

SERR-TAR OUNCIL OF JOVERNMENTS JUNE 2022 NEWSTETTER



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- Regional Job Fair: Friday, June 3, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Henderson
- Oxford Bike Rodeo: June 4, 9:00 am-12:00 pm @ Hix Gym
- S-Line Workshop & Open House: Tuesday, June 7, 1:00-4:00 pm & 5:30-7:00 pm, Perry Memorial Library & Owl's Roost Brewing
- Regional Resident Council Meeting: Thursday, June 9
- Safe Streets & Roads for All Webinar: Monday, June 13 @ 1:00 pm
- Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention Event: Wednesday, June 15, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Vance County
- Rural Business Development Workshop: Thursday, June 16, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, via Zoom
- S-Line Workshop & Open House: Thursday, June 16, 1:00-4:00 pm & 5:30-7:00 pm @ Warrenton Armory
- COG Board Meeting: Thursday, June 23 @ 7:30 pm, COG Office
- Kerr-Tar RPO Meeting: Thursday, June 23 @ 3:00 pm

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MEMBER GOVERNMENT SPOTLIGHT

CROSS CITY TRAIL

Congratulations to the City of Creedmoor for being selected as the winner of the Rural Mobi Award for their work on the Cross City Trail! The Cross City Trail completes a four-phase, greenway "spine" throughout Creedmoor. It opened in September 2020 and provides a separate, ADA-accessible, bicycle and pedestrian path that connects Lake Rogers Park in the west to downtown Creedmoor and new housing subdivisions in the east along N.C. 56 in southern Granville County. The trail brings users to Main Street (N.C. 50), where they can experience local character in stores and restaurants. Additional amenities include a lighted boardwalk and bridge over Robertson Creek, three sets of rectangular rapid flashing beacons at crosswalks, seven pet waste stations, and lighting along the route. Congratulations! To watch a video showcasing the Cross City Trail, click HERE.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Jesiree Jrooks BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

My name is Desiree Brooks, and I am the Business Services Manager with the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board. I oversee the work-based learning programs and services that are offered through the NCWorks Career Center across our five-county region, which includes Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren Counties. I have been with the

Workforce Development Board for one year and have had the pleasure of serving businesses in the region for more than 10 years. The elements I love most about my job are connecting businesses with opportunities to grow their workforce and witnessing the successes of employees excelling in their careers. It warms my heart to see people overcoming barriers and finding success. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, playing tennis, and volunteering my time in the community. One of my favorite quotes is "Good things come to those who wait. Better things come to those who don't give up, and the best things come to those who believe." -Unknown

If I can be of assistance, feel free to contact me by phone at 252-436-2040 or by email at dbrook@kerrtarcog.org.

2022 Kerr-Tar AAA Senior Games

The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging Senior Games wrapped up on Thursday, May 26 at the Warren County Armory with Silver Arts competition and Closing Ceremonies. Kerr-Tar AAA participants won 596 medals in over 50 athletic events! 126 participants qualify for State Finals later this year. This year, regional Parks & Recreation departments managed athletic events with the active involvement of the KTAAA Steering Committee, regional Senior Centers, and volunteers. This year was the best Senior Games yet!





















Celebrating Older Americans Month!

May was Older Americans Month and the theme this year was Aging My Way. Aging is, to a large extent, what you make it. So make it fun, interesting, and engaging! Regional Senior Centers celebrated by having fun fitness classes, speakers, activities and games, movies, arts and crafts, t-shirts, and more.



Person County Senior Center hosted a Rally & March to celebrate Older Americans Month.

RAAC Meeting

The Regional Aging Advisory Council (RAAC) met on Tuesday, May 10. Chairman Robert Allen was re-elected, as well as Vice-Chair Sandra Butler Tubbs. The Council is discussing priorities and initiatives for the coming year. The next meeting is scheduled for **August 10**.



Other AAA News

The Evidence-Based Health Promotion classes have taken off with two new staff and the relaxing of Covid restrictions. There is currently a Powerful Tools for Caregivers virtual class being held for those who are actively caring for an aging adult. In addition to this class, there have been two Walk With Ease classes recently, one in Henderson, and the other in Roxboro. More classes are being scheduled, so stay tuned!



KTAAA continues to support local vaccination events through public health departments and community based organizations. It provides an additional opportunity to connect with older adults who may benefit from our services.

