



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments
MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Hill Ridge Farms, Youngsville

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- Regional Aging Advisory Council (RAAC) Annual Meeting: **Tuesday, May 9, 2:00-3:30pm @ Kerr-Tar COG Office**
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers: **Every Tuesday, May 16-June 21, 1:00-2:30pm @ Plank Chapel United Methodist Church**
- 2023 Kerr-Tar Regional Senior Games SilverArts & Awards: **Thursday, May 18, 10:00am @ Warren County Armory**
- Oxford Parks & Recreation Bike Rodeo: **Saturday, May 20, 9:00am-12:00pm @ Hix Park**
- Kerr-Tar COG Board of Directors Meeting: **Thursday, May 25, 6:30pm @ Kerr-Tar COG**
- UPLIFT North Central Regional Workshop: **Thursday, June 8, 10:00am-4:00pm @ Mayo Park Environmental Education and Community Center**
- 2023 Region K Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention Walk: **Thursday, June 15, 9:00am-1:00pm @ Creedmoor Community Center**

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Town of Butner Announces New Town Manager: Jordan McMillen



Jordan McMillen

After completing a nationwide search that yielded 30 qualified applicants, the Town of Butner is pleased to announce that Jordan McMillen will serve as Butner’s next Town Manager. The Town Manager search involved an extensive interview process with the assistance of Developmental Associates, a North Carolina-based firm. Final candidates were interviewed in early April, and a contract with candidate McMillen was approved on April 17th, 2023. McMillen is scheduled to begin his new role on **June 12th, 2023**.

McMillen joins the Town with nearly 15 years of government experience. He has served as Vance County Manager since August 2016. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).

Kerr-Tar COG Represented at Zoomers vs. Boomers Part II Panel

The Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce’s Education Committee and the Human Resource Council held part two of their Zoomers vs. Boomers series on Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 at Clearview Church. The goal of the series is to provide a space to talk on the differences between generations and how employers can better bridge the divide between them.

Part two involved local figures going head-to-head in a game styled after “Jeopardy!” with Pastor Dr. Abidan Shah acting as the host. Vance County Commissioner and Kerr-Tar COG Board Member Leo Kelly represented the Silent Generation, while Kerr-Tar COG’s very own Kenia Gomez-Jimenez represented Gen Z. When the dust settled, Shah asked each panelist which generation they considered “indispensable” in the workplace. Both Commissioner Kelly and Ms. Gomez-Jimenez gave incredible answers, which you can read [HERE](#).



Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, Kerr-Tar COG Communications & Administrative Coordinator, and Leo Kelly, Kerr-Tar COG Board Member



Dr. Abidan Shah, Clearview Church Pastor

Community Resource Festival 2023



The Kerr-Tar COG's Aging and Workforce departments both participated in an incredible Community Resource Festival event held on Thursday, April 27th at the Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC) Civic Center from 10:00am-3:00pm. The event was hosted by the Henderson-Vance Chamber of Commerce, Granville County Chamber of Commerce, VGCC, and Huff Consulting LLC of Oxford. The festival had over 60 vendors in attendance. We are so thankful for the opportunity to participate in this incredible event!

EDA Grant Supports Disaster Preparedness & Recovery in NC

North Carolina is no stranger to natural disasters. In recent years, the Tar Heel State has hosted some of the most destructive hurricanes in American history, including Dorian (2019), Florence (2018) and Matthew (2016). The North Carolina Office of Resiliency and Recovery was created in response to these disasters. Their critical work is supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Read more [HERE](#).



Funding Opportunities:

PWEAA Notice of Funding

EDA has published its FY23 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**. The NOFO outlines application submission requirements and review procedures for applications received under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. Learn more [HERE](#).

STEM Talent Challenge

- EDA is now accepting applications for its \$4.5 million **STEM Talent Challenge** to support programs to train science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) talent and fuel regional innovation economies across the nation. Learn more [HERE](#).
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Food as Medicine Program Launched



The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging (KTAAA) has launched their much-anticipated Food as Medicine program! Our ARPA funding is enabling us to work with Duke Primary Care to provide produce to older adults with chronic conditions who are food-insecure. Check with your Duke provider if you or someone you know may be interested in this program.

May is Older American's Month!

This year's theme is: Aging Unbound, which offers an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences and discuss how communities can combat stereotypes. Festivities to celebrate Older American's Month include events at each of the senior centers including fun fitness classes, speakers, activities and games, movies, arts and crafts, social media, and more. Join in and bring a friend!



2023 Senior Games

Senior Games continue in May with Cornhole, Bocce, Swimming, and Disc Golf still to come. SilverArts exhibits and lively performances will be held at the Warren County Armory on **May 18th** followed by the Awards Ceremony. We've had great competition and it looks like several participants will advance to state games! See our photos on our Facebook page, and on the NC Senior Games site. For a schedule of this year's events, click [HERE](#).



Granville Co. Sr. Games participants playing Horseshoes

Evidence-Based Health Update

Our Evidence-Based Health Promotion expert, Susan Tucker, reports that a Matter of Balance leader training was completed in April. Our region has increasing numbers of qualified leaders who will be starting new classes at Senior Centers, community centers and faith-based organizations. We also had a Matter of Balance running at the Vance County Senior Center in April. A Powerful Tools for Caregivers class begins **May 16th at Plank Chapel United Methodist Church** in Vance County. Contact Susan Tucker to register by **May 9th**.

Check out the event below!



