



# KERR-TAR

*Council of Governments*  
FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



*Uptown Roxboro  
Photo Courtesy of Richard Long Photography*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Upcoming Events

- RAAC Meeting: [Wednesday, February 9 @ 2 pm, via Zoom](#)
- Workforce Dev. Board Meeting: [Tuesday, March 1 @ 6 pm, via Zoom](#)
- Walk With Ease: [Begins Monday, March 7 @ 11 am, Aycock Rec. Center, Henderson](#)
- Franklin Co. Job Fair: [Friday, March 18, 10 am-2 pm @ Franklin Plaza, Louisburg](#)
- Kerr-Tar COG Board Meeting: [Thursday, March 24](#)
- Economic Development Summit: [Thursday, March 31 @ The Kirby, Roxboro](#)

### Deadlines

- NCDOT Bike Helmet Initiative Applications due [February 4](#)
- Watch for Me NC Applications due [February 18](#)
- Senior Games Entries due [February 25 \(Early Bird\)](#)
- Golden LEAF SITE Program Applications due [March 10 @ noon](#)
- NC Ethics Forms due [April 15](#)
- NC Parks & Rec Trust Fund Grant Applications due [May 2](#)

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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Michael Williford

MAYOR OF STOVALL

Michael S. Williford, Mayor of Stovall, is a Maintenance Planner at CertainTeed Corp. in Oxford and has been there for 26 years. He was elected as Mayor of Stovall in November 2021 and served on the Board of Commissioners from 2007 until he was elected as Mayor, serving as Mayor Pro-Tem the last 10 of those 14 years. Michael has served on the Kerr-Tar COG Board since 2009. He enjoys serving on the COG Board, meeting with commissioners and mayors from other towns and counties.

Being from a small town with a board that works very closely together, he feels that all their achievements are a group effort shared by the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners. One of Michael's proudest achievements is not increasing taxes since his election in 2007, while still maintaining services, improving employees health benefits, and giving employees periodic pay increases. His goal for the community is to continue to try to attract businesses and county services to Stovall. Michael's role model has always been his father. He served on Oxford's Board of Commissioners for 10 years and was a member of the Kerr-Tar COG Board for most of them. Michael says, "He taught me the values that have made me successful in life. One of the things he always stressed to me was always to look at everybody's perspective before making a decision because what helps one person could hurt another."



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

James Cunningham

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISASTER  
RECOVERY COORDINATOR

James Cunningham, Economic Development Disaster Recovery Coordinator, has been with the COG for just over a year. What he loves most about working with the COG is being able to work with local governments to better their communities. James enjoys helping local municipalities figure out how to spend their American Rescue Plan funding. Fun Fact: James is a Game of Thrones nerd (his words!). Rather than having one particular role model, he always tries to take a little away from everyone he interacts with. One of James's favorite quotes is, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." -Benjamin Franklin



# 2022 Senior Games



Early Bird Registration is open for the 2022 Senior Games and is due by **February 25, 2022**. Opening Ceremonies will be on Friday, March 25 at Creedmoor Community Center. Join KTAAA for a fun community event featuring food trucks, a Fun Walk and basketball shooting. This year's events include individual sports events, singles and doubles for table tennis, badminton, bowling, tennis, and pickleball. Events new this year include swimming and mini-golf. SilverArts will be held at the Warren County Armory on May 19. Registration packets for sporting events and SilverArts are available at our Senior Centers and local Parks & Recreation Departments and online [HERE](#).

## Regional Aging Advisory Committee

The Regional Aging Advisory Committee will meet on **Wednesday, February 9 from 2:00-3:00 pm** via Zoom. An agenda and Zoom information will be sent to members ahead of time. If you would like to be involved in advocating for the interests of the region's older adults, you are welcome to join RAAC. Call 252-436-2040 ext. 2047 for more information.

## COVID Grants for Food & Services

Thanks to another pandemic-related grant, we have been funding several community-based organizations to provide groceries and produce boxes to local older adults in need of nutritional support. Each month KTAAA provides grocery boxes and produce boxes to several hundred older adults in our region. Most of our clients have the food delivered to their homes. Any older adult living independently in our region is eligible for this service. If you know anyone who may benefit, please have them call 252-436-2040, ext. 2037. Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act will be available by the end of the month. With those funds, KTAAA will continue to provide food via local non-profits, and will be supporting our Senior Center providers to expand their services during this unusual period of time.



