



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments
MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



Oxford
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Photography

Above the Trees Photography

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- Workforce Dev. Board Meeting: **Tuesday, March 1 @ 6 pm**, via Zoom
- Walk With Ease: **Begins Monday, March 7 @ 11 am**, Henderson
- Senior Tar Heel Legislature Meeting: **Tuesday, March 15**
- Franklin Co. Job Fair: **Friday, March 18, 10 am-2 pm**, Louisburg
- KTRPO Meeting: **Thursday, March 24, 3:00-5:00 pm**
- Kerr-Tar COG Board Meeting: **Thursday, March 24**
- VISION 2022: **Thursday, March 31 @ The Kirby, Roxboro, 8:30-3:30**
- Town Hall Meeting on Vaccines in Warren Co: **March 31 @ 6:00 pm**
- RAAC Meeting: **Wednesday, May 11**

Deadlines

- Senior Games Final Registration Deadline **March 11**
- VISION 2022 Registration Deadline **March 21**
- CMAQ Application Deadline **March 30**
- NC Ethics Forms due **April 15**
- NC Parks & Rec Trust Fund Grant Applications due **May 2**



Duke Energy,
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, &
Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board Present:

MARCH

31

8:30 AM-3:30 PM

VISION 2022

REIMAGINING TOMORROW'S
WORKFORCE TODAY

The Kirby Cultural Arts Complex

214 N. Main St., Roxboro, NC

Join us for this regional economic development summit to explore the transitions our workforce and economy are experiencing as a result of the pandemic. This event will feature panel discussions, special guests, and a nationally recognized keynote speaker.

Topics will include:

- Workforce Transformation and the Post-Pandemic Economy
- HR in the Age of the Great Resignation
- Preparing a Talent Pipeline



FEATURED GUESTS & SPEAKERS



Mabelle Sanders

SECRETARY
NC DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE



Tom Barkin

CEO
FEDERAL RESERVE
BANK OF RICHMOND



Ted Abernathy

MANAGING PARTNER
ECONOMIC
LEADERSHIP LLC
(JOINING VIRTUALLY)



Peyton Holland

SPEAKER/CONSULTANT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL TECHNICAL
HONOR SOCIETY

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Franklin Co. Economic Development Commission
Granville Co. Economic Development Commission
Granville Co. Chamber of Commerce
Person Co. Economic Development Commission

Piedmont Community College
Vance-Granville Community College

Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce
Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission
Henderson-Vance Co. Chamber of Commerce
Warren Co. Economic Development Commission



REGISTER HERE!

Registration is **REQUIRED**.

First 50 to register will receive a free copy of
"When the Boomers Bail" by Mark Lautman!

PLEASE REGISTER BY MARCH 21.

2022 Senior Games



Registration is open for the 2022 Senior Games and is due by **Friday, March 11, 2022**. Opening Ceremonies will be on **Friday, March 25** at Creedmoor Community Center. Join KTAAA for a fun community event featuring food trucks, a Fun Walk, and basketball shooting. This year's events include individual sports events, singles and doubles for table tennis, badminton, bowling, tennis, and pickleball. Events new this year include swimming and mini-golf. SilverArts will be held at the Warren County Armory on May 19. Registration packets for sporting events and SilverArts are available at our Senior Centers, local Parks & Recreation Departments, and online [HERE](#).

Senior Tar Heel Legislature

The NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature is made up of delegates and alternates representing all one hundred counties in NC. Each county has one delegate and one alternate (must be 60+ years of age) who meet three times a year to review local, regional, and state-wide needs and priorities. Each representative also works in their own county advocating for resources and solutions for older adults. The STHL interfaces with the NC General Assembly to support the interests of NC's older adults. The next STHL meeting will be **Tuesday, March 15** via Zoom. Topics will include: Advocacy, Elections, Public Relations, Resolutions, and By-Laws.

COVID Grants for Food & Services

Thanks to another pandemic-related grant, we have been funding several community-based organizations to provide groceries and produce boxes to local older adults in need of nutritional support. Each month KTAAA provides grocery boxes and produce boxes to several hundred older adults in our region. Most of our clients have the food delivered to their homes. Any older adult living independently in our region is eligible for this service. If you know anyone who may benefit, please have them call 252-436-2040 ext. 2037.



