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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Holiday:** New Years, January 1st, COG will be closed
- **Holiday:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20
- **Save the date:** Kerr-Tar COG Board Meeting on January 23 @ 6:30 p.m.

# HAPPY NEW YEARS!

*From The COG*

## My new years resolution is...



*Diane Cox*

"To reduce my screen time and stress less."



*Katie Conner*

"To have a healthier lifestyle"



*Donna Lee*

"To be a better Christian by showing more love, compassion, patience and giving to others."



*Cindy Pernell*

"To foster better relationships with my family and be a better me"



*Alan Winstead*

"To read 12 impactful books"



*Desiree Brooks*

"I want to prioritize my physical and mental health"



*Amanda Lewis*

"To cultivate a collaborative team that's willing to work on the challenges in NC"



*Christa Hight*

"Take more time to focus on myself"



*Ty Cheek*

"Win the lottery"



*Victoria Glasscock*

"To stop doomscrolling"



*Nicole Manalis*

"To learn how to sew/make my own clothes"



*Michael Patterson*

"Stay healthy"



*Sharon Thomas*

"I'm putting me first."



*Charlie Robinette*

"To read my emails more thoroughly and be more timely in my replies."



*Crystal Allen*

"To get more seniors to join us for senior games"



# KERR-TAR VISITS PERSON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

On December 20th, the COG visited the Person County Senior Center for a festive holiday celebration filled with fun and laughter. The event featured a variety of activities, including Christmas-themed Bingo, musical chairs, and other holiday games that brought out the competitive spirit in everyone. Seniors enjoyed delicious food and had the opportunity to take pictures with Santa, which they were able to have a keepsake photo to take with them. The day was filled with joy and holiday cheer, showcasing the strong sense of community that the COG values.



Above are pictures of the food provided by the COG, the seniors truly enjoyed all the Christmas sweets! To the left is our Santa having a peaceful nap after a long day of celebrating with our seniors and preparing for his Christmas Eve travels.

Please Join Us For Our

# RIBBON CUTTING

We are excited to announce the completion of the new Henderson-Vance Industrial Park Phase III Road (Industrial Park Drive)



**Thursday**  
**January 16, 2025**  
**10:00 AM**  
**39 Industrial Park Drive**

**Kerr-Tar**  
 Regional Council  
 Of Governments



This project made possible through funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, the North Carolina Department of Commerce and Vance County.



# THE CITY OF HENDERSON WELCOMES HASSAN T. KINGSBERRY, ESQ. AS NEW CITY MANAGER

The City of Henderson is pleased to announce the appointment of Hassan T. Kingsberry, Esq. as the new City Manager, effective January 13th, 2025. With nearly a decade of experience in municipal government and a proven history of delivering impactful results for local governments, businesses, and residents, Mr. Kingsberry is well-equipped to lead. In addition to his extensive background in public service, he brings almost two decades of legal expertise and a strong track record as an educator in the Kerr-Tar region. As City Manager, Mr. Kingsberry will oversee Henderson's daily operations, manage the city's budget, and collaborate closely with the City Council to implement strategic initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all residents.



Photo provided by The Daily Dispatch

## FRANKLIN COUNTY HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR EPSOM PARK

On Friday, December 4, Franklin County held their groundbreaking ceremony in honor of the beginning of Epsom Park. The first phase of this park is set to be completed in fall of 2025 and will include many great amenities. It will have a volleyball court, a playground, a walking track, and a picnic table for everyone to enjoy!

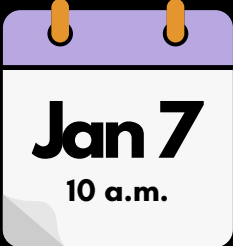
# AGING DEPARTMENT HELPS DELIVER HOLIDAY MEALS

Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging helped the Senior Centers deliver holiday boxes to home delivered meals participants in December. In addition to an assortment of foodstuffs, the folks in Warren County received Fowl Play Poultry Farm honey in their boxes and the recipients in Granville County had boxes with brownies from Strong Arm Baking Company.

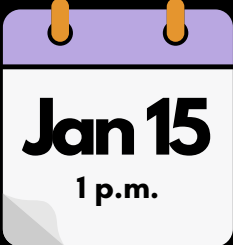


Yummm!

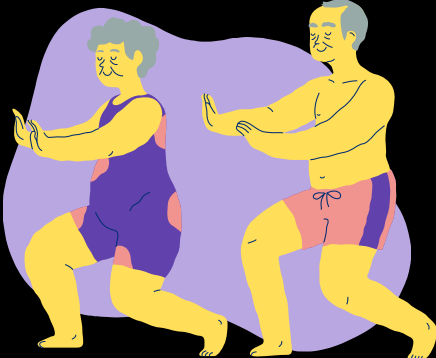
## SAVE THESE DATES



New Year Self-Care Workshop Held at **10 am on January 7th at the Person Senior Center** - We will explore self-care what, why, how, and create plans for a healthy 2025.



Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention begins Wednesday, **January 15th at 1pm at the Creedmoor Senior Center** - We will practice Tai Chi forms and techniques for improved health. Benefits include better balance, increased strength and range of motion, less stress, and enriched brain function.





# REGIONAL TOURISM PLANNING MEETING

Desiree Brooks, Community & Economic Development Manager and Charlie Robinette, Planning Contractor, coordinated a Regional Tourism Planning Meeting that was held on December 16, 2024, at the Vance County Farmer's Market. This engaging meeting consisted of Tourism Directors throughout the Kerr-Tar Region who were ready to learn more about Regional Tourism and developing an appealing Regional Marketing Plan. Scott Peacock, Director of Communication & Marketing with Visit NC and Carol Kline with UPLIFT, presented to the group and shared valuable insight as to why this is so important. Everyone agreed that this is a great need for our region and are excited for what is ahead for 2025!



## BENCHMARK COMMUNITY BANK OFFERING SCHOLARSHIP



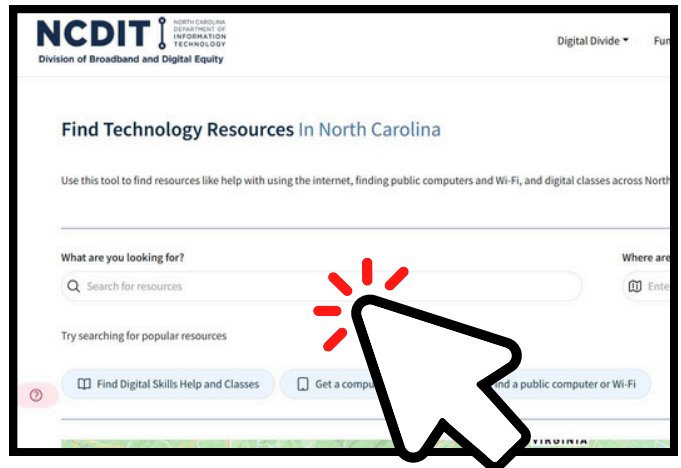
The \$mart\$art program, launched in 2011, offers scholarships to high school seniors continuing their education at a college or trade school. Initially awarding three \$1,000 scholarships in 2015, the program now provides ten scholarships annually. The scholarships aim to recognize students' commitment to school and community involvement and assist those pursuing higher education at community colleges, trade schools, or four-year

universities. This year, five scholarships are being awarded for students attending community colleges or trade schools, and five are for those heading to four-year universities. The application deadline for 2025 is **January 15 at 11:59 p.m.** Don't miss out on this great opportunity!



# NCDIT ANNOUNCES NEW TECH RESOURCE FINDER

In December, the North Carolina Division of Broadband announced the launch of their new Tech Resource Finder. This website features over 1,100 resources designed to help North Carolinians access the internet, locate public computers and Wi-Fi, and find technical support and digital skills classes across the state. Accessible directly from the top navigation of their website, the Tech Resource Finder also aims to promote local organizations that are working to bridge the digital divide.



If your organization provides these services or has expanded its programs, the Division is eager to collaborate and include your efforts in the Tech Resource Finder. To learn more, please click [here](#) to find technology resources near you or promote your local organization!

## LET'S CELEBRATE DATA PRIVACY WEEK!



**NATIONAL  
CYBERSECURITY  
ALLIANCE**

We will be celebrating Data Privacy Week from **January 27 until the 31st**. During this week, the National Cybersecurity Alliance is promoting an international effort to empower individuals and businesses to respect privacy, safeguard data and enable trust. They want to help citizens understand that they have the power to manage their data, and want to help organizations understand why it is important that they respect their users' data.

### LEARN HOW TO PROTECT YOUR DATA:

#### 1. KNOW THE TRADE-OFF BETWEEN PRIVACY AND CONVENIENCE

Consider who you share your data with and what you receive in return.

#### 2. MANAGE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS

Check the privacy settings in your apps and devices and adjust them to your comfort level.

#### 3. PROTECT YOUR DATA

Use long, unique passwords, enable multifactor authentication, keep software up to date and watch out for phishing!





# FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: COMMUNITY AND DESTINATION CHARGING ZEV INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM



The N.C. Division of Air Quality (DAQ) is offering approximately \$1.8 million in funding through the N.C. Volkswagen Settlement to support community and destination zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure projects. This funding aims to improve charging access across the state, with sites required to include at least one DC Fast port (up to four) and may also have additional Level 2 ports. For more details on eligibility, funding, and project requirements, please refer to the Request for Proposals (RFP). Maximum funding amounts depend on charger capacity and property ownership. To learn more about this funding opportunity, please click [here](#).

