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*9th Annual Hot Sauce Festival,
Downtown Oxford*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- **COG Office Closed:** The COG will be closed on [September 2](#) observing Labor Day
- **Cultivate 2024 Regional Economic Development Summit:** Thursday, September 12 @ Jones Performing Arts Center, Louisburg, 8:30am-1:00pm
- **COG Annual Awards Banquet:** Thursday, September 26 @ Festival House @ the Homestead Steakhouse, Timberlake, 6:30pm
- **Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board Meeting:** Tuesday September 17, COG Office, 6 pm
- **Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council:** Wednesday September 25, COG Office, 10am



Embracing rural power, for a thriving future

CULTIVATE 2024

SEPT

12

8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Jones Performing Arts Center
501 N. Main St., Louisburg, NC
27549

SEBY JONES PERFORMING ARTS CEN

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments & Franklin County Present:
EMBRACING RURAL POWER FOR A THRIVING FUTURE

Don't miss out on this exciting event!

- Tradeshow/Exhibit Area
- Food Trucks - Lunch and Ice-Cream tickets provided to first 200 registered
- Drawings for Prizes throughout the event
- PLUS Networking Opportunities

Topics will include:

- Finding funds to bring your ideas to life
- Maximizing your tourism assets
- Trends in marketing and tourism
- Inspiring Keynote address by noted author, hiker and entrepreneur - Jennifer Pharr Davis



FEATURED GUESTS & SPEAKERS

Fueling Growth: Unlocking Financial Support for Local Initiatives



Scott T. Hamilton
President
Chief Executive Officer
Golden Leaf Foundation



Hillary Sherman
NC Economic
Development Rep. for the
Economic Development
Administration



Elizabeth Parham
Director of NC Main
Street & Rural Planning
NC Department of
Commerce

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

- Dominion Energy
- Duke Energy
- Cypress Creek Renewables
- NC Electric Cooperatives
- ElectriCities of North Carolina
- Benchmark Community Bank
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- The Sunrock Group
- Granville County TDA

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

- Franklin Co. Economic Development Commission
- Franklin County
- Franklin County Tourism Development Authority
- Granville Co. Economic Development Commission
- Granville Co. Tourism Development Authority
- Greater Franklin Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Henderson-Vance Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission
- Louisburg College
- Person Co. Economic Development Commission
- Person Co. Tourism Development Authority
- Piedmont Community College
- Vance Co. Tourism Development Authority
- Vance-Granville Community College
- Warren Co. Economic Development Commission
- Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce

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SAVE THE DATE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
2024 KERR-TAR
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS

Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER
AT 6:30 P.M.

26

HOMESTEAD
FESTIVAL HOUSE
205 FRANK
TIMBERLAKE RD.,
TIMBERLAKE, NC
27583

[Register
Here](#)

Cost: \$30 per
person

Sponsors:

Roxboro Savings Bank
VC3 Inc.
Granville County Farm
Bureau Insurance

RSVP by September 18, 2024

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SAVE THE DATE

Member Spotlight

The City of Roxboro



Lauren Johnson
Planning & Economic
Development Director

What is your vision for the future of Roxboro?

Lauren: The City of Roxboro's existing vision statement centers around encouraging a community that is safe, healthy, scenic, quaint, vibrant, family-oriented, and well-educated. Through recent adoption of a Joint Comprehensive Land Use Plan with Person County, and recent conversations with the City Council and Planning Board, we are taking steps to modernize our land use plans and policies to better reflect this vision.

Are there any upcoming projects or initiatives that the community should be excited about?

Lauren: Roxboro is currently exploring ways to update our Unified Development Ordinance to better reflect the needs of the community, and the Council's vision for growth. We are also working on implementation opportunities for various projects identified in our recently-updated Uptown Streetscape Plan and (hopefully soon-to-be adopted) Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. While funding for construction projects is limited, we are looking for creative collaborations and low-cost/high-impact steps that can be taken to keep the momentum going.

What motivates you in your day to day work as the Planning and Development Director?