Henderson Walk With Ease Program

Walk With Ease is an Arthritis Foundation program that is proven to reduce the pain of arthritis and improve your overall health. The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging will be conducting this program for our Region this spring. No matter if you need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active, this 6 week program can teach you how to safely make physical activity part of your every day life. The program includes a guidebook and a walking schedule to get you safely moving toward better health.



Studies by the Thurston Arthritis Research Center and the Institute on Aging of the University of North Carolina show that Walk With Ease is proven to:

- Reduce the pain & discomfort of arthritis
- Increase balance, strength, & walking pace
- Build confidence in your ability to be physically active
- Improve overall health

There will be a Walk With Ease group session starting in Henderson and will meet **Monday, Tuesday, and Friday** for 6 weeks, from **March 7-April 14, 2022**. Participants will meet at **11:00 am at Aycock Recreation Center**. Trained group exercise leaders begin each session with a pre-walk discussion covering a specified topic related to exercise and arthritis, followed by a 10-40 minute walk that includes a warm-up and a cool-down. To register for this session, contact Susan Tucker at 252-436-2040 or stucker@kerrtarcoag.org.

Vaccination Support in Warren Co.

Warren County Public Health will hold a Town Hall on **March 31** to discuss Psychological & Spiritual Strategies for Coping with COVID-19 Impact to address how the pandemic has changed our lives. The event will be in person at 6:00 pm at the Warren County Armory Convention Center, and will also be available live via Zoom. Panelists of community professionals will discuss what we can each do to help ourselves and others. Community vendors will be participating. For more information, call 252-436-2040 ext. 2037.



Long-Term Care Facility Visitation



If you have a loved one in a long-term care facility, there is a lot of information available about visiting those facilities. Details are dependent on who is visiting, the purpose of their visit, and who is being visited. In some instances, vaccination status and COVID symptoms are taken into consideration. For all intents and purposes, "All facilities are to allow visitation" (indoor if possible and resident is in agreement; or outdoors if preferred and weather permitting). Visitation is generally based on positivity rates, outbreak status, COVID symptoms, and resident status. Be aware that these variables can be interpreted very loosely and can change quickly. Therefore, a facility's ability to allow visits can change in a short period of time. It is advised that anyone who wants to visit face to face with a resident in a long-term care facility should call the facility ahead of time to find out the current restrictions. If you have questions, you can call your local Ombudsman (Kim Hawkins, 252-436-2050) or their local health department for clarification.

Join Our Area Agency on Aging Team!

The Kerr-Tar AAA is looking for an enthusiastic, people-focused individual to serve as the new Family Caregiver Specialist. This position provides many kinds of support for family caregivers of older adults living with dementia or other progressive cognitive conditions. Background preferred in caregiving, case management, social work or similar human services. If you or someone you know might be interested, have them contact KTAAA at 252-436-2040.



RAAC

Our Regional Aging Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, February 9 in person and via Zoom. Topics discussed included regional initiatives, upcoming annual meeting, and by-laws. Our annual meeting will be **Wednesday, May 11**.

Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule Announced

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan, delivers \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The United States Treasury released its final rule on January 6, 2022. The program ensures that governments have the resources needed to:

- I. Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts;*
- II. Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue;*
- III. Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.*



The SLFRF Final Rule will go into effect **April 1, 2022** and provides state and local governments with increased flexibility to pursue a wider range of uses, as well as greater simplicity, allowing governments to focus on responding to the crisis in their communities and maximizing the impact of their funds.

For more information on this funding, as well as the additional clarity and flexibility offered to recipient governments, please reference the following [Press Release](#), courtesy of the US Treasury.

Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization

The next KTRPO joint TAC/TCC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 24, 2022 from 3:00-5:00 pm**. Further details about the meeting will be provided to members and posted to the COG's website as the meeting date approaches.



Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email [Beth Davis](#), Kerr-Tar COG Regional Engagement Specialist.

Electric Vehicle Driver Spotlight

With the increasing popularity of electric vehicles and the increased funding for electrification in the new infrastructure bill, we wanted to highlight electric vehicle drivers and share what they love about driving an EV.

