



A publication for our residents and visitors MARCH 2026

## Fund balance reflects strategic planning, disaster preparedness



A recent audit report for Georgetown County raised some eyebrows – not because it didn’t come back clean, but because the county has nearly double what it is required to maintain in its “reserve” fund. The \$29 million in the reserve, more officially known as the unassigned fund balance, reflects long-term financial planning and preparation for both major capital needs and potential changes in federal disaster assistance, said County Administrator Angela Christian.

Auditors presented their findings for Fiscal Year 2025 to County Council earlier this year. The county received an unmodified report – the gold standard in governmental auditing – reinforcing the county’s strong internal controls and sound financial management. By its own self-imposed policy, the county is required to maintain a fund balance equal to 40% of the general fund or \$15 million, whichever is greater. The general fund totaled \$36.2 million that fiscal year, while the county’s total budget across all funds

→] Continued on Page 9

## Harbor cleanup reaches substantial completion

The Georgetown harbor is cleaner and safer thanks to a major collaborative cleanup that removed nearly two dozen abandoned and derelict vessels from its waters. Some had been there for years, not only acting as a source of pollution, but a safety hazard for boaters.

The effort — a partnership between Georgetown County, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), state legislators, and the nonprofit Wounded Nature – Working Veterans — has removed more than 20 vessels from the harbor since work began last summer. Divers from SCDNR returned to the Georgetown Port on March 9 to finish hauling out the remaining wrecks. The boats were deposited on the site of the county-owned Georgetown port, where staff with the County’s Public Services Department will remove them to the landfill.

The operation represents one of the most significant waterway cleanups in the region’s recent history, and officials say the

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### Inside this issue:



Georgetown Library plans unveiling for statue of Tubman and Bowley.



Primary elections are coming up and filing opens this month. Find dates and information



Georgetown 250 celebrates the Revolution and Gen. Francis Marion with Day of the Fox.

## Statue unveiling set for May 28 at Georgetown Library

A life-size bronze sculpture depicting Harriet Tubman guiding her grandnephew toward a future he could not yet see will be unveiled at the Georgetown County Library on Thursday, May 28, at 4:30 p.m. The story it tells is deeply rooted in Georgetown's own history.

The Friends of the Georgetown Library commissioned the piece, created by sculptor Wesley Wofford and titled "Whispers of My Ancestor." It shows Tubman whispering in the ear of a young James A. Bowley, set on ascending steps inscribed with the words "Nurture" and "Inspire." The sculpture will be permanently installed at the entrance to the library's children's department.

Bowley was one of the first people Tubman freed through the Underground Railroad, and she invested in him personally — using her earnings as a housekeeper to pay his tuition at the Friends School in Philadelphia. He later served in the Union Army, came to Georgetown as a Freedmen's Bureau appointee, and became one of the most consequential figures of the Reconstruction era here: school board chair, newspaper editor, University of South

Carolina board member and state legislator. When he wrote to Tubman about the school district's financial struggles, she sent a \$100 donation to Georgetown County schools. That would be somewhere in the range of \$2,500 to \$3,000 in today's dollars.

The sculpture project grew from a traveling sculpture exhibit that brought Wofford's Tubman work to Georgetown County in mid-2023. The Friends of the Georgetown Library initially set a goal of \$45,000 for a tabletop-scale piece. After fundraising reached \$60,000, an anonymous donor matched it on one condition: go full size. The result is a life-size bronze nearly two years in the making, with local residents — including an elementary school student — serving as the models.

The dedication ceremony on May 28 will include remarks from the Georgetown County Library Board Chair Michelle Greene, a historical presentation, remarks from Wofford and his collaborator Odyssey Wofford, and a poem commissioned for the occasion. Descendants of both Bowley and Tubman have been invited. A reception in the library auditorium follows. The public is welcome.