## 2025 EMERGING ISSUES FORUM

The Institute for Emerging Issues invites you to the 2025 Emerging Issues Forum: Future Forward Energy, on February 19, 2025, at the NC State University McKimmon Conference and Training Center in Raleigh. North Carolina's population is projected to reach 14

million by the year 2050 and energy demand is growing at the fastest rate seen in 30 years. The 2025 forum will examine the impacts driven by population growth, an influx of energy-intensive businesses, extreme weather and more on North Carolina's energy landscape. Sessions will focus on energy affordability, workforce demands, and infrastructure reliability and resiliency. This is the first Emerging Issues Forum in the 2025-2027 Future Forward Infrastructure series. Join our Regional Project Manager, Amanda Lewis, for this forum! To learn more about the event and to purchase tickets, please click [here](#).



**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Institute for  
Emerging Issues

# WORKFORCE DIRECTOR ATTENDS GOVERNOR COOPER'S A STRONGER WORKFORCE EVENT

On Tuesday, December 17th Workforce Development Director Lou Grillo attended Governor Roy Cooper's A Stronger Workforce for North Carolina event at Durham Tech. The event highlighted Governor Cooper's accomplishments and impact on workforce during his administration, including programs like the Finish Line Grant. The Finish Line Grant was a partnership from July 2018 to October 2022 between the Workforce Development Boards

and the North Carolina Community Colleges that helped students close to graduation overcome challenges that could derail their education. The program helped many students in the Kerr-Region and was tremendously successful throughout the state as well with over 16,000 awards for a total of more than \$7.5 million.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR NCWORKS CAREER CENTER!

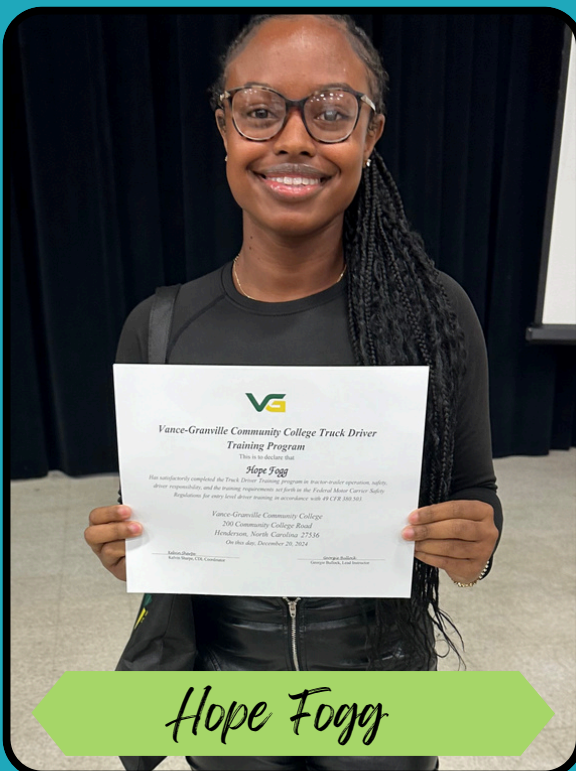
NCWorks updates you on job fairs, career fairs, job search tips, virtual reality simulations, and many other great resources! Click below to follow us today!

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





# JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING THESE STUDENTS!



Hope Fogg

Hope Fogg is a 22-year-old single mother from Vance County who was enrolled in the NextGen Program in August. She was seeking assistance with paying for CDL training. Hope expressed interest in pursuing a career that would allow her to provide a good living for herself and her child. After completing an initial assessment and a Work Interest assessment, it was determined that the CDL Program at Vance-Granville Community College would be a good start in pursuit of Hope's career aspirations. She successfully completed the CDL training program on December 20, 2024 and is currently working with the Business Service Representative for assistance with securing a full-time opportunity as a driver.



Hunter Godwin

Hunter came into the NCWorks Career Center on August 6th seeking assistance with getting his CDL. He is an 18-year-old resident of Franklin County. At the time, Hunter was awaiting the birth of his son, who was due in September. After researching local training providers, Hunter decided to attend Vance-Granville Community College in Henderson. He successfully completed the CDL program on December 20, 2024. Today, Hunter is working full-time with GRD Trucking as a Driver. He is happy to be earning good wages while providing for himself, his fiancé, and newborn son!





## BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Diane Cox*  
January 9th



## ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Donna Lee*  
36 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**

[awinstead@kerrtar cog.org](mailto:awinstead@kerrtar cog.org)

#### Community & Economic Development

**Desiree Brooks**

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#### Workforce Development

**Lou Grillo**

[lgrillo@kerrtar cog.org](mailto: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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