



IN THIS EDITION:

Important Information

Kerr-Tar Christmas Celebrations	P. 2
Golden Leaf Rural Internship Initiative	P. 3
ARP Office Hours & Post Obligation Guidance	P. 4

Area Agency on Aging

2025 Family Caregiver Conference	P. 5
Aging Joins GRRO For National Rural Health Day Celebration	P. 5
Pre-K Through 12 th Grade Future Self Contest	P. 6
National Influenza Vaccination Week	P. 6
Kerr-Tar Senior Games & Silver Arts	P. 7

Planning & Development

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Celebration	P. 8
UPLIFT Summit	P. 8
NC State Rail Plan	P. 9
Orlando Clean Fuels Conference	P. 9

Workforce Development

Success Story: Khalil Terry	P. 10
NCWorks Brings Careers to Life Through Virtual Reality	P. 10
KTWFD Highlights NCWorks Business Services	P. 11
Kerr-Tar Visits MSW Pipe in Oxford	P. 11
Person County Career Fair	P. 12
NextGen Tuesday Sessions	P. 12

Staff Announcements



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council Meeting,** December 10th at 10 a.m., COG Office
- **Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board Meeting:** December 16th at 6 p.m., COG Office
- **Holiday:** Christmas, COG Office is closed on Dec. 24th, 25th, 26th
- **Holiday:** New Year's Day, COG Office is closed Jan 1st, 2026

Kerr-Tar Region Christmas Celebrations

Franklin County

- Franklinton Christmas Parade, December 4th, 7 p.m.
- Youngsville Tree Lighting Ceremony, December 5th, 5:30 p.m.
- Youngsville Christmas Parade, December 6th, 10 a.m.
- Louisburg Christmas Parade, December 6th, 3:00 p.m.
- Bunn Christmas Parade, December 14th, 3 p.m.

Granville County

- Oxford Lighting of the Greens & Christmas Parade, December 5th, 4 p.m.
- Butner Christmas in the Park, December 5th, 7 p.m.
- Creedmoor Christmas Tree Lighting, December 5th, 7 p.m.
- Creedmoor Christmas Parade, December 6th, 11 a.m.
- Butner Christmas Parade, December 6th, 2 p.m.

Person County

- Jingles on Main, December 4th, 5:30 p.m.
- Roxboro Christmas Parade, December 13th, 2 p.m.

Vance County

- Henderson Christmas Parade, December 6th, 2:30 p.m.

Warren County

- Warrenton Christmas Parade, December 13th, 5 p.m.



GOLDEN LEAF RURAL INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE



Golden LEAF fully funds intern wages for Scholars to gain professional experience in rural North Carolina communities. Host sites cover any site-related expenses (workstation, supplies, supervision).

Scholars are responsible for identifying their own internship sites. To support placement, Golden LEAF is collecting interest from organizations that want to host a Scholar next summer (summer 2026). This opportunity is limited to Golden LEAF Scholars (we award 215 new scholarships each year; roughly 600 students are eligible), and sites must be located in a qualifying rural community.

Students may intern in businesses, government agencies, or nonprofits. The compiled list of interested sites will be shared with Scholars this fall; students will contact sites directly. Questions? Email the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative team at rii@goldenleaf.org.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Follow us on social media to stay updated!



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN OFFICE HOURS & POST-OBLIGATION GUIDANCE

AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN

The UNC School of Government (SOG) hosts virtual ARPA Office Hours for local governments to discuss issues related to the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Fund program and local government finance. Click [here](#) for the UNC SOG ARPA Office Hours and to access the Zoom link.

Upcoming ARP/Finance Office Hours:

December 4, 12:00-1:00pm

December 8, 8:30-9:30am

Zoom Log in for all Office Hour

Sessions linked [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726



After the Obligation Deadline: Managing ARP/CSLFRF Funds and Projects Through the End of the Grant Term

The deadline to obligate American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARP/CSLFRF) has passed, and local governments now have until December 31, 2026, to fully expend their allocated funds. While that may sound like ample time, the countdown is on for local governments to finish their projects—or at least the portions funded by ARP/CSLFRF.

