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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council Executive Committee Meeting on **February 18th at 2p.m.** *via zoom*
- Regional Aging Advisory Council and Senior Tar Heel Legislature Meeting, **February 19th @ 2p.m.**
- TAC/TCC Meeting, **February 20th at 3:00p.m.**
- Senior Games & Silver Arts Early Registration, **February 10-24**



JOIN US

Altec Creedmoor Plant Visit and Tour

DATE & TIME

Thursday, February 20th
at 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION

1550 Aerial Ave,
Creedmoor, NC 27522

DRESS CODE

Closed-toe shoes

**A light breakfast and
coffee will be
provided along with a
boxed lunch!**

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



SPOTS ARE LIMITED
Last day to register
is February 14th!

FREE POP-UP CLINIC

FREE DENTAL, VISION, AND MEDICAL SERVICES



March 1-2, 2025

Vance Charter School

2090 Ross Mill Road, Henderson, NC 27537



VISION

Eye Exams
Glaucoma Testing
Glasses Made on Site



DENTAL

Fillings
Cleanings
Extractions



MEDICAL

General Medical
Women's Health
And More!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The patient parking lot will open no later than **11:59 P.M. on Friday night, February 28**, and remain open. Clinic doors typically **open at 6 A.M.**
- Patients should be prepared with their own food, water, medicines, and clothing, when arriving early.
- Bathrooms will be provided.
- Free dental, vision, and medical services are provided on **first-come, first-serve basis**.
- Due to time constraints, **be prepared to choose between DENTAL and VISION** services. General Medical services are offered to every patient attending the clinic.
- All services are **free and open to the public**.
- No ID required.

NO ID NECESSARY, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED



865.579.1530



ramusa.org

VANCE COUNTY CELEBRATES PHASE III COMPLETION OF INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD

On Thursday, January 16, Vance County celebrated the completion of the Henderson-Vance Industrial Park Phase III Road with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 39 Commerce Drive in Henderson. This milestone marks the successful completion of 2,700 feet of asphalt roadway and 2,400 feet of sewer infrastructure, all part of the final phase of the park's expansion. With funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Vance County, this \$1.3 million project will help support future growth in the area. The ceremony included remarks from county leaders and was a moment of pride for the community as they celebrated the continued success and expansion of the Industrial Park, which now houses over 1 million square feet of occupied space and 11 tenants.



GRANVILLE COUNTY NAMED TIER 3 IN 2025 RANKINGS



Granville County has been designated as a Tier 3 county in North Carolina's 2025 County Tier Designations, as the North Carolina Department of Commerce announced. The state ranks its 100 counties annually based on economic factors like unemployment rates, median household income, population growth, and adjusted property tax base per capita.

Granville County, along with 19 other counties, now falls into Tier 3, representing the state's least distressed areas. Tier 3 counties are those with stronger economic conditions compared to the other regions, and this designation often plays a key role in guiding state programs aimed at fostering economic development in different parts of North Carolina. The rankings are as follows: the 40 most distressed counties are designated Tier 1, the next 40 as Tier 2, and the 20 least distressed counties are assigned Tier 3. For a deeper look at the specific rankings and the factors contributing to this designation, please refer to the full 2025 County Tier Designations memo released on December 2, 2024, [HERE](#).

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SOUTHWIRE ANNOUNCES NEW EXPANSION IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

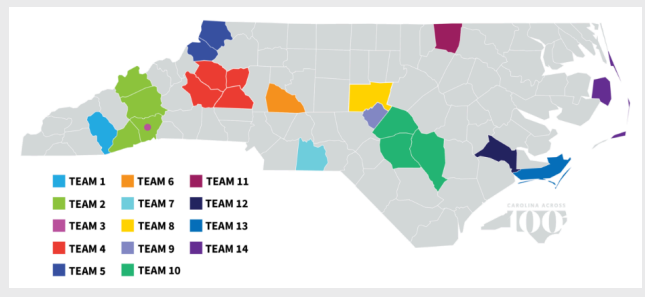


Southwire, a leading manufacturer of electrical wire and cable, is expanding its operations by relocating to a 170,000-square-foot facility at the US 1 North Commerce Center in Franklin County, N.C. This move is part of the company's \$1.5 billion modernization strategy, which includes updating equipment, systems, and technology to improve efficiency and support strategic growth.

