



# WACCAMAW REVIEW

A publication for residents of Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties

## Randal Wallace named new Board Chairman

**R**andal Wallace, a member of the Myrtle Beach City Council, has been elected the new Chairman for the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors.

A real estate agent with Waccamaw Land and Timber, Wallace has been a member of the Waccamaw Regional board since 2002. He has served in every capacity at one point or another, including treasurer, secretary and — for the last two years — vice chairman.

Wallace has a long history as a public servant. Prior to his election to Myrtle Beach City Council in 2001, he served on the Myrtle Beach Board of Zoning Appeals. He is serving in his fourth term on City Council, having been re-elected in 2005, 2009 and 2013. His current term expires in January 2018. Additionally, he is an active member of several community and charitable organizations.



**Randal Wallace**

Wallace holds degrees from Spartanburg Methodist College (A.A.) and Lander University, where he received bachelors degrees in history and political science, as well as mass communication.

Wallace replaces previous Waccamaw Regional Board Chairman James “Jimmy” Whitfield Kirby of Kingstree, who passed away in January at 76.

Wallace has been a dedicated and valuable member of Waccamaw Regional’s Board of Directors. Staff and fellow board members welcome him to the helm and look forward to continuing to work with him in serving the tri-country region.

Waccamaw Regional additionally just welcomed two new members to its board of directors and is pleased to announce the new board vice chairman and secretary.

**For more information on these individuals, please see page 3 of this newsletter.**

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## Seniors enjoy 9th annual Waccamaw Sports Classic

More than 150 senior citizens — a record number — participated in this year’s Waccamaw Sports Classic at Coastal Carolina University on April 8. This was the ninth year for the annual event, organized by Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments’ Area Agency on Aging.

The Classic brings together seniors from Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties for a full day of friendly sporting competitions, educational sessions and even a line dancing class. Students from the university led sports



*Local television personality Cecil Chandler, right, is pictured with one of the more than 150 seniors who enjoyed the Sports Classic on April 8.*

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## Multipurpose path to be built in Garden City



A multipurpose path on Waccamaw Drive will be the latest component in the East Coast Greenway (ECG) spine. GSATS (Grand Strand Area Transportation Study) will fund the project through its Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), with Horry County providing the local match. A contractor for the project is expected to be hired in July, with construction beginning in the fall. The multipurpose path is not only another step closer to the completion of the ECG spine in our region, but it also provides a safer mode of transportation for the pedestrians along Waccamaw Drive.

## Sports Classic

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programs such as track and field, corn hole, pickleball, spin casting and much more.

In addition to the benefits for seniors, the implementation of a Sports Classic program in the Waccamaw region strengthens regional programming for older adults. Through this event, community service groups, volunteers and sponsoring organizations/corporations worked together to plan for and actively promote healthy aging for all seniors.

The Waccamaw Sports Classic is the result of a community partnership consisting of Georgetown County Parks and Recreation, Horry County Parks and Recrea-

tion, Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, Coastal Carolina University, Tidelands Health, the Horry County Council on Aging, Home Care of Myrtle Beach, Carolina Orthopedics, Vital Aging of Williamsburg County, the Georgetown County Bureau of Aging Services and Williamsburg County Parks and Recreation.

The games included in the Classic are sanctioned by the S.C. Senior Sports Classic and National Senior Games Association. The mission of the partnership is to promote physical fitness among the tri-county region's senior population. For more information about resources available to senior citizens in Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties, please contact Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, (843) 546-8502.



## New collaborative working to help prevent recidivism

A meeting in March between Waccamaw Regional's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) staff and seven other agencies led to the birth of a new partnership. Known as the Re-entry Collaborative, this new partnership will provide employment, recovery and mentorship services to inmates serving 90 days or less.

Joining WIOA staff to form the collaboration are the Knights of Columbus, Georgetown Innovations, Helping Hands, Carolina Human Reinvestment, Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR), the Georgetown County Detention Center and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office Re-entry Program.

In many instances, inmates serving sentences of 90 days or less are released back into the community only to be arrested again and sent back to jail. One of the goals of the Re-entry Collaboration is to stop this "revolving door" by reaching out to inmates while they are in the detention center. Sessions offered by partnering agencies include topics such as job development, drug and alcohol abuse, Work-Keys testing and services available for families.

The WIOA staff facilitates workshops once a week at the detention center that cover various aspects of job development. Some of the topics include how to search for jobs, interview techniques, dressing for success and financial literacy.

Kim McCutchen, WIOA business services representative, led a workshop about what employers are looking for in an employee.