To “expend” funds means the money must be legally owed and payable to a contractor, vendor, or service provider by the deadline. This requirement applies not only to local governments as direct recipients of the funds, but also to any subrecipients they’ve partnered with to implement ARP/CSLFRF projects. It also includes funds a local government received as a subrecipient from the State or another local government. In short: every dollar of ARP/CSLFRF must be fully expended by December 31, 2026. [READ MORE HERE.](#)

Treasury Begins American Rescue Plan Grant Close-out

Recipients of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program who have fully obligated and expended their entire award may be eligible to initiate early closeout of their SLFRF award before the official end of the period of performance on December 31, 2026. Since summer 2025, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has been inviting eligible recipients to begin the closeout process on a rolling basis. Invitations are sent directly to designated points of contact, and only those who have received such communication may proceed with early closeout.

If your community has not yet received an invitation, the option is not currently available. You are encouraged to ensure that your points of contact are up to date in the Treasury Portal and to review the SLFRF Award Closeout Preparation Checklist to be ready when invited.

Resources

- [Closeout Instructions for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds \(SLFRF\) Program](#)
- [State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds \(SLFRF\) Award Closeout Preparation Checklist](#)



2025 FAMILY CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

The 2025 Kerr-Tar Family Caregiver Conference was a huge success with tremendous positive feedback from participants and professionals in attendance.

The event was held on November 13th at Vance Granville Community College and hosted nearly 100 people. The conference speakers, Michael Lewis of Family Financial Solutions, Dr. DeLon Canterbury of GeriatrRx, Inc., and Lisa Levine of Dementia Alliance provided great resources and action steps to support our older adults as they age gracefully. Special thanks to our event Sponsor, Dementia Alliance, and all the exhibitors.



AGING JOINS GRRO FOR NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY CELEBRATION

The Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO), in partnership with the Duke University Rural Health Equity Hub, hosted a National Rural Health Day celebration on November 20th in Henderson, NC. The event recognized the vital contributions of rural communities and the organizations that support them.

A Rural Health and Wellness Fair also took place that day, featuring nearly 40 community partners offering health-related resources for about 150 attendees. The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging attended the event alongside other local and regional organizations.



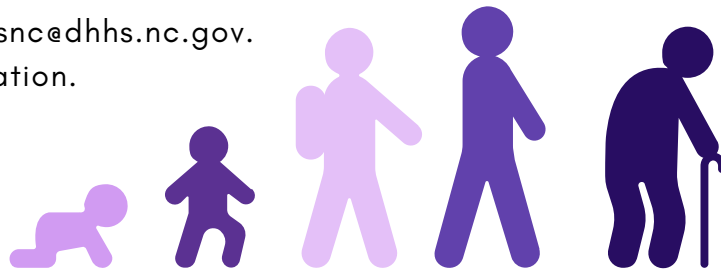
PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE FUTURE SELF CONTEST



Students are invited to submit creative entries in various formats—poetry, photography, art, dance, skits, music, or multimedia—showcasing a society that celebrates and includes all ages. Themes include respect for older adults, challenging ageism, and intergenerational connections.

Submissions are due by February 23, 2026, via JotForm. All participants receive a certificate, with winners featured on the Division of Aging website and at the Year One All Ages, All Stages Celebration. Educators are encouraged to promote this opportunity.

For questions, contact aaasnc@dhhs.nc.gov.
Click [here](#) for more information.



NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK DEC 5TH - 11TH



National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that highlights the importance of continuing influenza vaccination through the holiday season and beyond. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an annual influenza vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older to reduce the risk of illness and hospitalization. Now is a great time to vaccinate – to protect your family, friends and yourself.

Medicare Part B covers one influenza vaccination and its administration each influenza season for Medicare beneficiaries. If medically necessary, Medicare may cover additional seasonal influenza vaccinations.

Ask Crystal Allen for more information at (252) 436-2040.



2026 KERR-TAR SENIOR GAMES & SILVER ARTS

GAMES INCLUDED:

Badminton, Basketball, Billiards, Bocce, Bowling, Corn hole, Croquet, Cycling, Disc Golf, Discus, Running and Standing Long Jumps, Football Throw, Golf, Horseshoes, Mini Golf, Pickleball, Shuffleboard, Softball Throw, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, and Track Events. (individuals compete for awards in their own gender and age category within five year increments (50-54, 55-59, 60-64...))

