



Employee Holiday Luncheon

On December 11, 2009 Georgetown County Employees celebrated the holiday season at the Annual Employee Holiday Luncheon at East Bay Park Gym.



2009 County Holiday Card Art Contest

Over 100 entries were received from students (grades K-12) countwide in the 2009 Holiday Card Contest. A panel of staff member judges selected the following winners:

- 1st place- Max Overly, 8th Grade, Waccamaw Middle
- 2nd place- Jasmine Stafford, 5th Grade, Sampit Elementary
- 3rd place- Christian Newton, 1st Grade, Andrews Elementary

The 1st place overall winner was made into the County's 2009 Employee Christmas Card and mailed to employees.

Boeing Update for Georgetown County

Boeing's decision to locate their 787 Dreamliner Assembly Plant in North Charleston should have a positive impact for Georgetown County. To capitalize on the opportunities this will provide for local companies, Economic Development has distributed information about Boeing supplier and vendor meetings to all industries in Georgetown County. In January they are going to host a meeting for local companies to share the Boeing information they have gotten from the South Carolina Department of Commerce and NESAC. Economic Development has also sent letters to Boeing suppliers to make them aware of opportunities available to them in Georgetown and they are working on marketing flyers.

Construction is nearly complete on the new building in the Georgetown County Business Center Industrial Park. Having this building will help Economic Development promote the park because it is one of the closest industrial parks in the state to the new Boeing facility in North Charleston.



Disc Golf in the Pines at East Bay Park

Parks & Recreation hosted the first official disc golf event at East Bay Park Saturday, October 24, 2009. Innova Disc Golf East Coast and Hog Heaven BBQ partnered with Parks & Recreation to sponsor this event.

Everyone that came out to test their skills or just learn to throw the disc enjoyed a challenging day of disc golf. Parks & Recreation developed the nine hole course, designed by staff member Ron Wofford, at East Bay Park in 2008. Since that time the course has attracted more than a hundred golfers. In preparation for this event, staff designed a second nine holes. Equipment and assistance in development of the second nine holes was provided by Andrew DuPre' of Innova Disc Golf. Du'Pre also assisted with the disc golf event.

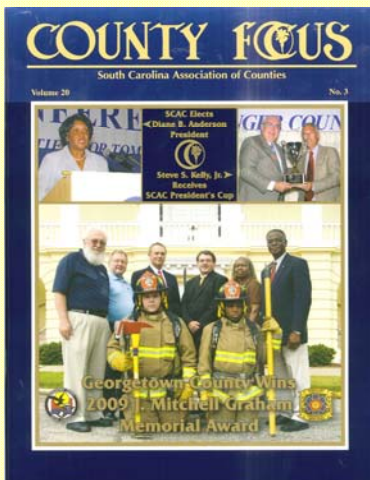
Assessor's Office Begins Reevaluating Property

Current South Carolina Law requires counties reassess properties every 5 years, which makes it one of the busiest times for the Assessor's Office. The appraisers will take all sales based on the proceeding year's market data, therefore 2010 reassessments are reflective of 2009 sales and builder costs. The Assessor's Office has seen a decrease in value in some areas of the County, but whether the values go up or down their office must work diligently to reflect the most accurate values.

Georgetown County Fire/EMS Announces Annual Awards

Georgetown County Fire/EMS held its First Annual Awards Banquet at the Santee Cooper Mill Hut located at 661 Steam Plant Drive on October 10, 2009 and honored individuals for their contributions over the past years. Twenty-eight (28) employees were honored for 5-9 years of service, 20 were honored for 10-14 years of service, 17 were honored for 15-19 years of service, 3 were honored for 20-24 years of service, 8 were given a Life Service Award for 25 years or more, and 11 were given a Special Services Award for Hurricane Hugo. In addition, awards were also given out to volunteers and junior explorers. Career Firefighters of the Year are as follows: Erick Hunter – A Shift, Ken Knipper – B Shift and Conrad Alt - C Shift.

County Wins J. Mitchell Graham Award for Firefighter Training Program



This past year Georgetown County won the 2009 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, which recognizes outstanding excellence in governmental performance. Georgetown County received this award for developing an innovative Firefighter Training Program to find, hire, and retain qualified firefighters and at the same time create opportunities for citizens to work and contribute to their community. This Firefighter Training Program was started by the Emergency Services Training Division at Andrews High School in January 2009. This program has given Georgetown County some great exposure across the State and the Country and is the feature cover story on the current issue of *County Focus Magazine*, which is produced by the South Carolina Association of Counties.

