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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Upcoming Events

- Person County Regional Job Fair: **Friday, November 4, 2022 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Huck Sansbury Recreation Complex**
- Regional Aging Advisory Council Meeting: **Thursday, November 10, 2022 Kerr-Tar COG Offices**
- COVID-19 Vaccine & Booster Event: **Saturday, November 12, 2022 Agape Worship Center**
- Webinar "Addressing Behavioral Highway Safety Issues on Rural Roads: A Look at the New GHSA Report": **Tuesday, November 15, 2022 1:00 pm-2:30 pm, National Center for Rural Road Safety (online)**
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Public Meeting Notice: **Thursday, December 1, 2022 7:30pm, Kerr-Tar COG Administrative Office**
- Kerr-Tar Regional COG Board Meeting: **Thursday, December 1, 2022, Kerr-Tar COG Administrative Office**

# Trailblazers: 20 young leaders focused on improving the state's smaller cities

## *Warren County's Own, Charla Duncan Recognized*

The Warren County native has a lot of pride for her home county and its rural identity. One of her goals is to challenge stereotypes about small, idyllic communities. Her work with the county started in 2019 when she was a senior assistant to the county manager.

Duncan was a teacher in Greensboro and Charlotte, attended grad school in New York and worked for Granville County before returning to Warrenton. Since taking her current post in 2021, Duncan has assisted expansion efforts of existing industry, including Glen Raven's expansion that added 205 employees and \$82 million of capital investment. She's also helped attract \$2 million in grants for community projects, advised on zoning changes to promote development along Interstate 85, and led county partnership efforts to secure the development of a housing subdivision in the historic Soul City community.

Returning to Warren County comes with an added bonus — she's restoring her grandparents' family home.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, UNC Greensboro; Master of Public Administration, New York University

What is most special about your community? Warren County is a bold community dedicated to building a bright future for all who live here. We are fearless and undaunted by hard work. We are a community of creative, innovative and entrepreneurial spirits.

Biggest influence: My mentor and friend Harry Mills. He is the economic development director in Granville County. He has been a big inspiration and help for me.

Organization's biggest success: Housing is a need for counties all over the state — both urban and rural — and our county has partnered with a developer to launch the development of an 82-home subdivision. This will complete a decades-long plan to see housing develop in this location. Across the street, the county has worked to locate the first business in our Triangle North Warren business park, which was formed almost 20 years ago.

Favorite volunteer activity: Co-hosting trivia games with my friend Jenny at a meadery and taproom in downtown Warrenton. It's been my joy to co-host an event where folks are regularly laughing and are in community together. It's an important part of reinforcing our identity as a community.



*BusinessNC Article  
October 2022 Edition*



## Halifax-Warren Internet Provider Lands \$17.5 Grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is making available \$759 million in grants and loans to enable rural communities to access high-speed internet, part of the broader \$65 billion push for high-speed connectivity from last year's infrastructure law. North Carolina's AccessOn Networks Inc. is receiving a \$17.5 million grant to connect thousands of people, 100 businesses, 76 farms and 22 educational facilities to high-speed internet in Halifax and Warren counties in North Carolina. The company will make high-speed internet service affordable by participating in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Programs. This project will serve socially vulnerable communities in Halifax and Warren counties and people in the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Statistical Area.

## 2022 NADO Annual Training Conference



COG Board member Danny Wright, Executive Director Diane Cox and Assistant to the Director Katie Conner attended the NADO Training Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, for four exciting days of learning, networking, information sharing, and participating in relevant and timely discussions about regional solutions to local economic development challenges.

NADO's 2022 ATC offered many venues for learning. Learning labs—roll-up your sleeves workshops where you could engage with your peers in hands-on learning—participate in sessions where you could learn about replicable initiatives from peers. Mobile workshops with exciting opportunities for attendees to visit and learn about local development efforts. Plenary sessions that were led by thought leaders to push attendees to think big. Conversation cafés allowed attendees to network with peers as you dive deep into topics of interest and importance to you.

# President Biden Proclaims November National Family Caregivers Month

It's November, which means it's National Family Caregivers Month! Today the President honored family caregivers for all they do for the nation with a Presidential Proclamation. The President said:

"The truth is, at some point in our lives, each of us will likely need to be a family caregiver – but the burden falls especially hard on those who cannot afford support. Women, people of color, and immigrants shoulder a disproportionate share of the obligation, sometimes forced to leave good jobs to instead provide care. Their work is a profound service to their families and to our Nation, but they are still too often unseen, undervalued, and unpaid."