Lauren: As a native of Person County, I find that my greatest motivation is trying to do work that my parents and grandparents would be proud to know was a product of my efforts. Like so many in Roxboro and Person County, I have deep roots in our beautiful red clay. My work is truly a labor of love for the community that has been my home for the vast majority of my life. While we are growing and seeing changes, it is my hope that I can use my uniquely-personal knowledge of our community to advocate for growth that will augment this already special place to call home.

Don't Leaf Trash Behind: Join the NCDOT Fall Sweep

As the leaves begin to turn, the N.C. Department of Transportation is excited to announce its Fall Litter Sweep from Sept. 14-28. This biannual event invites residents to roll up their sleeves and help clear roadside litter, keeping North Carolina's roadsides beautiful. Each season, volunteers from all over the state come together to clean up our roads, making a tangible difference in the environment and in the lives of their neighbors.




FALL
LITTER SWEEP
SEPT. 14-28, 2024

**N.C. Department of Transportation
Biannual Cleanup Drive**

→ Volunteer Locally!

ncdot.gov/littersweep
Forms, posters, and telephone listings are available on our website

Share your clean-up photos at:
#LitterSweepNC

"Fall is a time of change, and what better way to welcome it than by making our roadsides cleaner and more vibrant," said David Harris, NCDOT's Roadside environmental engineer. "We often talk about the impact of litter, but what's truly impactful is the dedication of our volunteers. We're proud of our volunteers who show up every season to make a difference. Their efforts ensure that our state's beauty is preserved for everyone to enjoy." NCDOT maintenance crews will also be out in force, dedicating one week to picking up litter and collecting the trash bags filled by volunteers. Those eager to participate can request gloves, safety vests, and bags from their local NCDOT county maintenance offices.

For more information, visit the Litter Sweep webpage and join the NCDOT in making this fall a season of positive change.



HOME BUYER EDUCATION Workshop



**7 SEPTEMBER 2024
10AM TO 2PM**

**THE GATEWAY CENTER
314 S GARNETT STREET
HENDERSON, NC 27536**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Cost: FREE...Registration is Required
Refreshments and lunch will be served.**

Go to EVENTS tab at www.gmbeasley.com or email info@gmbeasley.com

Community Partners



Learn More About:

Navigating the Real Estate Market

Finding the Right Home

The Homebuying Process

Financial Readiness

Securing Financing

Down Payment Assistance

The Closing Process

“Together we build safe, decent and affordable communities”

Warren County Commissioner Elected President of NCACC

Congratulations to Warren County Commissioner, Tare "T" Davis who was elected and sworn in as president of the NC Association of County Commissioners earlier this month! President Davis unveiled his presidential initiative, "Heroic Hands: Celebrating Public Service," which focuses on honoring the dedication of North Carolina public service organizations and their workers. "My presidential initiative will highlight the value of having a career in public service and challenge us, [county government leaders], to work with state leaders and our intergovernmental partners to promote workforce training needs in local government," said President Davis. "I am grateful every single day for those who dedicate their careers to taking care of our most fundamental county operations."



Photo courtesy of NCACC

2024 Cleantech Innovation Awards Ceremony



The Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster is excited to announce that nominations and registration are open for our 2024 Cleantech Innovation Awards! These awards recognize cleantech initiatives, projects, and innovations from companies, organizations, and government agencies that have contributed to the growing cleantech ecosystem in North Carolina.

Note:

- **Nominations close September 13**
- **The Awards Ceremony will be held Wednesday, November 13 at SAS Institute in Cary, NC**

Town of Warrenton Awarded PARTF Grant

Join us in congratulating the Town of Warrenton and our grant writer Amanda Lewis, who provided technical assistance, in being awarded the PARTF grant! Governor Roy Cooper announced on August 29th that \$17.9 million in grants are funding 46 local parks and recreation projects across the state through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF).



The Town of Warrenton was awarded \$95,743 for the Warrenton Nature Trail. Robert Davie, the Town Administrator of Warrenton commented "I can't tell you how much we appreciate Amanda Lewis at the Town of Warrenton, when it comes to grant applications. As with most grant applications we are rushed to meet deadlines, and Amanda comes in to assist or even take the lead and then does her magic, distilling difficult questions into plain answers and submitting ahead of time. We very much appreciate her!"