SILVER ARTS INCLUDES:

Literary Arts, Visual Arts, Heritage Arts, Performing Arts

WHEN TO REGISTER

Early Registration:

February 2-February 16, 2026

Cost: \$15.00

Entry Deadline: March 2, 2026

Cost: \$20.00 *after Feb. 16th*

Additional Fees:

Bowling: \$5.00

Golf: \$40.00

Mini Golf: \$3.00



REGISTER HERE

Register at your local Senior Center or visit this link to register online

<https://torch.ncseniorgames.org>



For more information about Senior Games and Silver Arts 2026

Please contact Michael Patterson at (252) 436 - 2040 ext. 6072 or

Crystal Allen at (252) 436 - 2040 ext. 2036

RUBY BRIDGES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY CELEBRATION

On November 14th, we celebrated Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day with Vance County Schools and Perry Memorial Library.

Our day began at Aycock Elementary, where nearly 120 students journeyed to the Fox Pond amphitheater. There, Melody Peters, Youth Services Librarian from Perry Memorial, shared the inspiring story of Ruby Bridges before students explored the StoryWalk trail and wrapped up with snacks and reflection.



Our second session brought 30 STEM students on a downtown walk to Perry Memorial Library. Historian Tem Blackburn and Dr. Alice Sallins, Director of the Vance County Arts Council, led an engaging discussion on Ruby Bridges' legacy and the connections to Vance County's own history.

A heartfelt thank-you to Vance County Schools, Melody Peters, Vance County Fire Department, and the Safe Routes Partnership for their Mini-Grant support. Together, we're honoring history, inspiring students, and strengthening our community.



UPLIFT SUMMIT

Desiree Brooks, Community and Economic Development Manager, and Laila Abed, Program Manager, attended the UPLIFT Rural Tourism Summit on Friday, November 21st at Mini Acres Farm in Raleigh, NC. The Summit brought together many Tourism Directors, stakeholders, and partners across North Carolina to celebrate and share accomplishments achieved throughout the year.

NC STATE RAIL PLAN

The N.C. Department of Transportation invites you to review and provide comment on the proposed Comprehensive State Rail Plan, which establishes the vision for rail transportation across the state for the next 30 years.



Comprehensive State Rail Plan

This plan identifies a program of strategic freight, passenger, and rail safety investments that support safe and reliable rail transportation and spur economic development statewide.

Developed in compliance with the U.S. Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act, the N.C. Department of Transportation's Comprehensive State Rail Plan helps identify needs and guides investments in North Carolina's freight and passenger rail network for the next 30 years. NCDOT is nearing completion of an updated North Carolina Comprehensive State Rail Plan that will clearly communicate the vision for North Carolina's rail system while supporting the state's goals and policies. The Comprehensive State Rail Plan was last approved and adopted in 2015.

We need your feedback! Tell us what you think about the proposed new Comprehensive State Rail Plan and the projects listed in the [plan](#).



2026 ORLANDO CLEAN FUELS CONFERENCE

The demand for clean fuels is growing worldwide, reshaping U.S. trade flows, sourcing strategies, and compliance challenges. As international markets for biodiesel, renewable diesel, and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) expand, U.S. producers and marketers must adapt to stay competitive.

At the 2026 Clean Fuels Conference in Orlando, Florida, industry experts will explore what's driving exports, how regulations are changing, and what U.S. businesses need to know to navigate this evolving landscape.

Join Clean Fuels Alliance on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, for "The New Normal: Clean Fuels in a Changing Global Scene." It's an essential session for anyone looking to stay ahead in the rapidly shifting clean fuels market.

Register [HERE](#) today.

SUCCESS STORY: KHALIL TERRY

Mr. Khalil Terry came to NCWorks seeking an opportunity to build a stable and rewarding career. With determination and a clear vision for his future, Mr. Terry enrolled in the CDL-A training program at Vance-Granville Community College.

