

AUGUST 2026

IN THIS EDITION

Important Information

Important Events	P. 2
Upcoming Community Events	P. 3-4
Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony	P. 5
Operation Tobacco Road	P. 6
NCDIT Digital Opportunity Survey	P. 6
New All-Way Stop Planned For Youngsville Intersection	P. 7
DEQ Releases Neuse River Basin Flood Resilience Strategy	P. 7
Building a Stronger Team: KTRCOG Staff Discover Their Strengths	P. 8

Area Agency on Aging

Join the STEP-Tember Challenge	P. 9
Aging Dept. Teaches Caregiver Skills Workshop	P. 10
A Matter of Balance Class Completed in Person County	P. 10
Free Seed Library Grows at Vance County Regional Farmers Market	P. 11
SHIIP Staying Healthy Flyer	P. 12

Planning & Development

Regional Food Pantry Meetings	P. 13
POSTPONED: Community Cafe Childcare Discussion Event	P. 14
ROOTED Regional Marketplace Vendor Request	P. 15
ROOTED Economic Development Summit: Save the Date	P. 16
Back to School Safely With SRTS: Safety Tips	P. 17
SRTS Monthly Update	P. 18-19
Stay Connected With SRTS	P. 20

Workforce Development

Strengthening Partnerships	P. 21
Rapid Response Info Session: International Paper	P. 22
Rapid Response Assistance: Open Book Extracts (OBX)	P. 22

Staff Announcements

New Employees Spotlights	P. 23-24
Mission Statement	P. 25



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**AUG
19**

RAAC/STHL Meeting

**AUG
20**

Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization Meeting

**AUG
26**

Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council Meeting

**SEPT
24**

Annual Awards & Banquet Ceremony

IMPORTANT EVENTS

August 1st - August 31st 2026



National Immunization Awareness Month - 08/01/2026-08/31/2026

National Immunization Awareness Month highlights the importance of routine vaccination for infants, children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. Vaccines help protect individuals and communities from serious and preventable diseases. Individuals should speak with a trusted health care provider about which vaccines are recommended for them.

Back To School Month - 08/01/2026-08/31/2026

August marks the beginning of a new school year for many students, families, educators, and school employees. It is a time to gather supplies, establish healthy routines, review transportation and school-zone safety, and prepare students for a successful return to the classroom. Families are encouraged to discuss expectations, practice safe routes to school, and support children as they adjust to new schedules and learning environments.

National Senior Citizens Day- 08/21/2026

National Senior Citizens Day recognizes the achievements, experiences, and valuable contributions of older adults throughout our communities. It also provides an opportunity to raise awareness of issues affecting seniors, including health care, transportation, social isolation, financial security, caregiving, and access to supportive services.

National Night Out - 08/04/2026

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes public safety and strengthens partnerships among residents, law enforcement agencies, first responders, local governments, and community organizations. Events across the country bring neighbors together through family activities, safety demonstrations, food, entertainment, and community resources. The observance encourages residents to connect with those who serve their communities and work together to create safer, more welcoming neighborhoods.

Women's Equality Day - 08/26/2026

Women's Equality Day commemorates the certification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted many women in the United States the right to vote. The observance honors the generations of advocates who worked to advance women's voting rights and recognizes the ongoing pursuit of equal rights and opportunities. It encourages reflection on women's important contributions to our country.

As we recognize these upcoming holidays and observances, we encourage everyone to take time to reflect, celebrate, and support the people and causes that make our communities stronger, safer, and more connected.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

NNO

2026

Stronger Together. Safer Together.

TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 2026

* **HIX FIELD**

* 313 E Spring St., Oxford, NC

Join us for an evening of community, fun, and building stronger relationships with your local first responders!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

FOOD * EVENTS * GIVEAWAYS

GAMES * ENTERTAINMENT

OXFORD
POLICE
N.C.



THE
HOPE
INITIATIVE

SERVICES. SUPPORT. HOPE.
ALL IN ONE PLACE.



**A COMMUNITY OUTREACH
EVENT FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY!**

The HOPE Initiative brings together nonprofits, ministries, service providers, and support organizations to provide resources, insight, and hope—*all in one place.*





**HOT MEAL
SERVED
ON-SITE!**

Come hungry,
leave encouraged.



**MOBILE FOOD
PANTRY**

Fresh food for
our community.



**SO MUCH
MORE!**

Resources, support,
and hope for all.



SATURDAY
AUGUST 15, 2026
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



CARE AND SHARE BUILDING
110 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
LOUISBURG, NC 27549

FRANKLIN COUNTY EMS

STOCK TRUCK!

THE

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP STOCK THE TRUCK!

DATE: AUG. 6TH

TIME: 10AM - 7PM

LOCATION: Walmart
705 Retail Way,
Louisburg, NC 27549

EVERY DONATION HELPS LOCAL STUDENTS START THE SCHOOL YEAR PREPARED FOR SUCCESS!

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
GET INVOLVED!**

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE. YOUR STOVALL.