You can read the full text of the Presidential Proclamation [HERE](#).

For National Family Caregivers Month 2022, the #CaregivingHappens Campaign reflects a caregiver's reality that often caregiving just happens. This digital campaign will highlight that caregiving happens when you have plans, other obligations, or when you least expect it.



The North Carolina Association on Aging will host a one-day virtual session of Caregiver Bootcamp on **November 18, 2022, from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm (EST)**. The Caregiver Bootcamp provides those who work with caregivers a range of programs, resources and best practices to help you provide quality service.

**Cost:** \$30 per person fee for NCAOA members and \$40 for non-members

Please click [HERE](#) to register for this virtual event. You will receive a link to access the zoom meeting the day prior to the event.

## NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature Legislative Priorities

NC Senior Tarheel Legislature Announces Top 5 Legislative Priorities

Please see the press release announcing the top five legislative priorities resulting from the General Session vote in early October.

Let the advocacy begin!



Supported by NCDHHS DAAS

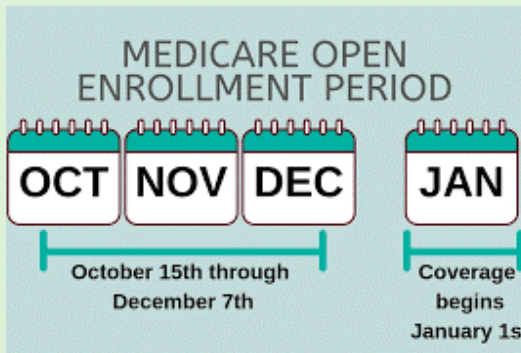


# Aging Events in the Region

Barbara Unrein, Aging Specialist, and Michael Patterson, Family Caregiver Specialist, and Kim Hawkins, Regional Ombudsman, are busy with local fall events, including a Fall Festival at Franklin Oaks, a vaccine event at Pinkston Elementary School, Bingo at Person County Senior Center, with more to come in the next month.



# Medicare Open Enrollment Period



Medicare Open Enrollment is under way and our Aging staff are all SHIIP certified to provide counseling at the senior centers and at our office. Call the COG or your local senior center to make your appointment.

# National Diabetes Month

November is National Diabetes Month. Vance County Senior Center and Spoken Existence Ministries are hosting **Dancing with Diabetes** at the Vance County Senior Center on Friday November 4th. Come for some fun and vendors.



# Services for Older Adults



Each Senior Center has started a new fiscal year of activities and services. Check in with your local Center to join the fun. If you know an older adult who may benefit from services, please reach out to your local Center or our office.

## Health & Wellness Classes

If you are interested in having our Aging Staff conduct any of these programs at your facility, just give them a call at 252-436-2040. They can come to you!

### Powerful Tools for Caregivers

6 Weekly Sessions  
Once a week  
1.5 hours

### Bingocize

10 Weekly Sessions  
Twice a week  
45-60 minutes



### Walk With Ease

6 Weekly Sessions  
3 x a week  
1 hour

# Local GREAT Grants Awarded



The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program funds the terrestrial deployment of broadband within unserved areas of economically distressed counties. The grants help bring high-speed internet to thousands of North Carolinians, businesses and farms in the most rural and remote areas of the state. These areas include both Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties as well as rural census tracts located in development Tier 3 areas that are currently served by less than 25 megabytes per second download and 3 megabytes per second upload speeds. We are pleased to announce all five of Kerr-Tar's counties received funding through the GREAT program. More information of the GREAT Grant Program, including a mapping tool is available here

The county and respective ISP are listed below:

- Franklin County: Connect Holding II LLC (Connect Holding)
- Granville County: Connect Holding II LLC (Connect Holding)
- Person County: Zitel LLC
- Vance County: Connect Holding II LLC (Connect Holding)
- Warren County: Spectrum Southeast, LLC (Charter Communications dba Spectrum)

## 2023 Designated, The Year of the Trail in North Carolina

In 2021, the Governor signed SL 2021-109, designating the year 2023, as the Year of the Trail in North Carolina. Throughout next year, the following goals will be achieved:

- Inspiring people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to try trails
- Demonstrating the importance of trails to elected officials
- Boosting outdoor recreation tourism across the state through Year of the Trail events in all 100 counties,
- Promoting safe and responsible use of trails
- Advancing diversity and inclusion on trails across North Carolina
- Acknowledging the role of volunteers in building and maintaining trails



Trails are valuable to communities because the benefits they provide are readily and freely enjoyed by a diversity of identities, abilities, and backgrounds, particularly for those who have historically and continually faced undue and disproportionate barriers to trail access. Therefore, it is important to build a North Carolina where trails are accessible, safe, and welcoming to all residents and visitors. A Year of the Trail Community Toolkit available here.



# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

## Public Meeting Notice



The Council of Governments has retained the services of Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Consulting (SHEDC) to assist in the completion of the CEDS process, a requirement of the United States Economic Development Administration for Economic Development Districts. The primary purpose of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is to provide a comprehensive, performance-based strategy to strengthen the region. This process includes an analysis of the region's economy, established plans, area challenges & opportunities, with strategies and tactics for moving the region forward over the next five year, 2023-2027.

At the Council of Governments, December 1, 2022 Board Meeting, the SHEDC Team will present for approval and adoption before the Board of Directors the Kerr-Tar region's CEDS Plan. This process began in May, after the formation of a Steering Committee comprised of a representation of regional stakeholders; in July, county-led focus groups were held where a SWOT Analysis was performed, and concluding in August, with citizen surveys measuring the economic strength of the region.

The public and other interested parties are invited to attend and offer comments. If unable to attend, comments may be made at: [info@kerrtarco.org](mailto:info@kerrtarco.org). For more information on CEDS please contact Michael Kelly at [mkelly@kerrtarco.org](mailto:mkelly@kerrtarco.org) or 252-436-2040 Ext. 2005.

## Announcing Food System Survey



The Upper Coastal Plain, Kerr-Tar and Triangle J Councils of Governments are collaborating on a regional initiative to strengthen the region's food system called Tri-COG Food Ecosystem Economic Development Strategy, or Tri-COG FEEDS. A survey will be released to understand the interest of local governments in supporting food system efforts and how the Councils of Governments can support local governments in this process. Local governments have a unique opportunity to work with food system experts to promote the regional food system and maximize economic development to support existing and future farm, food businesses, and consumers in the region. More details on the survey will be released soon to our member governments. We thank you in advance for your participation.



# Henderson Street Repaving Project

North Garnett Street in Henderson will soon get a fresh coat of paint. The North Carolina Department of Transportation's Repavement Project along this street will begin on November 7. Carolina Sunrock will be the contractor assigned to the project - repaving the area between Raleigh and Satterwhite Point (SR 1319) Roads. Roadwork is expected to be completed by November 15.

On-street parking in the area will be closed as needed during the duration of the project, but not for the entire eight-day period. Carolina Sunrock has distributed flyers prior to paving project commencing with more information notifying residents.



# East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study Public Meeting Event



East Coast  
Greenway®



Last month, the Kerr-Tar RPO staff and the consultant teams at Exult Engineering and Kittelson & Associates held a public engagement session at Butner's National Night Out to discuss the developing Feasibility Study along the Granville County portion of the East Coast Greenway. The study is evaluating opportunities to enhance the existing East Coast Greenway route to become a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facility to connect Butner, Stem, and Oxford. The final study is expected to be released in December 2022.

