

# WACCAMAW REVIEW

A publication for residents of Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties

## Region to benefit from CDBG funding

The S.C. Department of Commerce recently announced funding awards for the spring 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) infrastructure round.

Six area jurisdictions received grant awards, collectively totaling more than \$3 million.

Award recipients include the City of Georgetown (\$1 million for drainage improvements), the Town of Andrews (\$650,800 for pump station upgrades),

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## 14 miles and counting... Waccamaw Regional celebrates latest bikeway addition



*Officials from Waccamaw Regional and Georgetown County cut the ribbon on the newest section of the Waccamaw Bikeway in June. From left are: Randy Dozier, Schools Superintendent; Mark Hoeweler, WRCOG Assistant Executive Director; County Council Member John Thomas; County Administrator Sel Hemingway; Linda Ketron of Bike The Neck; WRCOG Board Member Vida Miller; Paul Battaglino of Georgetown County Capital Projects; WRCOG Board Member and Council Chairman Johnny Morant and Council Member Ron Charlton.*

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- Public invited to participate in community needs survey. See Page 6.

[www.wrcog.org](http://www.wrcog.org)

A ribbon cutting and family bike ride this summer was a pleasant close to a transportation project that had been in the works for some time.

The June 4 event marked the official completion and opening of a new three-mile addition to the Waccamaw Bikeway, a paved path for cyclists and pedestrians that runs parallel to several roadways on the Waccamaw Neck, including portions of Highway 17.

The project was made possible by the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) Policy Committee and Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, which provides transportation planning staff for the committee.

GSATS allocates federal funding for regional transportation projects, including the bikeway that is part of the East Coast Greenway. The GSATS committee has supported this project for nearly two decades, since it was launched in the 1990s by Bike The Neck, a local group dedicated to promoting and fundraising for cycling paths. GSATS provided the bulk of the nearly \$1.5 million cost of this newest section of pathway.

Additionally, Waccamaw Regional helped secure a Safe Routes to School grant, which funded the portion of the pathway that connects to Waccamaw Elementary School.

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## Waccamaw Regional welcomes new board members, staff

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments is pleased to announce two new board members, as well as several new staff members.

Joining our Board of Directors are Robert Childs, who currently serves on the Surfside Beach Town Council, and Jerry Oakley, who retired last year from Georgetown County Council after 12 years of service.

New staff members include: Courtney Kain, Planner and Community Development Specialist; Tonya Mitchell, LTC Ombudsman Assistant; and Gardenia McCray, WIOA Adult/Dislocated Worker Specialist.

For more information about our staff and board of directors, including contact information, visit [www.wrcog.org](http://www.wrcog.org).



Jerry Oakley



Robert Childs

## First Medicare 101 class a success

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments' State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) conducted a Medicare 101 class on July 16 at Grand Strand Senior Center in Myrtle Beach. The class was an introduction to Medicare, including what the various parts cover, when to enroll, who pays what costs and other common questions.

This was the pilot class, facilitated by John Bourassa, a SHIP Volunteer, and Kayla Ives, Waccamaw Regional's Medicare Specialist. About 40 people participated in the two-hour class. The SHIP program

intends to facilitate more Medicare 101 classes to enable beneficiaries to make informed insurance decisions.

The SHIP program will have a Medicare workshop for prescription drug plans on Aug. 5 at the Socastee Library. This class will cover an overview of Medicare coverage under Parts B, C and D, followed by a hands-on workshop to assist participants in choosing a drug plan tailored to the beneficiaries' specific needs.

For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Kayla Ives at (843) 436-6252 or [kives@wrcog.org](mailto:kives@wrcog.org).

## Bikeway

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The new segment of pathway extends south along Kings River Road from Willbrook Boulevard to Waverly Road, and east to the school, which was the site of the ribbon cutting celebration. The event was attended by a large, enthusiastic crowd, including about 50 cyclists who participated in the group ride. From kids with training wheels to senior citizens, the ride showed the diversity of those who use the trail.

