION
- FINGERNAIL CLIPPERS
- SANITIZER
- BAR SOAP
- VASELINE
- NOTE CARD
- CHAPSTICK
- FACIAL TISSUE
- GIFT BAGS
- NAIL FILE
- MINTS
- BODY WASH
- SNACKS
- ALCOHOL PADS
- SOCKS
- GLOVES
- PILL ORGANIZER

**DONATIONS NEEDED BY DEC. 5, 2025**

DROP OFF LOCATION: HOWARD GYM  
1610 HAWKINS STREET, GEORGETOWN SC  
29440  
Georgetown County  
Bureau of Aging Services  
Vanessa Brown: 843-545-3197  
vmbrown@gtcounty.org



## Sawyer appointed VA Officer

Georgetown County has a new advocate for its veterans community. Longtime Georgetown resident and Army veteran Paige Sawyer has stepped into the role of Veterans Services Officer, bringing with him decades of community involvement and a deep passion for serving those who served our nation.



**Paige Sawyer**

Sawyer is a familiar face to many in the local veterans community. He is an active member of American Legion Post 114 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6444, and an honorary member of the Lowcountry Warbirds. He's also involved with the Georgetown County 250 Committee and serves as chairman of the Francis Marion Interpretive Center at the Georgetown County Museum. A native South Carolinian, Sawyer moved to Georgetown in 1972 after completing his military service and has spent more than 50 years contributing to the community in a variety of roles.

"I've always been a military-minded person," Sawyer said. "Even though I didn't make the military a lifelong career, my heart has always been in it."

Sawyer served in the Army from 1968 to 1972, including two tours in Vietnam as part of the Army Security Agency, a military intelligence branch known in Vietnam as "Radio Research." After leaving the Army, he worked at the Georgetown Times before he and his wife, Susan, launched a photography studio, which they operated for 51 years. He has also worked with several local tour companies. Read the full article at [gtcounty.org/newsroom](http://gtcounty.org/newsroom).

## Sheriff's Office is first in S.C. to deploy biometric monitoring

The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office has become the first agency in South Carolina to deploy OverWatch, a real-time biometric monitoring system designed to enhance safety and reduce risk of overdose death in correctional environments. Overdose deaths in detention are a nationwide crisis, with a 400% increase in local jails from 2000 to 2018, propelled in part by the explosion of opioid use, especially fentanyl.

Even when detention centers have in-house medical staff, emergency room visits before and during incarceration, and abatement programs — as the Georgetown County Detention Center does — people die. More tools are needed to recognize, track and treat overdoses. Sheriff Carter Weaver has taken a new step to reduce in-custody deaths and safeguard the health of individuals in detention.

OverWatch continuously monitors key biometric indicators such as heart rate, respiration, oxygen levels, stress and skin temperature. When abnormal readings are detected, staff receive immediate alerts, allowing intervention before a medical crisis develops.

"Every life entrusted to our care matters," Weaver said. "By implementing OverWatch, we are strengthening accountability, protecting detainees and giving our staff the tools they need to respond quickly when every second counts."

By being the first in South Carolina to adopt this technology, the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office sets a new standard for innovation, public safety, and duty of care that other agencies across the state and nation can follow.

Waccamaw Neck Branch Library

**Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Tours**



Tuesday, September 30th  
OR  
Wednesday, December 10th

9:30-2:30

**\*\*Space limited\*\***

Reservation required - call Ms. Washington  
843-545-3623

\*Must Drive Own Vehicle to South Island (10miles South of Georgetown)\*  
Bring water & bagged lunch

GEORGETOWN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

**RETURNING THIS FALL:**

**TACKLE FOOTBALL**


**COACHES & OFFICIALS NEEDED**

**\*\*LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE\*\***

**2025 SEASON  
TACKLE FOOTBALL  
\$50**

**REGISTRATION ENDS SEPT. 26, 2025**

REGISTER AT [GTC Parks.org](http://GTC Parks.org)  
OR AT REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER



## Student artists wanted Design our next 'I Voted' sticker

Calling all creative young minds! Georgetown County Voter Registration and Elections is excited to announce the launch of its third annual "I Voted" Sticker Design Contest. It is open to all school age children and teens in Georgetown County.

Submissions are now open and will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10.

Once the entry period closes, the top 10 designs will be posted at [facebook.com/GTCVoterReg](https://facebook.com/GTCVoterReg), where members of the public will vote for their favorites. The top five student artists will be recognized and celebrated during the Oct. 28 Georgetown County Council meeting, where they'll receive a trophy and a framed copy of their design.