*Building a stronger
Stovall, together!*

The Stovall Civic Committee, established in 2024, is a community-focused group dedicated to fostering community engagement, managing local events, and enhancing community life.

JOIN AS A MEMBER!

Help guide initiatives, share ideas, and make a lasting impact on our community.

VOLUNTEER!

Lend a hand, share your talents, and help bring our events to life!

HELP MAKE MEMORIES AT THE

STOVALL

Harvest Festival!

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 2026**

Ways You Can Help!

- EVENT SETUP & BREAKDOWN
- YOUTH ASSISTANCE
- DECORATIONS & FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES
- PARKING & GUEST SUPPORT
- FOOD & BEVERAGE ASSISTANCE
- ENTERTAINMENT COORDINATION
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Why Join?

- Meet new people
- Make a positive impact
- Support your community
- Help create memorable events
- Gain leadership experience

BE PART OF SOMETHING GREAT!

TOGETHER, WE MAKE STOVALL STRONGER

For More Information

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING
MON, 10:30 AM AT TOWN HALL

BRIVANVILLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
 Briverville Branch | South Branch | Carroll Branch | Dorris Branch

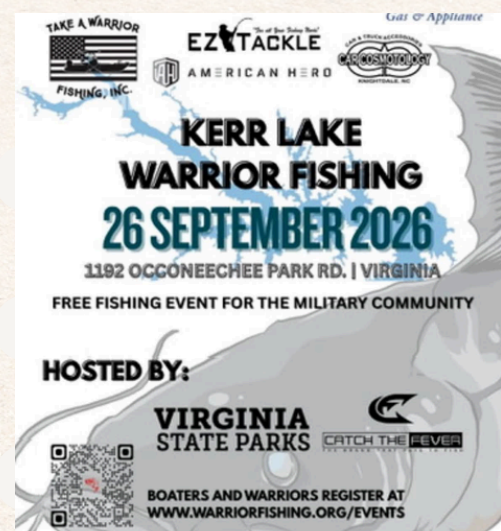
SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

July 15-August 15 @ all libraries

lets support area students, families teachers and schools

- PENCILS
- BLACK PENS
- HIGHLIGHTERS
- PAPER
- BINDERS
- NOTEBOOKS
- TISSUES

drop off items in labeled boxes in lobbies of Berrea, South, Stovall and Thornton



TAKE A WARRIOR

FISHING, INC.

EZTACKLE
"The #1 Boat Tackle Store"
 **AMERICAN HERO**

USA & PRODUCE

AMERICAN PRODUCE

**KERR LAKE
WARRIOR FISHING
26 SEPTEMBER 2026**

1192 OCGONEECHEE PARK RD. | VIRGINIA

FREE FISHING EVENT FOR THE MILITARY COMMUNITY

HOSTED BY:

**VIRGINIA
STATE PARKS**

 **CATCH THE FEVER**
OUTDOOR RECREATION



**BOATERS AND WARRIORS REGISTER AT
WWW.WARRIORFISHING.ORG/EVENTS**



**Public Service
Appreciation Day**
SEPTEMBER 25TH 2026

You Serve Our State...Let
Us Serve You!

**Free Car Wash for Public
Servants from 11-1 pm**
with lunch provided

Hosted by The Masonic
Home for Children

WARREN COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

2026 SEASON EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
APRIL 25 Opening Day Pudding Celebration Master Gardeners	May 1 5am/6am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	June 6 4am/6am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	July 4 4am/6am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	August 1 4am/6am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	September 5 4am/6am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	October 3 4am/6am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry
May 19 9am/10am Master Gardeners	May 23 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	June 13 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	July 11 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	August 8 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	September 12 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	October 10 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry
May 23 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	May 27 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	June 27 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	July 25 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	August 22 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	September 26 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	October 24 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry
May 27 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	June 3 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	June 27 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	July 25 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	August 22 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	September 26 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry	October 24 9am/10am Strawberry Strawberry Strawberry

RAFFLE

FREE RAFFLE TICKETS
(Drawings on Sat. Holidays)

EVERY WEEK AT THE MARKET:

LIQUOR CARDS

SEED SWAP BOX

COMMUNITY COMPOST COLLECTION

POP CULTURE CORNER



BIZ KIDZ

SATURDAY, AUG. 22ND
WARREN COUNTY
HEALTH DEPT.
8 A.M. - NOON

- Kid Vendors
- Bouncy House
- Giveaways
- Fresh, Local Produce
- Baked Goods & Prepared Foods
- Handmade Crafts

KID VENDORS REGISTER HERE



<https://forms.gle/152J255e9t58>
 or 202.225.5558



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

FESTIVAL

FREE EVENT

Live DJ

Clothing Giveaway | Food | Games | School Supplies

4th SATURDAY IN AUGUST

START TIME 12:00PM

118 Hayes St, Louisburg, NC 27549

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2026

Family Fun

Aug 4th

The Town of Bunn and the Bunn Police Dept Invite you & your Family out to a night of FUN!