### GEORGETOWN COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 24 at 4:15 p.m.

Regular meeting follows at 5:30 p.m.  
View agendas at [gtcounty.org/council](http://gtcounty.org/council)

## ATTENTION ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, CONTRACTORS & DEVELOPERS!

**There have been changes to Georgetown County's Three-Party Memorandum. Please visit [gtcounty.org/building](http://gtcounty.org/building) to review the revised document.**



## 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.

## →] Harbor Cleanup

environmental and safety benefits will be felt for generations.

"What we're witnessing here today is far more than just the removal of abandoned boats," said SCDNR Director Tom Mullikin. "It's an act of environmental stewardship and maritime responsibility."

The stakes extend well beyond aesthetics. As vessels decay, they release fuel, oil, battery acid and other hazardous materials into surrounding waters and sediments. Fiberglass hulls break apart over time, releasing microscopic fragments that can be ingested by shellfish and enter the food chain. Mullikin noted that 24% of South Carolina families rely on well water — aquifers that can be contaminated by pollutants leaching from sunken vessels nearby.

"These are carcinogens," Mullikin said. "These are hazardous materials that are left to deteriorate in our waters, and we're not going to have it in South Carolina."

Georgetown County Council Chairman Clint Elliott credited the success of the operation to the range of partners who came to the table — and stayed.

"This is the Georgetown way," Elliott said. "When something needs doing, we don't wait around — we figure out who needs to be at the table and we get it done." The human effort behind the cleanup has been substantial. SCDNR's dive team rigged, pumped, and recovered vessels that had sat deteriorating for years. Georgetown County funded crane services and waived landfill disposal fees. Community member Sandy Tiller donated use of a barge. Coastal Crane contributed a significant discount on equipment.

Wounded Nature – Working Veterans, the 501(c)(3)



SCDNR staff helps guide a boat deposited on land by a crane.

national nonprofit that has removed more than 250 abandoned vessels from South Carolina waters since its founding in 2010, provided essential manpower and operational expertise. Founder and CEO Capt. Rudy Socha — a Marine veteran and licensed boat captain — was direct about the scale of the work still ahead statewide, even as he celebrated what the Georgetown team accomplished.

"We still have three million pounds of trash out there on our coastlines that we need to fund to get rid of," Socha said. He noted that each small sailboat removed from the harbor represents 8,000 to 9,000 pounds of material. The effort carries financial weight. Mullikin noted that in-kind labor and nonprofit contributions to the Georgetown cleanup alone exceeded \$100,000 in value — resources that government could not have supplied on its own.

Proposed state legislation would require boaters to carry liability insurance, and a separate bill would establish an annual \$3 fee to fund future derelict vessel removals. Those measures, advocates say, are essential to sustaining cleanup efforts beyond what partnerships and goodwill can support alone.

# TENNIS

# 101/201



CONTACT  
(843) 545-3450 TO  
REGISTER



**DATES/TIMES**

3/7 - 1:30-2:30 PM

3/14 - 1:30-2:30 PM

3/21 - 1:30-2:30 PM

3/28 - 1:30-2:30 PM

4/4 - 1:30-2:30 PM

4/11 - 1:30-2:30 PM



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TENNIS CENTER**  
302 GILMAN RD, PAWLEYS ISLAND, SC  
29585

WHOLE PACKAGE \$100  
(INCLUDING 2 RAIN MAKE-UP  
DAYS)  
DROP IN \$20



**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEER COACHES!**

## YOUTH TENNIS SPRING PROGRAM

**GET A FREE TRAINING CAMP IN APRIL!**

— LEARN TO COACH WITH OUR TENNIS PRO! —

**GEORGETOWN (EAST BAY)**  
APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 16<sup>TH</sup>, AND 18<sup>TH</sup>

**NORTHWEST (REC CENTER)**  
APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup>, AND 25<sup>TH</sup>

**ANDREWS (REC CENTER)**  
APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>, 30<sup>TH</sup>, AND MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>

**VOLUNTEERS WILL COACH TEAMS IN MAY!**

**SEASON DETAILS**

WEEKLY PRACTICES & SATURDAY SCRIMMAGES!