 <p>DAVE ERB</p> <p>AKA: "car junkie"</p> <p>JOB: Automotive Engineer, retired UNCA Mechatronics Engineering Faculty</p> <p>LONGEST TRIP IN AN EV: 2,900 miles</p> <p>MILES DRIVEN ELECTRIC PER YEAR: 16,000 miles</p> <p>"By most measures, EVs are just better vehicles, so the decision to drive them kind of makes itself."</p> 	<p>"My wife and I own two EVs: a 2015 Chevy Spark and a 2019 Tesla Model 3. They're polar opposites on the EV spectrum, and each just about perfectly suited for the way we use it."</p> <p>FIRST PURCHASED AN EV: 2016</p> <p>FAVORITE PLACE TO CHARGE: His solar-powered home</p> <p>EV OF CHOICE: 2015 Chevy Spark EV</p>  <p>Learn more and see all of the driver profiles at fuelwhatmatters.org</p> 
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VW Settlement Information Session

On February 23, the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) held an in-person meeting at Vance-Granville Community College to inform citizens about the VW Settlement Phase 2 funding opportunities with a focus on Historically Under-Represented Counties. Vance and Warren Counties fall under the Historically Under-Represented Counties in the Kerr-Tar region. In this meeting, DAQ presented important information about the VW Settlement funding, shared examples of what could be submitted, and allowed time for questions and discussion. This helpful information session was attended by elected officials and citizens in the Kerr-Tar region. Anyone interested in this funding can contact the COG at 252-436-2040.



Level 2 Charging Stations RFP

The DAQ has released the RFP for State Agency Level 2 Charging Infrastructure grants under Phase 2 of the Volkswagen Mitigation plan. The RFP details how to apply for the \$1,009,684 available for funding to install new light-duty ZEV Level 2 charging stations at state agencies and state-managed attractions. All applications must be submitted to the DAQ Grant Management System (GMS) website [HERE](#) no later than 11:59 pm EST on **May 31, 2022**. There will be two webinars coming up: 1) [DAQ Grant Management Webinar](#) on **March 7 from 1:00-2:00 pm** and 2) [Level 2 State Agency Program Applicant Webinar](#) on **March 14 from 1:00-3:00 pm**. Click the links to register.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

The Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization is partnering with Hal Hiemstra from Summit Strategies, a government affairs consulting firm, to put on an informational webinar regarding the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and what it means for areas like the Kerr-Tar Region. The webinar is scheduled for **Thursday, March 17 at 10:00 am**. Registration information will be posted on the [Kerr-Tar COG website](#) once it's available.

CMAQ Funding Deadline

Applications for funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program are due **March 30**. The CMAQ program is available to counties & municipalities that are non-attainment for air quality, which includes Franklin, Granville, and Person counties. If you have any questions, contact Sam Boswell at 252-436-2040 ext. 2004 or sboswellekerrtarcog.org.

Regional Food Council Applications

In 2019, the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Policy was enacted with the intention to provide a strategy for growing a sustainable regional food system. To see these strategies reflected in our community, we are calling on transformative leaders who are interested in addressing the shared regional challenges and opportunities in our food system to join our efforts in implementing the policy.

Candidate Criteria:

- Committed to improving the Kerr-Tar regional food system
- Live or work in the Kerr-Tar region
- Represent:
 - A food system sector
 - A relevant partner organization/agency
 - The demographic of the region

If you are interested in applying to be a member of the Regional Food Council and advancing our region's food system, click [HERE](#) to apply. Applications are due by **March 31, 2022**.



North Carolina Ethics Commission

Elected officials and appointed alternates serving as members of the KTRPO TAC are required to submit Statements of Economic Interest (SEI) and Real-Estate Disclosure (RED) Forms annually to the North Carolina State Ethics Commission. The annual due date for the Commission to receive these documents is **April 15, 2022**. If you're in need of assistance completing these forms, please contact Sam Boswell, RPO Coordinator, to schedule an appointment at 252-436-2040.



NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant Cycle Now Open

The NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) are accepting applications. This grant can be used to fund an array of projects to acquire park land or build or renovate park facilities. Local governments can request up to a maximum of \$500,000 grant award and grants do require a 50/50 matching rate. Applications are due **May 2, 2022**. To learn more, click [HERE](#).



Comprehensive Plan Updates

The Kerr-Tar COG staff have entered into agreements with the Towns of Stovall and Bunn to assist in completing Comprehensive Plans in order to meet the statutory requirements of NC Gen. Stat. § 160D. Such a plan sets forth goals, policies, and programs intended to guide present and future physical, social, and economic development.

