



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments
MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Louisburg College, Franklin County

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- Regional Aging Advisory Council (RAAC) Annual Meeting: **Tuesday, May 10, 2:00-3:30 pm @ Kerr-Tar COG Office**
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers: **Every Tuesday, May 17-June 21, 10:00-11:30 am (Virtual)**
- VW Mitigation Info Session: **Wednesday, May 18, 9:30-11:00 am, VGCC**
- Kerr-Tar RPO Meeting: **Thursday, May 26, 3:00-5:00 pm**
- SilverArts: **Thursday, May 26 @ Warren County Armory**
- Oxford Bike Rodeo: **June 4, 9:00 am-12:00 pm @ Hix Gym**

Deadlines

- Transit and Shuttle Bus Program Applications **due May 2**
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grant Applications **due May 9**
- DC Fast Program - Priority Corridors Applications **due May 16**
- Level 2 Program - State Agency Applications **due May 31**
- School Bus Program Applications **due June 6**

Powerful Tools for Caregivers



Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging is hosting a free Powerful Tools for Caregivers class in May for those who are actively caring for an aging adult. This 6-week, interactive virtual class introduces participants to many ways to support their own well-being, something which is often ignored while caregiving. Participants will learn how to manage emotions, reduce stress, and cope with caregiving issues and demands. Classes will be **every Tuesday from 10:00-11:30 am May 17-June 21**. These 90-minute classes will be held online, which allows for participants from outside the region, including other states. Call Susan Tucker to register at 252-436-2040.

May is Older American's Month!

This year's theme is: Aging My Way. Aging is, to a large extent, what you make it! So make it fun, interesting, and engaging. The Kerr-Tar region's senior centers can help! 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!



2022 Senior Games

Senior Games continue in May with Cornhole, Bocce, and Swimming still to come. SilverArts exhibits and lively performances will be held at the Warren County Armory on **May 26** followed by the Awards Ceremony. There has been extraordinary sports talent among the participants this year and it's been so much fun for everyone being together for the Senior Games after two years apart. For a schedule of this year's events, click [HERE](#).



Person Co. Sr. Games participants playing Table Tennis

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you interested in taking an active role in the Kerr-Tar region's aging work? The Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman program is looking for people who would like to interact with residents at long term care facilities. This role involves friendly visits with facility residents to make sure they are well and satisfied with their situation. Call Kim Hawkins, Region LTC Ombudsman for more information at 252-436-2050.

Kerr-Tar County Courthouses Welcome NC Chief Justice

The North Carolina Chief Justice Paul Newby is nearing the end of his 100 county courthouse tour. Newby will be the first Chief Justice to visit all of North Carolina's courthouses from Murphy to Manteo. At each county courthouse, the Chief Justice greets judges and courthouse personnel to thank them for their hard work and dedication in keeping courts open and accessible to North Carolinians. In 2020-2021, judges and courthouse personnel have been essential in fulfilling the Judicial Branch's constitutional "open courts" mandate to provide equal justice to all in a timely manner.

"The local courthouse is the backbone of North Carolina's court system and each courthouse faces unique challenges in serving their particular county," said Newby. "This tour has been essential in learning about these challenges and enables Judicial Branch leadership to provide appropriate support to ensure our courts remain open and justice is delivered without favor, denial, or delay." We appreciate the Chief Justice visiting judicial staff at these iconic symbols in the Kerr-Tar region.



Chief Justice Newby in front of each of the Kerr-Tar region's 5 county courthouses. He visited the Person County Courthouse in October 2021 and Franklin, Granville, Warren, and Vance County Courthouses in April 2022.



Electric Vehicle Driver Spotlight

With the increasing popularity of electric vehicles and the increased funding for electrification in the new infrastructure bill, we wanted to highlight electric vehicle drivers and share what they love about driving an EV.

DIANNA TARALLO



AKA:
"1.21 gigawatts"

JOB:
Meeting & Events Professional

LONGEST TRIP IN AN EV:
~1,000 miles

MILES DRIVEN ELECTRIC PER YEAR:
10,000 miles

"Don't be intimidated by going electric! It's exciting to feel like you're already a part of the future."