The new facility will enhance Southwire's Engineered Solutions business, enabling increased production and continued employment for over 200 team members. Norman Adkins, Southwire's President and COO, stated, "This new facility will not only accommodate our ever-expanding operations but will also allow us to innovate and enhance our production capabilities for the future."

The US 1 North Commerce Center has proven to be a vital asset, providing much-needed industrial space to support businesses like Southwire in Franklin County. The expansion underscores the company's commitment to the area, reinforcing its role as a major employer and community partner. The grand opening of the new facility is scheduled for April 2025. For more information about Southwire, visit www.southwire.com.

WARREN COUNTY SELECTED FOR UNC'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE



Warren County is one of 22 counties selected to participate in UNC-Chapel Hill's Our State, Our Homes program, a new initiative aimed at addressing the affordable housing crisis across North Carolina. This program brings together 14 community teams from urban, suburban, and rural areas, including business, civic, education, nonprofit, faith-based, and government sectors, to work collaboratively on local housing challenges. The initiative will provide participating counties, including Warren, with essential tools, resources, and expertise to better understand their housing needs and develop innovative solutions. Over the course of the 18-month program, communities will receive coaching, technical assistance, and opportunities to engage with housing experts, ultimately strengthening their capacity to tackle affordability issues. With nearly one-third of NC households considered cost-burdened, this program is a critical step in addressing housing shortages that affect economic growth, health outcomes, and community well-being across the state. More information [HERE](#).

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INTRODUCING THE NC RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PLANNING GUIDE



We're excited to announce the release of the NC Resilient Communities Planning Guide, a new resource to help North Carolina communities develop resilience plans or integrate resilience strategies into existing planning documents. The Guide is designed to be flexible, providing tailored options to fit each community's unique needs.

The Guide consists of two volumes:

- **The Playbook:** A step-by-step guide to resilience planning, covering everything from preparation to implementation. It includes checklists and questions to help local governments, community organizations, and regional groups customize their planning process.
- **The Idea Book:** A collection of strategies to improve resilience across 14 categories, such as Stormwater Management, Flooding, Communication, Education, and Local Economy. Each category includes a detailed case study of a community's successful resilience project.

Developed with support from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Guide aims to strengthen long-term resilience for North Carolina's communities and local economies. More information [HERE](#).



Want to stay up to date with the COG and the region?

Follow us on social media below:



ENERGY SAVER NORTH CAROLINA PROGRAM LAUNCHES WITH \$208 MILLION IN REBATES

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has launched the Energy Saver North Carolina program, offering over \$208 million in federally funded rebates to help residents improve home energy efficiency. The program provides rebates for upgrades like heat pumps, electrical panels, and insulation, making it easier for households to reduce energy costs. The initiative is especially focused on supporting low-to-moderate income homeowners (up to 150% of the area median income) in underserved communities, as well as areas impacted by recent storms. Residents can apply for significant rebates, potentially covering up to \$16,000 in whole-home energy upgrades.



Specific rebates include:

- Up to \$8,000 for heat pumps
- Up to \$4,000 for electrical panels
- Up to \$1,750 for heat pump water heaters
- Up to \$1,600 for insulation and air sealing



This program is the first of its kind in the nation to offer both Homeowners Managing Efficiency Savings (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) simultaneously. Governor Josh Stein and DEQ Secretary Reid Wilson highlighted its potential to create jobs, lower energy costs, and benefit the environment. Eligible North Carolinians can apply online at energysavernc.org.

2025 STATE ENERGY CONFERENCE

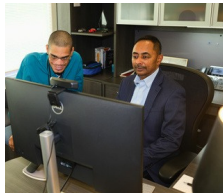
The State Energy Conference provides actionable insight into the business of energy, connecting technical innovation, diverse resources, and industry opportunities to help drive North Carolina's regional energy economy forward with national impact. The 2025 State Energy Conference will be held at the McKimmon Conference and Training Center in Raleigh, NC. Come to network, learn best practices, hear about successful case studies, engage in important energy discussions, and more.



Join us April 29-30 for the 2025 State Energy Conference! Register by March 21 and save with early bird registration. Advance registration closes April 23. Walk-in registrations are welcome. To register click [HERE](#).



NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S PAGE PROGRAM



PROGRAM INFO

Founded in 1973, the Governor's Page Program gives high school students from all over North Carolina the opportunity to come to Raleigh for a week of hands-on participation in their state government. Pages grow in four areas: history, civics, service, and professional development.