Kim Hawkins, KTAAA Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman is looking for people who would like to interact with residents at the region's long term care facilities. The role involves friendly visits with facility residents to make sure they are well and satisfied with their situation. Give Kim a call for more information at 252-436-2050.

JUNE IS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

June 15 is recognized as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and has been observed by the World Health Organization since 2011. It serves as a call-to-action for individuals, organizations, and communities to bring attention to the issue of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Kim Hawkins, KTAAA Regional Ombudsman, is asking to help promote awareness by choosing a day during this season and wearing something purple in support of the victims of this crime and their family members.

Local Elder Abuse Awareness Day activities include events designed to educate and bring awareness for a variety of individuals as normal, but this year, the goal was to bring greater awareness to citizens in Long Term Care homes in addition to the community at large.

Yard signage will be provided to all county DSS, Senior Centers, and Long Term Care Homes in all five counties to display during the month of June. Door hangers are being provided for residents in Long Term Care facilities as well. "Thinking of You" cards for residents will be sent from the Community Advisory Committee members, staff, and the community.



- <u>June 1:</u> WIZS Radio Interview w/Kim Hawkins, Regional LTC Ombudsman (you can listen online at https://wizs.com/towntalk/)
- June 9: Regional Resident Council Meeting (virtual); CEUs provided
- <u>June 15:</u> Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention Event at Vance County Senior Center in Henderson, 9:00 am-12:00 pm; free shirts, goodie bags, and lunch provided for the first 200 attendees

Radio Program on WIZS

Listen to WIZS Town Talk on **Wednesday**, **June 1** for our Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kim Hawkins, who will speak about Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and what we can all do to protect vulnerable adults and their caregivers from the risk of abuse. If you aren't able to listen live, just click <u>HERE</u> to listen to the recording.



Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is administered by USAC with oversight from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

What is the Affordable Connectivity Program?

The ACP is a US government run program by the <u>Federal Communications Commission</u> (<u>FCC</u>) <u>program</u> to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices like a laptop or tablet. Households are eligible if income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if you or someone you live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch.

If your household is <u>eligible</u>, you could receive:

- Up to \$30/month discount on your internet service
- Up to \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)
- A low cost service plan that may be fully covered through the ACP



To receive the connected device discount, consumers need to enroll in the ACP with a <u>participating provider that offers connected devices</u> (Note: not all internet companies offer device discounts). The internet company will provide the discount to the consumer.

Oxford Bike Rodeo

The City of Oxford Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a Bike Rodeo Obstacle Course at Hix Gym on **Saturday, June 4, 2002** from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. This event is being coordinated by the City of Oxford and Kerr-Tar COG along with the Oxford Police and Fire Departments and local bicycle shops. Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator, will be in attendance to provide



participants with bicyclist safety information including the proper way to wear a helmet. The Oxford Parks and Recreation Department applied to receive bicycle helmets through NCDOT's Bike Helmet Initiative. This event promises to be fun and educational.

VW Mitigation Plan Phase 2 Funding

Presently, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality is offering several funding opportunities for projects to significantly reduce NOx emissions and improve air quality. These funding opportunities are divided under two main categories:



- 1. **Diesel Bus & Vehicle Replacement Program:** Targets funding for the replacement of older diesel vehicles with new, cleaner alternatives. These programs will prioritize funding to electrification projects.
- 2. Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure Program: Provides grants and rebates for the funding of two types of electric vehicle charging infrastructure: DC Fast chargers and Level 2 chargers. Eligibility in each program depends on the location and purpose of the chargers.

The KTRPO strongly encourages member governments to contact our office for assistance in determining if projects would be eligible for funding under this settlement. Contact Sam Boswell, RPO Coordinator, at 252-436-2040. Further information on Phase 2 of the VW Settlement may be found <u>HERE</u>.

USDOT Safe Streets & Roads for All Grant Program

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's new Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program provides dedicated funding to support regional, local, and Tribal plans, projects and strategies that will prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The primary goal of the SS4A grants is to improve roadway safety action plans based on a Safe System Approach, and implementing projects and strategies that significantly reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries involving pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users, commercial vehicle operators, and motorists.

- USDOT will convene a series of stakeholder webinars in June to help potential applicants. The first webinar will be
 Monday, June 13 at 1:00 pm. Register for this webinar by clicking HERE.
- More information on the DOT's SS4A program is available <u>HERE</u>.