NC CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

"After getting the hang of your range and taking a 'practice' road trip or two, you'll never look back. When I'm on the road, I love the PlugShare app for locating nearby chargers and reading reviews and tips from other EV drivers."

FIRST PURCHASED AN EV:
2017

FAVORITE PLACE TO CHARGE:
Home!

EV OF CHOICE:
Chevy Bolt



Learn more and see all of the driver profiles at fuelwhatmatters.org

NC CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Oxford Bike Rodeo

The City of Oxford Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a Bike Rodeo Obstacle Course at Hix Gym on **Saturday, June 4, 2022** from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. This event is being coordinated between the City of Oxford and Kerr-Tar COG along with the Oxford Police and Fire Departments and local bicycle shops. Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator will be in attendance to provide participants with bicyclist safety information including the proper way to wear a helmet. The Oxford Parks and Recreation Department applied to receive bicycle helmets through NCDOT's Bike Helmet Initiative. This event promises to be fun and educational.



VW Mitigation Plan Phase 2 Funding

Presently, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality is offering several funding opportunities for projects to significantly reduce NOx emissions and improve air quality. Any municipality interested in such projects as: electric vehicle charging stations or bus replacements should contact Sam Boswell, RPO Coordinator, at 252-436-2040. Further information on Phase 2 of the VW Settlement may be found [HERE](#).

Important VW Settlement Deadlines

- Transit and Shuttle Bus Program: Applications due May 2, 2022
- DC Fast Program - Priority Corridors: Applications due May 16, 2022
- Level 2 Program - State Agency: Applications due May 31, 2022
- School Bus Program: Applications due June 6, 2022

Information Session

Topic: VW Information Session

Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Time: 9:30-11:00 am

Location: Vance-Granville Community College, Building 8, Conference Room

The North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC), in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality (DAQ), is hosting an additional information session focused on Phase 2 of the Volkswagen Settlement Mitigation Plan. The primary focus of this session is on Level 2 Charging (for electric vehicles) at workplaces and multi-unit dwellings. If interested in attending, please contact Sam Boswell at 252-436-2040 or sboswellekerrtarcoq.org to reserve a spot.



2022 Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grants

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the 2022 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative. The program provides funding for municipalities and counties across the state to develop comprehensive multimodal, bicycle, or pedestrian plans. Municipalities of all sizes and counties with populations of less than 100,000 with an existing bicycle or pedestrian plan may apply to update their plan if it is at least five years old. Municipalities with populations of less than 10,000 may apply for a Project Acceleration Plan - an abbreviated



plan that prioritizes project identification and implementation. The deadline for applications to be submitted electronically is **May 9, 2022**. Award recipients will be notified by August. If interested in applying, please contact the KTRPO at 252-436-2040.

Spring 2022 Litter Sweep

Litter Sweep is the North Carolina Department of Transportation's biannual statewide roadside litter removal initiative. Local governments, residents, and nonprofit/civic organizations throughout the state participate in local efforts to help clean up North Carolina's roadways. We thank many of our member governments for participating in litter sweep and doing their part to keep the Kerr-Tar region clean and beautiful!



City of Henderson Fire Department



Henderson Employees Along Hwy 39



Granville County Volunteers

Memorial Grove Dedication Honoring Former Granville Co. Commissioners

On April 29, the Granville County Board of Commissioners and staff gathered to honor the memory of elected officials who have served Granville County with the dedication of a new grove of trees at the Granville Athletic Park (GAP). This concept was approved by the Board of Commissioners at their February 7, 2022 meeting, following a proposal submitted. The Board approved the dedication of a section of the GAP with trees planted in memory of former Commissioners Dave Currin, Owen Roberts, and Edgar Smoak. These trees will enhance the natural beauty of the park and honor these three former Commissioners for their service to Granville County as well as their love of nature.

Granville County intends to make this a recurring recognition to honor the service and memory of former Commissioners with ceremonies to mark the addition of new trees and continued acknowledgement of the service that so many have dedicated to Granville County. In addition to the newly planted maple trees, a plaque will be installed to dedicate this area of the GAP as a special place for the families and a reminder to all visitors of those that have worked to make Granville County the community it is today.



Regional Food Council

In 2019, the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Policy was adopted with the intention to provide a strategy for growing a sustainable regional food system. To see these strategies reflected in the community, we are calling on transformative leaders who are interested in addressing the shared regional challenges and opportunities in our food system to join our efforts in implementing the policy.



