The Waccamaw Sports Classic (WSC) just recently concluded its 10th annual event, held at Coastal Carolina University. The WSC is planned for and developed by a committee of 15 individuals from 10 different agencies coordinated by WRCOG, with hundreds of dedicated volunteers. The mission and goal of the WSC is to improve and promote the health and wellness of men and women ages 50 and up. This year the WSC added new events and activities, which greatly increased participation. With these changes the WSC had 275 older adults register for the event, which was a 65% increase from the 2016 event.

Mrs. Dorothy Taylor, age 98, and Mr. Abie Wilson, age 96, were honored as the oldest male and oldest female participants. During the event Mr. Timothy Treon, age 71, set not only a WSC Record, but also an All American record for the 55 meter and 100 meter races. Pictures, results, and all-time records can be found on WSC’s website: waccamawsportsc classic.com.

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Frank McClary; New Board Member.
Mayor McClary was born and raised in Andrews. Former COL, U.S. Army (retired), he served more than 29 years in active service to our nation. Frank McClary is the newly-elected mayor of Andrews, South Carolina. He left Andrews in 1982 to attend college in Columbia, SC. His education and leadership experience have prepared him for this opportunity. Mayor McClary vows to provide ethical leadership, transparency and inclusiveness in government, and economic growth and educational opportunity to empower the citizens of Andrews.

Dominee Curry; New Staff Member.
We would like to welcome our newest staff member, Dominee Curry, to Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments. Dominee will be working in the Conway SC Works Center as a WIOA Youth Career Coach. She is from Georgetown and graduated from Carvers Bay High School. Dominee received her Bachelor’s Degree in 2015 from Coastal Carolina University, where she majored in Psychology with a minor in Criminology. Dominee is excited to be a part of the team and is already helping youth find their way down a career path!

Beginning July 1st, 2017 the Waccamaw AAA will be handling the assessment process for the Waccamaw Region. These assessments are used to determine what types of services an individual needs and qualifies for.

The assessment process will help to ensure that those who are in most need are receiving services first. For any information or questions, call 843-546-8502.
Leadership Grand Strand Graduate

Kim McCutchen, Business Services Representative for the WRCOG, graduated from Leadership Grand Strand’s Class 37 on May 12, 2017. The program, which is sponsored by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, is designed to develop a group of informed, committed, and qualified individuals capable of providing dynamic leadership for the Grand Strand area. The nine month program accepts 30 participants each year and meets monthly to work on team projects.

Traditionally beginning with a retreat in September and culminating with graduation in May, the course explores topics such as historical aspects of the Grand Strand, tourism and economic development, education and law enforcement, human services, government and politics, and the arts. Class members are responsible for 75 hours of community volunteer work.

The curriculum also includes a variety of major projects; including presenting the annual Ann DeBock leadership award and Youth Leadership Academy.

Project Reviews Engineering Excellence in Transportation Award

The US 17 Median Highway Improvements project in Pawleys Island received an Engineering Excellence in Transportation Award from the American Council of Engineers (ACEC) South Carolina Chapter.

The US 17 Median Improvements project was led by the South Carolina Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS), and Stantec as engineer of record. The design includes improvements on US 17 Ocean Highway from S-22-46 Waverly Road northward to Baskervill Drive in Georgetown County. Prior to the improvements, this 1.9 mile segment of US 17 was plagued with congestion and vehicular collisions. During the summer beach season, daily traffic averaged 39,000 vehicles per day. With 25 intersections and numerous driveways, US 17 had outgrown its existing five-lane typical section.

The project converted the existing two-way left-turn lane into a raised landscaped median. Stantec designed access management strategies to improve safety, reduce congestion, and extend the corridor’s useful service life while preserving adjacent properties. The US 17 Median Improvements project was the first in the state to combine a pure median conversion with adaptive traffic signal control. The US 17 Median project received a Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) grant for $1 million. The team's solution has effectively improved overall safety, reduced congestion, and enhanced corridor aesthetics along this heavily-traveled Georgetown county roadway.
On April 10, 2017, the Town of Atlantic Beach adopted an update to its 2001 Comprehensive Plan. The Waccamaw Council of Governments planning staff assisted with the update by providing the town technical assistance, including the plan’s drafting and implementation. The updated plan builds upon the town’s distinguished history of municipal planning since its incorporation in 1966. As a whole, comprehensive plans express a community’s vision for long-term growth and development. The updated plan, The Town of Atlantic Beach South Carolina Comprehensive Plan 2017-2027, provides the town policy guidance, strategies and actionable activities to help implement their vision during the next ten years. In addition, adoption of the plan works to satisfy the town’s requirement to periodically update its comprehensive plan required by South Carolina’s planning enabling law. The plan is a result of a yearlong collaborative process involving participation and input from the town’s staff, planning commission, town council and residents. The successful project reflects WRCOG’s continued efforts in supporting municipalities with their comprehensive planning needs.

Conway Comprehensive Center Clothing Closet

Most of us would agree that one thing we worry about when going for an interview is what to wear. To make that task even more of a challenge is finding just the right professional and workplace attire.

To reduce running around and stress on our job seekers, the staff started an interview clothing closet at the Conway Comprehensive Center.

Please make this center the first stop on your donation route! Donate workplace, professional and interview attire and shoes of all different sizes.

200A Victory Lane, Conway, SC 29526
Students from Andrews High School, Carver’s Bay High School, and Georgetown High School spent the last month preparing for the workforce by attending career readiness classes taught by Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and SC Works staff members. The final day of class included mock interviews from area employers and coaching from author, speaker, and career expert Brooks Harper. Students were participants with the CATE program (Career And Technology Education) and have been exploring interests in Welding, Business, Building and Construction, Power Engine, Health Science, IT, and Human Resources fields.

Local business partners who participated in this event include:

- A-Katalyst by Design
- Agru America
- Black River United Way
- Georgetown County
- Georgetown County Economic Development
- Georgetown County School District
- Georgetown County Schools Facilities Maintenance
- Georgetown Kraft Credit Union (GKCU)
- Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC)
- International Paper
- Santee Cooper
- SC Works
- Tidelands Health
- Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments

Stay up to date with the latest news from Waccamaw Regional at www.wrcog.org!