Additionally, the winning design will be printed and distributed as official "I Voted" stickers on Election Day.

For more information, call the Georgetown County Voter Registration and Elections Office at 843-545-3339.

## Laycock recognized for service



Holley Laycock, who retired last month as Georgetown County's longtime Risk Manager, was recently recognized for her service by Georgetown County Council. Over the last 25 years, Laycock served the county in several roles, including Mosquito Control Supervisor and Environmental Services Superintendent. Over the years, she has "touched the lives of thousands of Georgetown County residents and employees," said Administrative Services Director Walt Ackerman. Laycock is pictured with Ackerman, left, and County Council Chairman Clint Elliott.

**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.

## Kabelova is Employee of the Quarter

Georgetown County Council recognized Judy Kabelova as the county's latest Employee of the Quarter at its Sept. 9 meeting. Kabelova was nominated by her peers for her outstanding work ethic, willingness to step up when needed and her consistently positive attitude that makes her a pleasure to work alongside.



**Kabelova**

She joined the county team in 2024, and has since built a reputation for being both dependable and resourceful. She is known for taking initiative, finding solutions to challenges and lending a hand wherever it's needed — even outside her immediate responsibilities.

Her colleagues describe her as "always willing to help others" and say she can be counted on to go the extra mile without hesitation. Whether it's stepping in to cover during busy periods, ensuring projects are completed on time, or keeping her department running smoothly, Kabelova exemplifies what it means to be a team player.

In the nomination from her director, Ray Funnye, Kabelova was praised for her adaptability and reliability, as well as her ability to maintain a calm and upbeat outlook under pressure. These qualities not only make her a valued co-worker, but also strengthen the county's ability to serve residents effectively.

Please join us in congratulating Judy on this well-deserved recognition — and in thanking her for the energy, positivity, and commitment she brings to Georgetown County every day.

**NATIONAL WORLD CLEAN-UP DAY**

**FALL HAUL CLEAN UP**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Join us for the Annual Fall Haul Community Clean-Up and let's help keep our beautiful Inlet clean!

- SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
- Murrells Inlet 2020**
- 9AM - 11AM**

## →] Unified Development

Regulations,” said Holly Richardson, Georgetown County’s Director of Planning and Zoning. “The County is looking forward to more user-friendly regulations that better reflect the current uses and development patterns of our area. Most importantly, these changes will help to implement the County’s Comprehensive Plan and to help codify many of the goals and objectives from the recently approved Land Use Element.

“We want to encourage folks to come out and meet the consultant team that will be working hand in hand with the County on this important project. It will provide an opportunity to learn more about the process and find out how you can stay updated and be involved.”

At the kickoff meeting, attendees will:

- Meet the project team, including County staff and consultants from Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc.
- Hear a presentation outlining the UDO process and project schedule
- Learn how to follow project updates and provide feedback

Residents, property owners, developers, business owners and all other interested parties are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Georgetown County Planning and Zoning at 843-545-3158.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS

WATCH LIVE

[youtube.com/gtcountysc](https://youtube.com/gtcountysc)

Stay informed. Stay involved. County decisions — streamed straight to you.

## Flags donated to library



The Georgetown County Library recently received a donation of United States and South Carolina flags from the not-for-profit organization WoodmenLife. The group is a generous fraternal benefit society, also known as Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society, with a tradition dating back to 1890, of supporting civic organizations through its patriotic programs. The flags were presented to Library Director Dwight McInvaill by Deborah Stoner, a WoodmenLife representative. “It’s an honor to help libraries and other community entities display our patriotic symbols of heritage and pride,” said Deborah Stoner. “We at WoodmenLife appreciate the opportunity to acknowledge in this way the legacies that we, as Americans, value so highly. It is a way for us to show respect for our country and state.” Library Director Dwight McInvaill expressed the library’s gratitude at this donation. “We are deeply thankful to Deborah Stoner and to WoodmenLife for these flags that remind us every day of the special nature of our nation as exhibited in our core First Amendment civil liberties – including the freedoms of religion, speech and press, along with rights to assemble and to petition the government,” McInvaill said. “These are indeed the jewels of democracy that the United States introduced to the world.”

October 7, 2025

LAW ENFORCEMENT - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

EAST BAY PARK

6:00PM - 8:00PM

Law  
Enforcement  
Community  
Partnerships

FREE FOOD! FREE DRINKS!! FREE ENTERTAINMENT!!!

Be Part  
of the  
Ride!

