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Wait...why do people keep calling this "Turkey Month"...



Granville County,
Chip Henderson Photography

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- Kerr-Tar RAAC Meeting: **Wednesday, November 8, 2:00pm, Kerr-Tar COG Office**
- Veterans Day, Kerr-Tar COG Office Closed: **Friday, November 10**
- WIOA Youth Program Food Drive: **Monday, November 13-Friday, November 17, drop off items @ Building 4, Room 4201, Vance-Granville Community College Main Campus**
- Thanksgiving Holiday, Kerr-Tar COG Office Closed: **Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24**
- Medicare Open Enrollment: **October 15, 2023-December 7, 2023**
- **Check out our list of 2023 Holiday Celebrations in the Kerr-Tar Region on page 9!**

Vance County Welcomes New County Manager

The Vance County Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce the appointment of **Renee Perry** as County Manager effective **November 1, 2023**. Mrs. Perry currently serves as Deputy County Manager for Halifax County. She has held leadership positions in Human Resources for the last five years before her promotion to Deputy County Manager in Halifax County. She has worked in local government for just over 17 years, starting out in Greensboro, before moving up the career ladder in Rockingham and Halifax counties.



Renee Perry

Chair Yolanda Feimster states that “after conducting a thorough recruitment process over the summer, Vance County is pleased to announce the selection of Renee Perry for the position of county manager. Mrs. Perry will assist the board in continuing to achieve its ongoing goals as well as execute major capital projects”. Ms. Perry has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She holds a Master’s in Public Administration and Human Resource Management from Capella University, Minneapolis, Minnesota. To read the full official press release, click [HERE](#).

Franklin County Selects New Economic Development Director

With nearly 30 years of experience in business development, **Barbara S. Fiedor** has been selected as the Economic Development Director for Franklin County. She began serving on **October 23, 2023**. “Franklin County’s location in the Research Triangle region provides an outstanding opportunity for economic development in the area,” Fiedor said. “I am excited to join the Franklin County team and fill this important role.” Fiedor comes to Franklin County from Palm Coast, Florida where she has served as Economic Development Manager since October 2022. Prior to that, she served as Assistant Director of Economic Development and Tourism for the City of Danville, Virginia, and the Region 2, Senior Project Manager for the Georgia Department of Economic Development, as well as the Protocol Advisor to the Commandant of Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy. Additionally, she spent 25 years as President of Orbis Strategy Group in West Palm Beach, Florida, – an international business development consulting firm – where she grew the company’s client base by 45% and increased revenues by 60% in five years.



Barbara S. Fiedor

To read the full official press release, click [HERE](#).

National Family Caregiver Month

National Family Caregiver Month is celebrated each year in **November** and is a time to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country. It offers an opportunity to raise awareness of caregiving issues, educate communities, and increase support for caregivers. The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging provides help to caregivers through the **Caregiver Support Program**, which is designed to assist caregivers with finding answers about



how their caregiving role impacts their life and where to find resources and services to decrease caregiver stress. Caregivers may be caring for an older adult, their adult child with a disability, or the caregiver may be a grandparent caring for their grandchildren or non-relative child. Services include caregiver education, training, information and assistance, respite, supplemental services, as well as counseling.

We would like to thank all family caregivers for the selfless acts you do each day. We encourage you to make caregiving for yourself a priority as a caregiver. If we can offer help and assistance for you or your loved one, please contact our Family Caregiver Specialist, Michael Patterson, at (252) 436-2040 ext. 6072.

November RAAC Meeting

Our next Regional Aging Advisory Council meeting will be **Wednesday, November 8 at 2pm** at the Kerr-Tar COG office. Our guest speaker is Allison Brown, Senior Tarheel Legislature Public Relations Liaison. Allison will speak on Aging in the Media. and how the media plays a vital role in our communities to support healthy, active aging.



Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment is happening **now through December 7**. If you would like to review your Medicare plan and possibly save some money, make an appointment to speak with an Open Enrollment counselor. Open Enrollment counselors are available at all the senior centers and through the Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging. Call us at (252) 436-2040 to make an appointment!



Need more information about Medicare Open Enrollment? Click **[HERE](#)** to visit the official Medicare website or **[HERE](#)** to watch an informational ad created by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

2023 National Walk to School Day



On Wednesday, October 4, the Kerr-Tar COG’s Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program partnered with Vance County Schools (VCS) to host an exciting Walk to School Day event! This year, the event was held at Clarke Elementary School and over 300 students were able to participate. Local emergency officials, such as the Vance County Fire Department, Henderson Police Department and Vance County Sheriff’s Office, joined in on the fun, ensuring safety every step of the way. Honorable mentions include Sparky the Firedog, the Chick-fil-A Cow, Venom the Viper and the Early College Wolf. These mascots sure did bring their A-game to the party! Thank you so much to VCS and all community partners involved for their continued support. Onto the next one!

New Regional Project Manager: Amanda Lewis

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments is pleased to welcome Amanda Lewis as our new Regional Project Manager. Amanda, a 2023 graduate of North Carolina State University’s Biological Sciences, Bachelor of Arts program comes to the COG having previously served as the Communications Assistant of the Hoffmann research lab in the horticultural science department. In her prior role, she spent the last two years developing the communications team for the research lab in Raleigh, while supporting internal and external communications for The Very Berry Lab, NC State Extension, and the national collaboration communications for the Strawberry PIP-CAP Specialty Crops Research Initiative, funded by the USDA.



In her new role, she will provide technical assistance to our member governments to include project development, grant writing, grant coordination, and evaluation. If a member government is interested in speaking with Amanda further about potential opportunities, she may be reached at: alewis@kerrtarco.org or (252) 436-2040, ext. 2005.