"I think there's no doubt this is an important project for the community on the Waccamaw Neck," said Mark Hoeweler, Waccamaw Regional's Assistant Executive Director.

"There are always people out there using it and enjoying it," he said. "I think it's definitely a valued community resource, and it's something communities across the state want to replicate. It gives cyclists and pedestrians a safe way to travel, exercise and enjoy the outdoors."

Hoeweler also speaks highly of Bike The Neck.

"It's been a pleasure working with



Cyclists participate in a group ride June 4.

Bike the Neck over the years, he said. "There aren't many organizations like it across the state. When we get together for statewide meetings, I always tell them about that organization."

He has also enlisted Linda Ketron, head of Bike The Neck, to speak to other planning departments about the group and offer advice on how to recreate the kind of partnership Bike the Neck and Waccamaw Regional have.

Waccamaw Regional is currently in discussions with Bike The Neck on

the next phase of the bikeway. A route has not yet been determined, but Hoeweler said he and GSATS are excited to see the bikeway and its utilization continue to develop.

The bikeway currently totals 14 paved miles starting at the Horry/Georgetown County line and winding through the Murrells Inlet, Litchfield and Pawleys Island areas, with more to come.

Eventually, plans are to bring the bikeway down Highway 17 to Georgetown.



## Thank you to our terrific Assisted Rides program volunteers!



Volunteers with the Waccamaw Regional Assisted Rides program recently completed Emergency Procedures for Rural Transit Drivers training through the Rural Transit Assistance Program. The role of the driver in a vehicular emergency can be critical to saving lives and protecting properties. Waccamaw Regional is thankful to have dedicated volunteer drivers willing to go the extra step in their volunteerism by undergoing this training. For more information about Assisted Rides and how to become a volunteer, contact Trina Cason at (843) 436-2110 or [tcason@wrcog.org](mailto:tcason@wrcog.org). Waccamaw Regional does not provide transportation for people experiencing medical emergencies. If you have a medical emergency, dial 911.

*Pictured from left to right are: instructor Jeramie Stubbs, drivers Linda Mercer, Bethany Walker, Josephine Winns, Monique Hannah and Marva Pittman.*

## Waccamaw Workforce Development Area receives approval

On July 7, South Carolina officially designated the Waccamaw Workforce Development Area as a "local area" under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and certified the newly formed Waccamaw Workforce Development Board.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law by President Barack Obama on July 22, 2014. This law supersedes the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which was authorized in 1998. WIOA was written to address changes in workforce and economic needs that had taken place over the last 16 years. The main objectives of this new act are to focus on improving the quality of the workforce, reducing welfare dependency, increasing economic self-sufficiency, meeting skills requirements of employers, and enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.

All local areas in the state had to file a petition of area designation and submit a list of new board members to be certified by the Governor. The chairmen of Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg County Councils collaborated and developed all of the documents necessary for this process.

WIOA emphasizes creating career pathways for individuals through a combination of career counseling, vocational training, on-the-job training and apprenticeships. Local Workforce Development Areas are responsible for identifying career clusters and in-demand jobs specific to their region.

Not only will this result in individuals reaching and maintaining economic self-sufficiency, employers will have more skilled workers to help their companies succeed in the global economy.

The Adult and Dislocated Worker (those unemployed who are age 18 and older, and those who have been laid

off through no fault of their own) programs have undergone a major change with the WIOA program. WIOA provides for priority of services to be given to veterans at all times and adults with basic skills deficiencies when funding streams are limited.

The WIA programs gave priority of service to career and training to recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals.

The most significant changes are to in-school and out-of-school-Youth Programs. Out-of-school youth were formerly required to be 16-21 years old; however, under WIOA, eligible individuals may be as old as 24. The reason for this change is that there is no one system that serves out-of-school youth, thus they have often fallen through the cracks.