# S-LINE PROJECT SUMMARY



October 2022

## S-Line

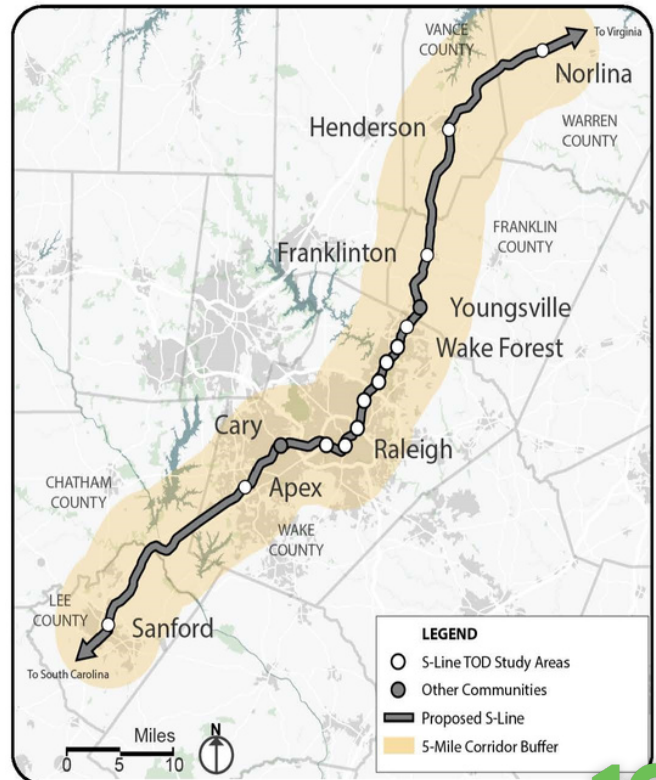
The S-Line corridor, part of the Raleigh to Richmond (R2R) project, is a railroad line on the Southeast Corridor (SEC) that will provide future high-performance passenger rail services connecting communities from Raleigh, North Carolina to Richmond, Virginia. The S-Line corridor is currently out-of-service, but efforts are underway by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to reclaim the S-Line back to a functioning passenger rail corridor. The corridor is a critical missing link to completing the buildout of the SEC and meeting Federal and State goals of improving safety, providing economic opportunities and equitable, environmentally sound transportation options.

NCDOT was awarded federal grants to purchase a portion of the S-Line corridor and advance design for future rail passenger service.

**However, the acquisition of right-of-way and construction are currently not funded, and schedules of these project activities have not been established. Over the next several years, revaluations of these studies and activities will be ongoing and schedules may change.**

**The S-Line was awarded a CRISI Grant in June 2022 for \$57.9 million. This allows NCDOT to proceed with further S-Line corridor design**

For any questions you may have on the S-Line, R2R, and the SEC, please email NCDOT Rail Division at [DOT.R2R@ncdot.gov](mailto:DOT.R2R@ncdot.gov).



## S-Line TOD Study

The S-Line TOD Study is a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) visioning initiative led by the NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division and is for seven communities on the 95-mile-long section of the S-Line. The rail corridor is being considered for passenger rail service, and this study will evaluate TOD opportunities around potential stations in Sanford, Apex, Raleigh, Wake Forest, Franklinton, Henderson, and Norlina.

The S-Line TOD Study will begin a community conversation about passenger rail across the corridor and evaluate market conditions, affordable housing considerations, multi-modal transportation opportunities, and regulatory conditions in the various jurisdictions. Opportunities will be identified to get ready for transit in a way that is responsive to the communities needs and local contexts. The S-Line TOD Study is NOT the engineering and corridor design study as that work will be completed in the future over the next several years.



# Announcing Future S-Line TOD Study Community Pop-Ups in December

The S-Line TOD Study team and local stakeholders will be hosting a series of Community Pop-Up Meetings in December 2022 in each S-Line community. This engagement will focus on gathering feedback on TOD Vision Materials created through past project milestones and deliverables. Following this engagement, final materials will be refined and the final S-Line TOD Study will be delivered in early 2023. The most recent S-Line Project Summary Report is below.

## December Pop-Up Locations and Dates

Community	Event	Date
<b>Sanford</b>	Tree Lighting at Depot Park	Sunday, December 4
<b>Apex</b>	Apex Rotary Pancake Breakfast	Saturday, December 3
<b>Wake Forest</b>	Downtown Holiday Open House	Saturday, December 3
<b>Raleigh</b>	First Friday	Friday, December 2
<b>Franklinton</b>	Franklinton Christmas Parade	Thursday, December 1
<b>Henderson</b>	Christmas Parade	Saturday, December 3
<b>Norlina</b>	Whistlestop Café	Friday, December 2



# Kerr-Tar Welcomes Marley Spencer



The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments is pleased to welcome Marley Spencer as our new Regional Project Manager. Marley, a 2020 graduate of Appalachian State University's Walker College of Business comes to the COG having previously served as the Executive Director of the Person County TDA.

In her prior role, she spent the last two years working on the development of tourism in Roxboro, while supporting healthy community growth through her participation in local development, volunteer organizations, and service on various committees.

In her new role, she will assist communities with ARPA reporting, discussing potential ARPA-related projects and offering overall assistance to our member governments with project development, grant writing, grant coordination, and evaluation. If a member government is interested in speaking with Marley further about potential opportunities, she may be reached at: [mspencer@kerrtarco.org](mailto:m Spencer@kerrtarco.org) or (252) 436-2040.

