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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Holiday:** Good Friday, April 18th the COG office will be closed.

Kerr-Tar Senior Games:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Bowling-Doubles, April 2 | • Pickle ball-Singles, April 22 |
| • Bowling-Doubles/Mixed April 4 | • Billiards, April 23 |
| • Horseshoes, April 8 | • Pickle ball-Doubles & Mixed Doubles April 25 |
| • Badminton, Croquet, & Table Tennis, April 9 | • Disc Golf, April 28 |
| • Mini Golf, April 15 | • Basketball Shoot, April 29 |
| • Track & Field Events, April 17 | • Fun Walk, April 29 |
| | • Tennis, April 30 |



DISASTER RECOVERY EXPO

In the aftermath of devastating disasters, entire communities are left in need of urgent assistance

Save the Date

THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH

@

VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CIVIC CENTER

200 Community College Rd,
Henderson, NC 27536

9 AM-1 PM

VENDORS NEEDED

Shelters

Department of Social Services

Non-Profits

Fire Departments

**Emergency Management
& MORE!**

A great opportunity to share your expertise, resources, and materials, such as pamphlets, business cards, preparedness guides, or other informational materials that can help individuals and communities before and after a disaster.

FRANKLIN COUNTY APPOINTS NEW ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

Scott Hammerbacher, Director of Planning & Inspections for Franklin County has been named the new Assistant County Manager.

Hammerbacher, who has served the county for 19 years, steps into the role following Will Doerfer's resignation in October. "I'm excited to bring my experience to the County Manager's office," said Hammerbacher. He previously worked as a planner in Holly Springs, NC, and Reading, PA., and as a construction manager in Ocean City, Md. "Scott's planning and project management expertise will be a great asset to the County," said Interim County Manager Ryan Preble.




GRANT OPPORTUNITY: GOLDEN LEAF GRANT





Community-Based Grants Initiative (CBGI) – North Central Prosperity Zone

Organizations in the North Central Prosperity Zone are invited to apply for the Community-Based Grants Initiative (CBGI), a competitive funding opportunity focused on **economic growth, workforce preparedness, job creation, and agriculture**. Counties eligible to apply include Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Nash, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Wilson.

- **Funding Details**

-  Total Available: \$11 million

-  County-Specific Awards: Up to three projects per county, with a max of \$1.5 million per county

-  Regional Projects: Additional funding available for projects involving at least three counties

- **Who Can Apply?**

- 501(c)(3) nonprofits
 - Governmental entities (counties, municipalities, community colleges, universities, etc.)

- **Application Process**

- County managers will submit and endorse projects for consideration.
 - Regional projects do not require county manager endorsement but must meet eligibility criteria.

- **Upcoming Workshops**

- Learn more by attending an online session available [here](#).

 [Click here to register](#)

For more information on the Community-Based Grants Initiative, click [HERE](#).

CITY OF HENDERSON AWARDED \$5,000 YOUTH SPORTS GRANT



The City of Henderson has been awarded a \$5,000 Youth Sports Grant to support travel costs for the Henderson-Vance Parks and Recreation Gate City Gladiators as they compete in The Finale Basketball Tournament in Hampton, Virginia. This funding will help cover expenses such as transportation and lodging, ensuring the team can focus on their performance.

A huge thanks to our grant writer, Amanda Lewis for providing technical assistance for this grant and a big congratulations to the team on this achievement! As part of the grant process, the city will work with the NC Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission to finalize required documentation and ensure compliance with reporting guidelines. We are excited to see Henderson's young athletes represent the community on a larger stage and wish them success in the tournament!



GRANT OPPORTUNITY: RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANTS

The North Carolina Trails Program offers grant funding for "shovel-ready" trail projects that promote connectivity, accessibility, and sustainable recreation. These grants support local economic development through natural resource tourism. In addition, the spring 2025 grant round for the RTP Safety and Education Grant (SEG), each up to \$5,000, has also opened. Federal, state, or local government agencies, as well as qualified nonprofit organizations, are eligible to apply for both grants.

Grant Details:

- Funding Range: \$10,000 - \$100,000
- Match Requirement: 25% of RTP funds received
- Deadline: September 5, 2025, by 5 p.m.

Agencies may submit one application per project. A formal review is available before final submission to ensure compliance with RTP guidelines. The Grants Management System (GMS) handles applications and payments, requiring registration in the North Carolina Financial System (NCFS).