Join us at Bunn Town Hall & Bunn Community Park from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

FREE Backpacks & School Supplies

- Free Bounce House
- Free Kid Activities
- Free Hotdogs
- Music

DAY OF LOVE

for our unhoused community

THIS ONE DAY EVENT IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO PROVIDE FREE SERVICES AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

- SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- SHOWERS
- WELLNESS BAGS
- FREE HAIRCUTS
- RESOURCES
- LAUNDRY SERVICES
- HMS REGISTRATION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 2026 | 9AM - 1PM

ORANGE STREET COMMUNITY CENTER
125 ORANGE STREET, OXFORD, NC 27565

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

Friday, August 7th, 2026

30th Annual Franklin County Region Horse Farm Tour



Registration Deadline: 7:30 am, August 4th

- Carpool to tour stops • Door Prizes
- Educational Topics • Demos
- Cost: \$30

Register Today!

OUTLAWS for PAWS

MUSIC FESTIVAL!

Saturday, August 8, 2026
9:00 am - 11:00 am

EVENT DETAILS

LOCATION
3976 NC Hwy 581 N.
Louisburg, NC 27549

The event is held on-site at the church and is open to everyone.

WHAT WE OFFER

FREE Everything is 100% Free
Clothing for children and adults is available to all attendees at no cost.

Limited School Supplies Available
In addition to clothing, we are providing supplies to help students start the year.

Community Closet Access

"God is able to bless you"

OUTLAWS for PAWS

MUSIC FESTIVAL!

LIVE MUSIC

VENDORS **RAFFLES** **FOOD TRUCKS**

SUPPORT AFFORDABLE

SPAY & NEUTER SERVICES FOR PETS!

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

LET'S SET THEM UP FOR SUCCESS!

SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2026 2:00 PM

ROSES DISCOUNT STORES PARKING LOT
1471 N. GARNETT STREET
HENDERSON, NC 27536

Finish the summer by unearthing a real "gem" at the library! Register at the checkout desk. **FREE!**

Tuesday, August 4
Youngsville at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, August 5
Franklinton at 4 p.m.

Thursday, August 6
Bunn at 4 p.m.

Saturday, August 8
Louisburg at 2 p.m.

UNEARTH

Franklin County

ROLL FOR ADVENTURE: TABLETOP GAMES FOR BEGINNERS

THE TEAM FROM BACKWOODS WIZARDS INTRODUCES THE EXCITING WORLD OF TABLETOP GAMES! LEARN THE BASICS, INCLUDING HOW TO GET STARTED, WHAT YOU NEED TO PLAY, AND TIPS FOR BEGINNERS. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Monday, August 10
Youngsville Library

Tuesday, August 11
Louisburg Library

Wednesday, August 12
Franklinton Library

Thursday, August 13
Bunn Library

FREE!

Extension At Home Virtual Sessions
Helping You Improve Your Life!

NEW TOPICS COMING TO YOU

Every 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 12 PM ET

JULY Everyday Money Skills: Budget, Credit, and Control

AUGUST Cooking with Herbs and Spices

SEPTEMBER Pressure Cooker Basics & Beyond

OCTOBER Celebrating Hispanic Culture Through Cooking

NOVEMBER Feast Without Fear: Food Safety for Group Meals

DECEMBER Holiday Budgeting: Seasonal Spending Strategy

REGISTER FOR YOUR FAVORITE SESSION AT
GO.NCSU.EDU/EXTENSIONATHOME

NC Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity provider

July 20 @ Louisburg Library
'Join our elite Forensic Squad to master the science of sleuthing.'

Grow Your Piggy Bank!

July 23 @ Bunn Library
July 27 @ Louisburg Library
July 28 @ Youngsville Library
July 29 @ Franklinton Library

'Join the State Employees Credit Union at the library for a special Youth Financial Workshop!'

Summer Reading Finale*

Foothills Mobile Gem Mining

August 4 @ Youngsville Library (at 4 P.M.) 'Finish the summer!

August 5 @ Franklinton Library (at 4 P.M.) unearthing a real "ge

August 6 @ Bunn Library (at 4 P.M.) at the library! Regist

August 8 @ Louisburg Library (at 2 P.M.) at the checkout des

*Registration required for the Finale - Foothills Mobile Gem Mining

Summer Reading Program Finale:

Finish the summer by unearthing a real "gem" at the library! Register at the checkout desk. **FREE!**

Tuesday, August 4
Youngsville at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, August 5
Franklinton at 4 p.m.

Thursday, August 6
Bunn at 4 p.m.

Saturday, August 8
Louisburg at 2 p.m.

Kerr-Tar
Regional Council
Of Governments

WE ARE INVITING YOU TO OUR

ANNUAL
BANQUET
&
AWARDS
CEREMONY

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF
CELEBRATION!

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2026
6:30 PM

CLEARVIEW CHURCH
3485 US-158 BUS
HENDERSON, NC 27537

COST IS \$30 PER PERSON

SCAN HERE



OPERATION TOBACCO ROAD

This is a short note to invite you, and everyone within your circles of influence, to the 2026 NCNG Cyber Security Response Force (CSRF) Operation Tobacco Road (OTR '26) event, featuring a half-day All Hazards Tabletop Exercise. OTR '26 will occur twice this year, August 17-21 and October 5-9. The All Hazard TTX occurs Aug 19th and Oct 7th. Full details on OTR'26 can be seen [HERE](#).