# Henderson Walk With Ease Program

Walk With Ease is an Arthritis Foundation's program that is proven to reduce the pain of arthritis and improve your overall health. The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging will be conducting this program for our Region this spring. No matter if you need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active, this 6 week program can teach you how to safely make physical activity part of your every day life. The program includes a guidebook and a walking schedule to get you safely moving toward better health.



Studies by the Thurston Arthritis Research Center and the Institute on Aging of the University of North Carolina show that Walk With Ease is proven to:

- Reduce the pain & discomfort of arthritis
- Increase balance, strength, & walking pace
- Build confidence in your ability to be physically active
- Improve overall health

There will be a Walk With Ease group session starting in Henderson and will meet **Monday, Tuesday, and Friday** for 6 weeks, from **March 7-April 14, 2022**. Participants will meet at **11:00 am at Aycock Recreation Center**. Trained group exercise leaders begin each session with a pre-walk discussion covering a specified topic related to exercise and arthritis, followed by a 10-40 minute walk that includes a warm-up and a cool-down. To register for this session, contact Susan Tucker at 252-436-2040 or [stucker@kerrtarcoag.org](mailto:stucker@kerrtarcoag.org).

## Vaccination Support

KTAAA continues to support community efforts to increase local vaccination rates so everyone can be safer from COVID. Several community providers and local Public Health Departments have been hosting testing and vaccination events, and administrative support staffing assistance and financial support can be provided by KTAAA. Anyone needing COVID information can go to <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19>. At-home COVID vaccinations are now available and can find a vaccine provider by calling the statewide resource at 866-303-0026. According to DHHS data, 92% of the region's older adults have received full COVID vaccinations, and 66% have also received their booster dose.

Granville-Vance Public Health facilitated a vaccine event for residents of The Little Hotel in Henderson and Heritage Homes Apartments in January. KTAAA provided PPE bags, including hand sanitizer and masks, to the 35 participants at Little Hotel and the 57 residents of Heritage Homes Apartments who were vaccinated at this event. Staff also registered residents for frozen meals provided by local community partner, Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO).



## Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule Announced

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan, delivers \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The United States Treasury released its final rule on January 6, 2022. The program ensures that governments have the resources needed to:

- I. Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts;*
- II. Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue;*
- III. Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.*

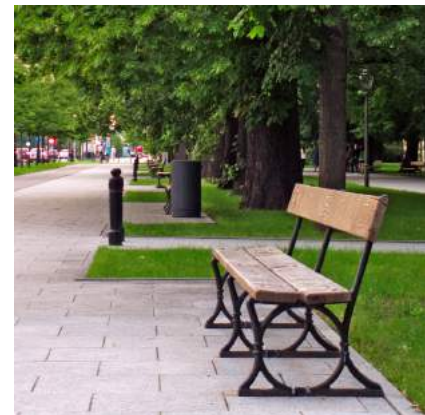


The SLFRF Final Rule will go into effect April 1, 2022 and provides state and local governments with increased flexibility to pursue a wider range of uses, as well as greater simplicity, allowing governments to focus on responding to the crisis in their communities and maximizing the impact of their funds.

For more information on this funding, as well as the additional clarity and flexibility offered to recipient governments, please reference the following [Press Release](#), courtesy of the US Treasury.

## NC Parks & Rec Trust Fund Grant Cycle Now Open

The NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) are accepting applications. This grant can be used to fund an array of projects to acquire park land, build, or renovate park facilities. Local governments can request up to a maximum of \$500,000 grant award, and grants do require a 50/50 matching rate. Applications are due **May 2, 2022**. To learn more, click [HERE](#).




## Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email [Beth Davis](#), Kerr-Tar COG Regional Engagement Specialist.

# 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.



**HELEN DIPIETRO**


**AKA:**  
"office manager and jack of all trades"

**JOB:**  
Office Manager,  
NC State  
College of  
Engineering

**LONGEST TRIP IN AN EV:**  
~200 miles

**MILES DRIVEN ELECTRIC PER YEAR:**  
8,000 - 10,000 miles

"Initially, I was impressed with EV's quick response, comfort, brake-regeneration feature, quietness and reduced maintenance."