Regional Food Council Members should be committed to improving the Kerr-Tar regional food system, live or work in the Kerr-Tar region, and represent one or more of the following:

- A food system sector
- A relevant partner organization or agency
- The demographic diversity of the region

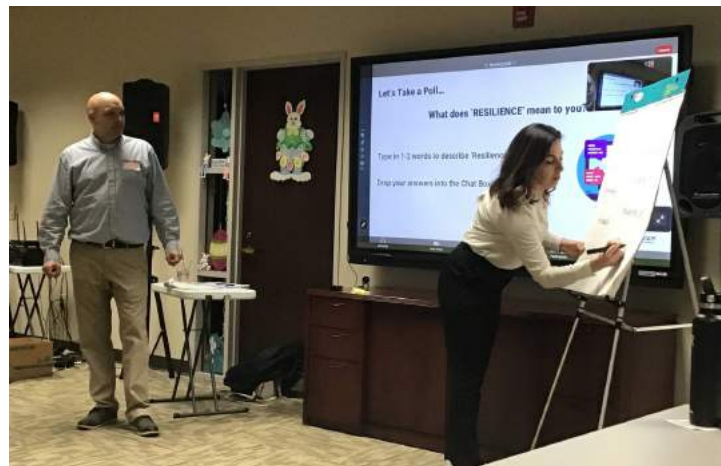
If you are interested in serving on the Regional Food Council, apply by clicking [HERE](#).

Congratulations!

The **City of Creedmoor** was recently recognized for being selected as one of the finalists for the Mobi Awards for their work on the Cross City Trail. These awards recognize multimodal transportation projects that improve the quality of life and economies in North Carolina Communities.

RISE Program

On April 28, the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments hosted an Open House in Henderson allowing attendees to learn about and participate in a locally driven resiliency project focused in Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren counties. The Kerr-Tar COG has partnered with the North Carolina Office of Resiliency and Recovery (NCORR) and Kleinfelder, Inc. to develop a portfolio of



priority projects that strengthen regional resilience. This multi-phase effort includes a forward-looking vulnerability assessment, the identification of 5-10 high-priority projects and a list of the actions needed to implement each proposed project. A diverse stakeholder partnership is guiding the project to ensure that the scope of work reflects local priorities. The Kerr-Tar COG is offering project guidance, a local community leader has been hired to provide facilitation support and Kleinfelder is providing technical assistance. More information on the RISE program is available [HERE](#).

CertainTeed to Build New Facility

CertainTeed, a manufacturer of building products, will add 37 new jobs in Granville County, Governor Roy Cooper announced. The company will invest \$118 million to expand its roofing shingle manufacturing facility in Oxford. "CertainTeed's expansion is a great indicator of North Carolina's manufacturing economy," said Governor Cooper. "Aside from accolades for being the best place to do business, companies in our state know the advantages of operating here, including our dedicated, well-trained workforce and our great quality of life."

CertainTeed is the North American building products subsidiary of Saint-Gobain, one of the largest manufacturing companies in the world. CertainTeed produces a portfolio of exterior and interior building products that include roofing materials, siding, fence, decking, railings, trim, insulation, gypsum wallboard, and ceilings. The 122-year old company will add 225,000 square feet of manufacturing space to their existing shingle manufacturing plant, enhancing their ability to serve customers in a time of unprecedented demand.

"This historic investment, made possible with support from the State of North Carolina, will create new jobs and allow our company to support our customers with more of the industry-leading roofing materials that our team has been making in Granville County since 1978," said Mark Rayfield, President and CEO of Saint-Gobain North America and CertainTeed. "We thank the community for their continued support, and we look forward to many more years of state-of-the-art manufacturing in Oxford."

"Global brands can operate anywhere in the world, but they continue to choose North Carolina for its workforce," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "CertainTeed's commitment to our state highlights the importance of a well-prepared workforce to meet industry demands. As the manufacturing industry advances, we are committed to advancing our workforce training systems to prepare North Carolinians to help companies meet those demands."

