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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**FEB
14**

Valentine's Day

**FEB
19**

**RPO TAC/TCC Meeting:
February 19th at 3 p.m., COG office**

**FEB
25**

**Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council Meeting:
February 25th at 10 a.m., COG Office**

**Mar
10**

**Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board Meeting:
March 10th at 6 p.m., COG Office**

**Mar
26**

**Kerr-Tar Regional COG Executive Board Meeting:
March 26th at noon (Virtual)**

2026: THE FINAL COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN FOR ARP/SLFRF

Kara Millonzi

The final year of the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARP/SLFRF) program is officially underway. For many North Carolina local governments, ARP/SLFRF already feels like a closed chapter. Funds were obligated long ago, projects ...
[Read more](#)



Coates' Canons NC Local Government Law

The post [2026: The Final Countdown Has Begun for ARP/SLFRF](#) appeared first on [Coates' Canons NC Local Government Law](#)



ARPA UPDATE

The UNC School of Government (SOG) hosts virtual ARPA Office Hours for local governments to discuss issues related to the American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Fund program and local government finance. NCACC participates in these sessions and provides timely updates for counties on ARPA-related matters. Click [here](#) for the UNC SOG ARPA Office Hours and to access the Zoom link.

FEBRUARY

- FEB 5**
 12:00-1:00 PM
- FEB 11**
 8:30-9:30 AM
 ARPA FOCUS
- FEB 20**
 12:00-1:00 PM
 WATER/WASTEWATER
- FEB 25**
 8:30-9:30 AM

MARCH

- MAR 4**
 12:00-1:00 PM
- MAR 11**
 8:30-9:30 AM
 ARPA FOCUS
- MAR 18**
 12:00-1:00 PM
- MAR 26**
 8:30-9:30 AM
- MAR 30**
 8:30-9:30 AM

Zoom Log in for all Office Hour Sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UIE2VHNhN2luS0JEYTJqeTZTMFRWdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

2026 STATE ENERGY CONFERENCE OF NORTH CAROLINA

The State Energy Conference of North Carolina brings together energy professionals, policy makers, innovators, and businesses to explore the latest trends, technologies, and strategies shaping the energy sector.

This premier event delivers actionable insights that support North Carolina's regional energy economy and foster national impact.

[Learn More & Register](#)

A promotional banner for the 2026 State Energy Conference of North Carolina. The top section is dark blue with white text: "2026 State Energy Conference of North Carolina" and "Connecting North Carolina's diverse energy economy". Below this is a collage of energy-related images: a city skyline at night, a power transmission tower, wind turbines, and solar panels. A white banner across the middle reads "EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS MARCH 20". The bottom section is dark blue with white text: "Join us in Raleigh, NC", "April 28-29, 2026", "At the McKimmon Conference & Training Center", and "NCENERGYCONFERENCE.COM".

2026
State Energy Conference
of North Carolina
Connecting North Carolina's diverse energy economy

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
ENDS MARCH 20**

Join us in Raleigh, NC
April 28-29, 2026
At the McKimmon Conference & Training Center
NCENERGYCONFERENCE.COM

JOINT OFFICE PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAYBOOK

The Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Playbook provides guidance on planning, engagement, siting and funding for electric infrastructure, offering interactive modules with clear steps to facilitate the development of a zero-emission transportation system.

[CLICK HERE](#) for [playbook access](#).



Joint Office of
**Energy and
Transportation**

WARREN COUNTY SENIOR CENTER USHERS IN NEW YEAR WITH STYLE

Participants enjoyed themselves and rang in 2026 with a stylish brunch that included party hats for all attendees. The event started with pastries before everyone divided into teams to compete in Musical Trivia.

The Senior Center staff prepared a scrumptious brunch menu for everyone's dining pleasure.

The event concluded with awarding door prizes.

The year is off to a great start in Warren County.