— PRACTICE LOCATIONS BY REGION: —

- GEORGETOWN: EAST BAY PARK
- NORTHWEST: NORTHWEST REC CENTER @ CHOPPEE
- ANDREWS: ANDREWS REGIONAL REC CENTER






## Library series explores S.C.'s Revolutionary War history

A public history initiative is bringing South Carolina's Revolutionary War story to life at Georgetown County Library branches throughout 2026, and the series is just getting started. "A Glorious Cause: South Carolina and the American Revolution" launched earlier this month at the Georgetown Library with presentations by national award-winning storyteller Tim Lowry and historian/violinist Zachary Lemhouse, whose program on the music of the Revolution drew an enthusiastic crowd Thursday. The series continues with a full slate of free programs running through June at four library locations.

Made possible by a \$39,300 Library Services and Technology Act grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the S.C. State Library, all programs are free and open to the public.

### Coming Up at Georgetown Library

The Georgetown branch, 405 Cleland St., hosts two remaining programs in March. On March 18 at 10 a.m., maritime archaeologist Dr. Sara A. Rich will present "A Revolutionary War Shipwreck in the Cooper River," offering a rare look at a submerged piece of the Revolution's history. Rich, an Associate Professor at the Rhode Island School of Design and citizen of the Waccamaw Indian People, is the author of "Shipwreck Hauntography: Underwater Ruins and the Uncanny." The program is presented in partnership with the South Carolina Maritime Museum.

On March 25 at 10 a.m., Christopher Judge of the Native American Studies Center at USC Lancaster will present "Native Life in Revolutionary South Carolina." That program ties to the "Resilience & Revolution: Native Peoples in 18th Century South Carolina" exhibit, which will be on display at Georgetown Library in April and May.

### April Programs Move to Pawleys Island

The series shifts to the Waccamaw Library, 41 Saint Paul Place, for four Thursday programs in April, all free and open to the public.

On April 2 at 10 a.m., archaeologist Steven D. Smith of the SC Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology will examine "Francis Marion & the Snow's Island Community: Myth, History, & Archaeology." On April 7 at 6 p.m., Dr. Nicholas Cole, Director of the Quill Project at Pembroke College, University of Oxford, will present "Founding Documents of the American Revolution" in partnership with Coastal Carolina University HTC Honors College — note the evening start time, which differs from the rest of the series.

April 23 brings author Beth Yarbrough presenting "Preserving Historic Buildings of Colonial South Carolina" at 10 a.m., followed on April 30 at 10 a.m. by Dr. Elizabeth Chew, CEO of the S.C. Historical Society, presenting "Art & the American Revolution."

### Francis Marion Focus in Andrews

The Andrews Library, 105 N. Morgan Ave., hosts three Wednesday morning programs in May at 10 a.m., each examining the life and legacy of Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox" of Revolutionary War fame. Paige Sawyer of the Francis Marion Interpretive Center kicks things off May 6 with "Fascinating Facts about General Francis Marion." Dr. Lee B. Wilson, a history professor at Clemson

University, follows on May 13 with "Treason as Political Weapon." The series at Andrews concludes May 20 with Keith Gourdin, a descendant of Francis Marion, presenting "Family Connections with Francis Marion."

### Gullah History Featured at Southern Georgetown

The Southern Georgetown Library, 4187 Powell Road, hosts four programs in May focused on the social, cultural and culinary contributions of Gullah people during the Revolutionary era. Programs are held Thursdays at 2 p.m. Victoria Smalls of Smalls Cultural Resources opens the series May 7 with "The Social & Cultural Life of Gullah People in the S.C. Lowcountry during the Revolutionary Era." Chef and author Sallie Ann Robinson presents "Lowcountry Gullah Cuisine during the Revolution" on May 14, and sweetgrass weaver Jennifaye Singleton closes the Gullah-focused programming May 21 with "Traditional Gullah Artforms of the Revolution." The series at that location concludes with a unique outdoor offering: on Friday, May 29 at 11 a.m., guide and River Reader Kayaking founder Hastings Hensel leads a



Violinist Zachary Lemhouse at a program this month.