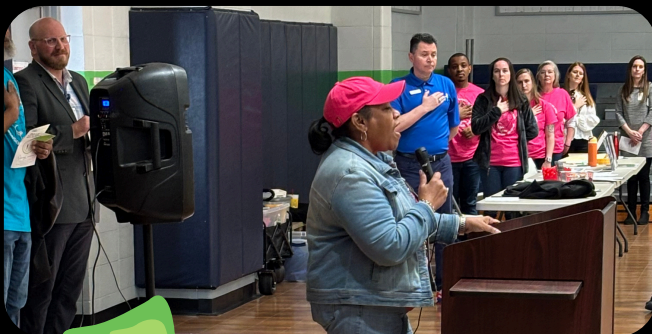
Applicants should consult their Regional Trails Specialist throughout the process. For more details and required forms, click [HERE](#).

division of parks and recreation

NCTRAILS

KERR-TAR SENIOR GAMES:2025 OPENING CEREMONY

The 2025 Kerr-Tar Senior Games kicked off with a bang on Friday, March 22nd! The Opening Ceremony at Aycock Recreation Center in Henderson had lots of great representation, with Brad Allen, President and Executive Director of North Carolina Senior Games, Inc., setting the stage for an unforgettable event. Henderson City Manager Hassan T. Kingsberry and Vance County Assistant County Manager Jeremy Jones delivered warm welcomes, while Adam McConnell, CEO of Granville Health System, represented the Presenting Sponsor.



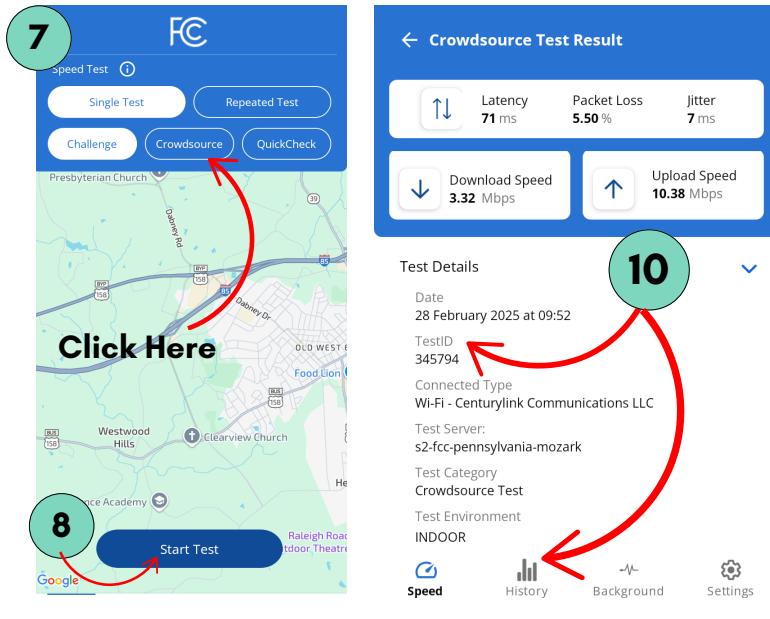
The atmosphere was electric as Dianna Talley delivered a stirring rendition of the National Anthem, followed by a lively performance from the Vance County Sliders. The excitement continued with the Corn Hole Games, marking the beginning of a series of thrilling events that will conclude in May with the Silver Arts Events. Let the games begin!



FCC Speed Test

<https://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData/speed-test-app>

How to Test Your Wi-Fi Speed



How to Contest Wired Broadband Connection:

1. Visit website: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/>
2. Type in the address of the location
3. Make sure you have selected "Fixed Broadband" on the right side menu.
4. Select "Availability Challenge" and answer the prompts
5. Use the FCC Speed Test App's "Single Test" "Crowdsourced" option and download the speed test data to submit into the 'Availability Challenge'

10 Easy Steps

1. Download the FCC Speed Test App.
2. Allow permissions for the app.
3. Connect to WiFi you want to test.
4. Go to "Settings" and then "User Information" to create your account.
5. Once you have provided the information hit "Confirm & Continue."
6. Go to "Speed" and a map should appear with testing options.
7. Select "Single" and "Crowdsourced"
8. Select "Start Test", then "Confirm & Continue", then "Indoor."
9. Wait for the speed test to run.
10. Record the "TestID" or select "History" and then "Crowdsourced."