Welcome to the first NCAOA newsletter. This quarterly update will share highlights from across North Carolina's aging network, including programs, policy updates, and opportunities to connect and learn. Each issue will spotlight innovative work, share timely information, and provide updates that are relevant to professionals and partners serving older adults. We hope this newsletter serves as a helpful resource and strengthens collaboration as we work together to support older adults across the state.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full newsletter



2026 KERR-TAR SENIOR GAMES & SILVER ARTS

GAMES INCLUDED:

Badminton, Basketball, Billiards, Bocce, Bowling, Corn hole, Croquet, Cycling, Disc Golf, Discus, Running and Standing Long Jumps, Football Throw, Golf, Horseshoes, Mini Golf, Pickleball, Shuffleboard, Softball Throw, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, and Track Events. (individuals compete for awards in their own gender and age category within five year increments (50-54, 55-59, 60-64...))

SILVER ARTS INCLUDES:

Literary Arts, Visual Arts, Heritage Arts, Performing Arts

WHEN TO REGISTER

Early Registration:

February 2-February 16, 2026

Cost: \$15.00

Entry Deadline: March 2, 2026

Cost: \$20.00 *after Feb. 16th*

Additional Fees:

Bowling: \$5.00

Golf: \$40.00

Mini Golf: \$3.00



REGISTER HERE

Register at your local Senior Center or visit this link to register online

<https://torch.ncseniorgames.org>



For more information about Senior Games and Silver Arts 2026

Please contact Michael Patterson at (252) 436 - 2040 ext. 6072 or

Crystal Allen at (252) 436 - 2040 ext. 2036



SHIIP

SENIORS' HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM

N.C. Department of Insurance • Mike Causey, Commissioner
855-408-1212 (toll free) • www.ncdoi.gov

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. Every year, 1 in 4 deaths are caused by heart disease.

Heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy choices and manage their health conditions.

Cardiovascular screening blood tests assist in early detection of heart disease. Medicare covers screening tests for cholesterol, lipid and triglyceride levels once every 5 years.

Ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.

Ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CRYSTAL Allen @ 252-436-2040

THE INTERSECTION OF NCDOT'S PRIORITIZATION PROCESS AND TRAILS

Gretchen Belk, Strategic Prioritization Office (SPOT) Manager, NC DOT
 Sarah Lee, Strategic Prioritization Office (SPOT) Senior Transportation Engineer, NC DOT

Understanding how trails fit into North Carolina's transportation planning framework is key to securing funding and advancing projects. Join us to demystify the state's Prioritization Process —the data-driven system used to determine transportation investment priorities. Attendees will gain insight into how trail and greenway projects can compete for funding within this process, learn about recent updates to SPOT scoring, and explore best practices for aligning trail planning with local and regional transportation priorities.



Register for February 10th



Follow us on social media to stay updated!



Regional Tourism Marketing Plan Adopted By KTCOG Board

Beginning in December 2024, Tourism Directors, Economic Development Directors, Cooperative Extension Directors, and Kerr-Tar Staff came together to develop a Regional Tourism Marketing Plan, with UPLIFTs expertise and guidance. After a year of collaboration, asset mapping, visioning, conducting surveys, and creating itineraries, the Kerr-Tar Regional Tourism Marketing Plan is complete. The plan was adopted by the Kerr-Tar Regional COG Board on January 29, 2026. The next steps are presenting to the Tourism Development Authority Boards in all five counties for adoption. Once all counties have adopted the plan, implementation will begin on July 1, 2026!

Below are a couple of the itineraries that were created.

Click [HERE](#) to view the full plan!



Hook, Line & Sunshine

Hotel

Check into one of the local hotels in Henderson. Scan the QR to see your options.

Sadie's Coffee

Before your adventure starts, stop at Sadie's for coffee to fuel up for the day. They also serve bagels, sandwiches and snacks!

Kerr Lake

Enjoy your choice of water activities at Kerr Lake. Feel free to: fish, swim, kayak, canoe, boat, and just enjoy the lake!

George's Restaurant

End the day with a visit to George's Restaurant, a family owned gem, serving all your favorites, from seafood to steak pasta and more.

VISITGRANVILLENC.COM

KERRLAKE-NC.COM

Farmers Market Stroll

CROP TO SHOP FULL DAY

BREAKFAST

Grab breakfast in Downtown Oxford. Scan the QR code to see some options!

FARMERS MARKETS

Visit these four local farmer's markets and shop for fresh produce, handmade goods, and unique products.