Although wages will vary for each position, the average annual salary for the new positions is \$66,930, exceeding Granville County's overall average annual wage of \$45,096. The new jobs have the potential to create an annual payroll impact of more than \$2.4 million.

Read more about this [HERE](#).



USDOT RAISE Grant



RAISE GRANTS

Rebuilding American Infrastructure
with Sustainability and Equity

along the S-Line corridor in Warren and Vance Counties. The KTRPO would like to thank our partners at the federal, state, and local government levels for submitting letters of support to accompany the application.

Last month, the KTRPO submitted an application to the United States Department of Transportation to be considered for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant to conduct a Feasibility Study in three Kerr-Tar counties. If funded, missing segments of the East Coast Greenway (a bike route that stretches from Maine to Florida) in Granville County will be studied ultimately completing the trail in NC as well as a possible route along the S-Line corridor in Warren and Vance Counties. The KTRPO would like to thank our partners at the federal, state, and local government levels for submitting letters of support to accompany the application.

Rural Transformation Grant Fund

The Rural Economic Development Division's (REDD) Rural Transformation Grant Fund (RTGF) application cycle is open. The Fund, created by the North Carolina General Assembly in Session Law 2021-180 (S.105), has an available pool of \$48 million for grant-making in the four categories described below.

Rural Transformation Grants can support:

- Main Street and downtown investment and revitalization efforts;
- Initiatives that help create resilient neighborhoods;
- Community enhancements that spur economic growth;
- Professional development and education programs to build local government capacity

As North Carolina recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and applies lessons from the public health emergency to improve community resiliency, the Rural Transformation Grant Fund offers a new resource to local government leaders as they guide their communities toward a brighter future.

Rural Transformation Grants are available to local governments in the state's Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties, as well as qualified census tracts in Tier 3 counties.

Rural Engagement and Investment Program Categories and Descriptions:

- **Downtown Revitalization** - Support downtown revitalization and economic development initiatives that are intended to help local governments grow and leverage their Main Street and downtown districts as assets for economic growth, economic development, and prosperity. *Contact Liz Parham lparham@nccommerce.com*
- **Resilient Neighborhoods** - To create resilient neighborhoods through community development, neighborhood revitalization, economic investments, and quality of life improvements. *Contact Valerie Fegans valerie.fegans@nccommerce.com*
- **Community Enhancements for Economic Growth** - Provide grants to local governments in rural and distressed communities to support the acquisition of land and buildings, the preparation/development of neighborhood properties and business sites, and the removal of structural and physical barriers for the purpose of enhancing community growth and economic development opportunities. *Contact Melody Adams melody.adams@nccommerce.com*

NC Commerce Announces RC2 Program

The North Carolina Department of Commerce in partnership with Appalachian State University's Walker College of Business is launching the Rural Community Capacity (RC2) Program. RC2 is a university-based collaborative that will provide educational programming, technical assistance, capacity building, economic development consultation, and focused guidance to local governments in rural and distressed communities. The RC2 campus curriculum will include core courses that are required by the NC Department of Commerce and targeted courses that are designed by ASU faculty. Interested communities should complete the following [form](#). Please note, the program only allows a maximum of two participants per local government unit.

Communities should contact Dr. Carol Kline, Professor and Hospitality & Tourism Management Program Director at ASU at klinec@appstate.edu or Olivia Collier, ARC Program Manager with the NC Department of Commerce at occollier@nccommerce.com for more information about this unique opportunity.

NCWorks Employees Recognized

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board is happy and sad to announce the retirement and resignation of four long time NCWorks employees. On March 31, 2022 the following employees were recognized for their service:

- Phyllis Green, 13 years
- Brenda Hollingsworth, 25 years
- Durwood Hunter, 30 years
- Patricia Yarborough, 30 years

A luncheon at Ribeyes of Henderson was held to honor their service. At the luncheon, employees expressed their appreciation and shared best wishes for their future endeavors. These dedicated state employees have been an integral part of the Kerr-Tar team and their contributions to the five-county community will be greatly missed.