Operation Tobacco Road is five-day, full scale technical exercise dedicated to Public Sector Cyber & IT Professionals, hosted by the NC National Guard CSRF. The attached flyer tells it better than I can, please forward this opportunity to everyone you think may be interested.

The Tabletop Exercise (TTX) is a discussion-based, non-technical exercise focused on incident awareness, coordination, decision-making, and response. The scenarios are challenging, fun and guaranteed to generate discussion long after it's over. Without giving away the plot, I can say this year's script incorporates cyber, natural, man-made, airborne and water elements for the audience to grapple with.

Unlike the hands-on keyboard portion of Operation Tobacco Road, the TTX allows participants to work through response actions, communication flow, and leadership decisions in a guided environment. Sign up for the TTX [HERE](#).



DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY SURVEY

The N.C. Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) encourages North Carolinians to participate in the State's second Digital Opportunity Survey.

The survey asks about residents' needs for affordable high-speed internet, computers, and the digital skills needed to safely access online services for work, education, health care, government services, and everyday life.

Survey responses will help update the State's digital opportunity plans and guide future efforts to meet North Carolinians' changing needs.

Scan the QR code to take the survey today!



New All-Way Stop Planned For Youngsville Intersection

YOUNGSVILLE – Crews will install stop signs on Pocomoke Road turning the intersection with Long Mill Road into an all-way stop. Stop signs are already in place on Long Mill Road.

Work will take place July 29 at 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., weather permitting. Drivers should allow extra travel time and be mindful of crews working in this area.

For real-time travel information, visit DriveNC.gov or [follow NCDOT on social media](#).

Contact: **Kim Deaner**
ksdeaner@ncdot.gov
 (919) 707-2681



NORTH CAROLINA
 Department of Transportation

ncdot.gov

DEQ RELEASES NEUSE RIVER BASIN FLOOD RESILIENCE STRATEGY

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has released the Neuse River Basin Action Strategy, a framework designed to help communities prepare for flooding and invest in long-term resilience. The strategy identifies 113 prioritized actions, including stormwater and drainage improvements, infrastructure protection, flood-warning systems, nature-based solutions, and floodproofing measures. Of these, 29 were selected as high priorities based on community support, feasibility, available resources, and potential impact. Communities can access the recommendations through DEQ's Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool to support planning, project development, and funding opportunities.

For More Information:

Contact: **Sascha Medina**
 Phone: **919-707-8672**

[Click Here to Visit Our Website For More Information](#)



JOSH STEIN
 Governor

D. REID WILSON
 Secretary

BUILDING A STRONGER TEAM: KTRCOG STAFF DISCOVER THEIR STRENGTHS

On July 16, 2026, Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments staff participated in a team-building and professional development workshop at the Clearview Church Café. The session was facilitated by Tieska Jumbo of Jumbo Consulting.

Through the CliftonStrengths Assessment, staff identified their individual strengths and gained a better understanding of the unique qualities and working styles each person brings to the organization.

The interactive workshop highlighted how recognizing and leveraging these strengths can strengthen communication, encourage collaboration, and improve overall team effectiveness.

Participants also learned practical strategies for working more efficiently, valuing different perspectives, and creating opportunities for everyone to contribute meaningfully.

The training reinforced the importance of teamwork and demonstrated how building upon one another's strengths can help the organization achieve greater success together.

To learn more about professional and staff development training offered by Tieska Jumbo, visit <https://consultjumbo.com/>.



JOIN THE STEP-TEMBER CHALLENGE

Join the NCFalls Prevention Coalition and Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments for STEPtember—a fun, statewide walking challenge to promote healthy living, strength, and fall prevention during Falls Prevention Awareness Month!

Why Join STEPtember?

- Walking helps improve balance and reduces the risk of falls
- Movement is medicine - just a few extra steps a day can make a difference
- Stay connected and motivated!

EVERY STEP COUNTS!

Don't forget to call, visit, or email and report your steps to the Senior Center every Friday in September!

All participants will receive a free bag with Fall Prevention Information at your first reporting

*For more information, please contact:
Crystal Allen (252)-436-2040 ext. 2036
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments
1724 Graham Ave
Henderson, NC 27536*

Kerr-Tar
Area Agency on Aging
Your Anchor for Aging

**LET'S GET MOVING TO STAY
STANDING STRONG NC!**

Standing Strong
North Carolina
Prevent Falls — Save Lives

North Carolina
**FALLS
PREVENTION**
Coalition

Kerr-Tar
Area Agency on Aging
Your Anchor for Aging

**First 25 Participants
to register will
receive a pedometer**



WHEN

Each step taken from
September 1st through the 30th
will be added to the final step
count for the Senior Center!
Report every Friday!



WHERE

Anywhere! Walk in a park, at
home, the mall, senior center.
Each Step Counts!

HOW TO REGISTER

To register, visit the senior
center and let them know
you'd like to participate!