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The Grand Strand's Premier Gaming Event

# MARCH 20-22 2026

- RPGs
- Board Games
- Card Games
- CCGs/LCGs
- Miniatures
- Cosplay
- Crafting
- Video Games
- Tea Tasting
- VR

SHUSHCON

10th Anniversary

A FREE weekend of games at the Waccamaw Neck Branch Library  
41 St Pauls Place, Pawleys Island, SC  
ddennis@gctcounty.org <https://shushcon.com/>

## GCSO unveils new patrol vehicle



The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office deployed a specially wrapped patrol vehicle in support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. It's the first of its kind in S.C. and made its debut at the GCSO Polar Plunge last month. It will travel throughout the state as a visible symbol of commitment to the more than 30,000 Special Olympics athletes who participate in programs across S.C. "This patrol vehicle represents far more than a wrap," said Sheriff Carter Weaver. "It represents the dedication of our deputies to serving our communities both in uniform and beyond the call of duty. Every mile traveled helps raise awareness and support for the athletes who inspire us every day."

## Supporting K9 officer safety



The K9 Teams of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office traveled to the Columbia Statehouse on March 4 to represent our county at the Legislative Hearing for Bill H3034, also known as Fargo's, Hyco's, Rico's, Coba's, Wick's, and Milka's Law. The bill, if passed, will amend South Carolina law to strengthen protections for police dogs and horses. Photographed (L to R) are Corporal Clifton Lanier and Ares, Deputy Mike Yilmaz and Vito, Corporal Cody Thompson and Dukat, and Sergeant Brian Delval and Pelle.

## →] Revolutionary War

kayak tour of the Battle of Black Mingo site. Registration is required for the kayak tour; email [dturner@gtcounty.org](mailto:dturner@gtcounty.org) to sign up.

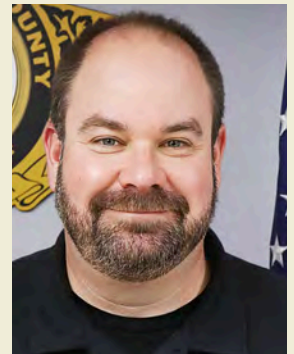
### Series Concludes in Carvers Bay

The final leg of "A Glorious Cause" runs in June at the Carvers Bay Library, 13048 Choppee Road, Hemingway, with Thursday programs at 2 p.m. Author Steve Williams presents "African American Contributions to the Revolutionary War" on June 4; cultural interpreter Pelor Richards follows June 11 with "Roots & Resilience: Gullah Life in the Revolutionary Era"; and author Lee G. Brockington closes the series June 18 with "Patriots & Loyalists: The Battle at Home."

The "American Revolutionary War in South Carolina" exhibit will be on display at Georgetown Library in June and July 2026.

## Magann earns national Jail Manager certification

Major John Magann of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office has received the national designation of Certified Jail Manager by authority of the American Jail Association through its Jail Manager Certification Commission.



**John Magann**

"I am committed to ensuring that all command staff personnel achieve the highest standards possible as our agency serves and safeguards the residents of Georgetown County," said Sheriff Carter Weaver. "We believe that continuous training and adoption of best practices at all ranks and operational levels is vital."

This certification is only granted after a rigid experiential background application and an intensive four-hour examination. Certification in jail management demonstrates competency and professionalism in the field, indicates a strong level of knowledge in the specialty, and recognizes continuing education and growth.

