



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments
JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Downtown Youngville

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- Kerr-Tar COG Offices Closed: **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 16, 2023**
- 2023 NC Transportation Summit: **Wednesday, January 18, 2023 & Thursday, January 19, 2023, Raleigh Convention Center. REGISTER HERE.**
- KTAAA A Matter of Balance Training Program: **Friday, January 20, 2023, 8:00am-5:00pm, Vance County Senior Center**
- Kerr-Tar Regional COG Board Meeting: **Thursday, January 26, 2023, Kerr-Tar COG Administrative Office**
- KTAAA 2023 Family Caregiver Conference: **Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 9:00am-4:30pm, Vance-Granville Community College Civic Center**
- KTRPO TAC Ethics Filing Deadline: **Monday, April 17, 2023**

Rural Transformation Grants Awarded Locally

The second round of award recipients of the Rural Transformation Grant were released on December 14, 2022. A total of 42 rural local governments in North Carolina were recipients of funds made available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Funding totaled \$19.76 million and categories included: Downtown Revitalization, Resilient Neighborhoods, Community Enhancements for Economic Growth, and Rural Community Capacity Building. Within the Kerr-Tar Region, both **Franklin County** and the **Town of Louisburg** were awarded \$450,000 each for Community Enhancement. A third round of the Rural Transformation Grant funding will be conducted in **Spring 2023**. To learn more about the Rural Transformation Grant, awardees and their projects, click [HERE](#).



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

City of Oxford Hires Interim City Manager



The City of Oxford Board of Commissioners announced Steven Harrell will serve as Oxford's interim city manager starting January 3, 2023. Mr. Harrell comes to the City with nearly 39 years of experience in municipal government, and nearly 28 of those as a manager. Speaking on his appointment, Mayor Jackie Sergent commented: "The Board feels that Mr. Harrell's extensive credentials position him well for leading the city in the coming months, especially with the utility projects underway and the upcoming KLRWS plant expansion about to begin."

Read the press release [HERE](#).

Town of Butner Names Interim Town Manager



The Town of Butner announced that Jerry Ayscue of Henderson, N.C will Serve as Butner's Interim Town Manager effective December 30, 2022, following the retirement of the previous Town Manager Tommy Marrow. Ayscue brings over 31 years of business and county management experience to the Town of Butner. He most recently served as Interim Director for the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority from July 2018 to January 2019 and Interim CEO for Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity, Inc. in 2016.

Read the press release [HERE](#).

Warren County Selected for Golden LEAF SITE Identification Support



At their December 1, 2022 meeting, the Golden LEAF Board of Directors selected Warren County for SITE Identification support through its new SITE Program. The SITE program provides support to communities to identify potential sites for economic development, and enable completion of due diligence on sites already identified, or to extend public utilities to or conduct rough grading and clearing of sites for which due diligence has been completed. Warren County was the only community selected to receive assistance through this cycle of the SITE Program. "The Golden LEAF Board of Directors

established the SITE Program to help rural communities make sites available for development to attract new businesses and create opportunities for existing businesses to expand," said Scott T. Hamilton, Golden LEAF President, Chief Executive Officer. "This project will help Warren County identify potential industrial sites for development." Read the press release [HERE](#).

Air Force Veteran Dedicated to Service

Carroll Harris

MAYOR OF MACON

Macon Mayor Carroll Harris, a United States Air Force veteran, strives to live a life defined by a desire to help his community, whether that refers to the people of Macon, or his service to his country during the Vietnam War. His drive to serve his community in both the smaller and broader sense extends beyond his service in the Air Force and his career. Harris has served his home town of Macon for more than 30 years. He was chairman of the board of elections for Macon, and was later elected to the town's board of commissioners in 1981. Harris served on the board for 18 years and was elected mayor in 1999. He served in that capacity until 2007, and took a six-year break before being elected mayor once again in 2015.



"I try to help the town in a lot of ways," Harris says. That work to help the town includes tasks such as mowing grass, trimming shrubs and putting up Christmas decorations. "I'm trying to give back to the community," "I'm proud of the town." Read more about Mayor Harris [HERE](#).