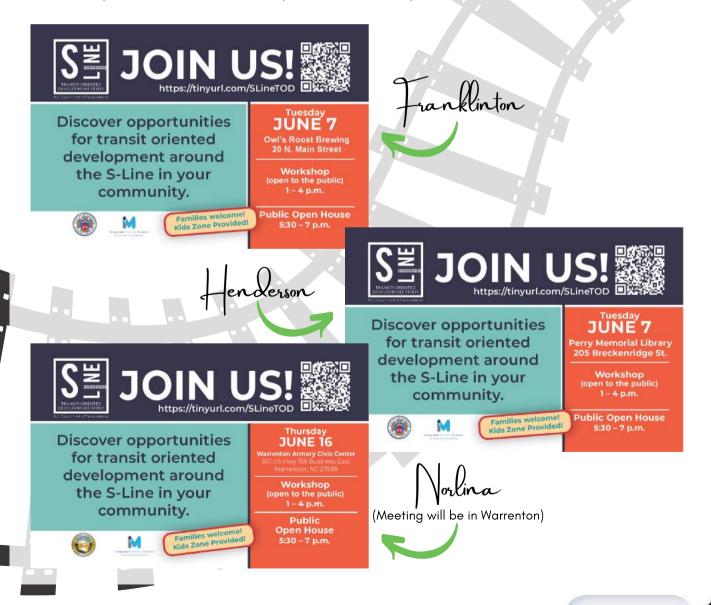
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S-Line Community Workshops

Kittelson & Associates are preparing to conduct a series of urban design workshops in each of the communities along with S-Line rail corridor, including Henderson, Franklinton, and Warrenton. During these workshops, open studio sessions will be held from 1:00-4:00 pm where the public can drop in and see the urban design drawings in process and provide feedback. A Public Open House will be held from 5:30-7:00 pm to present the draft TOD concepts.

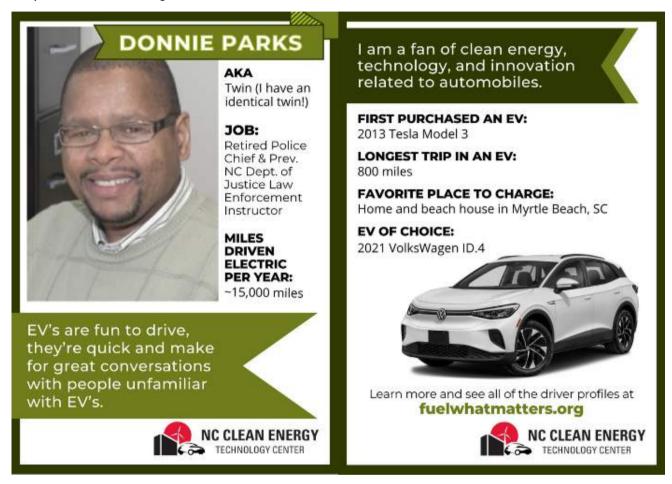
Available Sessions:

- <u>City of Henderson Workshop & Open House:</u> Tuesday, June 7 @ Perry Memorial Library, 205 Breckenridge Street, 1:00–4:00 pm and 5:30–7:00 pm
- <u>Town of Franklinton Workshop & Open House:</u> Tuesday, June 7 @ Owl's Roost Brewing, 20 N. Main Street, 1:00–4:00 pm and 5:30–7:00 pm
- <u>Town of Norlina Workshop & Open House:</u> Thursday, June 16 @ Warrenton Armory, 501 US Hwy Business East, 1:00–4:00 pm and 5:30–7:00 pm



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.



CEDS Update

The Council of Governments has retained the services of Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Consulting (SHEDC) to assist in the Comprehensive Economic Development ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING



Strategy (CEDS) process, a requirement of the Economic Development Administration for Economic Development Districts. The SHEDC Team held an initial meeting on Wednesday, May 25 in Oxford of the CEDS Committee, with smaller focus groups in individual counties scheduled to occur throughout the summer. More information about these individualized meetings will be forthcoming.