AGING DEPT. TEACHES CAREGIVER SKILLS WORKSHOP

Micheal Patterson, Kerr Tar Family Caregiver Specialist and Crystal Allen, Kerr Tar Aging Specialist recently earned certification in Coaching Powerful Tools for Caregivers. Community volunteers Teresa Troup, Donna Finn, and Dr. Thomas Finn also earned certification.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a six-week evidence base program that teaches caregivers skills such as stress management, effective communication, goal setting, problem-solving, and self-care. Research has found improvements in caregiver confidence, reduced stress, and better emotional well-being.

If you would like more information or are interested in finding a Powerful Tools for Caregivers class in your area, please contact Micheal Patterson 252-436-2040 ext 6072 mpatterson@kerrtarcog.org or Crystal Allen 252-436-2040 ext 2036 callen@kerrtarcog.org

A MATTER OF BALANCE CLASS COMPLETED IN PERSON COUNTY

An A Matter of Balance class was held at the Person County Senior Center from June 1, 2026, through July 21, 2026.

A Matter of Balance is an evidence-based, free 8-week program designed to help reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels for older adults and others who have concerns about falls. Participants learn practical strategies to improve balance, build confidence, and remain active.

Be on the lookout for an A Matter of Balance class in your area!

For more information about upcoming classes, please contact:

Crystal Allen

Phone: 252-436-2040 ext. 2036

Email: callen@kerrtarcog.org



Alan Winstead

KTRCOG Area Agency On Aging Director

(252) 436-2040 ext. 2047

awinstead@kerrtarcog.org

FREE SEED LIBRARY GROWS AT VANCE COUNTY REGIONAL FARMERS MARKET

The Extension Master Gardener Volunteers of Vance County have launched a free seed library at the Vance County Regional Farmers Market to improve local food access, support community gardens, and protect local pollinators. Since opening late last year, the seed library has distributed nearly 600 packets featuring seasonal vegetables, pollinator-friendly plants, and other varieties for residents to grow at home.

Led by Master Gardener Volunteer Cindy Jordon, the project is supported by volunteers who organize and catalog seeds, assist visitors at the market, and seek grants and donations to sustain the program. More than 250 community members have expressed interest in future educational opportunities. In response, the team plans to offer hands-on workshops covering topics such as seed saving and overwintering seeds in milk jugs.

Community support remains important to the seed library's continued success. Donations of unused or locally collected seeds are welcome, along with financial contributions to help purchase envelopes, labels, and other supplies.

Visit the seed library at 210 Southpark Drive in Henderson on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact Michael Ellington at 252-438-8188 or visit facebook.com/EMGVance.



Alan Winstead
KTRCOG Area Agency On Aging Director
(252) 436-2040 ext. 2047
awinstead@kerrtarcog.org



SHIIP

SENIORS' HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM

N.C. Department of Insurance • Mike Causey, Commissioner
855-408-1212 (toll free) • www.ncdoi.gov

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Vaccines are an important step in protecting against serious and sometimes deadly diseases. Even healthy adults can become seriously ill and can pass certain illnesses on to others.

Immunizations are especially important for older adults and for adults with chronic conditions such as asthma, COPD, diabetes, or heart disease.

Medicare covers a number of vaccines for beneficiaries under Medicare Part B and the Medicare prescription drug plans (Part D).

Ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CRYSTAL ALLEN @ 252-436-2040

Alan Winstead
KTRCOG Area Agency On Aging Director
(252) 436-2040 ext. 2047
awinstead@kerrtarcog.org

Food Pantry Meetings Held Throughout the Kerr-Tar Region

During July 2026 the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council's Food Security & Access Committee brought together representatives from food distribution organizations throughout the five counties to discuss current challenges and emerging trends affecting food assistance efforts.

Three meetings were held across the Kerr-Tar Region in convenient locations. Stipends were also provided for participating organizations. Participants shared concerns about increasing demand for services, operational challenges, and the ongoing need for adequate food supplies. The discussion also highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration and referral networks to better serve families experiencing food insecurity.

A regional survey will be distributed to food pantries to identify the most pressing challenges across the region. The survey results will help guide future planning, collaboration, and resource development to strengthen the regional food assistance network.

These regional pantry meetings are part of the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Partnership Project, which is made possible through funding from the Triangle North Healthcare Foundation. Their support is helping strengthen collaboration among food assistance providers and identify opportunities to improve food access across the Kerr-Tar region.

For more information about the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council, contact Desiree Brooks at **252-436-2040 Ext. 6546** or **dbrooks@kerrtarcog.org**.



Vance & Warren Co. Pantry Meeting
Vance County Farmers Market
July 8, 2026



Granville & Person Co. Pantry Meeting
Granville Co. Cooperative Extension
Office
July 30, 2026



Franklin Co. Food Pantry Meeting
Franklin County Cooperative Extension Annex
July 29th, 2026

Desiree Brooks
Community and Economic Development Manager
(252)-436-2040 ext. 6546
dbrooks@kerrtarcog.org



Food Security Partnership Project Funded by:
TRIANGLE NORTH
HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Community Café Childcare Discussion



Turning Point CDC
175 Satterwhite Point Rd.
Henderson, NC 27537

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Breakfast provided

EVENT POSTPONED
A New Date Will Be Announced Soon!