NC Resilient Communities Funding Forum

The first ever North Carolina Resilient Communities Funding Forum is scheduled for **February 28, 2023**, from **9:00 am to 5:00 pm in Greenville NC**. Don't miss out on the chance to attend a free, one-day forum to learn about federal, state, and nonprofit funding opportunities for resilience-related projects. Click [HERE](#) for more information. Local community projects are key to building future resilience, but a lack of funding can shut down even the best proposals. This upcoming forum will aim to remove common financial barriers to resilience project implementation and identify funding opportunities. Registration is required and will open in **early January**.

The event will allow time for attendees to engage with potential funders, who will be on hand to give presentations and answer project-specific questions during break-out sessions. A grant writing session is also planned to provide attendees with practical tools and strategies to take their project one step closer to reality.



Forum Info

When: February 28, 2023

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm
(w/breaks)

Cost: FREE

Format: In-Person & Virtual
Options

Registration: Click [HERE](#) to
register

Grant Opportunities for First Responders & Emergency Services

Emergency responders, also known as first responders, work hard to keep the public safe, which is why it is crucial to ensure these departments are properly funded. The three major emergency service departments are police departments, fire departments, and emergency medical services (EMS). These departments generally need funding for additional equipment, training, and other necessities. **GrantWatch.com** features a list of grants for first responders, emergency services, and town projects. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.



Updated National Broadband Map

In November of last year, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) unveiled its new Broadband Availability Map. Along with a new map style, the FCC also introduced a **challenge process** that allows everyone - from governments to citizens - the ability to highlight false claims of availability and ensure that every home and business location is accounted for in the map.



Local governments interested in submitting a challenge regarding the updated FCC broadband map should submit location challenges by **Friday, January 13, 2023**. In an effort to provide a better understanding of the map itself, and the challenge process, the Institute of Local Self Reliance has created a **short series of instructional videos** and a **click-through guide** on how to file location and availability challenges to the FCC's new Broadband Availability Map.

Click on the pins located on the Kerr-Tar region map to explore the broadband coverage in your county!

Golden Leaf Year in Review



Interested in learning more about the Golden LEAF Foundation and the incredible work they were able to accomplish in 2022? Click [HERE](#) to learn about their new and expanded existing programs and their mission to increase outreach to help strengthen North Carolina's economy.

Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, Kerr-Tar COG Communications & Administrative Coordinator.

Aging Events in the Region



Scam Jam 2022

On Monday, December 5, 2022 the KTAAG hosted a spectacular “Scam Jam” in partnership with the Person County Senior Center. Speakers from the Department of Insurance, Secretary of State’s office, the mayor and the newly elected sheriff spoke to an audience of about 75 on identifying and preventing fraud. Keep an eye out as we will be hosting our next Scam Jam in Granville County in the next few months.

Ombudsman Holiday Cheer

The KTAAG celebrated the holidays throughout the region with holiday-themed events at the senior centers and long-term care facilities. Kim Hawkins, our Regional Ombudsman, visited multiple facilities to celebrate with popcorn, hot chocolate and a holiday movie for residents.



Caregiver Holiday Bags

Michael Patterson, our Family Caregiver Specialist, delivered Caregiver Holiday gift bags to our program participants. The bags included games, information and self-care items for these hard-working family members.

Health & Wellness Classes

Our Evidence-Based Health Promotion classes continue, with **new additions coming soon!** We expect to start new classes in Tai Chi, Walk with Ease and Bingocize after the first of the year.

Bingocize

10 Weekly Sessions
Twice a week
45-60 minutes
FREE!



Powerful Tools for Caregivers

6 Weekly Sessions
Once a week
1.5 hours
FREE!

Walk With Ease

6 Weekly Sessions
3 x a week
1 hour
FREE!

2023 Senior Games



The KTAAA is finalizing plans for the 2023 Kerr-Tar Regional Senior Games! Early registration starts in **February**, stay tuned!



A Matter of Balance Training Program



MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Our Evidence Based program coordinator, Susan Tucker, will be conducting a **FREE** A Matter of Balance leader training on **Friday, January 20, 2023** for community volunteers to become certified to lead classes throughout the region. The training will be held at the **Vance County Senior Center** from **8:00am to 5:00pm**. To register, call (252) 436-2040.