Non-Profit Engagement Meeting



The Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce and the Triangle North Healthcare Foundation held a non-profit engagement meeting on August 21st catered to non-profits, churches, schools, and/or businesses interested in learning more about non-profit organizations in the area.

To the left is Diane Cox, COG Executive Director and Sandra Wilkerson, the President of the Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce.

Five speakers presented the missions of their organizations: Diane Cox from the COG, Tyler Segebarth from Walmart Distribution, John Tayloe from Senator Ted Budd's office, and Jane King and Darryl Jones from Community Partners of Hope.



SHIIP Saves Seniors Thousands of Dollars

The **Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)** counsels Medicare beneficiaries about Medicare, Medicare supplements Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and long-term care insurance. North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey today announced that the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) saved the state's seniors \$30 million last year.

Many retirees and Medicare beneficiaries on a fixed income want to save money wherever they can. Each year, thousands of people contact SHIIP throughout the state to help them identify savings in their Medicare coverages.

"These savings are valuable to older North Carolinians, many of whom are on a fixed income," Commissioner Causey said. "Now they can use them to spend as they see fit."



In 2023 SHIIP saved Medicare beneficiaries the following amount in each county in **Kerr-Tar Region K:**

- **Franklin:** \$541,107
- **Granville:** \$510,466
- **Person:** \$16,643
- **Vance:** \$26,644
- **Warren:** \$24,525
- **Region K Kerr-Tar total:** \$1,119,385
- **Number of people served:** 1316

Each county has a SHIIP counselor - you can find your local SHIIP counselor [here](#).



The Henderson Dementia Caregiver Conference



On August 6th, the Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging held a successful Dementia Alliance Conference at Vance-Granville Community College in Henderson with 93 participants! The event featured Melanie Bunn, a Dementia Training Specialist from the Dementia Alliance of North Carolina, who led an insightful session titled *Understanding Dementia: Exploring Caregiving and Communication as Dementia Progresses*. The conference also received strong community support, with several vendors ranging from healthcare organizations to companies specializing in healthcare support attending to offer their resources and expertise.



Our Family Caregiver Specialist Michael Patterson, followed up with the next panel called *Taking Care of You: The Importance of Caregiver Self-Care*. The Conference ended with a drawing for a stuffed companion pet participants could take home!

Save the Date:

Representative Frank Sossamon is hosting Dementia Forums featuring Lindsey Golden from the Alzheimer's Association of NC and Michael Patterson, the Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging Family Caregiver Specialist.

- **Henderson:** September 23, 6:00-7:30 PM, Clearview Church, 3485 US-158 Business
- **Oxford:** September 30, 6:00-7:30 PM, Cornerstone Christian Community Church, 3237 Knotts Grove



For more information, contact Michael Patterson at mpatterson@kerrtarcoag.org or 252-436-2040

RAAC Meeting Announces Elder Abuse Awareness Walk



The Regional Aging Advisory Committee and Senior Tarheel Legislature delegates came together in August for an impactful meeting. Exciting news was shared by Kim Hawkins: SAVE THE DATE for **June 13, 2025**, when we'll unite once again for World Elder Abuse Awareness Week and Walk!

Sponsors Needed for 2025 Senior Games!



Looking ahead, we're gearing up for the Kerr-Tar Regional Senior Games, kicking off in March 2025! Over 200 athletes will showcase their talents, and we're seeking sponsors to make this incredible event possible for our senior adults across the five-county area. With various sponsorship levels available, there's a great opportunity to support this vibrant community event!

Click **HERE** to access the Sponsorship Packet



For more information about the sponsorship packet, contact Michael Patterson at mpatterson@kerrtarco.org or 252-436-2040


Digital Inclusion Across the Region



Our Regional Program Manager, Amanda Lewis, is actively working across our region to raise awareness about the NC Broadband survey, a crucial step in developing our Digital Equity plans for every county. Above, Amanda is sharing these plans with our NC Work Career Services team and our Director of Workforce, Lou Grillo, exploring ways to integrate digital inclusion efforts with other organizations that could benefit from this initiative.