- Uptown Roxboro Farmer's Market
- Oxford Farmer's Market
- Vance Co. Farmer's Market
- Franklin County Farmers Market

Lunch

Grab lunch at one of the local spots in Vance County. See QR code for more information

Seven Spring Winery

End the day with a relaxing visit to Seven Springs Winery. Sip, savor, and toast to a day well spent.

MORE INFORMATION / PRO TIP:

Bring your cooler for all the goodies you get at each market

VISITGRANVILLENC.COM | ITSBETTERINPERSON.COM | KERRLAKE-NC.COM

FARMERS MARKET

STRONG ARM BAKERY

FARMERS MARKET

SEVEN SPRING WINERY

8

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SUCCESS

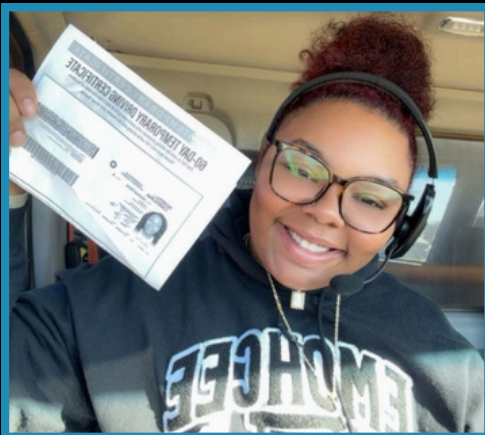
R. Collins successfully completed a Work Experience (WEX) assignment with Turning Point from July 30, 2025 to October 3, 2025. During her assignment, she demonstrated strong work ethic, reliability, and a willingness to learn. Due to her positive performance, Turning Point offered her an On-the-job (OJT) training opportunity, which she began on October 6, 2025. After completing her OJT on December 19, 2025 and receiving a satisfactory evaluation, the company hired her on directly as a Program Support Specialist earning \$17.50/hr. This transition reflects the customer's dedication and the effectiveness of the WEX and OJT programs in providing hands-on experience that leads to permanent employment.

The customer has expressed that she is enjoying the work she is doing and is pleased to have secured stable employment with opportunities for continued growth.



DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAM SUCCESS

Ty'leaha previously held a CDL Class B and had been laid off from her former employer. Following the layoff, she connected with the career advisor at the NC Works Career Center to receive support in re-entering the workforce. Through working closely with the career center staff, she received guidance on interview preparation, including tips on how to confidently present her skills and experience to employers. As a result of this collaboration, the customer successfully secured new



employment on January 7, 2026 as a dump truck driver. This opportunity has allowed her to quickly return to work in her field while continuing to advance her career. She is currently enrolled to start CDL-A training at Piedmont Community College on February 28, 2026, and upon completion of the course on May 3, 2026, she will transition into driving 18-wheelers with her employer. This success highlights the impact of targeted employment services and training support in helping individuals overcome job loss and achieve career advancement.

VANCE COUNTY BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Local business leaders and workforce partners gathered at FlexDesk 360 on January 15 for the Vance County Business Roundtable sponsored by the Vance Co Chamber, a collaborative discussion focused on workforce development, education alignment, and talent pipeline strategies.



Attendees shared insights on current workforce challenges, emerging industry needs, and opportunities to strengthen partnerships between businesses, local schools, community colleges, and economic development organizations. The discussion also explored best practices, career pathways, and strategies to ensure the county’s workforce is prepared for high-demand industries.

Events like this highlight the importance of collaboration among employers, educators, and workforce partners, helping Vance County build a skilled, competitive, and sustainable local workforce.

Kerr Tar/NCWorks will be speaking at the April 16, 2026 Business Roundtable in Henderson.



RICE WRAP TOUR



Local partners and workforce development partners had the opportunity to tour Rice Wrap on January 14, gaining an inside look at the company’s operations, production processes, and commitment to quality.

The tour highlighted how Rice Wraps integrates innovative manufacturing techniques and skilled workforce practices to meet growing market demand. Participants were able to observe production firsthand, learn about workforce needs, and discuss opportunities for collaboration between industry and local education and training programs.

Events like this help strengthen connections between employers, educators, and workforce development partners, supporting the growth of a skilled talent pipeline in the region.

BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mike Inscoe
February 13th

ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sharon Thomas
8 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

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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