Rural Business Development Workshop

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP:

June 16, 2022, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm (via Zoom)

TOPICS:

Agri-Business, Agri-Tourism, Land Management, Succession Planning,
Procurement/Vendor Readiness

HOST:

NCGrowth-SmartUp Program at UNC Chapel Hill

CONTACT:

Kellye Whitaker, SmartUp Program Manager at kellye_whitaker@kenan-flagler.unc.edu

Affordable Housing Webinar for Local Government Leadership

In this webinar, attendees will learn about the following:

- What is meant by "affordable housing"
- Strategic decisions related to affordable housing
- Tools for supporting privately-owned affordable housing
- Leveraging federal tax credits for affordable housing

Kerr-Tar COG will host the webinar for those who wish to attend in person. If you plan to attend in person, please contact 252-436-2040 to notify us of your attendance.

RISE Program Update

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments is participating in the Regions Innovating for Strong Economics and Environment (RISE), through the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency to develop a portfolio of priority projects that strengthen regional resilience. The overall vision of this process is for *The Kerr-Tar Region to continue to build inclusive and resilient communities through cooperative planning and policymaking that identify and reduce risks to natural and man-made hazards in order to protect the economy, health, safety, quality of life, and environment of this region.*

- An online engagement tool (including Project StoryMap) to provide feedback and comment on a soon-to-be released draft Vulnerability Assessment is available <u>HERE</u>.
- For more information on the Kerr-Tar Region's Resilience Portfolio, click HERE.



VCS Center for Innovation

Last month, a ribbon cutting was held to announce the Gargoyle Garden, an interactive outdoor musical spaced located in the courtyard at the Center for Innovation. The outdoor musical instruments allow students to experience and understand science related components relative to sound, as well as opportunities to explore music-related



The Center is excited to announce that additional instruments will be installed this summer. The naming of the garden was established based on gargoyles positioned across the facade of the 1930s building.



McKinley Perkinson, Henderson-Vance EDC Director and Henderson Mayor, Eddie Ellington at Gargoyle Garden





courtyard of Gargoyle Garden



Walk to School Day in Creedmoor

On Wednesday, May 4, students and faculty at Creedmoor Elementary School of the Arts along with the Kerr-Tar Safe Routes to School Coordinator participated in Walk to School Day. More than 200 students participated in this event aimed at inspiring the entire community to come together and promote health and safer routes for students to walk to school. Walk to School Day is an annual event connecting families, schools, and community leaders.

Kerr-Tar Safe Routes to School Coordinator Kenia Gomez-Jimenez was present at the event, educating children on pedestrian safety. To learn more about Kerr-Tar's Safe Routes to School Program, please contact Kenia Gomez-Jimenez at 252-436-2040 or kgomezjimenez@kerrtarcog.org.



Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, SRTS
Coordinator, along with students,
adult volunteers, the CEA mascot,
and Granville County Superintendent,
Dr. McLean at Creedmoor's Walk to
School Day

Recipients of NCDOT Bike Helmets

A number of organizations from within the Kerr-Tar region will be benefitting from the 2022 Bike Helmet Initiative. The Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization and Safe Routes to School Coordinator look forward to partnering with these organizations to assist in the distribution of bike helmets.

The following organizations applied for and will receive bicycle helmets:

- Henderson-Vance Recreation & Parks Department
- NC Cooperative Extension (Franklin County)
- Franklinton Parks & Recreation
- Creedmoor Police Department
- Vance County Sheriff's Office
- The Help Center NC (Henderson)
- City of Oxford
- Person County Friends of the Parks Committee
- Butner-Stem Elementary School
- Oxford Parks & Recreation Department
- Granville Vance Public Health
- Vance County Schools
- Louisburg Police Department



Clean Fuel Advanced Technology Grant

The primary purpose of the CFAT project is to reduce transportation related emissions in 24 eligible North Carolina counties. In the Kerr-Tar region, that includes Franklin, Granville, and Person counties. The basic criteria for project eligibility that the are transportation related, reduces pollutant emissions, and is located within or benefits a NAAQS maintenance area. There is one exception, however: electric vehicle charging stations are eligible projects in all 100 counties of the state. Applications are due by July 1, 2022. More information on CFAT funding is available HERE.



Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant program, funded with \$1 billion over the next 5 years. The program's funds can support planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to equitably and safely restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development. One or more Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for the RCP program are anticipated to be posted in summer 2022. More information on this program is available **HERE**. If your local government is interested in pursuing this federal funding, please contact the KTRPO.