Spots Limited!
Register Here!



<https://bit.ly/childcarediscussion>



Kerr-Tar
Regional Council
Of Governments

TurningPoint
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Desiree Brooks
Community and Economic Development Manager
(252)-436-2040 ext. 6546
dbrooks@kerrtarco.org



Regional Marketplace

Grown, Raised, and Made in Kerr-Tar!

CALLING ALL FARMERS!

Join us as a vendor at the Rooted Marketplace during the Regional Economic Development Summit!

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2026**

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

201 Breckenridge St.,
Henderson, NC 27536



Space is Limited!

For more information contact:
Desiree Brooks at
dbrooks@kerrtarcog.org

**REGISTER
NOW**



<https://bit.ly/rootedmarketplace>

Desiree Brooks
Community and Economic Development Manager
(252)-436-2040 ext. 6546
dbrooks@kerrtarcog.org



KERR-TAR REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Register Now!



**Early Bird
Registration**
\$30 per person
Through August 31st

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2026**

10:00 am - 3:30 pm

**McGregor
Hall**

201 Breckenridge St.,
Henderson, NC 27536

Discover how tourism and agri-tourism drive economic
growth, create opportunities, and strengthen rural
communities

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Mary Hemphill
CEO & Founder of
The Limitless Leader Collective
UNC School of Government



Dr. Carla Barbieri
PRTM Professor in
Sustainable Tourism
NC State University

Thank you to our sponsors!



PERSON COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Silver Sponsor



Venue Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY WITH SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Safety Tips for Students and Families

As students prepare to return to school, the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments' Safe Routes to School initiative encourages families, educators, and drivers to help make every trip to and from school as safe as possible.

Safe Routes to School promotes safe walking, bicycling, and rolling for students throughout Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren counties. Whether children walk, ride a bicycle, take the bus, or travel by car, everyone plays a role in creating safer school routes.

- Choose the safest available route and practice it with an adult before the first day of school.
- Use sidewalks and designated crosswalks whenever they are available.
- Stop and look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- Make eye contact with drivers and wait until vehicles have stopped before crossing.
- Avoid using phones, headphones, or other distractions while walking or bicycling.
- Wear bright or reflective clothing to help drivers see you.
- Always wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic and follow all traffic signs and signals.
- Younger children should walk or bicycle with a trusted adult whenever possible.

In rural areas where sidewalks, bicycle lanes, or safe crossings may be limited, families should carefully evaluate the route before allowing a child to walk or bicycle. If a route does not appear safe, consider working with your school and local community partners to identify safer alternatives.

Ashley Zuniga
KTRCOG Program Coordinator
252-436-2040 ext. 2009
azuniga@kerrtarcog.org

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL MONTHLY UPDATE

On Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Safe Routes to School Regional Program Coordinator Ashley Zuniga hosted an informational table at the Community Health Fair held at Cornerstone Christian Community Church in Oxford, Granville County.

Organized by Gloria Stovall, the event brought together several organizations focused on community resources, public health, safety, mental health, and overall well-being. Throughout the event, Ashley connected with attendees, shared information about the Safe Routes to School initiative, and provided educational resources promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety for children and families.

KTRCOG appreciates the opportunity to participate in this community-centered event and help raise awareness about safe walking and bicycling throughout the region.

See photos from the event below!

HEALTHY COMMUNITY STARTS WITH US FOR MORE INFORMATION
GLORIA STOVALL: 919-486-4400

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

FREE TO THE PUBLIC JULY 25TH
So Come & Be Informed!

10AM-2PM
3237 KNOTTS GROVE RD OXFORD NC

HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICE

- *FREE BLOOD PRESSURE TESTING
- *HEALTH EDUCATION AND PREVENTIVE CARE INFORMATION
- *NUTRITION AND HEALTHY LIVING RESOURCES
- *FITNESS AND WELLNESS DEMONSTRATIONS
- *CONNECTIONS TO LOCAL CLINICS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
- *HOME CAREGIVERS
- *HOSPICE CARE
- *SUBSTANCES USE SUPPORT RESOURCES

There will be a host of vendors with healthy, informative handout materials at their booths.