CALL:
919-750-0553
SCAN ME



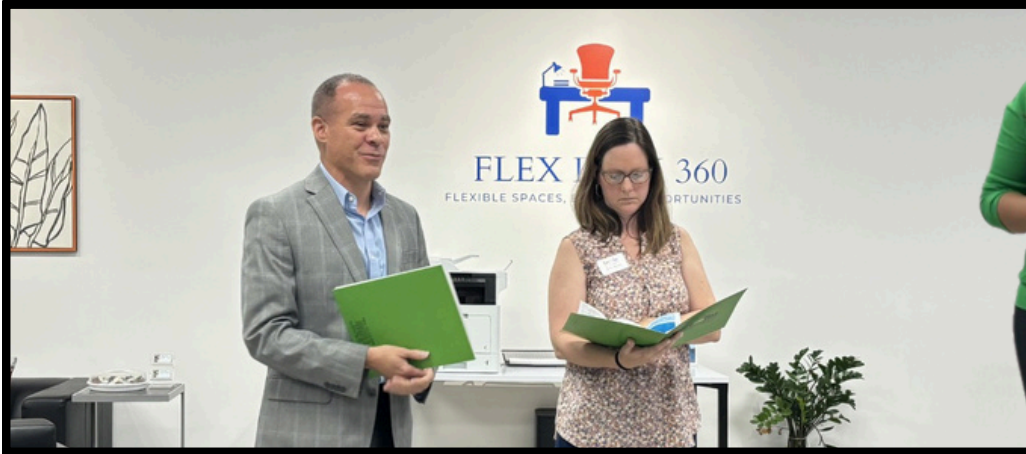
NCBroadband.gov/Survey

Thank you for helping North Carolina better understand the needs of our communities. This survey will help shape the development of the State's Digital Equity Plan to better meet the needs of all North Carolinians..



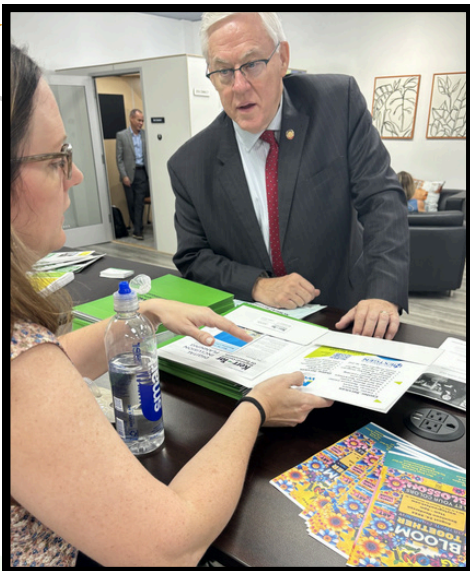
If you have any questions or would like to share valuable resources contact Amanda Lewis at alewis@kerrtarcog.org

FlexDesk 360: Financial Literacy for Small Businesses



Nicole Turner
Founder of Flex Desk 360

On August 20th, FlexDesk 360 hosted a small business resource day where small business owners were able to visit and explore small business banking products offered by local and regional banks including Coastal Federal Credit Union, Woodforest National Bank, and Truist. Our Workforce Development Director, Lou Grillo, and our Community and Economic Development Director, Desiree Brooks, were able to provide a valuable resource with our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) that involves assisting existing businesses as well as new entrepreneurs in securing financing. This creates new jobs, foster small business development, job retention, and improves the economic and environmental climate in our region.



shop small
shop small
shop small

To the left we see Desiree Brooks, our Community and Economic Development Director, speaking with NC Representative Frank Sossamon about the Career Services we provide along with our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program.

To learn more about the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Contact Desiree Brooks at dbrooksekerrtarcog.org

Community Day in Henderson



On Saturday, August 3rd, the Turning Point Community Development Corporation celebrated its 14th annual Community Day, attracting local families. The event featured local vendors, a fun play zone for kids, and a visit from the Vance County Fire Departments, who brought their firetruck for the children to explore. Our Regional Program Coordinator, Victoria Glasscock joined in by handing out goodies and safety tips, while our Area Agency on Aging Department provided valuable information to adults in the community. Families also received free school supplies to help students gear up for the new school year, making the day a true celebration of community spirit and support.