Regional Job Fair

Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board/NCWorks, in partnership with Vance Economic Development, County Downtown Development Commission, Vance-Granville Community College, College **Piedmont** Community Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Kerr-Tar Regional Job Fair on June 3 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm on Breckenridge Street in Henderson, NC. There will be over 20 employers and resources onsite with many opportunities available. There will be a variety of industries including healthcare, manufacturing, and more! During the event, there will be multiple drawings with chances to win prizes and gift cards. This is also a great opportunity to explore Downtown Henderson and eat at the

Kerr-Tar Regional lob Fair Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, Warren owntown 205 Breckenridge St. Henderson, NC Friday, June 3rd 10:00 am - 2:00 pm **Drawings** for 20+ Prizes & Gift Cards! **Employers!** For more information contact NCWorks at 252-438-6129, visit www.kerrtarworks.com Kerr -Tar

downtown restaurants. Some businesses will be offering specials during the event. For more information, contact the NCWorks Career Center at 252-438-6129. Visit www.kerrtarworks.com to stay updated on events.

Success Story: Wathew L

Mr. Matthew Hux, formerly self-employed, was referred to NCWorks in February 2022 by Wild Edge Woodcraft at Serenity Meadows LLC. Mr. Hux was assigned a career advisor and enrolled in the Work Experience adult program on February 16, 2022. During his Work Experience, he was offered the opportunity to be promoted to Operations Manager. As a result of this move, Mr. Hux's Work Experience was extended and then transitioned into an On-The-Job training. He became the Operations Manager on May 2, 2022 with an impressive pay rate. Mr. Hux has enjoyed working for Wild Edge Woodcraft.





Reentry Simulation: A Walk in Their Shoes

The Kerr-Tar Reentry Roundtable held a Reentry Simulation on May 18, 2022 at the Aycock Recreation Center, placing participants in the shoes of citizens reentering society after incarceration. The simulation offered a hands-on experience of what the struggles are for justice involved citizens after incarceration. Reentering society after incarceration can create many challenges for these individuals, from obtaining a current identification card, securing transportation, getting a job, or affording rent and food. The Reentry Simulation offered a glimpse at reentry barriers and struggles.

The simulation was attended by Kerr-Tar COG Executive Director, Kerr-Tar COG staff, Workforce Development Board members, Workforce Development Board staff, NCWorks Career Center, local government officials, county sheriff, Deans of community colleges, human resources representatives, local business industries, community corrections, as well as individuals from local area churches and community resource agencies.

The event was designed to be as burdensome as possible. Participants were given a new name, character role, and list of tasks they must complete in a simulated month, broken into 4 simulated 15 minute weeks. This included tasks such as obtaining an ID card, working a full-time or part-time job, paying rent, paying child support, receiving drug treatment, and checking in with a probation officer. Over the course of the hour simulation, participants experienced the challenges of navigating social service agencies, transportation needs, employment, housing, and more.

Moving from each station required anywhere from 1-5 transportation tickets, something that many participants said proved difficult because they lacked the financial resources to purchase the ticket. Failure to complete even one task on the list meant the participants risked going into a homeless shelter, halfway house, or back to jail. At seemingly every station, a participant would express frustration with the service provider and the barriers they faced of not knowing they needed to visit another station before receiving assistance. The long lines, unexpected bumps in the road, and navigating an unfamiliar system left participants feeling overwhelmed and frustrated. At the end of each simulated week, most participants would either go to jail, end up in a halfway house, or wind up homeless. Only a few would have sustainable employment and stable housing.





Many participants said the simulation shed light on the struggles formerly incarcerated individuals deal with once release. Others said they understand why someone may choose to reoffend. The Reentry Simulation highlighted just how difficult it is to avoid recidivism and the challenging barriers they face even when doing everything they can to overcome their past mistakes. Often, these barriers can bring feelings of helplessness and decreased self-efficacy.

This simulation served as a reminder that putting yourself in someone else's shoes gives you the compassion to effectively serve your community, especially those striving to successfully reenter their community. A special thank you goes out to everyone who supported and participated in this event.





COMMUNITIES SERVED

<u>Franklin County</u>

<u>Granville County</u>

Person County

Vance County

Warren County

Town of Bunn

Town of Butner

<u>City of Creedmoor</u>

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

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Area Agency on Aging

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Planning & Development

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Workforce Development

Lou Grillo Igrilloekerrtarcog.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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