## Volunteers Needed!

### Tour de Plantersville & Cultural Festival

Support a fun, family-friendly community event celebrating culture, history, and the great outdoors.

OCT 31: PRE-DAY SETUP    NOV 1: EVENT DAY

Plantersville Elementary School, 1668 Exodus Dr, Georgetown, SC

Can You Help?

Friday, Oct. 31

- Pre-Day Setup: 2:30pm - 5:30pm
- Packet Pickup: 2pm - 6pm

Saturday, Nov. 1

- Registration Booth & Greeters: 5:45am - 8am
- Traffic Control & Crowd Flow: 5:30am - noon
- Information Station Host: 8am - noon
- Finish Line Greeters: 10am - noon
- Kids Corner Helpers: 10am - noon
- Breakdown Crew: 2pm - 4pm

Funds raised support:

Contact Titi Akinwumi  
takinwumi@thevillagegroup.org • 843-344-2725

<< Numbers >>  
**TO KNOW**

(All begin with area code 843)

Directory, 545-3063

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

Public Works, 545-3438

Probate Judge, 545-3077

Recycling/Solid Waste  
 545-3463

Register of Deeds, 545-3088

Sheriff, 546-5102

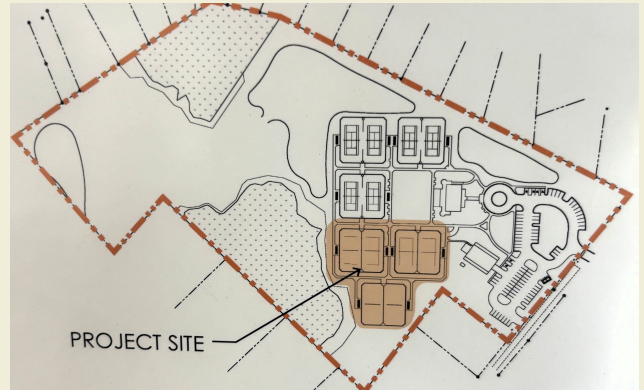
Stormwater, 545-3524

Treasurer, 545-3102

P.O. Box 421270  
 129 Screven Street



## Tennis Center expansion under way



**Left: Work is under way adjacent to the existing clay courts. Right: The expansion site plan.**

Exciting improvements are in progress at the Stables Tennis Center at Waccamaw Regional Park. Georgetown County Parks and Recreation has launched a major expansion project that will enhance both play and sustainability at the popular facility.

Over the next nine months, crews will add three brand-new clay courts, convert four existing hard courts to clay, and upgrade all facility lighting to energy-efficient LEDs. Clay courts are in demand for several reasons, but particularly because clay is considered to be much gentler on players' joints than hard courts, absorbing more impact from running and sliding. This lowers the risk of overuse injuries, especially in the knees and hips.

These upgrades will not only improve the playing experience but also lower operating costs. Parks and Recreation Director Beth Goodale noted that the county has applied for a Santee Cooper rebate to further offset the cost of the lighting upgrades.

As part of Georgetown County's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, the project will also introduce a new irrigation system powered by stormwater from the on-site retention pond—a successful approach already in use at other county recreation facilities like Waverly Park.

Stay tuned as the Stables Tennis Center transforms into an even more vibrant hub for tennis players on the Waccamaw Neck!

### Library series offers tips for preventing bone loss

Starting this month, Brookes McIntyre, an outreach representative of the Bone Health and Osteoporosis Foundation, will offer helpful, up-to-date and actionable information about maintaining proper bone health through a new series at the library. Her presentation, "Healthy Bones for Life," will share the basics of bone health and why it is important.

Two sessions are scheduled: Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. at the Waccamaw Library and Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Georgetown Library. The sessions are free and open to the public.

Attendees will learn about bone development over all ages, understand what osteoporosis is, and explore bone loss and fractures. It's the perfect introduction to bone loss and fracture prevention, bone-safe exercise and bone-healthy nutrition.

### Free law talk in Andrews to cover estate planning

Heirs property and wills will be the topic of a free "law talk" at the Andrews Library next month. The event will take place from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21 at the library, located at 105 N. Morgan Ave.

The program is made possible through a partnership between the S.C. Bar and public libraries across the state. Law talks are free education events open to the public. Each is taught by a S.C. licensed attorney or judge and typically includes a 30-45 minutes presentation followed by a brief question and answer session. They are designed to provide general legal education on the session topic; not to provide guidance on an individual's specific situation.

For more information, contact the Andrews Branch Library, 943-545-3621.