National Night Out in Oxford



On August 6th, Oxford hosted its National Night Out event, bringing the community together for an evening of connecting with local law enforcement. Local vendors participated, offering goodies for the kids, while free school supplies were available to help families prepare for the new school year. The event also featured raffles, giving participants a chance to win some great prizes. It was a night filled with community spirit and smiles all around!



Success Stories



Five Paths to a Brighter Future in Dental Assisting

Congratulations to Shamoree Alston, Sharon Durham, and Michelle Fields—three individuals from different walks of life who shared a common goal after enrolling in WIOA: to build a fulfilling career in the healthcare industry. They enrolled in a dental assisting class at NCDental U with high hopes, eager to learn new skills needed to make a difference in their lives. Today, their hard work and dedication has paid off, as they proudly step into their new roles as dental assistants.



Through the dental assisting class, they gained the technical skills required for their new careers. This is proof that with determination, hard work, and the right support, anyone can achieve their goals in life.



Look for new faces in your Dentist Office! **Christine Taylor** and **Ronneka Meadows** are participants in the WIOA Adult Program and are recent graduates of the North Carolina Dental U-Dental Assisting program. Both are currently working with the Business Services Team at the Kerr-Tar NCWorks Career Center in Vance County to secure full-time positions within the Dental Industry. They are strong-willed and our Career Center Team has no doubt that Ms. Taylor and Ms. Meadows will both secure jobs with good wages very soon!

Success Stories



From Commitment to Success: A Journey in CDL A Training



Lashonda Howard

Lashonda Howard completed her CDL A training at Nash Community College (Sage Truck Driving Schools) in August 2024. Attending weekend classes to balance her commitments, she earned an Outstanding Achievement Award for perfect attendance. Previously a school bus driver with a CDL B license, Ms. Howard enrolled in WIOA in January 2024, determined to advance her career. Her dedication has now opened new opportunities as a transport driver, and we look forward to her future successes.



Travon Sharps

Travon Sharps (Franklin County) Travon enrolled in the WIOA Youth Program at Vance-Granville Community College in May 2024. He was unemployed and seeking training to gain full-time employment. He came to the WIOA office with his mind set on doing the CDL training. After much discussion with Travon about the CDL truck driving training, he was more determined that this was the training he wanted to pursue. Travon successfully completed the CDL truck driving training on August 12, 2024, and he is currently seeking employment as a CDL driver.



Damarius Harris

Damarius enrolled in the WIOA Youth Program at Vance-Granville Community College in May 2024. He came to the WIOA office seeking to enroll in CDL truck driving training. He was unemployed and a high school graduate. His career assessment showed high interest in the technology skilled field. CDL truck driving is one of the careers in technology skilled. Damarius completed the CDL truck driving training on August 12, 2024 and was ranked as one of the top students in the class. He is now seeking employment and has several companies he is interested in; Carolina Sunrock and Fred's Towing.

Success Stories



A Veteran's Journey to Employment and Independence

Mr. Robert Ford, a justice-involved veteran, faced challenges reintegrating into civilian life after incarceration, including barriers to employment and a lack of support. Determined to turn his life around, he sought help from the NCWorks Career Center.

The intake staff created a personalized plan, and a career advisor guided him through obtaining credentials to enhance his employability. The Business Services



team connected him with veteran-friendly employers, and specialized veteran services provided access to job fairs and mentorship. With their support, Robert gained the skills and confidence needed to secure meaningful employment, allowing him to purchase a vehicle and regain his independence. Robert story is a testament to the transformative power of the services provided by the NCWorks Career Center. With their help, he was able to overcome the barriers of his past and build a brighter future for himself. His success is not only a victory for him but also a reminder of the impact that dedicated professionals can have on the lives of those they serve.



Stay Connected with Your NCWorks Career Center!



@NCWorksCareerCenter-KerrTar



www.kerrtarworks.com



@ncworks_kerrtar

[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](#)

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
PO Box 709
Henderson, NC 27536
Phone | (252) 436-2040
Fax | (252) 436-2055
info@kerrtarcog.org | kerrtarcog.org