Magann joined the GCSO in 2004 as a Deputy and over the years served as an Investigator, Sergeant at the Georgetown County Courthouse, agency liaison to Emergency Operations during major weather events, and as Inspector in charge of hiring and internal affairs. He attended the National Jail Leadership Command Academy in November 2023. He was promoted to Deputy Administrator of the county Detention Center in January 2024 and is currently attending the Jail Executive Leadership Institute in conjunction with the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The American Jail Association is a national, nonprofit, educational organization that delivers professional development, certification and advocacy services to correctional personnel across the U.S.

# PUBLIC MEETING

## Graves Station Friendfield Stormwater Improvements

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Join us for a public meeting to learn about and provide input on drainage issues in Graves Station.

Date: Tuesday, March 17th  
Drop-in between: 5:30-7:30pm  
Location: New Light Baptist Church  
316 Amelia Dr. Georgetown, SC 29440

McCORMICK  
TAYLOR

# County honors volunteers for community dedication

Two exceptional volunteers were recognized by Georgetown County Council recently, receiving awards that celebrate service that goes far beyond what's required — and in one case, far beyond what most people would expect of a single volunteer.

Ed Mills was named Georgetown County's Volunteer of the Year for his decades of dedication to Midway Fire and Rescue. A volunteer with the department for more than 40 years,

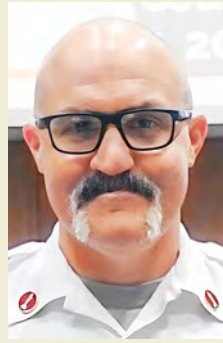


**Ed Mills**

Mills has filled whatever role was needed — from volunteer Battalion Chief to chairing the Capital Project Sales Tax committee to simply lending a hand whenever asked. Nominating supervisor Brent McClellan, who has worked alongside Mills for 22 years, said countless projects have been completed because of him and that he has kept the department running.

In 2025, Mills' contributions were especially visible thanks to his background as a certified electrician. He wired new lights in Midway's stations, installed wiring for the department's new turnout gear dryer and — most recently — completed all of the electrical work on a new carport shed the department added for its trailers. That work alone, had it been contracted out, would have easily cost several thousand dollars. Because of Mills' efforts, the station can now charge its equipment and has proper lighting in the new structure. Through all of it, he never asked for anything in return except a fresh cup of coffee.

The Employee Volunteer of the Year award is presented at



**Alex Roman**

the end of each year to recognize a county employee who also gives their time and talents outside the course of their regular job. This year, that honor went to Georgetown County Fire/EMS Lt. Alex Roman, a 15-year county employee who spearheaded the department's 2025 Toys for Tots toy drive.


Roman coordinated efforts with Toys for Tots personnel in the Grand Strand area, Georgetown Walmart and

members of his department to ensure the event came together and was a success. His nominating supervisor cited his passion and genuine desire to make Christmas special for children who are less fortunate in the community. That dedication paid off — last year's drive provided 700 toys for children in need.

Georgetown County extends its gratitude to both Mills and Roman for their commitment to the community they serve.

## *Sheriff's Office warns of scam*


The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office has received numerous reports of scammers calling residents and claiming they missed their jury date. They demand money to dispose of a fictitious warrant for their arrest. They use actual names of Sheriff's Office employees to make the claim sound more legitimate. One person was bilked of \$12,000. The GCSO will never call asking for money.



## 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.



Wednesday  
**March 25**  
6:30 p.m.

at  
**Andrews Regional  
Recreation Center**  
220 S. Cedar Ave., Andrews



## G.O.A. T. HERD Shamrock Hike & Float

**HIKE**  
11 a.m.  
- Noon

**MARCH 17**

**FLOAT**  
1 p.m.  
- 4 p.m.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the GOAT Herd! 2 hiking trail options at Rocky Point and paddling down the Choppee Creek. Free to participate. Pack a lunch or snack to enjoy at the picnic area. Email [GoatHerd@gtcounty.org](mailto:GoatHerd@gtcounty.org) to sign up.