Learn more about the A Matter of Balance coach program [HERE](#).

Save the Date!



Kerr-Tar Family Caregiver Conference

Teepa Snow, renowned dementia expert, will be the featured speaker at our **Tuesday, February 21, 2023** regional caregiver conference at **Vance Granville Community College**. We are partnering with the Dementia Alliance to share Teepa's unique approach. This training will benefit family caregivers as well as professionals at all levels. **Registration details soon to come!**



Teepa Snow
Guest Speaker

21
DAY

02
MONTH

23
YEAR

Adoption of 2023-2027 CEDS



On December 1, 2022, the Kerr-Tar Board of Directors formally adopted the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan (CEDS) with the assistance of Sanford Holshouser Economic Development Consulting and Dancy Research. This process involved the formulation of a diverse CEDS Stakeholder Committee; individual county-led Focus Groups; and citizen surveys. The Plan is well formulated, following current EDA guidelines and we look forward to working with federal, state and local stakeholders on accomplishing many goals and objectives throughout the next five years. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Ethics Filing Reminder

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 **Monday, April 17, 2023**. If you're in need of assistance completing these forms, please contact Sam Boswell, RPO Coordinator, to schedule an appointment at 252-436-2040.



Mobility for Everyone, Everywhere in North Carolina



In up to 11 rural communities across North Carolina, USDOT is investing \$10.4 million in new and expanded on-demand transit services that will be tailored to each community’s unique transportation needs. The project will increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for local residents. **KARTS (Kerr Area Transportation Authority)** is among those transit services. More information is available [HERE](#).

Warren County CERT Seeks Community Volunteers

The Warren County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will host another round of classes on **January 28 & 29, 2023**. Volunteers in the CERT program learn how to prepare for natural and man-made disasters that may affect their community. The program provides a consistent approach to disaster preparedness training and organization that first responders can rely on during a disaster.

CERT members receive training in the following areas to help them care for themselves, their families, and their communities:

- disaster planning
- damage assessment
- emergency operations center assistance
- team organization
- disaster psychology
- disaster simulation



If you are interested in joining Warren County CERT Program, please contact Chris Tucker by calling (252) 257-1191 or email christucker@warrencountync.gov.

Announcing 2023 Granville County Recreation Mini-Grants

The Granville County Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Advisory Committee is accepting applications for the **2023 Recreation Mini-Grant**. The application period will close on **January 31, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.** Applicants must be a government entity or a non-profit organization. While those interested in applying for these funds do not have to be a registered 501c-3, it is encouraged.

Applications should be submitted by email to justin.jorgensen@granvillecounty.org, or in person/by mail to the Granville County Planning Department, 122 Williamsboro Street (P.O. Box 877) Oxford NC, 27565. Submitted requests may not exceed \$25,000. A 2023 Grant Application is available [HERE](#).



Gateway Invites Applications for Downtown Revitalization Grants

Gateway Community Development Corporation, located in Henderson, is offering grants to local businesses to make needed improvements. Downtown businesses have an opportunity to get financial assistance in sharpening their appearance or in upgrading their technology capability. Gateway received a \$25,000 Hometown Revitalization grant to be used in making microgrants to local businesses. Gateway's President, Heather Joi Kenney said, the organization will award microgrants ranging in size from \$500 to \$2,500, depending on the scope of the work to be undertaken

Interested businesses can request an application by visiting the Gateway website [HERE](#) and completing the form to request an application. Alternatively, interested businesses may contact Gateway directly at 252-492-6298. Eligible businesses include those located on Garnett Street as well as adjacent side streets off the main thoroughfare.



Applications Open for NCDOT Bike Helmet Initiative

Since being introduced, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Bicycle Helmet Initiative has equipped thousands of children with a helmet. Unfortunately, children are a key demographic involved in bicycle-related incidents. To promote helmet usage and support local bicycle activities, the Division of Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation is accepting applications from organizations and non-profits willing to distribute helmets to children. The selection process encourages applicants to collaborate with community groups to extend bicycle safety awareness outreach.

The application deadline for 2023 is **Friday, February 3**. Interested organizations are encouraged to apply [HERE](#). Once distributed, the KTRPO will gladly provide assistance as a regional partner with the distribution of helmets and other safety materials.