Young Adult Hiring Event



NCWorks Career Center and the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board in partnership with the Five County Schools are held a Young Adult Hiring Event on Friday, April 29 at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson, NC. The event was for young adults between the ages of 16-24. Many employers in the Kerr-Tar Region were available to meet soon-to-be-graduates planning to enter the workforce following graduation. A total of __ job seekers were in attendance. This was a great opportunity for young adults to gain career awareness and learn about the industries in the Kerr-Tar Region. To stay informed of upcoming events, visit www.kerrtarworks.com. For more information, contact the NCWorks Career Center at 252-438-6129 or 919-693-2686.

Success Story:

Michael Sutera

Mr. Michael Sutera is a new graduate from Regal Driving Academy. He is excited to be working full time in his new career as a CDL driver. Mr. Sutera came into the career center seeking assistance to get his CDL. He completed all required assessments and on December 10, 2021 he was enrolled in the WIOA program and started his training at Regal Driving Academy a few days later. He successfully completed the 160-hour class and passed all required exams. Mr. Sutera is now working at Smooth Contractors located in Henderson.



Second Chance Reentry Resource Fair

On Tuesday, April 12, 2022, the Kerr-Tar Reentry Roundtable hosted a resource fair and expungement clinic at Hix Gym in Oxford to provide support for community members after being incarcerated. April marked Second Chance Month, which is observed in an effort to raise awareness and provide second chance opportunities for citizens returning to their communities who have completed their sentences to become contributing citizens. Community involvement and support is critical to help these citizens avoid reoffending or relapsing and reentering the criminal justice system again.

The resource fair was designed to make sure citizens in need of support had access to all community support services in one location. and provide participants with education, employment, and training opportunities and other valuable resources that support successful reentry. Additional resources that were provided included food bags, COVID supplies, and COVID vaccines. There were over 60 participants and 22 community organizations from the Kerr-Tar region on site to assist participants in achieving their goals.

In addition to community organizations, North Carolina Legal Aid was on site providing free legal help to expunge criminal records of 20 participants who previously participated in the Kerr-Tar Reentry Information sessions held the first Tuesday of every month. Over 70 participants were connected to NC Legal Aid for free legal assistance. Because of the organizations present, several citizens were able to gain an ID, learn they still have the right to vote, and receive COVID boosters and vaccinations. Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board would like to thank everyone who was involved in making this event such a success!



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



Shape the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission is a 7-state region: portions of AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, VA and all of FL. Modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), SCRC will target new resources to support basic infrastructure, business development, natural resources, and workforce development.

The Commission's mission is to help create jobs, build communities and improve the lives of those who reside in the 408 counties, including 69 North Carolina counties and all five KTCOG counties.

To better understand what is wanted and needed within the region, SCRC has launched an online survey to get feedback from residents within the seven-state region and to help guide programs and initiatives of the Commission that address economic and community development over the next five years. Basically, what needs to happen is for you to love where you live.

[Take and share this brief survey.](#)

ARPA of 2021: Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Update

Once you complete your Project & Expenditure Report, you should shift your focus back to making strategic expenditure decisions and establishing required compliance procedures. We remain available to help you figure out how to maximize the benefit of this one-time funding, which minimizing its administrative burden. To help with compliance requirements, see the following resources:

On Demand Courses: The following courses are available as pre-recorded on demand resources.

1. Implementing the Standard Allowance. Includes videos and materials providing a general overview of implementing the standard allowance and 4 detailed examples. It also walks through a section-by-section overview of the P&E report. Register for the On Demand Course [HERE](#).
2. Basics of American Rescue Plan and Uniform Guidance for Local Government Attorneys and Grants Managers. Includes video and materials providing detailed information on allowable expenditures and federal compliance requirements. Register for the On Demand Course [HERE](#).

Sample Uniform Guidance (UG) Policies and Implementation Tools. You may access all of our sample UG policies and implementation tools [HERE](#).

Weekly ARP Office Hours. There will continue to be free weekly sessions held indefinitely. The following dates through June are:

Wednesday, May 4 @ 8:30
 Monday, May 9 @ 8:30 am
 Tuesday, May 17 @ 12:00 pm
 Wednesday, May 25 @ 8:30 am

Tuesday, June 7 @ 8:30 am
 Wednesday, June 15 @ 12:00 pm
 Friday, June 24 @ 12:00 pm
 Thursday, June 30 @ 12:00 pm

The Zoom link for all sessions can be found [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 940 1136 1206, Passcode: 522329.



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](#)

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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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