**FIRST PURCHASED AN EV:**  
2016

**FAVORITE PLACE TO CHARGE:**  
Her driveway

**EV OF CHOICE:**  
2019 Nissan  
LEAF

Learn more and see all of the driver profiles at [fuelwhatmatters.org](http://fuelwhatmatters.org)



# New Billboard on Hazards of Idling

The Kerr-Tar COG is the recipient of a Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) grant administered through the NC Clean Energy Center at NC State and federally funded through the US Department of Transportation. Grant funds are used to reduce transportation related emissions in NC through education, outreach, and emission reduction technology to public and private entities responsible for transportation related emissions in eligible counties (Franklin, Granville, and Person). Kerr-Tar COG will continue to provide updates on new, adaptive, and innovative transportation technology to reduce the harmful environmental effects of gasoline and diesel powered automobiles. Two billboards are currently displaying the downside of idling. One is located on US-1 Southbound in Franklin County, and the other is located on 501 S in Person County.



# North Carolina Ethics Commission

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 **April 15, 2022**. If you're in need of assistance completing these forms, please contact Sam Boswell, RPO Coordinator, to schedule an appointment at 252-436-2040.



# City of Roxboro Pocket Park

On Tuesday, January 11, the City of Roxboro and Roxboro Savings Bank announced a collaboration to fund the remaining phase of the Main Street Open Space Pocket Park Project. The project originally began with a \$100,000 grant received from the NC Department of Commerce, which funded the Phase 1 cleaning and structural repair, as well as the design and construction drawing work for the project. After identifying an opportunity to give back to the community that has supported them for so many years, Roxboro Savings Bank agreed to donate funds to complete the final construction phase for the park. The City of Roxboro budgeted funds intended to complete the project as a part of their 2021/2022 Fiscal Year, welcomed the financial support to fill the funding gap created by rising material costs. Additional financial support comes from the Uptown Roxboro Group, who has worked toward rehabilitation of the space for many years. We look forward to the completion of this project!



*Location of Pocket Park in Uptown Roxboro*

*Renderings of Pocket Park space, provided by CJT, PA*

# Comprehensive Plan Updates

The Kerr-Tar COG staff have entered into agreements with the Towns of Stovall and Bunn to assist in completing Comprehensive Plans in order to meet the statutory requirements of NC Gen. Stat. § 160D. Such a plan sets forth goals, policies, and programs intended to guide present and future physical, social, and economic development.

This plan is intended to guide coordinated, efficient, and orderly development within the planning and development regulation jurisdiction based on an analysis of present and future needs. In order for a Comprehensive Plan to be effective, citizen involvement is very much needed. COG staff have developed Citizen Surveys, presently available at the Stovall and Bunn Town Halls and Stovall and Bunn Public Library locations. If you are a resident of these Towns or know a resident of these Towns, we welcome their participation in the Comprehensive Plan process.



## 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 2022 is **Friday, February 4**. 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.





# Success Story: *Markece Price*



Markece Price had been working temporary jobs for a while, and he was ready for a change. He contacted the NCWorks Career Center because he was interested in upgrading his skills and learning about opportunities available to him. Mr. Price expressed an interest in the CDL program, so after talking to his career advisor and completing the required assessments, Heavy Equipment Operating seemed to be a great fit. He enrolled in the Individual Training Account (ITA) program, offered through NCWorks, on August 31, 2021. On September 21, 2021 he started HEO training at Vance-Granville Community College and successfully completed it on December 9, 2021. Mr. Price gained full-time employment with Sunrock in early January 2022 as a Grader Operator.

## Workforce Development Board Meeting

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board will have their next meeting on **Tuesday, March 1 at 6:00 pm**. This meeting will be conducted via Zoom.



## Regional Job Fair in Franklin County



There will be a Regional Job Fair on **Friday, March 18 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm** at the Franklin Plaza, which is located at 279 South Bickett Boulevard in Louisburg (old Walmart). This job fair will be held in the parking lot, but will be held indoors in the event of bad weather. At least 20 employers from the Kerr-Tar region will be present.