## Welcome to the Region



The **Granville County** Board of Commissioners selected Drew Cummings to serve as the next County Manager. Cummings comes to Granville County after fourteen years of service in neighboring Durham County as Assistant County Manager and Chief of Staff. Drew started with the County on October 17.

The **Person County** Board of Commissioners appointed former Assistant County Manager, Katherine Cathey to serve as County Manager effective October 4. Katherine has served as the County's Assistant County Manager since 2020.



The **Town of Louisburg** is pleased to announce the hiring of its new town administrator, Mr. Steven W. Hicks. Mr. Hicks has over 30 years of experience in various executive leadership positions in North Carolina and Virginia. He will start on Monday, November 7, 2022 and will officially be appointed during the November 21st Louisburg Town Council meeting.



# Students at Pinkston Street Elementary Participated in Walk to School Day

Pinkston Street Elementary School students, faculty, and staff participated in national Walk to School Day on October 12, 2022. Students will be dropped off at Holy Temple United Holy Church beginning at 7:30am and walked approximately 0.2 miles to school.

A sincere thank you is extended to our Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, Vance County Schools Central Office staff, and our community partners with assisting students in their walk. Groups present included: Vance County 4-H, The City of Henderson Fire Department, The Vance County Sheriff's Office, and the Optimist Club of Henderson.



**Success Stories:**

*Beatriz Workley*



To provide truly superior service, the staff at the Kerr-Tar NCWorks Career Center had the opportunity to explore options outside of its own region.

Beatriz arrived in North Carolina from her native Chile with degrees in business and advertising and speaking three languages fluently.; Unfortunately, English wasn't one of those three languages.

Undaunted, Beatriz immersed herself in ESL courses and soon secured a position as an Income Maintenance Worker for Person County Social Services, where her fluency in Spanish was in high demand. She was happy in her role and had the opportunity to be of service to others with language barriers. However, with the advent of application automation that resulted in downsizing and Beatriz was again looking for work. She found jobs in health care, obtaining certifications in both phlebotomy and CPR, but came to realize that wasn't her calling. Beatriz missed being of direct assistance, especially to her own community that struggled with language barriers.

By emphasizing her linguistic abilities, NCWorks Career Center was able to pave the way for her current position as the Bilingual Interpreter/Liaison for the Durham Public School District. Not only is she able to maximize her skills, but Beatriz is also again doing what she truly loves - making a difference!

At the Kerr-Tar NCWorks Career Center, differences are celebrated, and NextGen's own Cliff High is certainly cause for celebration.

*Cliff High*

This gifted young man was granted early admission to UNC - Charlotte as an Actuarial Sciences major, but despite academic success, he began to feel increasingly sad and isolated; Cliff's need for clarity, order, and precision was at odds with the light-hearted hijinks of his fellow students, especially as he was one of the youngest. Cliff decided to take a break from higher education and came home to Henderson, NC.



Eventually, Cliff reached out to NCWorks, looking for direction. With the guidance of his NextGen team, he completed a Work Experience (WEX) at the Henderson Family YMCA, where his precision and attention to detail caught the attention of the Youth Director. Soon Cliff was overseeing the summer lunch program, as well as coordinating activities for the after-school children. After completing his WEX at the Y, Cliff began an On-the-Job Training (OJT) at Versatrim in Henderson and is slated to become their new Director of OSHA Compliance and Onboarding upon completion.

Says Cliff of his new Versatrim home, "This is perfect. Everything makes sense."