The youth program is designed to address specific developmental needs of youth that may not be met by the adult program.

Additionally, WIOA requires that a minimum of 75 percent of youth funds serve the out-of-school population. Under WIA, only 30 percent of funding had to be spent on this population.

There are more changes to the law, including new performance measures, different financial methods, more focus on serving people with disabilities, strengthening collaboration between partner agencies and engaging businesses in identifying the needs of the local labor market.

Since the final regulations of the act will not be available until Jan. 22, 2016, there are many questions still to be answered at the federal level about how to implement these changes. In the meantime, Waccamaw Regional continues to provide quality workforce programs to its clients and community.

## Waccamaw Regional participates in Special Olympics event in Georgetown

Georgetown High School was the site of a Special Olympics event for youth on May 15. Participants and volunteers from Georgetown and Williamsburg counties inspired all who attended with their performance. The smiles on faces were contagious and before long everyone beamed with happiness, followed by cheers of encouragement and hugs of congratulations.

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments was privileged to be one of the many event participants. Staff answered questions and provided information about the many and varied services Waccamaw Regional offers to local governments, as well as residents of Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties. Staff also handed out items including tubes of chapstick, tumblers, pens and notepads, bag clips and magnets to remind folks of its programs and services.

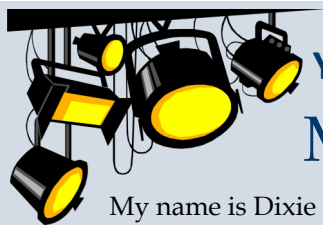


*Children are seen enjoying activities as part of the Olympics event at Georgetown High School.*

Many who attended stopped by the Waccamaw Regional table to inquire about programs that offer assistance in providing care for children, grandchildren, the elderly and people with special needs.

Waccamaw Regional supports Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties, linking community residents and local governments together.

To access its resources, visit [www.wrcog.org](http://www.wrcog.org) or call (843) 546-8502.



### YOUTH PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Meet Dixie McDonald

My name is Dixie McDonald.

I am 20 years old, and beginning in August a full-time student, attending Florence-Darlington Technical College. My goal is to become a Radiation Therapist.

I've been in the Workforce Investment Act program for a little over two years. The WIA program helped me gain work experience, paid for me to become a Phlebotomist, and assisted me with other needs.

I started as a caregiver at H. Alton Boyd Senior Center. I worked closely with seniors, assisting them to walk, stand, sit down, play bingo, eat, drink, and participate in arts and crafts. After requesting additional financial assistance, I was assigned to the Williamsburg County Budget

Office under the supervision of Ms. Liz Nelson, Budget Director, where I cross-trained as a receptionist and the budget director's assistant.

While working at the budget office, I learned what each department of Williamsburg County government does. As the budget director's assistant, I helped create the budget award package for the county. The budget award package is a package with an overview of the county and all the departments' general and budgetary information.

After completion of the WIA contractual hours, Mrs. Liz Nelson and the county extended my time so I could work for the county until college starts.

I'm very thankful for this oppor-



tunity and I appreciate being able to meet all these wonderful people. It was definitely a great experience, and a pleasure being able to work for Mrs. Vickie Mitchell, the owner of the Senior Center, Mrs. Liz Nelson, the budget director, and Glenda Gause, at Williamsburg County government. My case managers at WIA are lifesavers. My thanks to WIA, Mrs. Toshia Jones and Pat Davis, for all you have done.



## A large collection of emergency supplies is arranged on a blue tarp. In the foreground, there's a red pot, a floral cake on a plate, a 'HURRICANE BOX' (a grey storage bin), a red and white cooler, and various tools like a hammer, pliers, and a saw. There are also food items like a box of instant noodle soup, a box of instant rice, and a box of instant ramen. Other items include a roll of paper towels, a box of instant noodle soup, a box of instant rice, a box of instant ramen, a box of instant noodle soup, a box of instant rice, and a box of instant ramen. The supplies are organized into several categories: food, tools, first aid, and general household items. The 'HURRICANE BOX' is a grey storage bin with the words 'HURRICANE BOX' printed on it. The red and white cooler is a large, rectangular cooler with a red top and a white bottom. The blue tarp is a large, rectangular tarp that covers the ground. The supplies are arranged in a way that shows the variety of items that can be included in an emergency kit.