## County Public Information team earns three first-place finishes in state contest

Georgetown County's Public Information team brought home five awards from the South Carolina Press Association's annual Associate Member Division Awards, including three first-place finishes.

The awards recognize work produced in 2025 across a range of communications categories. Georgetown County competed in Division G, which includes associate members — government agencies, businesses and organizations.



Randy Akers, left, and Jackie Broach.

Jackie Broach, the county's Public Information Officer, earned first place in news reporting for coverage of the community response following the announcement that International Paper would close its Georgetown mill, a story that drew widespread attention as residents, elected officials and economic development leaders grappled with the mill's impact on the local economy. A second-place award in news reporting went to Broach for a story on a partnership effort to remove derelict boats from Georgetown Harbor.

Broach also took first place in page design for the August front page of the county's newsletter, and third place in feature photography for an image captured during Francis Marion Living History Day, showing a Revolutionary War reenactor firing a musket.

The fifth award — first place for website — went to Randy Akers of the County's MIS Department, who also serves on the Public Information team. The award recognized the Georgetown County Newsroom, an online hub for county news and information.

## Next at the Library

### Writers Group meets

Join the Writers group every Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. at the Georgetown branch for discussions of the craft. Each week has a different topic highlighting a different element or style.

### Storytime Fun Hour

Join Ms. Tory at the Georgetown branch at 11 a.m. on March 24 for an exciting storytime productions. Appropriate for kids and babies of all ages.

### 'Jazz in the Stacks'

The Pawleys Island Concert Band's jazz band will perform a free show at the Waccamaw Library at 6 p.m. on March 26. All are welcome.

### Meet the Author

William H. Bernstein, author of "Start Investing and Stop Gambling: Classic Investment Principals that Work," will give a talk at the Andrews branch on March 17 at 2 p.m. He'll discuss basic investing principals and common mistakes.

**BINGO**  
12 pm  
Fun Games

**Food**  
NACHOS  
HOT DOG BASKETS  
FISH BASKETS  
DRINKS

**DJ**  
Apollo

**5th Annual FAMILY FUN DAY 2026**

**REGISTER**  
[QR Code]

**April 18, 2026**  
Rain Date: April 25, 2026

We're celebrating 5 amazing years with a day full of excitement. Bring the whole family and let's make this anniversary unforgettable!

Join Us for a Family Fun Day at the Library!  
If you are interested in becoming a vendor, scan the QR code to register.

**11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

4187 Powell Rd (843) 545-3389

**GEORGETOWN COUNTY**

**TRACK & FIELD**

[Silhouettes of a male and female runner]

**REGISTRATION FEB 16 - MARCH 14**  
**\$15 REGISTRATION FEE**  
**AGES 5 - 12**

**TRACK MEETS**  
APRIL 11TH SAT. 10AM  
APRIL 25TH APRIL 18TH  
MAY 2ND

**REGISTER AT**  
**GTCPARKS.ORG**

[QR Code]

## →] Fund Balance

was \$121.4 million.

“The general fund is the backbone of the county’s financial core,” Christian explained. The unassigned fund balance, on the other hand, is the county’s primary financial safeguard. Generally, people think of it as being for emergencies, such as disaster recovery, or other unexpected expenses. But it also serves a broader purpose – it puts the county in a better position in economic downturns, helps fund one-time needs and is a component in helping the county maintain a strong bond rating.

“It gives us options when we need them, without having to impose sudden tax increases or emergency borrowing,” Christian said.

Georgetown County officials have intentionally built reserves in recent years for several reasons. In addition to disaster recovery, those include long-term planning for big projects the county intends to fund without issuing bonds or borrowing money.