Through dedication and hard work, he successfully completed the program and earned his CDL-A license. Shortly after, Mr. Terry secured employment with SunRock in Butner, NC, where he began an exciting new chapter in his career.

Mr. Terry expressed his enthusiasm about this new opportunity and the positive direction his life is taking. The NCWorks team is proud of his accomplishments and wishes him continued success as he drives forward on his career pathway.



NCWORKS CENTER BRINGS CAREERS TO LIFE THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY

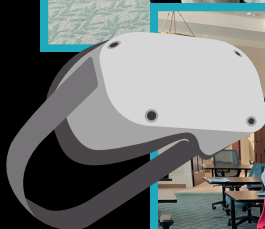
On November 19th, the Kerr-Tar NCWorks Career Center welcomed students from Vance Charter School for an exciting hands-on experience using Virtual Reality (VR) technology.

During their visit, students immersed themselves in a variety of career simulations, including:

- Repairing a robot picker
- Preparing a restaurant-quality dish
- Changing an airplane wheel

VR provides an innovative and engaging way for students to explore potential career paths in high-demand industries. By stepping into simulated work environments, they gain insight into the skills required for each role, all while having fun and learning in a safe, interactive setting.

Virtual Reality career exploration is available at the Kerr-Tar NCWorks Center every Wednesday at 1:00 PM. To schedule a session, reach out to the NCWorks office.



KERR TAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD HIGHLIGHTS NCWORKS BUSINESS SERVICES



The Kerr Tar Workforce Development Board recently shared an overview of the many NCWorks Business Services available to employers, jobseekers, and community partners. The presentation outlined key employer supports, including recruitment assistance, job postings, candidate pre-screening, and labor market data, along with training programs such as Work Experience (WEX), On-the-Job Training (OJT), Incumbent Worker Training, and apprenticeship support.

Attendees also learned how NCWorks Career Centers guide jobseekers through career planning, résumé development, skills assessments, and referrals to training, helping connect qualified talent to local employers.

Kerr-Tar thanks all participants for their continued collaboration in supporting a thriving regional economy.



KERR-TAR VISITS MSW PIPE IN OXFORD

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board recently toured MSW Pipe in Oxford to learn more about the company’s production processes, technologies, and workforce needs. MSW Pipe—part of the family-owned MSW Pipe and Profile Systems Corp. from Germany—is expanding into Granville County, establishing its first U.S. location in Butner. The new facility will begin as a logistics and warehouse hub and later add manufacturing operations, creating 10 jobs initially and is expected to double as production ramps up.

Company leadership shared current job openings, future talent needs, and opportunities to collaborate on training and workforce development. The visit strengthened the partnership between Kerr Tar and MSW Pipe and opened the door for future recruitment and skill-building initiatives.

Kerr-Tar thanks MSW Pipe for hosting the tour and for their growing contributions to Oxford and Granville County’s economy.

PERSON COUNTY CAREER FAIR



The Kerr Tar Workforce Development Board, in partnership with NCWorks, proudly supported the Person County Career Fair at Northern Middle School, where students explored career pathways and connected with local employers.

Students participated in hands-on demonstrations, asked questions, and learned about high-demand industries including healthcare, advanced manufacturing, public safety, and technology. Kerr Tar/NCWorks staff shared resources such as career planning support, the NextGen Program, and future training opportunities.

Events like this career fair strengthen the link between education and industry by giving students early exposure to real-world careers and helping them make informed choices about their futures.

The Kerr Tar Workforce Development Board extends its appreciation to Northern Middle School, NCWorks, participating employers, and community partners for supporting the next generation of Person County talent.



NEXTGEN TUESDAY SESSIONS



NextGen Tuesdays continue to serve as an enriching and informative experience for the students of Kittrell Job Corps.

On November 18th, Youth Alliance Leader Maurice Wilson delivered his first résumé-building presentation, offering guidance and personal insights to emphasize the significance of professional résumé development and workplace readiness.

Students were attentive, engaged, and expressed great appreciation for the session.

BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sharon Thomas
December 26th



Kim Hawkins
December 28th

ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Desiree Brooks
5 years

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

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Area Agency on Aging

Alan Winstead

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Community & Economic Development

Desiree Brooks

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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

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