

May 2017



Lessons Learned

Tips from the Risk Manager

Safety on the road...

Whether you are traveling on your summer vacation or operating a county vehicle, remember these vehicle driving tips to ensure a safe trip:

- Don't drink and drive!

More than four out of every 10 traffic deaths involve alcohol. Even small amounts of alcohol affect your judgement, concentration and reaction time, and your ability to drive. If you drink, don't drive. If a friend or family member drinks, call them a cab or drive them home.

- Buckle up. Wear your lap and shoulder belt correctly — low and snug across the hips, and the shoulder belt across your chest, not in front of your neck or face. Do not put the shoulder belt under your arm or behind your back. If your car has air bags, make sure you wear both the lap and shoulder belt for the best protection. Move the seat back as far as possible from the air bag. Never place babies under 1 year old in the front seat of a car with passenger air bags. All children are safest in the back seat using a child safety seat. Buckle up every trip, every time, and everyone.

- Slow down — follow the speed limits. Nearly one out of three crashes where someone dies is related to speeding. Speeding makes it harder to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway.

Submitted by Holley Causey,
Risk Manager

Morale Committee introduces new pileau cooking and ice cream making contests

The Georgetown County Morale Committee will host a new summer cook-off for employees this July, and contestants as well as tasters are needed.

As part of Spirit Day festivities on **Friday, July 28**, the committee will sponsor pileau cooking and ice cream churning contests from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. that day at the Beck Recreation Center gym. The contests will work much like the committee's annual chili cookoff, which it sponsors at Beck every Halloween.

Attendees at the event will select a winner for both the pileau and ice cream contests. Winners from each contest will receive a traveling trophy and a cash prize to be donated to their favorite charity.

Registration in each cook-off is limited to 10 participants and contestants have **until July 14** to sign up. Cash supplements will be available to contestants to help pay for ingredients. All entrants will be asked to submit a title for their entry, as well.

For those who would rather taste than cook, a \$5 ticket will buy an opportunity to taste all pileau and ice cream entries. A drink is included. Each ticket holder will be allowed to help select the winners by casting a vote for their favorite entry in each contest.



Since Spirit Day in July will be Crazy Hat Day, contestants and attendees will be encouraged to wear their craziest hats to the event and show them off at a photo station.

The Morale Committee hopes to see some good, friendly competition between departments in this contest and encourages every department to get involved and put forth at least one contestant.

For more information or to register for one or both cook-offs, send an email to MoraleCommittee@gtcounty.org, or call Karis Langston at ext. 3069.

Corrections Officer Appreciation Week



Georgetown County Sheriff Lane Cribb celebrated the hard work of the county's corrections officers during National Corrections Officer Appreciation Week with a luncheon at the county's Detention Center on May 11. The county will also celebrate public services employees later this month.

Farewell drop-in scheduled for retiring county treasurer

After 45 years of service as Georgetown County Treasurer, Loretta Washington-Cooper will retire with the end of her term in June.

Her department will host a farewell drop-in and retirement celebration for Cooper on Friday, June 16, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the first floor breakroom at the old courthouse on Screven Street. Employees are welcome to come in to wish Loretta well as she leaves behind the daily grind.

Look for a profile piece on Loretta and her service to the county in the June issue of our public newsletter, the Georgetown County Chronicle.



Free CERT course available for employees



Employees of the county, as well as spouses of several county employees, participated in a women-only CERT class in 2014. Entire departments or individuals from county departments are invited to sign up for this free program.

Do you know what to do if someone is injured in your office? Would anyone there be able to perform first aid while you wait for an ambulance to arrive? What about if there's a fire in your home or you happen upon a car accident?

Georgetown County Emergency Management wants to make sure you're prepared and is currently accepting enrollment for Community Emergency Response Team Training. The training is free and is designed to educate individuals and groups about disaster preparedness for a range of hazards and emergencies they may encounter. Topics include fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Participants also receive tools and supplies to help ensure they are prepared.

Students participate in weekly 2- to 3-hour training sessions for seven weeks. Classes can be scheduled during the day or in the evening, depending on employee needs. An entire department could sign up for a course in the evening as a team building exercise, or departments could send individual employees to join with another group.

Emergency Management hosted a ladies-only class for county employees and spouses of employees several years ago. Not long afterward, one of the students, Rhonda Stone of the Parks and Recreation Department, had occasion to put her training to use when she saw a vehicle stopped in the middle of Choppee Road on her way home. The driver was slumped over the steering wheel. She grabbed her CERT bag from her vehicle, called 911 and proceeded to assist until an ambulance arrived.

"You never know when you'll encounter an emergency situation where someone needs help and it's going to be a while before the professionals can get there," said Sam Hodge, the county's head of Emergency Management. "Whether it's a friend, a family member, a neighbor or a total stranger, you don't want to be in that situation and not have any idea what to do. This program makes sure you're ready."

For details or to sign up for a class, email shodge@gtcounty.org or call Tracey at ext. 3250.

Getting into the team spirit...



Employees across the county showed off their spirit on April 28 by selecting and wearing department colors. At top left, the Parks and Recreation Department wore pink and really celebrated their team spirit by cheering on two of the department's part-time employees, Karis Sparkman and Timothy McWhite, in the Special Olympics hosted at Georgetown High School that day. At top right, Detention Center staff are apparently also united in their love for Clemson. Above, staff at the Georgetown Magistrate's Office wore white and celebrated with an office meal. Upcoming Spirit Day themes are: May 26, Flip Flops and Flowers Day; June 30, Red, White and Blue day; July 28, Crazy Hat Day. Participating employees should send photos to: MoraleCommittee@gtcounty.org. Suggestions for future themes, as well as comments are also welcome.

County opens new fleet services building



Georgetown County officially opened its brand new fleet services maintenance building with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 9. County Council Chairman Johnny Morant was joined by many county employees as he cut the ribbon. Public Services staff did a beautiful job on the project.