Carbon Reduction Program

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established a new funding opportunity for projects to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources. NCDOT's Transportation Planning Division (TPD) is administering the funds for the rural areas of the state. Each RPO can submit up to 12 projects to TPD for scoring and selection. Municipalities, county governments, tribal governments, and public transit agencies are eligible to apply. The minimum project cost is \$100,000 and a 20% local match is required in most cases. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- [Construction of new sidewalks](#)
- [Transit expansion](#)
- [New transit operations](#)
- [Park & ride lots](#)
- [Transit electrification](#)
- [Alternative fuel conversions](#)
- [Electric vehicle charging](#)
- [Traffic flow improvements](#)
- [Idle reduction](#)



Please complete the application form [HERE](#). Contact Sam Boswell, RPO Coordinator, with any questions.

North Carolina Water & Equity Summit

Convene in a one-day summit involving appropriate stakeholders, thought leaders and experts across North Carolina (state/federal/local government, academia/research, community groups, business) to:

- Learn about priorities and concerns of a) communities and b) local governments on projects regarding providing service in disadvantaged areas (as pertains to funding and infrastructure).
- Develop resource documents and peer-to-peer networks to educate communities and local governments on next steps or considerations if interested in pursuing a project to provide service in disadvantaged areas.
- Provide guidance to NCDEQ in identifying where such projects are needed to communicate funding opportunities to communities and to local governments

Registration and more information [HERE](#).



NCDOT Paved Trails & Sidewalk Feasibility Grant Program

The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has established a new **Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Study Grant** program to evaluate proposed paved trails, greenways, sidewalks and side paths. Feasibility studies examine the viability of a transportation project, complete initial stages of design and environmental review, and develop implementation strategies. The feasibility study further enables communities to examine route alternatives, develop cost estimates, and advance projects to compete for additional funding for design and construction.



Those eligible to apply include North Carolina municipalities, counties, metropolitan or rural planning organizations, bicycle, pedestrian advocacy, and trail friend groups, as well as land conservancies. The grant call is currently **open until January 9, 2023.**

First Day Outdoors: North Carolina Year of the Trail 2023

The Great Trails State Coalition is gearing up for **Year of the Trail** with their **First Day Outdoors** campaign.

First Day Outdoors welcomes North Carolinians to include a trail experience in their New Year's Day activities, document it through photos or video and share across social media platforms (hashtags **#greattrailstate**, **#greattrailsnc**, **#yearofthetrail**). The hope is that many thousands of individual trail experiences will combine to make a BIG virtual event on the first day of 2023 Year of the Trail.



Click **HERE** for a quick (and funny) video that explains the concept of First Day Outdoors. Please use this resource to help kick off 2023 Year of the Trail in your community!

Success Story: *Xavier Kearney*



On December 21, 2022, Vance-Granville Community College held a graduation for their CDL class. The NCWorks Career Center was excited to be able to sponsor 6 participants, which included Xavier Kearney. Mr. Kearney was long term unemployed and enrolled in NCWorks work based learning program on September 27, 2022. He began CDL training at Vance-Granville Community College on October 17, 2022. Mr. Kearney graduated with his CDL credentials and was eager to find an employment opportunity as a truck driver. The Business Services team is working diligently to help Mr. Kearney secure full-time employment. At graduation,

Mr. Kearney told the NCWorks Career Center staff that "The program has really helped me, and I thank you." Way to go Mr. Kearney! We are looking forward to seeing where your career will take you in 2023!

NCWorks Year End Job Fair Recap



A job fair was held on December 9, 2022 at the NCWorks Career Center at 826 S. Garnett Street, Henderson, NC with 12 employers offering a variety of career opportunities including Manufacturing, Information Technology, Healthcare, and more! Over 40 qualified job-seekers attended the job fair and were able to speak to hiring managers and apply for positions of choice. Job-Seekers were able to learn about the many opportunities available in the Kerr-Tar Region and employers were able to network with each other as well! RJ's Grill was also set up outside making it convenient for employers and job-seekers to grab lunch!

This event was the Grand Finale of 2022 and **there is more to come in 2023!**

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





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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