Participants receive a \$200 stipend to compensate for any costs associated with the program, and participation in the program is an excused absence from school.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible participants are high school students or recent high school graduates in good academic standing.

HOW TO APPLY

- 1) Fill out the application. Apply [HERE](#).
- 2) Have two people fill out the recommendation form.
- 3) Application is complete!

FOR MORE INFO

(919) 814-2030
 govpage@nc.gov
 governor.nc.gov



The Governor's Page Program is run by the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (VolunteerNC).

KERR-TAR 2025 SENIOR GAMES & SILVER ARTS



Granville
HEALTH SYSTEM



Lifetime Homecare
Services

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 10-February 24, 2025

Cost: \$15.00

Entry Deadline: March 7, 2025

Cost: \$20.00 after Feb.24th

Additional Fees:

Bowling: \$5.00

Golf: \$36.00

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 2025

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

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



Learn more about our

Family Caregiver Support Services

How it works —————

The Respite Voucher Program is a consumer-directed program in which the caregiver employs the individual of his or her choosing to provide respite care for their loved one. This can be a private individual or professional company. The caregiver and hired person will keep a timesheet record of respite hours provided. The caregiver will then submit the time sheet to the Kerr-Tar AAA for reimbursement of completed services up to a pre-approved voucher amount.

This is a reimbursement program and vouchers are based on the availability of funding. Eligible caregivers may receive one voucher per year from KTA AAA. The issued voucher will expire three months after the issue date.

How to apply —————

Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren County residents can contact the Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging at (252) 436-2040 to inquire about available respite care vouchers.

WHO IS AN ELIGIBLE CAREGIVER?

Family members or other informal caregivers age 18+ providing care to those who are

- 60 years of age or older
- Any age with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders

The Older Americans Act specifies that the caregiver receiving Respite or Supplemental services must be taking care of an individual who meets the definition of "frail." Frail is defined as an individual who is functionally impaired due to:

A) Inability to perform at least two activities of daily living without substantial assistance, including verbal reminding, physical cueing, or supervision;

OR

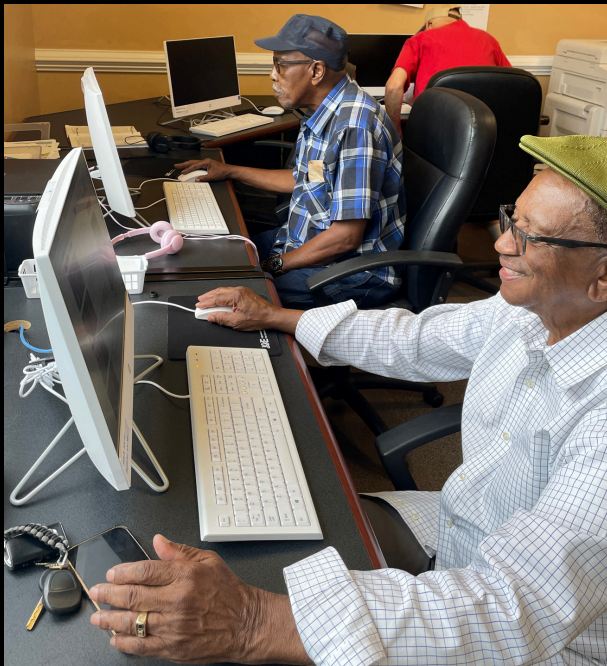
B) A cognitive or other mental impairment, requiring substantial supervision due to potentially harmful behavior toward oneself or others.

If you'd like to know more about our Caregiver Support Services or would like to apply to see if you're eligible for the Respite Voucher Please click **[HERE](#)** or contact Michael Patterson at (252) 436-2040 ext. 6072

WARREN COUNTY'S DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN ADOPTED

On January 13th, 2025 the Warren County Board of Commissioners adopted the Warren County Digital Inclusion Plan. Rose Ponton, Warren County Community Development Division Manager was the project lead for Warren County.

Tanika Alston, Warren County Library Director, was consulted to provide information for existing services and programs to include within the plan. Derrick Fogg, Director of Career and Technical Education for Warren County Schools, worked with the project team to illustrate the current programs available in K-12 schools and learning opportunities in Warren County. Charla Duncan and Megan Williams, with the Economic Development office, supported the refinement of the plan and the convening of stakeholders.