Kerr-Tar
Area Agency on Aging
Your Anchor for Aging



SAVE THE DATE

2023 REGION K ELDER ABUSE
AWARENESS & PREVENTION

WALK

Thursday, June 15th, 2023
9:00AM - 1:00PM
Creedmoor Community Center/
South Granville Senior Center
108 E. Wilton Avenue
Creedmoor, NC 27522

For more information, contact Kim Hawkins, Regional Ombudsman at (252) 436-2050

Kerr-Tar COG Awarded 2023 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant

On Wednesday, April 12th, the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) was informed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) that the organizations recent application for the 2023 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Non-Infrastructure Grant Reimbursement grant had been selected for award for this year's grant cycle. The Kerr-Tar COG's project was **one of 12** selected for this grant type from across the state. Our SRTS program began in 2019, when our organization was first awarded funds for this project. We will use funds from the new 2023 SRTS grant cycle to continue our programs bike and pedestrian safety endeavors within the region for K-12 students. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).



Free Bicycle Helmets Coming Soon to the Kerr-Tar Region

A total of 17 organizations across the Kerr-Tar region will be receiving helmets through this years N.C. Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) **Bicycle Helmet Initiative**. Since 2015, the Bicycle Helmet Initiative has provided 77,065 helmets to children in need. If your organization needs assistance planning a bike safety or helmet distribution event, contact the Kerr-Tar COG's Safe Routes to School Program at (252) 436-2040.



Kerr-Tar Region Helmet Recipients:

- Vance County Schools
- Oxford Parks & Recreation Department
- Franklin Vance Warren Opportunity, Inc.
- Henderson Family YMCA
- Louisburg Police Department
- Person County Sheriff's Office
- 4-H Franklin County
- Gang Free, Inc.
- AIM High-Keep Pressing
- Franklin County Democratic Party
- Granville Vance Public Health
- Turning Point Community Development Corporation
- Henderson Optimist Club
- Abria's Chase Foundation
- Granville County Library System Berea Branch Library
- Person County Friends of the Park
- Warren County Parks & Recreation

UPLIFT Tourism Regional Workshop

The goal of **UPLIFT** is to support tourism through community driven efforts in rural North Carolina. UPLIFT will be holding a One-Day Regional Workshop for the North Central Region to be held on **Thursday, June 8th, 2023** at the **Mayo Park Environmental Education and Community Center**. North Central Region includes **Caswell, Granville, and Person Counties**. To RSVP for this workshop, click [HERE](#). Additionally, if you're an UPLIFT region, you can get involved by completing the UPLIFT Community Survey. The purpose of the survey is to help UPLIFT understand your community and your priorities as an individual. Complete the survey [HERE](#).



NEVI Request for Information Survey

NCDOT will be developing a procurement process for the deployment of privately owned and operated electrical vehicle charging stations using federal grant funding. NCDOT is interested in gathering information from stakeholders to inform the details of the procurement process and wants to hear from you! The deadline to participate is **Friday, May 12th**. Click [HERE](#) to take the survey.



Oxford Bike Rodeo

The City of Oxford Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a Bike Rodeo Obstacle Course at Hix Gym on **Saturday, May 20th, 2023** from 9:00am-12:00pm. This event is being coordinated between the City of Oxford and Kerr-Tar COG along with the Oxford Police and Fire Departments and local organizations. Our Safe Routes to School Program will be in attendance to provide participants with bicycle safety information including the proper way to wear a helmet. The Oxford Parks and Recreation Department applied to receive bicycle helmets through NCDOT's 2023 Bicycle Helmet Initiative. This event promises to be fun and educational!



Subscribe: Opportunity Newsletter



Released bi-weekly and contains opportunities for training, grant funding, and grant information sessions. Email [mspencer@kerrtarco.org](mailto:m Spencer@kerrtarco.org) to subscribe!

Granville County Reentry Simulation

The Kerr Tar Workforce Development Board Reentry Roundtable, in collaboration with NCWorks and Granville County Economic Development, presented a Reentry Simulation at the Granville County Expo Center on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023. This was another successful simulation with key regional and community leaders in attendance including: Congressman Don Davis' office, Vance and Granville County Schools, Granville County Chamber, Granville County Sheriff's Office, local businesses, Durham County Manager's office and many more vital community leaders attended. This simulation offered valuable insight and resources that were useful for participants to gain a better understanding of the significant barriers faced by individuals after their release from incarceration. Community involvement and support is always critical to help these justice-involved individuals avoid recidivism and that is why it is vitally important as community leaders to be involved in these simulations!

The request are pouring in to have more of these simulations throughout the region, so if you missed the latest one, there will be more opportunities for you to be involved!



Photos from the April 18th Granville Co. Reentry Simulation

April 2023 Youth Outreach Events

Outreach to youth has been the theme for the month of April. The Career Center team attended a number of events hosted by area high schools focused on exposing youth to the career opportunities available in the Kerr-Tar area. Vance County, Franklin County, and Warren County Schools all hosted events attended by Career Center and Workforce Board Staff. In addition to informational booths, the Virtual Reality (VR) Headsets were available to introduce youth to career opportunities. The VR Headset gives students a "hands-on" view of careers that may be of interest to them, while engaging them in a fun and interactive manner.



Warren County School's Job Fair on April 21st

Franklin County School's Career Day on April 6th



[CLICK HERE FOR KERR-TAR LABOR MARKET UPDATE](#)



Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, Kerr-Tar COG Communications & Administrative Coordinator.

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Vacant

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MISSION STATEMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments aims to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through effective delivery of services and programs.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

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