This plan is intended to guide coordinated, efficient, and orderly development within the planning and development regulation jurisdiction based on an analysis of present and future needs. In order for a Comprehensive Plan to be effective, citizen involvement is very much needed. COG staff have developed Citizen Surveys, presently available at the Stovall and Bunn Town Halls and Stovall and Bunn Public Library locations. If you are a resident of these Towns or know a resident of these Towns, we welcome their participation in the Comprehensive Plan process.



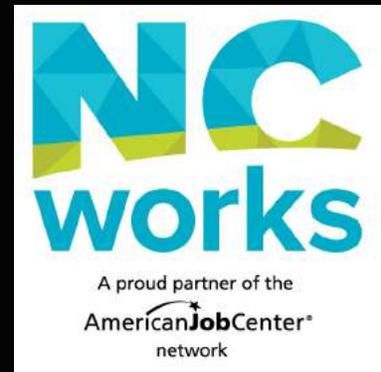
Success Story: *Kourtnie Strater*



Kourtnie Strater was referred to the NCWorks Career Center for a position with Hear Billing Solutions. She met with a career advisor to be enrolled in a Work-Based Learning program and it was determined that she was suitable and eligible for a Work Experience. Ms. Strater had previous experience working in the hotel industry and wanted to change career paths. On November 30, 2021 she started her experience as an Insurance Verification Specialist. She really enjoyed her work experience and completed it on February 18, 2022 with hopes of getting receiving a full time offer. The NCWorks team is so excited for Ms. Strater and they wish her great success!

Workforce Development Board Meeting

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board will have their next meeting on **Tuesday, March 1 at 6:00 pm**. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom.



Regional Job Fair in Franklin County



There will be a Regional Job Fair on **Friday, March 18 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm** at the Franklin Plaza, which is located at 279 South Bickett Boulevard in Louisburg (old Walmart). This job fair will be held in the parking lot, but will be held indoors in the event of bad weather. At least 20 employers from the Kerr-Tar region will be present.

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



OSBM Shares Guidance for Local Governments Receiving State Grants

The League and the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) co-hosted a webinar in February for local governments receiving directed grants through the NC state budget passed late last year. Representatives from the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) shared information on what to expect in terms of accessing, spending, and reporting on state directed grant dollars. If you are unsure as to whether your jurisdiction received a directed grant in the state budget, or you're unclear as to the source of the funding or who to contact for more information on the grant, the state has set up a searchable database with that information and more. You can find the directed grants database on OSBM's website [HERE](#). You can also [view a recording of the webinar](#) and [access the slides](#) presented in the webinar.

Application Period Now Open! GREAT Grant (Federal)

The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) is a competitive grant program that provides funding to private sector broadband providers to deploy last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of North Carolina. The current 2021-2022 funding round may award up to \$350 million in federal ARPA funding. The application window opened January 31, and applications are due **April 4**.

[Click Here For More](#)

REVISED: Information Regarding Procurement Requirements for Audit Services

The January 14, 2022 [blog_post](#) "ARPA Final Rule and Procurement Requirements for Audit Services" was revised to reflect current understanding of audit procurement requirements under Uniform Guidance. Please refer to the full blog post for an explanation of the revision.

DWI American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Programs Information



The Division of Water Infrastructure in the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality announces training on completing applications for water/wastewater funding for the Spring 2022 funding round. All applications must be received by the Division no later than 5:00 p.m. on **May 2, 2022**. For more information on these funding opportunities, click [HERE](#).



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments

COMMUNITIES SERVED

- [Franklin County](#)
- [Granville County](#)
- [Person County](#)
- [Vance County](#)
- [Warren County](#)
- [Town of Bunn](#)
- [Town of Butner](#)
- [City of Creedmoor](#)
- [Town of Franklinton](#)
- [City of Henderson](#)
- [Town of Kittrell](#)
- [Town of Louisburg](#)
- [Town of Macon](#)
- [Town of Middleburg](#)
- [Town of Norlina](#)
- [City of Oxford](#)
- [City of Roxboro](#)
- [Town of Stem](#)
- [Town of Stovall](#)
- [Town of Warrenton](#)
- [Town of Youngsville](#)

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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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