Download the app here:



FCC information:

Source: FCC Speed Test App User Guide:
https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/FCC_Speed_Test_App_User_Guide.pdf

YouTube video mobile speed test:
<https://youtu.be/YnhzTznIamo>

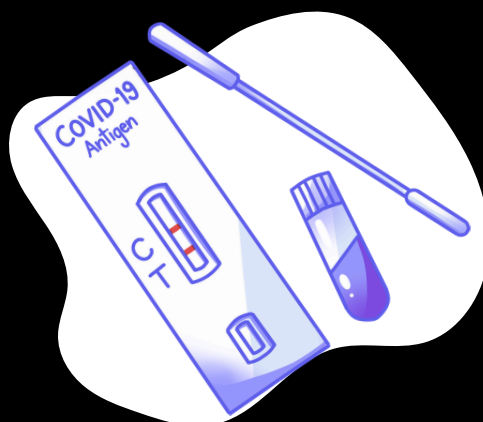
GRANVILLE HEALTH SYSTEM'S ANNUAL AMBULANCE CHASE

The Kerr-Tar Area Agency of Aging and the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) sponsored the 11th Annual Granville Health System Ambulance Chase & Food Truck Rodeo on March 15 in Oxford. We presented information about Medicare and other services available to older adults to the participants. The event was a success as over 400 participants visited Downtown Oxford.



FREE COVID TESTS AVAILABLE

We have distributed most of our COVID test kits this winter, but we have tests still available. You may request test kits for yourself or for your group by contacting Christa Hight at chight@kerrtarcoag.org.



APRIL IS ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH



NC DEPARTMENT OF
INSURANCE
SENIORS' HEALTH INSURANCE
INFORMATION PROGRAM

Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States.

Alcohol addiction and excessive alcohol misuse affects people of all ages, gender and ethnicities.

If you or someone you know and love is a Medicare beneficiary, help is available.

Medicare covers an annual screening for all beneficiaries.

For those that screen positive, Medicare covers up to four counseling interventions per year.

Ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CRYSTAL ALLEN @ 252-436-2040 EXT.2036

ALTEC VISIT AND PLANT TOUR

On March 21st we visited the Altec Industries in Creedmoor and had the opportunity to see the work Altec is doing, particularly with their systems designed to incorporate idle reduction technologies. These advancements align with the goals of the Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) Project Grant Funding, which is aimed at promoting clean energy solutions like idle reduction to reduce emissions and enhance fuel efficiency. We also appreciate our partners at the NC Clean Technology Center for sponsoring the event. It was great to see such a good turnout, with everyone having fun on the bucket rides and learning about Altec’s goal of reducing emissions. As a reminder, the CFAT Project Grant funding is now open for proposals. In 2025, up to \$5.9 million in federal funding is being awarded. Applications are due by 5:00 PM on Friday, April 18, 2025.

To learn more, please click [HERE](#).



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS HOSTS STORYWALK

On March 4th, Regional Program Coordinator, Victoria Glasscock, hosted a special Story Walk at Warren County Memorial Library in honor of International Women’s Month. The featured book, “She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History,” inspired several young visitors. A big thank you to Kyel Owens, Youth Services Librarian, for ensuring everyone had the chance to enjoy the story!



Follow us on social media!



SMALL FARMERS ROUNDTABLE & RESOURCE FAIR

On March 11th, COG Planning Contractor, Charlie Robinette, attended the Small Farmers Roundtable and Resource Fair hosted by the Eva Clayton Rural Food Institute at Vance-Granville Community College. Charlie had the opportunity to share resources with small farmers and hear presentations from members of the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council and former Congresswoman Eva Clayton.



NC A&T'S SMALL FARMS WEEK

The Kick-off for NC A&T's Small Farms Week took place in Warren County on Monday, March 24. Warren County Cooperative Extension hosted the morning's programming at the Armory Civic Center, before departing for an interactive farm tour at Brown Family Farms. Patrick Brown, a Warren County resident, was named NC Small Farmer of the year in 2024.

THE BROWN FAMILY FARM TOUR

Check out the experience and see what attendees discovered on this farm tour!



REGIONAL TOURISM MARKETING PLAN KICK-OFF

February 14th was the perfect day to have all Regional Tourism Directors, Economic Development Directors, and Cooperative Extension Directors come together to kick off a Regional Tourism Marketing Plan at the Angel Wing's Bookstore & Bistro in Downtown Oxford. The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and UPLIFT collaborated to launch this initiative. UPLIFT led the meeting through engaging activities and discussions about each county and the Kerr-Tar Region.

On March 7, 2025 a virtual meeting was held. The group discussed asset mapping and reviewed the community survey, which is starting to circulate in each county of the Kerr-Tar Region to capture all feedback!



Please help us by taking the survey below. To begin, click on the county you reside in:

[Vance](#)

[Warren](#)

[Franklin](#)

[Person](#)

[Granville](#)

AI FOOLS WEEK

The National Cybersecurity Alliance is raising awareness about AI risks through the weekly "AIpril Fools" week campaign. AI brings innovation but also new threats.