SRTS at Henderson National Night

The Kerr-Tar COG's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program participated in the City of Henderson's National Night Out event on Tuesday, October 3! With over 500 people in attendance, the event was a huge success and a wonderful display of community. Our SRTS program handed out bike and pedestrian safety educational materials, along with free bike lights and other goodies! We also brought out our bicycle helmet dummy "Frank" to teach children how to properly fit their helmets for safe use.

A huge congratulations to all involved in this event! We had so much fun and hope to see you next year! If your organization would like to partner with our SRTS program, please contact Kenia Gomez-Jimenez at kgomezjimenez@kerrtarco.org or (252) 436-2040, ext. 2009.



Follow us on LinkedIn!

Did you know that the Kerr-Tar COG has its own company page on LinkedIn? Make sure you follow us [**HERE**](#) to see updates on our regional involvement and opportunities to engage with us!

Here's a peek of our upcoming regional activity:

- A volunteer visit, funded by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), to identify gaps in services and opportunities for improved strategies for the following weeks:
 - **October 30 - November 3** - Small Business Entrepreneurship
 - **November 13 - November 17** - Business Retention and Expansion



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 Regional Program Coordinator.

Funding Forecast


Check out these awesome funding opportunities, you might just **FALL** for them!

- **The Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG)**
 - The Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) is a federal grant program from DHS/FEMA administered through the North Carolina Dept. of Public Safety (NCDPS)/North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) in the state of NC. EMPG provides states with funding to implement the National Preparedness System and work towards the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. EMPG's allowable costs support efforts to build and sustain core capabilities across the prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery mission areas to address certain specified national and regional priority areas. More information [HERE](#).
- **FY23 Historic Preservation Fund-Save America's Treasures Preservation Grants**
 - Save America's Treasures grants from the Historic Preservation Fund provide preservation and/or conservation assistance to nationally significant historic properties and collections. Grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, which can be cash or documented in-kind. Application deadline is **December 19, 2023**. More information [HERE](#).

Vote Today: NCDOT Advance Flood Warning System

NCDOT's advance flood-warning system helps NCDOT staff prepare for and respond more quickly from hurricanes and other severe storms. The system, which relies on a network of over 500 stream gauges and monitors more 2,000 miles of roads, provides critical, real-time information. NCDOT is a finalist in the **2023 America's Transportation Awards** competition for its advance flood-warning system. The agency is competing for the **People's Choice Award**, which is based on online public voting. The award sponsor, American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, will award the winning state **\$10,000** to be donated to charity. Individuals may vote daily across multiple devices through **November 14, 2023**.




*Scan the QR
code to vote!*

NCDOT Hiring Event

The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) held a hiring event at the NCWorks Career Center, 826 S. Garnett St., Henderson, NC on October 24. They had a variety of open positions throughout the Kerr-Tar Region. The event was a huge success with 44 job seekers in attendance and 13 job offers extended! All of their core positions were filled with quality candidates and the others that applied are going to be considered for future positions in surrounding counties. NCDOT was impressed with the facility and hospitality, so much so that they are looking forward to having future hiring events at the NCWorks Career Center!



Success Story: *Tieara Harrison*

Congratulations to Tieara Harrison on graduating from the Vance-Granville Community College CDL program on October 3! Tieara is the mother of one son and hopes that with this new credential she will be able to gain employment with a sustainable wage so that she is able to provide a home and good life for her family. She also aims to show her son that by working hard and pushing forward, good things do happen for you!

Tieara has obtained her CDL license and started her job searching journey. She is very determined so we have no doubt that employment will come soon. Congratulations again Tieara!



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



Check out the event below!



VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM Food Drive



November 13 - November 17, 2023

Canned Goods
Non-Perishable Items

Please drop off items in
Building 4 Room 4201
VGCC Main Campus



Bunn
Christmas Parade:
December 10,
12:00pm

Butner
Christmas in the
Park: December 1,
5:30pm
Christmas Parade:
December 2,
2:00pm

Creedmoor
Tree Lighting:
December 1, 7:00pm
Christmas Parade:
December 2,
11:00am

Franklinton
Tree Lighting:
November 25, 7:00pm
Christmas Parade:
December 7,
7:00pm

Louisburg
Tree Lighting &
Christmas Parade:
December 4,
4:00pm

Henderson
Christmas Parade:
December 2,
2:00pm

Oxford
Lighting of the
Greens & Parade:
December 8,
4:00pm

Roxboro
Christmas Parade:
December 9,
3:00pm

Warrenton
Tree Lighting
& Parade:
December 9,
7:00pm

Youngsville
Tree Lighting:
December 1, 5:30pm
Christmas Parade:
December 2,
10:00am

2023 Holiday Celebrations IN THE KERR-TAR REGION



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments

COMMUNITIES SERVED

- [Franklin County](#)
- [Granville County](#)
- [Person County](#)
- [Vance County](#)
- [Warren County](#)
- [Town of Bunn](#)
- [Town of Butner](#)
- [City of Creedmoor](#)
- [Town of Franklinton](#)
- [City of Henderson](#)
- [Town of Kittrell](#)
- [Town of Louisburg](#)
- [Town of Macon](#)
- [Town of Middleburg](#)
- [Town of Norlina](#)
- [City of Oxford](#)
- [City of Roxboro](#)
- [Town of Stem](#)
- [Town of Stovall](#)
- [Town of Warrenton](#)
- [Town of Youngsville](#)

Executive Director

Diane Cox
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Community & Economic Development

Marley Spencer
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Workforce Development

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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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