# NCWorks Partnership Conference 2022

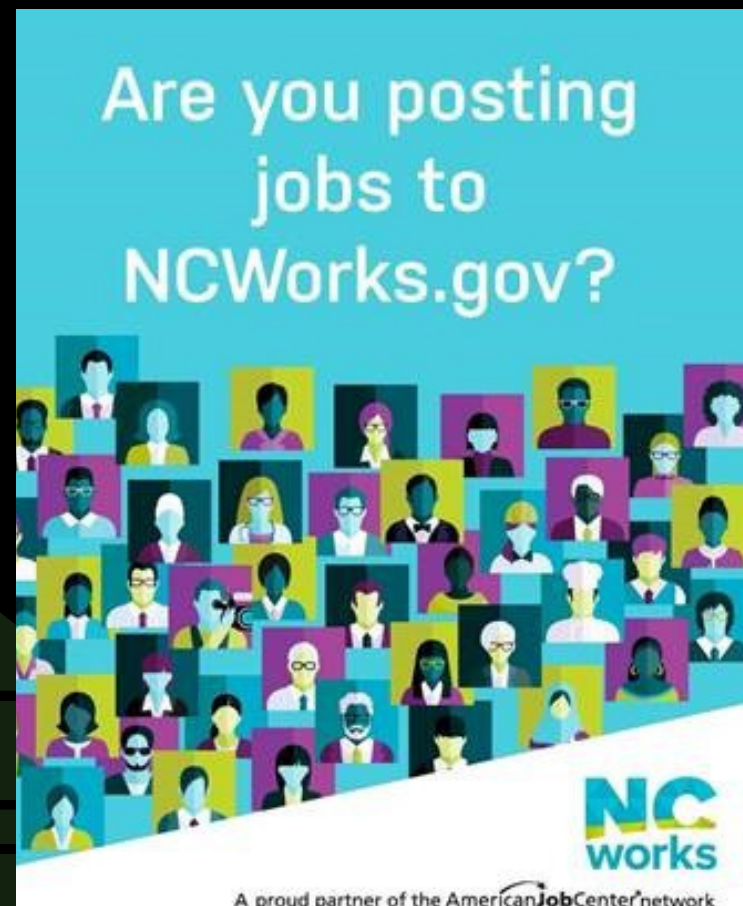
Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board (WDB) staff participated in a the annual NCWorks Partnership training conference where the theme was ReConnect, ReEngage and Relgnite. The Conference was held October 12 - 14, 2022 at the Sheraton Four Seasons - Greensboro, NC



## Employer Assistance

Is your business posting job openings to NCWorks? If not, you should be! It's completely free to use the [NCWorks.gov](https://www.ncworks.gov) website, which offers you the chance to connect daily with jobseekers across North Carolina. Plus, you can find resumes of candidates with the skills and qualifications you're looking for, as well as up-to-date labor market information.

Your next employee could be just a few clicks away! If you need assistance, the professionals at your local NCWorks Career Center are here to help.





# HENDERSON-VANCE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# WOVEN

Women Of Vance Empowered Networking

**NOVEMBER 30TH, 2022 AT 12PM NOON**

**VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CIVIC CENTER**

*Join us for the 1st in a series of*

## **LOCAL LADIES IN LEADERSHIP**

**with Guest Speaker - Dr. Rachel Desmarais**  
President at Vance-Granville Community College

Let's talk about it:

- Goals
- Successes
- Education
- Past, Present, Future
- Resources



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**REGISTER & PAY ONLINE AT  
WWW.HENDERSONVANCE.ORG**

**OR EMAIL: HAILEY@HENDERSONVANCE.ORG**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER - NOVEMBER 23RD**







**Franklinton**  
Tree Lighting  
November 26  
6:00pm  
&  
Parade  
December 1  
7:00pm

**Louisburg**  
Tree Lighting  
December 1  
6:30pm  
&  
Parade & Market  
December 4  
12:00pm

**Henderson**  
Parade  
December 3  
3:00pm

**Bunn**  
Tree Lighting  
December 3  
6:00pm  
&  
Parade  
December 10  
10:00am

**Creedmoor**  
Tree Lighting  
December 2  
7:00pm  
&  
Parade  
December 3  
11:00am

**Butner**  
Christmas In the  
Park  
December 2  
5:30pm  
&  
Parade  
December 4  
2:00pm

# *Holiday Celebrations*

**IN THE KERR-TAR REGION**

*Continued:*



**Grassy Creek  
Parade  
December 3  
3:00pm**

**Youngsville  
Tree Lighting  
December 2  
4:30pm  
&  
Parade  
December 3  
10:00am**

**Warrenton  
Tree Lighting & Parade  
December 10  
6:00pm**

**Norlina  
Parade  
December 17  
3:00pm**

**Roxboro  
Parade  
December 10  
3:00pm**

**Oxford  
Lighting of the  
Greens & Parade  
December 2  
4:00pm**

# *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  
[dcox@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:dcox@kerrtarcog.org)

### Area Agency on Aging

Nancy Francis  
[nfrancis@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:nfrancis@kerrtarcog.org)

### Planning & Development

Michael Kelly  
[mkelly@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:mkelly@kerrtarcog.org)

### Workforce Development

Lou Grillo  
[lgrillo@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:lgrillo@kerrtarcog.org)

## 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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