Watch out for:

- AI-powered scams like deepfakes and phishing emails that are harder to spot.
- Oversharing sensitive information—38% of users shared work data with AI without employer knowledge.
- Misinformation, as AI can create realistic but false content.

AIpril Fools helps you recognize these risks and use AI safely.

Your account
is compromised...



Don't fall victim to AI voice cloning.
Create a **safe word** at your workplace today.

Stay Safe Online.org





Kerr-Tar
Regional Council
Of Governments



WALK FOR EARTH: A STORYWALK CELEBRATION

Read and walk with us for Earth Day
and enjoy some goodies!

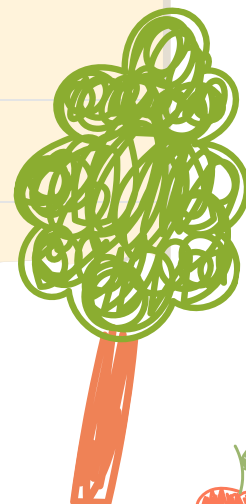
APRIL 22
4:00 PM

STOVALL BRANCH
LIBRARY
300 MAIN ST
STOVALL, NC

MORE INFO

Contact Victoria Glasscock at
252- 436-2040 ext.2009

SAVE
EARTH!



SUCCESS STORIES: PART 1

Jhaiiheeim Wilkins was interested in making a career change after being dismissed from his previous job. In searching for a new career path, he found out about NCWorks. After attending a few workshops and utilizing the services that NCWorks provides, Jhaiiheeim became interested in attaining his CDL Certification. Shortly after, he was enrolled in the NextGen program and immediately got to work on the goals that he had set for himself and his career. Jhaiiheeim hit the ground running! Not only was he able to complete all prerequisites and coursework on his CDL certification, but Jhaiiheeim was also busy being a full-time father and a husband without missing a beat!



Jhaiiheeim said, "The NextGen program was very helpful! I was able to get my CDL Certification with real hands-on and financial assistance. Any questions I had Henre' was able to answer them. He checked up on me throughout the entire course, and he is going to continue to assist me with my job search. NCWorks' NextGen program was exactly what I needed."



SUCCESS STORIES: PART 2

"NCWorks' NextGen Program gave me options, options I didn't once have. The assistance that I received was unlike any other place I had been. It allowed me to focus entirely on learning and passing my CDL test without the financial weight. The program provided the resources and support that I needed to succeed and I'm grateful. I plan to continue to utilize the helping hand that NCWorks has given me in my search for full time employment. Special thanks to Mr. McKnight and Ms. Bradby for their guidance and support throughout the entire process."

These are words directly from NextGen participant, Davontae Alexander. Davontae first entered the NCWorks office fresh out of high school. He had no intention of going to college at that point, but he knew he wanted to be successful. After thinking long and hard, he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and try his hand at truck driving. After hearing about this, Davontae's father brought him to NCWorks Career Center, the exact center that assisted him in getting his CDL. Following evaluation and assessment, Davontae was enrolled in NCWorks' NextGen program and was able to utilize the program's services to set goals, grow his professional portfolio, and more! He plans to continue to work with NCWorks to find a full-time job with his new CDL Certification.

SUCCESS STORIES: PART 3

When McKenzie Robinson joined the NextGen program, her goal was clear: to find stable, fulfilling employment. Her journey wasn't without its challenges, but with determination and the unwavering support of the NextGen team, McKenzie navigated the job search process with resilience. We began by helping McKenzie refine her resume, ensuring it showcased her skills and experience. Armed with her polished resume, McKenzie took charge of her job search through NCWorks. After discovering a position that caught her interest, our Business Services Representative at NCWorks reached out to inquire, only to find the role had already been filled. Rather than let this setback discourage her, McKenzie stayed focused and continued the search. Her efforts eventually led to a wonderful opportunity: a Work-Based Learning (WBL) assignment with the County of Warren. In March, McKenzie started her new role as a Human Resource Administrative Assistant, and the results have been nothing short of impressive. McKenzie has thrived in her position, and the County of Warren has expressed their excitement about having her on board, saying, **"We are happy to have her."**

McKenzie's story is a powerful example of perseverance and the impact of strong partnerships. Through the NextGen program, she not only found a job that aligns with her professional goals but also an opportunity that allows her to make a meaningful contribution to her community. NCWorks is proud to have been part of McKenzie's journey and can't wait to see where her career path leads next!



This success story was submitted by Stacey Williams, Business Services Representative at the NCWorks Career Center

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**



BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Lou Grillo
April 8th

ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Stay
Tuned*

Anniversary's Incoming in May...

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

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