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



# Golden LEAF SITE Program

The Golden LEAF Foundation is excited to announce that the second round of the [SITE Program](#) is now open! This program is open to governmental entities and 501(c)(3) nonprofits to apply for funding to support identification, due diligence, and development of sites to attract new businesses and create opportunities for existing businesses to expand. Applications are due on **March 10 at noon** for consideration by the Golden LEAF Board in June 2022.

Golden LEAF created the SITE Program with a three-phased approach. Communities will be able to begin the process at any of the three phases, and a site may progress from identification through to development over time. For more information about the program, including a guide to which phase may be right for your project, please visit the [Golden LEAF website](#). Click the links below for more information about each phase.

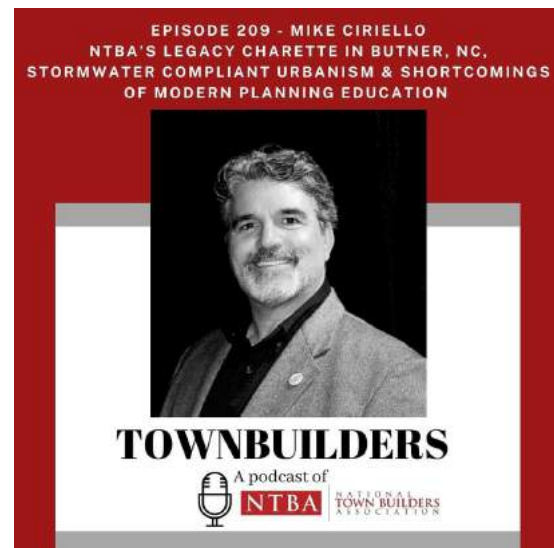
- [SITE Program - Identification](#): Support to identify potential industrial sites in communities that do not currently have quality industrial sites to market.
- [SITE Program - Due Diligence](#): Funding to complete eligible due diligence activities such as environmental assessments, archaeological analyses, and mapping.
- [SITE Program - Development](#): Funding for public infrastructure and for publicly owned sites, clearing and rough grading, to benefit sites that have completed the due diligence necessary to demonstrate that the site is suitable for development.

Questions about the program from potential applicants can be directed to [site@goldenleaf.org](mailto:site@goldenleaf.org) or through [THIS contact portal](#).



# National Podcast feat. Local Planning Director

Butner Planning Director Mike Ciriello was recently featured on the National Town Builders Association (NTBA) Podcast. Ciriello talks about the NTBA 2021 visioning exercises in Butner including what worked and what could be added in future offerings. He also speaks on the difficulty of fostering walkable urbanism in highly regulated Southern watersheds, and why there is such a shortage of good urbanist planning, design, and development talent. To listen, click [HERE](#).



# Watch for Me NC

North Carolina communities interested in participating in the 2022 "Watch for Me NC" safety program may now submit applications to the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "Watch for Me NC" focuses on reducing bicycle and pedestrian injuries and fatalities through public education and community engagement partnerships with local law enforcement. "It takes everyone working together to keep bicyclists and pedestrians safe," said Mark Ezzell, Director of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. "The educational materials, hands-on training, and critical partnerships forged by 'Watch for Me NC' go a long way towards making our communities safer."

Communities selected to participate will receive free training, technical assistance, and safety tools provided by NCDOT and the UNC Highway Safety Research Center. Communities are encouraged to form coalitions with diverse stakeholders such as law enforcement agencies, schools, and community groups, all of whom will be eligible to attend training sessions. In addition, communities will receive support that is individually customized, helping them plan outreach, share opportunities, and troubleshoot challenges.

"Watch for Me NC" partners will also receive materials with pedestrian and bicycle safety messages to aid in engagement at public events. Communities may also be eligible to receive advertising such as radio PSAs and vehicle wrapper ads. Applicants should be able to demonstrate support from local law enforcement agencies, and if applicable, campus police, plus the capacity to participate fully in the program.

To learn how to apply, click [HERE](#). Applications are due by **February 18, 2022**.



Save  
THE  
Date

## VISION 2022

Reimagining Tomorrow's Workforce Today

Thursday, March 31, 2022  
The Kirby Cultural Arts Complex  
Roxboro, NC



# 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

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### Area Agency on Aging

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### Planning & Development

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### Workforce Development

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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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