PRESENTERS

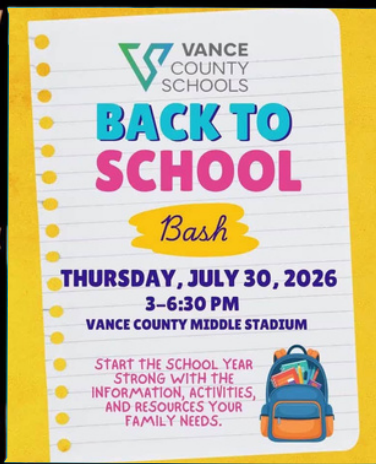
- MRS. OLIVIA RAVIZER
- LIBERTY HOME CARE AND
- MRS. TILDA HENDRICKS
- HENDRICKS INSURANCE
- MRS. REBECCA NEAL
- UNITY FORWARD
- MR. MICHAEL PATTERSON
- FAMILY CAREGIVER SPECIALIST
- DR. FRANSINE SANCHEZ
- CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION



Ashley Zuniga
KTRCOG Program Coordinator
252-436-2040 ext. 2009
azuniga@kerrtarcog.org



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL MONTHLY UPDATE



On Thursday, July 30, 2026, Safe Routes to School Regional Program Coordinator, Ashley Zuniga, hosted an informational table at the Vance County Schools Back-to-School Bash. The event was held at Vance County Middle School Stadium from 3:00–6:30 p.m. and brought together numerous community vendors to celebrate and support local students as they prepared to return to school.

Ashley shared educational resources focused on bicycle, pedestrian, and helmet safety, along with Safe Routes to School promotional items and giveaways. Five bicycles from the SRTS program were also loaned for the event's bike rodeo, allowing children to practice their bicycling skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Thanks to a generous donation from Walmart in Henderson, 100 bicycle helmets were distributed to participating children, and four bicycles were awarded through a raffle.

KTRCOG would like to recognize Mr. Rey Horner, Ms. Aarika Sandlin, Ms. Amanda Hines, and Ms. Sharon Pettiford for their coordination, assistance, and continued support of the SRTS program and bike rodeo. We sincerely appreciate Vance County Schools for including SRTS in this wonderful community event and helping local students begin the new school year safely!



Ashley Zuniga
KTRCOG Program Coordinator
252-436-2040 ext. 2009
azuniga@kerrtarcog.org

STAY CONNECTED WITH SRTS!

As part of KTRCOG's Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure outreach efforts, community members are encouraged to stay involved by sharing feedback, completing the SRTS Interest Form, and learning more about walking and biking safety opportunities throughout the region. The flyer below includes helpful QR codes for event feedback, future SRTS interest, the KTRCOG monthly newsletter, and the KTRCOG Safe Routes to School webpage.

SAFE ROUTES • STRONG COMMUNITIES • BRIGHT FUTURES

Safe Routes to School

Event Feedback & SRTS Interest

Thank you for joining us!



Thank You for Participating in Our Safe Routes to School Event!

Thank you for participating in our Safe Routes to School event. We hope your family enjoyed learning, engaging, and connecting with us. Your feedback and interest help us plan future walking, biking, and safety activities for students, families, schools, and communities across the Kerr-Tar region.



Event Feedback Survey

Families, parents, caregivers, and children are invited to share their thoughts about today's Safe Routes to School event. Your feedback helps us improve future Safe Routes to School events and activities.



Scan to complete the Event Feedback Survey.

SRTS Interest Form

Interested in Safe Routes to School activities, walking and biking safety events, Walk to School Day, Bike to School Day, school outreach opportunities, community partnerships, or future SRTS events?



Scan to complete the SRTS Interest Form and stay connected.

Keep Up With Safe Routes to School

KTRCOG Monthly Newsletter

Stay updated on Safe Routes to School activities, community events, and regional updates through KTRCOG's monthly newsletter.



KTRCOG SRTS Webpage

Visit the Safe Routes to School webpage to learn more about resources, outreach opportunities, and upcoming activities.



Ways to Get Involved

-  Encourage children to walk, bike, and roll safely
-  Practice pedestrian and bicycle safety together
-  Participate in Walk, Bike, and Roll to School activities
-  Share safety concerns near schools or neighborhoods
-  Help spread the word about future SRTS events
-  Complete the SRTS interest form to stay connected

What Happens Next?

Your responses help us plan future Safe Routes to School activities, identify family interest, and improve walking, biking, and safety outreach across Vance, Franklin, Granville, Warren, and Person counties.

Questions, comments, or concerns?

Contact Ashley Zuniga
 Safe Routes to School Regional Program Coordinator
 Serving Vance, Franklin, Granville, Warren, and Person Counties

Email: azuniga@kerrtarcog.org
 Phone: 252-436-2040 ext. 2009



Thank you for helping us create safer, healthier, and more connected communities!

Ashley Zuniga
 KTRCOG SRTS Program Coordinator
 252-436-2040 ext. 2009
azuniga@kerrtarcog.org

NCWORKS, KERR-TAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AND KITTRELL JOB CORPS STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP

The NCWorks Career Center and the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and Local Reentry Council recently met with staff and students at Kittrell Job Corps to strengthen their partnership and expand opportunities for their students.

During the meeting, staff discussed continuing their collaborative efforts to connect eligible Job Corps participants with NEXTGEN Youth Program services available through NCWorks and the Local Reentry Council (LRC). These partnerships help participants gain access to career guidance, workforce training, supportive services, and employment opportunities that lead to long-term success.

In addition to the partnership discussions, the team met with three Job Corps students to introduce and discuss Highway Construction Trade Academy being offered in collaboration with Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC) and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The students learned about the training opportunities available through the program, the skills they can gain, and the career pathways that can lead to high-demand careers in the transportation and infrastructure industries.

