



# Waccamaw Review

A Publication for residents of Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg Counties

Quarterly Newsletter

## Resiliency During Covid-19 Pandemic

We have all experienced a multitude of changes in 2020. Some tough, some positive, and some downright hard, but what we have all learned is how to be resilient during a time that has tested everyone in some way, personally or professionally. The shifting schedules, increased workloads, working virtually and in-office, navigating zoom, and implementing innovative strategies to ensure that we are still serving our clients as effectively as we were, or even more intently. We have been closely monitoring performance within each department to ensure that everyone is still meeting their goals- and they are! WRCOG has become more resilient and unshakeable in the face of this challenge and we hope to take these positive changes and keep moving forward in the months and years to come.



## Medicare Open Enrollment 2020-2021



Where has the time gone? Open enrollment for Medicare is ending soon. If you need assistance comparing plans or opening a new plan, please give me a call.

**Samantha McClary**

*Medicare Specialist*

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## Transportation Certification

The Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that is responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning process for the Myrtle Beach region. GSATS was established in 1992 and the Study Area population has grown significantly since that time. Following the 2010 Census, the urbanized area grew to include the Southeast portion of Brunswick County. In 2015, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) designated GSATS as a Transportation Management Area (TMA), given to MPOs that exceed an urbanized population of 200,000.

One of the requirements of federally designated TMAs is to go through a certification review process once every four years. GSATS held the most recent certification review on October 22, 2020. The certification review team consisted of members from FHWA, Federal Transit Administration (FTA), SCDOT, and NCDOT. The purpose of the certification review is to highlight good practices, exchange information, identify opportunities for improvements, and ensure that Federal regulatory requirements for transportation planning are being met.

The certification review was an excellent opportunity to highlight recent activities since the 2016 certification review, most notably the establishment of the Safety Committee. Upcoming initiatives such as the update of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan were also discussed during the certification review. The certification review team anticipates completing their certification findings report by the end of 2020.

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## 2020 Community Development Block Grants

The CDBG department has been busy with several projects across the Waccamaw region to improve our communities. Take look below:

**Horry County-** Town of Atlantic Beach will be upgrading their playground

**Georgetown County-** Carter's Crossroads water project was recently completed. Now funds were awarded to get water into the Isaac Drive Community in the Choppee and Carver's Bay area.

**Williamsburg County-** Awarded funds to demo the old Kellye Hospital. Future site will be a new senior citizen community center.

**Town of Greeleyville-** Awarded funding to put the water in the McMillian /Gibson Road area

**Town of Stuckey-** Awarded funding to extend water to the Henrytown residents



*Stay up to date  
with the latest news from  
Waccamaw Regional  
at [www.wrcog.org](http://www.wrcog.org)!*





## Workforce Update

As unemployment rates reached a record high during the pandemic, our workforce staff has been busy implementing strategies to get people back to work as quickly and safely as possible. If you need assistance with returning to work or if you are an employer in need of our services, please call us today! (843) 546-8502

### Upcoming Job Fairs:

- 11/17/2020 – SC Virtual Healthcare Job Fair
- 1/13/2021 – Williamsburg Technical College (open-air)
- 1/20/2021 – MLK Job Fair in Myrtle Beach (open-air)
- 2/23/2021 – HGTC in Georgetown Job Fair (open-air)
- 2/24/2021 – HGTC in Conway Job Fair (open-air)
- 2/25/2021 – HGTC in Myrtle Beach Job Fair (open-air)
- March (TBD) 2021 – North Myrtle Beach Job Fair (open-air)



## ATTENTION BUSINESSES!

The South Carolina Business Loan Fund (SCBLF) was started from funds awarded to the Catawba Regional Council of Governments (CRCOG) by the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The SCBLF goal is to lend capital to retain and grow jobs, strengthen supply chains, and aid in economic recovery as local business communities across the state face the challenges of resuming operations during/after the COVID-19 pandemic. SCBLF funds can be used independently or in conjunction with bank financing to fund eligible project costs.

For more information:  
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## Be Pro, Be Proud Bus to Visit Waccamaw Region

Be Pro, Be Proud is a 53-foot expandable 18-wheeler. Inside the bus are hands-on, exploratory stations for students to engage in skilled trades such as welding, construction, HVAC, plumbing, and many more. Listed below are the upcoming dates that the bus will be in your area:

- January 13, 2021 Williamsburg Tech
- February 23, 2021 HGTC-Georgetown Campus
- February 24, HGTC -Conway Campus
- February 25, 2021- HGTC- Myrtle Beach Campus

For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.sctrucking.org/be-pro-be-proud/>