

November 2016



Georgetown County Government Employee Newsletter

Lessons Learned

Tips from the Risk Manager

Safe holiday driving tips

Planning to hit the road for the Thanksgiving holiday to visit with family and friends? You won't be alone. AAA forecasts 42.5 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home during Thanksgiving weekend, marking a 4 percent increase over 2015.

Before you embark, consider these tips to help prepare you and your car for whatever challenges you may face.

- Fuel up. Don't head out on a long trip without a full tank of gas. Also, check fluids and tire pressure before you leave.

- Be prepared. Bring supplies in case of an accident or medical issue. Stock your car with an emergency kit — especially a flashlight, blanket, first aid kit and some basic tools. Also bring water and extra snacks, just in case.

- Pack smart. Check your vehicle's load capacity to make sure you aren't putting too much weight in the car. Also make sure your gear is packed properly and will not be a hazard if you stop short.

- Track it. A portable GPS navigation system will help you get where you're going and make it easy to find gas stations and restaurants along the way. Traffic enabled devices can warn of roadway congestion and all units can assist in finding alternate routes. A navigator can also help direct Emergency Services to your location if needed.

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Learn about 401K options Nov. 16

Georgetown County employees have an opportunity to explore an optional 401K plan at no cost for 90 days if they enroll by the end of this month.

The South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program calls it a "free test drive" of its investment advisory service. Those who enroll in the Managed Account Service by Nov. 30 will have fees waived for the first 90 days.

Employees can speak to a representative and get their questions answered from **1-3 p.m. Nov. 16 in County Council Chambers** in the historic courthouse.

"We wanted to offer more times, but the schedule is extremely tight and it was important to get this in front of employees during the trial period," said Walt Ackerman, Georgetown County's new human resources director.



The Managed Accounts Service is one component of the Program's suite of advisory services. With this service, participants can leverage the knowledge of investment advisers in order to build a savings and investment strategy unique to their

personal retirement goals.

In advance of the informational meeting, employees can also access a brochure on the program at: http://dcprovider.com/PDF/SouthCarolina/Current_Newsletter.pdf

Contact the HR dept. for details.

Congratulations to our Halloween Contest winners!



Winners of Georgetown County's annual Halloween competitions were Magistrate's Court staff (left) for group costume and Coretha Grate (above) for individual costume. Coming in 2nd for the group contest was the Finance Dept. and for individual was Jackie Broach, PIO. Jesse Sullivan of Facility services won the chili cook-off, and Rob Burris and Benjamin Lee of Facility Services were winners of the pumpkin carving contests.

Lessons Learned

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- Kid prep. If you're driving with kids, make sure you pack snacks, water games, etc. to keep them occupied.
- Traveling with pets. Be sure to secure your pets either with harnesses and seat belts or by placing them in a crate. Animals can be a dangerous distraction when driving and a physical threat in an accident if unsecured. Bring water, food, toys, leash and cleanup supplies.
- Be patient. During busy travel times, expect to hit traffic. It may make sense to drive late at night or early in the morning to avoid the rush.
- Don't get distracted. Cell phones and driving don't mix, so if you send a message or make a call, hand your phone to a passenger or pull over.
- Buckle up. Always use your seat belt, make sure kids are properly secured in a car seat and seated in the rear seat if under 13.
- Watch for weather. If driving in wintry weather, make sure to clear off the snow and ice for better visibility, allow for longer braking distances and reduce your speed.

Submitted by Holley Causey,
Risk Manager



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

Georgetown Area-Wide

Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 7

8 am – 4 pm

Beck Recreation Center – 2030 Church St.

Sign up @ redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code **GeoCounty**

Or call **Frecia Ammons @ 843-995-4555**

Be a HERO and donate blood. You'll be glad you did!

*(*Be sure to have a picture id*)*

American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS



Mark your calendars for Georgetown County's annual
Employee Holiday Luncheon

December 8, 2016
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at Beck Recreation Center,
2030 Church St.,
Georgetown

*(*No carry-outs, please.)*