The meeting highlighted the importance of strong community partnerships in creating pathways to employment and helping young adults overcome barriers to success. By working together, NCWorks, Kerr-Tar Workforce Board, Kittrell Job Corps, VGCC, LRC and NCDOT continue to invest in the future workforce while supporting local employers and strengthening the regional economy.



Lisa Holland
KTRCOG Business Service Manager
252-436-2040 ext 2057
lholland@kerrtarcog.org

RAPID RESPONSE INFORMATION SESSION HELD FOR INTERNATIONAL PAPER EMPLOYEES

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and NCWorks recently met with Melissa Thomas with Duke Energy on Monday, July 13, 2026 to discuss expanding career awareness opportunities for youth and young adults across the region. The conversation focused on increasing exposure to high-demand careers in the skilled trades, including electrical, welding, pipefitting, and other occupations that support the growing energy industry.

The meeting also highlighted opportunities to connect Duke Energy's workforce initiatives with the NCWorks NextGen Youth Program, apprenticeship opportunities, and other workforce development services. By strengthening partnerships, Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and Duke Energy are working together to build a strong talent pipeline that prepares the next generation for rewarding careers while helping meet the region's future workforce needs.

RAPID RESPONSE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO OPEN BOOK EXTRACTS EMPLOYEES (OBX)

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and NCWorks Career Center recently responded to a workforce reduction at Open Book Extracts (OBX), where 20 employees were impacted by a layoff announcement on Friday, July 24.

We were contacted by Person County Economic Development who was working closely with the employer. Our team quickly provided electronic Rapid Response materials for distribution to all affected employees. The information included resources on unemployment insurance, NCWorks services, job search assistance, training opportunities, and other workforce support available to help individuals transition back into employment.

Open Book Extracts expressed their appreciation for the timely information and support provided. The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board remains committed to partnering with local employers during times of workforce transition by delivering responsive services and connecting affected workers with the resources they need to successfully move forward.

Lisa Holland
KTRCOG Business Service Manager
252-436-2040 ext 2057
lholland@kerrtarcog.org

NEW EMPLOYEES SPOTLIGHTS

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS



Helen Bradby

KTRCOG warmly welcomes Helen Bradby, who joined the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board as the Regional Reentry Coordinator on July 1.

With over 20 years of workforce development experience, Helen is dedicated to helping justice-involved individuals connect with career readiness assistance, training, and employment opportunities in the Kerr-Tar region.

Originally from Warren County and now residing in Franklin County, Helen is passionate about second-chance initiatives and sharing participant success stories. Please join us in welcoming her, and remember her birthday on November 10!



Ashley Snipes

KTRCOG is pleased to welcome Ashley Snipes, who joined the organization on July 1 as Finance and Compliance Specialist.

Ashley brings experience as a compliance specialist in the solar industry and as an analyst in the financial sector. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics with a concentration in Business from North Carolina A&T State University.

Ashley looks forward to supporting KTRCOG, its staff, and the communities it serves while continuing to expand her knowledge of finance and compliance.

Outside of work, she enjoys listening to music and podcasts and spending time with family, friends, and her dog. Please join us in welcoming Ashley—and remember her birthday on August 9!

NEW EMPLOYEES SPOTLIGHTS



*David
Stuart*

KTRCOG is pleased to welcome David Stuart, who joined the Administrative Department on July 16 as Administrative and Program Assistant.

David's interest in local government led him to Appalachian State University, where he studied Public Administration and Urban Planning. He also completed internships with the City of Gastonia and F.A.R.M. Cafe, a nonprofit community café.

In his new role, David looks forward to taking the next step in his local government career and helping residents throughout KTRCOG's five-county region access housing-repair resources. Please join us in welcoming David to the KTRCOG team—and remember his birthday on March 21!

WANT YOUR FLYER OR STORY IN THE NEWSLETTER?

Interested in Being Featured in Our Newsletter?

Contact Ashley Zuniga, Newsletter Editor and Regional Program Coordinator, at azuniga@kerrtarcog.org. Please include your article information, event details, flyers, and high-quality photos for consideration.

Submission guidelines:

- Content must come from a nonprofit organization or a local or state government agency. Private and for-profit organizations are not eligible for inclusion.
- Submissions must relate to at least one of the five counties served by the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments: Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, or Warren.
- Materials must be submitted at least one week before the end of the month to be considered for the following month's newsletter.
- The newsletter is typically published on the first or second day of each month.

Please note that submitting content does not guarantee publication.

Kerr-Tar

Regional 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

dc Cox@kerrtar cog.org

Area Agency on Aging

Alan Winstead

awinstead@kerrtar cog.org

Community & Economic Development

Desiree Brooks

dbrooks@kerrtar cog.org

Workforce Development

Lou Grillo

lgrillo@kerrtar cog.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

1724 Graham Avenue

PO Box 709

Henderson, NC 27536

Phone | (252) 436-2040

Fax | (252) 436-2055

info@kerrtar cog.org | kerrtar cog.org