"All of the participants were very engaged and asked a lot of questions," she said. "One inmate wanted more information on how to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and was very interested in following up as soon as she was released."

The Collaborative is hopeful that this program will become a mandated condition of parole. A criminal background is a barrier to employment, but with the proper guidance and continued support of the agencies, this barrier can be overcome, collaborative members said.



## Meet our new board members

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments is pleased to welcome Cam Crawford and S.C. Rep. Russell Fry as the newest members of its board of directors.

Crawford is the District 6 representative on Horry County Council. Additionally, he is a small business owner and is also employed with Coastal Carolina University's Department of Academic Outreach. He previously served as assistant to Congressman Henry Brown. He has bachelors degrees in physical education and political science and history from Coastal Carolina University, as well as a Masters of Business Administration from Webster University. He and his wife, Heather Ammons Crawford, attend Garden City Baptist Church.

Rep. Russell Fry of Surfside Beach represents District 106 in the State House of Representatives and is an attorney with Coastal Law. He has a bachelors degree from the University of South Carolina and a J.D. from the Charleston School of Law. He and his wife, Bronwen Burson attend Socastee United Methodist Church.



**Cam Crawford**



**Russell Fry**

### Meet the rest of our outstanding board members and officials

In addition to a new chairman, Randal Wallace, Waccamaw Regional's Board named two new officers this year. Murray Vernon of Georgetown County was selected as Vice Chairman, while Yancey McGill of Williamsburg County is now Secretary. Peggy Wayne of Georgetown will continue as treasurer.

Our other board members include, from Georgetown County: Rep. Carl Anderson, Rodney Giles, Jerry Oakley, Johnny Morant and Alma White. From Horry County: Rep. Heather Crawford, Cam Crawford, Jean Dozier, Rep. Russell Fry, W.G. Huck (emeritus non-voting member), Keb Johnson, Leslie McIver Sr., Robert F. Childs, W. Paul Prince, John Rhodes, and Jean Timbes. From Williamsburg County: Charlie Fulton, Harry Huggins, Andy McKnight and Sen. Ronnie A. Sabb.

We are grateful for the service of all of our outstanding board members.



## Waccamaw Regional Volunteer Spotlight:

### *Assisted Rides program welcomes Frank Gardner*

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and its Assisted Rides Program would like to welcome their newest volunteer, Frank Gardner.

Gardner connected with the Assisted Rides program through the Transition To Work program. He is an experienced driver with a commercial driver's license (CDL), has a background in driver safety and is studying Risk Management for Rural Transit through the Rural Transit Assistance Program. Gardner's volunteer assignment is for up to six months, and could be extended. If you see him around the office, please welcome him as he has already proven to be an asset to the Assisted Rides team.

The Assisted Rides program works to fill the transportation gap faced by senior citizens and adults with disabilities. The program helps enhance quality of life by enabling these residents to get to places they need to go, such as doctor's offices, grocery stores, pharmacies and human services agencies. The program relies on volunteers to function. For information, call (843) 436-2110.



*Frank Gardner is the newest volunteer with the Assisted Rides program.*

## Community Resource Fair set for April 28 in Georgetown

Whether you need help getting transportation to medical appointments, tuition assistance, assistance with healthcare or childcare, or legal help, Georgetown County residents looking to find helpful resources in their area are in luck.

A Community Resource Fair featuring a range of non-profits and service agencies throughout Georgetown County will take place on Thursday, April 28, from 4-7 p.m. in the gymnasium at First Baptist Church of

Georgetown. The facility is located at 219 Cleland St.

The event is sponsored by Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, along with the Waccamaw Workforce Development Board, Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, Georgetown County School District and Vocational Rehabilitation.

Any resident in need of assistance or curious about resources available to residents is encouraged to attend this free, public event. Snacks will be available.

## Georgetown Rotary helps install bus shelters for Coast RTA riders



Rotarians were out in force on Saturday, Feb. 6, to install new bus shelters in Georgetown. Shelters were purchased by Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, which donated them to local municipalities. The City of Georgetown received five shelters and requested the Rotary Club of Georgetown take on the installation as a community project. The club immediately agreed. The placement of the shelters will greatly improve the area's transit system, giving people a marked, safe place to wait for a bus. Previously, riders in Georgetown County had no bus shelters and had to flag down a bus from unmarked spots along the transit route. Many thanks to Georgetown Rotary members for helping to get the shelters installed and ready for use. The club meets at noon each Tuesday at Chacon's. Waccamaw Regional's Executive Director Sarah Smith is a member of the club.



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