Midway Fire Recognized at South Carolina State Fire Chief's Annual Conference

Midway was pleased to be recognized with an Honorable Mention for the Richard S. Campbell Award at the South Carolina State Fire Chief's Annual Conference in October. This award serves to recognize fire departments for their commitment and dedication to public education in fire safety for the citizens of South Carolina. Midway was recognized in the category of combination departments serving a population of over 15,000. The department has won the award three previous times and is one of only three or four other departments in the State to have won the award that many times.

Firefighters Receive Medal of Valor

On December 5, 2009, Midway Fire Rescue held its Annual Awards Banquet, where several individuals were recognized for their outstanding performance in 2009. One of the highlights of the night was when Lieutenant Jerry Liberatore, Firefighters Adam Mexicott, and Ryan Kelly were honored with the Medal of Valor for a harrowing ocean rescue they made on July 2, 2009. These three men launched a 4 meter Zodiac at dusk to retrieve a boater stranded on the hull of his overturned boat, supposedly just off the beach. Little did they know the distance would actually turn out to be five miles offshore. Under the cover of darkness and operating with only two flashlights, the crew was guided to the victim by a USCG helicopter hovering over him. On top of these difficulties, the seas increased to 6 to 8 foot waves. When the crew and the victim finally made it to shore, the victim relayed to them he was moments away from trying to swim to shore.



Battalion Chief Carr Gilmore congratulates Firefighter 2 Adam Mexicott, Lieutenant Jerry Liberatore, and Firefighter 1 Ryan Kelly on receiving the Medal of Valor.



Community Rating System Program

Georgetown County is participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) Program. CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In doing so, the County will receive a rating from 1 to 10, 1 being the best. The County is currently a 10. As of May 1, 2010, the County will receive a class rating of 8 which will result in a reduction in your flood insurance premiums by 10% if you are located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and a 5% reduction if located in a non SFHA. More information on this program is available at the Georgetown County Building Department.

Veterans' Affairs Update

Betty Georges, who has served as Georgetown County's Veterans' Affairs Officer for 28 years, retired in October. Her dedicated efforts on the behalf of Georgetown County's Veterans and their families will be appreciated for many years to come. While she will be sorely missed, we are very confident that her replacement, Natrenah Smith, will continue to provide the same high level of service that has been provided during Betty's tenure. The Georgetown County Veterans' Affairs Office assists veterans and their dependents with filing applications to determine their basic eligibility and conditions of benefits entitlement as administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The office maintains records of more than 12,800 veterans dating back to the 1920's and the Spanish-American War.



North Litchfield Beach Access #10

Public Services Facility Services Division completed a new beach access in North Litchfield. This is the only fully Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved beach access in Georgetown County. The portion of the boardwalk that crosses the dunes is 350 feet long. At the far end of the access where it makes the decent to beach level there are three additional 40 foot long ramps. This is by far the longest beach access built in the County to date. The new, fully ADA approved access provides a place for our handicapped citizens and visitors to take advantage of our beautiful Georgetown County beaches.



Methane Gas Collection System at Landfill

Georgetown County has signed a twenty year agreement with Santee Cooper to collect and utilize methane gas that is generated from the decomposition of organic waste. This gas collection system will operate by installing a landfill gas pipeline along the Landfill Road right of ways that will collect methane from the closed landfill and Phase I of the Class III Landfill. This pipeline will be connected to a generator which will produce electricity that will service home and business owners throughout the state of South Carolina.

The approval of the agreement with Santee Cooper from County Council sends a strong message to the citizens of Georgetown County that we care about air quality and are good stewards of the environment. This project not only produces electricity without the use of nonrenewable sources such as coal and oil, but it reduces the amount of methane gas being released into the atmosphere.

Our Friends and Co-Workers will be Truly Missed

The Public Services Environmental Services Division lost several employees this year to illnesses: Leroy Lambert, Recycling Center Attendant; Thomas Cribb, Compost Heavy Equipment Operator; and Stanley Verner, Heavy Truck Driver. Each will be remembered by their peers as an integral part of the Environmental Services Division. President Theodore Roosevelt once stated "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." Each of these employees understood this concept and strived daily to provide quality services to the citizens of Georgetown County; they will be truly missed.



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Sel Hemingway, County Administrator

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