Hurricane season is under way and won't be over until the end of November. Though our area is a gorgeous place to live, its proximity to the ocean makes it vulnerable every summer and fall to this type of disaster.


According to Emergency Management officials, every family should have an emergency plan and an emergency supply kit. The time to make

Protect yourself and your family using resources provided by local and state agencies, including the S.C. Emergency Management Division's annual hurricane guide, available in Walgreen's stores, as well as S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles offices. Resources are also available at [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org). Families, don't forget to include your pets in emergency plans.

**H**i, my name is Annie Lo. Along with my fellow Benjamin N. Duke scholars, I spent the summer after my freshman year of college in a service internship here in Georgetown.

A portrait of a young woman with short, dark, wavy hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a white, sleeveless lace dress with a Peter Pan collar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Hi, my name is Liz Brown and I am a rising sophomore at Duke University. Along with nine other B.N. Duke scholars, I have lived and worked in Georgetown for the last 10 weeks. I have loved interning for the COG this summer! I have been working with Trina Cason in Assisted Rides on veteran programming.

A portrait photograph of Liz Brown, a young woman with long, light brown hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a dark blue top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Specifically, I have been researching and compiling a guide of resources available to veterans in Georgetown County. This guide is now complete and is in the hands of another local non-profit (SC

Getting to know and learning from the staff and clients at the One Stop Center made for an invaluable and unforgettable summer.

Thank you so much for affording me the opportunity to work with you. I hope that my contributions helped operations flow more smoothly while I was here. When I return to Duke in the fall, I will continue my studies in English, Political Science, and Chinese.

I have loved my time in Georgetown and can't believe it is coming to a close.

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## What are your priorities?

### Community needs survey under way

Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and the Waccamaw HOME Consortium are asking regional stakeholders what they think is most important as relates to the following issues:

- Affordable housing and homelessness prevention,
- People with special needs,
- Neighborhood revitalization,
- Economic development and jobs, and
- Community infrastructure and transportation

Officials want your opinion on how regional funding should be spent. Input from all residents of the Waccamaw region (Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg counties) is welcome.

To participate in this important process, visit Waccamaw Regional's website at [www.wrcog.org](http://www.wrcog.org) and complete a short survey, or attend a public hearing on community needs on Aug. 5 at 5 p.m. at the Waccamaw Regional office conference room, located at 1230 Highmarket St. in Georgetown.

If you need reasonable accommodations made in order to participate, please call (843) 546-8502.

## Grants

(Continued from front page)

Georgetown County (\$521,489 for Sampit water extensions), the Town of Hemingway (\$639,980 for pump station upgrades), and the Town of Lane (\$348,432 for sewer extensions).

The South Carolina Community Development Block Grant Program provides grants to eligible local governments (towns, cities and counties) that do not directly receive CDBG funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Non-entitlement CDBG funds are competitively awarded by the S.C. Department of Commerce and can be used for a wide variety of projects that help to revitalize neighborhoods, improve community

infrastructure, provide public facilities and create or retain jobs.

Waccamaw Regional provides assistance in preparing applications and administering Community Development Block Grants for its local non-entitlement jurisdictions.

This spring, Waccamaw Regional provided assistance in preparing applications for the City of Georgetown, the Town of Lane, the Town of Hemingway, Georgetown County and Williamsburg County.

The next Community Development Block Grant Community Enrichment funding cycle begins as follows:

- Application requests must be submitted by Aug. 14
- Applications must be turned in by Sept. 14 for consideration.

*Call Waccamaw Regional for information.*



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