PERSON COUNTY'S DIGITAL INCLUSION PLAN ADOPTED

On January 21st the Person County Board of Commissioners adopted the Person County Digital Inclusion Plan. Brian Hart, Assistance County Manger, began the presentation by introducing the core team for developing the plan. "Bo" Freeman, NC Cooperative Extension Director for Person County, and Ashley Cummings, Digital Agent for Person County, supported the project for Person County, with Brian Hart. They expressed the plan is a living

document and will develop with partnership with Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Additionally, the team formed a Taskforce and Steering Committee to develop and refine the details within the plan. Person County deployed the Person County Digital Access Survey to help inform their plan between August 2023 and August 2024. The plan identified factors that formed the Goals and Strategies to address the needs of the county. Brian Hart explained that the draft will be publicly available online, now that it has been adopted by the Person County Board of Commissioners. Several Commissioners congratulated the team on their work.

APPLICATION OPEN FOR 2025 BICYCLE HELMET INITIATIVE

Since being introduced, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) 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 2025 is Friday, February 14. Interested organizations are encouraged to apply [HERE](#). Once distributed, the Kerr-Tar COG's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program will gladly assist a regional partner with the distribution of helmets and other safety materials.



FUNDING FORECAST



- **Volunteer Fire Department Fund due March 1st**

The Volunteer Fire Department Fund assists fire departments with equipment purchases and capital expenditures. Fire departments must be volunteer-based (with up to eight paid positions) and meet specific requirements, including reporting to NFIRS and being rated by the NC Department of Insurance. The grant has varying matching requirements based on municipal or county funding: departments receiving up to \$50,000 in funding are not required to match, those receiving \$50,000 to \$75,000 must match 1:3, and departments receiving over \$75,000 must match on a 1:1 basis. More information [HERE](#).

- **Volunteer Rescue-EMS Fund due October 1st**

The Volunteer Rescue-EMSA Fund provides financial support to rescue organizations for equipment purchases and capital expenditures. Eligible organizations can receive either a matching grant (up to \$25,000) if they have over \$1,000 in cash assets, or a non-matching grant (up to \$3,000) if they have less than \$1,000 in assets. To qualify, organizations must be volunteer-based, recognized by the NC Department of Insurance, and meet certain certification requirements from the NC Office of Emergency Medical Services. More information [HERE](#).



OPERATION SPRING PLANT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

COG Contractor Charlie Robinette and Americorp Member Nicole Manalis and members of the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council attended the Operation Spring Plant Annual Conference in Rocky Mount. The three-day conference featured farm tours across Southeastern NC. Take a look at what the conference had to offer!



KERR-TAR REGIONAL FOOD COUNCIL

This month, the Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council officially adopted bylaws and began forming committees for the group. Food Council meetings are open to the public, if interested in attending, presenting, or joining a committee, please contact Charlie Robinette at crobinette@kerrtarco.org. The next KTRFC meeting will be on March 26th from 10-11:30 am at the COG offices.



NEXTGEN: SUCCESS STORY

“The NextGen Program gave me a jumpstart in a career so I can provide for myself and my daughter financially. I would definitely recommend this program to my friends,” says Precious Satterwhite when asked about the assistance she received from NCWorks. Precious is a 24-year-old single mother of 1 daughter. She resides in Warren County. During her initial assessment, Precious stated that she always wanted to be a caregiver and considered being a nurse. After reviewing several nursing programs, she decided that she wanted to take another route and ran across some information on dentistry.

“Learning about teeth was interesting to me and I learned that being a Dental Assistant was about more than cleaning teeth,” said Precious. She enrolled in the NextGen Program last August and started Dental Assistant I training at NC Dental U in September 2024. She graduated on December 21, 2024, and is currently interviewing with local dentist offices.



Precious Satterwhite

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



ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

dcox@kerrtarcog.org

Area Agency on Aging

Alan Winstead

awinstead@kerrtarcog.org

Community & Economic Development

Desiree Brooks

dbrooks@kerrtarcog.org

Workforce Development

Lou Grillo

lgrillo@kerrtarcog.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

1724 Graham Avenue

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Henderson, NC 27536

Phone | (252) 436-2040

Fax | (252) 436-2055

info@kerrtarcog.org | kerrtarcog.org

