



Waccamaw Review

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

Quarterly Newsletter

SCARC Conference November 2017



Pictured above from left to right are Raymond Munford, Dr. Roger Gaddy, Ben Mauldin, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, and Rusty Smith.

Pee Dee Council of Governments hosted South Carolina Association of Regional Council's (SCARC) 51st annual conference. The conference was held November 19th – 21st, 2017. SCARC's annual conference is a way for all ten Councils of Governments and other regional councils to network and build relationships. Among several speakers for the event, SCARC was honored to have U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham present the keynote address to the 300 guests in attendance.

WRCOG secured grant funds to help Georgetown Stormwater Dept. build wetland in Murrells Inlet



The Georgetown County Stormwater Division recently participated in a project to create a constructed wetland in Murrells Inlet. The project was part of a grant written by Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments. The effort also involved Murrells Inlet 2020 and

Horry County. The project will help remove fecal coliform bacteria from the water before it enters the inlet. Sediment laden runoff transports bacteria that contributes to shellfish bed closures. This type of installation helps improve water quality and prevent those closures. The wetland is located adjacent to Business 17, at the south end of Murrells Inlet.

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Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

On November 3, 2017, the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) Policy Committee approved the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update. The MTP functions as the long-range planning document for the GSATS Study Area and is updated once every five years per federal requirements. This is the first iteration of the MTP which includes projects from the North Carolina portion of the GSATS Study Area. The 2040 MTP has four primary focus areas: Roadway Improvements, Biking and Walking, Public Transportation, and Regional Mobility.

Local input was an integral component of the 2040 MTP update process. Staff hosted two rounds of public meetings in November 2016 and July 2017 at four meeting locations. In addition to the public meetings, an online “Wikimap” tool used which allowed users to identify locations of traffic problems and comment on proposed transportation improvement recommendations. In total there were 283 public comments submitted throughout the planning process.

A major focus of the GSATS Study Team was to help identify and prioritize long-term projects. There were three main project categories; new construction, widening/interchange, and access management/streetscape/complete streets. A total of 94 South Carolina projects, with an estimated cost of \$1.2 billion, were listed in the document. In North Carolina, 24 projects with an estimated cost of \$520 million were included in the 2040 MTP.

For more information about the 2040 GSATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan contact Mark Hoeweler, Assistant Executive Director, at mhoeweler@wrcog.org or 843-436-6130. The 2040 MTP document can be accessed on the GSATS website at: <http://www.gsats.org/index.php/2040-mtp-update/>



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Round

The South Carolina Department of Commerce recently announced its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding round. CDBG funds are available on a competitive basis to non-entitlement jurisdictions for community enrichment, neighborhood revitalization, and special projects. Available funds are designed to primarily benefit low to moderate income individuals.

Application requests are due to the South Carolina Department of Commerce no later than August 17, 2018. Complete applications are due on September 17, 2018. The Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments’ staff assists jurisdictions in the identification of eligible projects, the preparation of grant applications, and the administration of funded projects. For information on this CDBG funding round or WRCOG assistance to local jurisdictions, please contact Tom Britton at 843-436-6125.





Workforce Success Story

Daisy Scott, Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Daisy Scott, a single mother of four sons, enrolled in the WIOA program in July of 2016. WIOA Career Coach, Gardenia McCray, worked with Daisy and guided her through the process identifying the career path she wanted to follow and the goals she wanted to achieve. Daisy decided to pursue a healthcare career and was accepted into the LPN program at Marion County School of Practical Nursing. With financial assistance from WIOA, she successfully completed the LPN program in May 2017. Daisy then took and passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) in June of 2017. She successfully entered employ-

ment in the nursing field and is currently employed as an LPN at Loris Rehabilitation and Nursing. Daisy's hard work, good grades, perfect attendance, and dedication all contributed to her success in reaching her training and employment

goal. Most impressively, she did this while balancing the responsibilities of raising four children. Additionally, she maintained a positive attitude throughout this process and focused on being a positive role model for her children. She stated how important it is for them to see that dreams can be reached by hard work and dedication.



Daisy Scott.

Martin Luther King Parade



Pictured above from left to right is Bill Crowther, Kim McCutchen, Marsha Platt, Dominee Curry, Kerri Kellahan, Eileen Patonay, Rusty Gaskins, Khaleelah Spinner and daughter, Kaylah Spinner.

Members of the SC Works team took part in the 2018 Regional MLK Parade held in Myrtle Beach on Monday, January 15, 2018 to promote WRCOG's Workforce Development Program. Participants in the parade included employees from Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments and special guests Eileen Patonay, from South Carolina Department of Commerce, and Bill Crowther from Congressman Tom Rice's office. Special thanks to Michelle Cantey and Brian Piascik with Coast RTA for allowing WRCOG to tag along on the SC Works wrapped bus!

SC WORKS

BRINGING EMPLOYERS
AND JOB SEEKERS TOGETHER



Waccamaw Regional Council on Aging

2017 Medicare Open Enrollment



Beulah Torbit.

Medicare Open Enrollment 2017 was a huge success! The annual Open Enrollment period is a great time to review existing coverage and to look into making a change based on current plans, budget and personal health-needs.

Beulah Torbit, WRCOG's Medicare Specialist, served 350 clients this year compared to 270 during the open enrollment period of 2016.

WRCOG strived to inform all of Williamsburg, Horry, and Georgetown Counties' senior citizens the importance of reviewing the Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) and scheduling a Medicare Part D checkup. To start off Medicare Open Enrollment, Beulah created an outreach titled "Be on the Lookout."

Clients have many health needs and challenges, which require yearly reviews. A number of clients made changes resulting in better coverage and savings. As a result of Medicare Part D review, our highest savings for a client for 2018 was \$5,823.68.

"I thought having no deductible was saving me money. A plan comparison for 2018 showed an actual savings of \$2,818.00 for the year. Sign me up today!"

-Client Feedback

WRCOG's Transportation Intern



Alexis DiMarzo is a Junior at Coastal Carolina University majoring in Political Science, minoring in Intelligence and National Security. She will graduate in December 2018. In April, Alexis finished her internship at WRCOG with the United Nations Youth Corps for the Georgetown Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE).



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