Among the known major expenditures planned for next year’s budget are:

- Replacement of the county’s aging public safety radio system, estimated at \$7 million to \$8 million
- Installation of a new slate roof on the historic Georgetown County Courthouse, estimated at approximately \$600,000
- Replacement of the Department of Social Services building elevator
- EMS equipment upgrades, including ambulances and other critical response equipment

When these projects are formally adopted in the upcoming budget, the funds currently listed as “unspecified” will be designated as “restricted” for those specific purposes, bringing the available reserve closer to the required 40%.

In addition to planned capital improvements, the county is making preparations for potential changes to federal disaster recovery funding. There is growing national uncertainty regarding the future role of FEMA in disaster response and recovery. Proposed federal policy changes could significantly increase the financial thresholds required for major disaster declarations, said Brandon Ellis, Assistant County Administrator and Director of Emergency Services.

“Local and state government entities across the nation are facing growing uncertainty regarding the future role of FEMA in disaster response and recovery,” Ellis said. “Proposed federal restructuring, staffing reductions and increased financial thresholds for disaster declarations reflect a broader shift toward reducing federal involvement and placing greater responsibility on state and local governments.”

Preliminary analysis indicates that only 61.5% of major disasters impacting S.C. since 2014 would have met the proposed criteria for major disaster declarations. The County has been advised its local threshold for FEMA assistance could rise from \$308,143 to up to \$1.6 million. Additionally, FEMA assistance programs typically operate on a

reimbursement basis, meaning local governments must pay for response and recovery costs upfront and then await reimbursement. Depending on the complexity of the disaster and documentation requirements, reimbursement can take months or even years. If a community experiences multiple disasters in a short period — such as back-to-back hurricanes or significant flooding events — the financial strain while awaiting reimbursement can reach tens of millions of dollars.

FEMA staffing reductions and expanded documentation requirements have already contributed to longer reimbursement timelines nationwide.

“For a coastal community that regularly faces hurricanes, flooding and severe weather, maintaining a healthy fund balance is not optional — it is responsible governance,” Christian said. “Our goal is to ensure that Georgetown County can respond immediately to emergencies, sustain operations during recovery, and invest in critical infrastructure without having to raise taxes or incur unnecessary debt.”

County officials emphasized that strong reserves protect taxpayers in multiple ways: by reducing borrowing costs, strengthening the county’s bond rating, providing stability during economic downturns, and ensuring continuity of essential services during disasters.

“Our fund balance is not idle money,” Christian added. “It represents careful planning for known capital needs and prudent preparation for the unknown.”

As the county moves into the upcoming budget cycle, officials say they will continue to provide transparency regarding how reserves are allocated and used.



FRIENDS OF THE GEORGETOWN LIBRARY

**TUESDAYS  
WITH...**

**Stefani Whitmire**  
Assistant Professor, Baruche Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science of  
Clemson University

**“Microplastics and their Impact on the  
Wetlands of the Lowcountry”**

**17 MARCH, 2026**

**10:00 AM**

**GEORGETOWN LIBRARY AUDITORIUM**  
405 Cleland St.  
Georgetown, SC 29440  
(843) 545-3300

<< 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

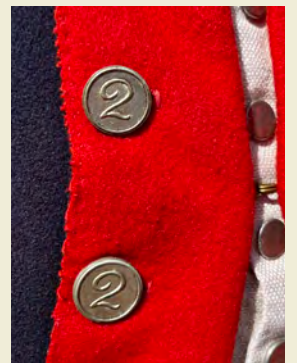
P.O. Box 421270  
129 Screven Street



Ken Baeszler, Chairman of the Georgetown County 250 Executive Committee talks to event-goers from under a patriotic-themed tent.

# Day of the Fox

## Georgetown 250 Committee celebrates the Revolution with Living History Day



Reenactments, displays, a scavenger hunt and more were all part of the festivities when the Georgetown County 250 Committee celebrated it's third annual Living History Day on March 3. Titled "Day of the Fox, it was a celebration of Gen. Francis Marion, known as the Swamp Fox, and other heroes of the American Revolution. Visit [sc250georgetown.org](http://sc250georgetown.org) for upcoming events.