

# NEWSLETTER

www.kerrtarcog.com Q) SEPTEMBER 2025



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Workforce Development Board Meeting: Sept. 9 @ 6:00 p.m. @ KTCOG Office
- 2025 Kerr-Tar Housing Summit: Sept. 11 @ 8:30 a.m. @

VGCC Civic Center

- Bunn Fun Day: Sept. 20 @ 10 a.m.
- Called TAC/TCC Meeting: Sept. 22 @ 3 p.m. (virtual)
- Kerr-Tar Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony: Sept. 25 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Miles Magnolia Event Center
- Ignite Summit: Oct. 9 @ 10 a.m. @ Oxford City Hall

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### **Important Information**

Kerr-Tar Housing Summit P. 2 KTCOG Annual Banquet P. 3 IGNITE 2025 Summit P. 4

### **Area Agency on Aging**

The PEAS Project P. 5 P. 6 Steptember Challenge September: Healthy Aging P. 7 Month Wrapping Up the Produce P. 7 Program Call in the Digital Navigator P. 8 Volunteer with Aging Programs P. 8

### Planning & Development

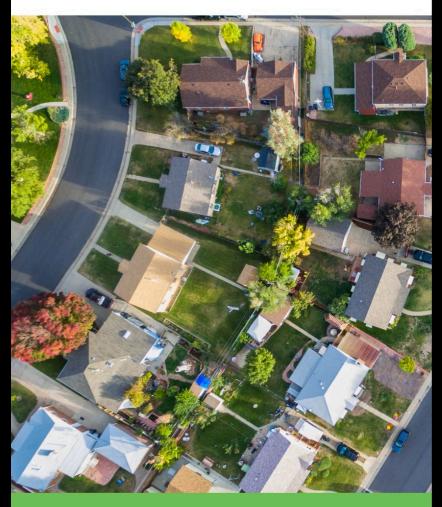
Kerr-Tar COG at P. 9 Community Day Join the Food Council P. 10 Meetings Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council P. 10 First Responder Fleet Efficiency P. 10 & Vehicle Options Project Submittals Due Soon! P. 11

### **Workforce Development**

Person County Job Fair & Resource Expo	P. 12
Advanced Manufacturing Roundtable	P. 13
Hiring Event: Bridgestone	P. 14
NCWorks Attends Job Fairs Across the Region	P. 14

### **Staff Announcements**

# Kerr Tar Regional Council Of Governments



# **GUEST SPEAKERS**



Chris Allen
Director of Events & Partnerships
Strong Towns



Tyler Mulligan

UNC School of Government
Faculty Member

# 2025 Kerr-Tar Housing Summit

Unlock effective housing strategies for local governments and discover how to Escape the Housing Trap by overcoming housing challenges.

Hear successful approaches from panelists and engage in a live interactive "workshop" to achieve Sustainable Solutions for Attainable Housing.

# **SCAN ME TO REGISTER!**



# **THURSDAY**

September 11, 2025 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Vance Granville Community College Civic Center

200 Community College Road Henderson, NC 27536



WE ARE INVITING YOU TO OUR

# ANNUAL BANQUET **AWARDS CEREMONY**

September

THURSDAY 25 AT 6:30 PM

Miles Magnolia Event Center 24 Douglas Williams Rd, Louisburg

Cost is \$30 per person

RSVP HERE

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 8<sup>™</sup> 2025



The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and Granville County present...

# **IGNITE 2025**

Registration Now!

\$40 Now through September 30<sup>th</sup>



# JOIN US

for this exciting Regional Economic **Development Summit!** 

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Melody Warnick** 

The Daily Act of Loving Where You Live

PRESENTING SPONSOR



Join us in Oxford, NC for a dynamic day of inspiration, community, and connection. Enjoy engaging sessions, local food, and exclusive perks for the first 250 registrants including lunch vouchers, drink tickets, and swag bags!

### REGISTER HERE



OCTOBER 9, 2025 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

# **OXFORD CITY HALL**

300 WILLIAMSBORO, ST. **OXFORD, NC 27565** 

Reception Following at Tobacco Woods Brewery

### THANKS TO SPONSORS OUR















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Do you or someone you know have a significant impact on daily life because of memory loss or cognitive impairment?

AGES 60+	Do you need assistance with <b>3 or more</b> of these daily living activities listed below?		
804	Feeding	☐ Toileting	
	☐ Dressing	☐ Transferring	
	☐ Bathing	Continence	

If you have a cognitive impairment **AND/OR** checked off at least 3 or more boxes from the list above you may qualify for the PEAS project.

All eligible participants will receive additional food delivered to supplement their current diet.

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STEP-TEMBER

\*First 25 Participants to register will receive a pedometer\*



# **CHALLENGE**

Join the NC Falls Prevention Coalition and **Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments for** STEPtember — a fun, statewide walking challenge to promote healthy living, strength, and fall prevention during Falls Prevention **Awareness Month!** 

### Why Join STEP-tember?

- Walking helps improve balance and reduces the risk of falls
- Movement is medicine just a few extra steps a day can make a difference
- Stay connected and motivated!

### **EVERY STEP COUNTS!**

Don't forget to call, visit, or email and report your steps to the Senior Center every Friday in September!

\*All participants will receive a free bag with Fall Prevention Information at your first reporting\*



# WHEN

Each step taken from September 1st through the 30th will be added to the final step count for the Senior Center! Report every Friday!



# **WHERE**

Anywhere! Walk in a park, at home, the mall, senior center. **Each Step Counts!** 

# **HOW TO REGISTER**

To register, visit the senior center and let them know you'd like to participate!







# SEPTEMBER IS



# HEALTHY AGING MONTH

Now is the time to focus your attention on the positive aspects of growing older.

Talk to your doctor about health screenings in September. If you or someone you love is

on Medicare, take advantage of Medicarecovered preventive services.

Medicare covers a number of preventive services to help keep people with Medicare healthy, including mammograms, cardiovascular screenings and a yearly wellness visit.

Ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.

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

# WRAPPING UP THE PRODUCE PROGRAM

September marks the end of this year's Oxford Armory Farmers Market Senior Produce Bag program. From May through August, an estimated 2,840 pounds of produce were distributed to adults aged 60 or over who live in the region, totaling \$6,625 paid out to Granville County farmers. An additional \$2,000 in senior produce vouchers will be spent at the market this month. Thanks to Oxford Armory Farmers Market, Fairport Farms, Olusanya Farms, Dixon Farms, Lyon Farms, and Brogden Farms for making this a successful season!



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# **CALL IN THE DIGITAL NAVIGATOR!**

Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging is privileged to have Randi Bowen serving as our Digital Navigator. Her role is to help older adults learn more about technology. She is providing assistance in using all types of devices: smart phones, tablets, laptops, and desktop computers. She is providing assistance using all types of software, including electronic health records and social media. She is available regularly at senior centers, and she makes individual appointments. If you or someone you know would like to work with Randi, she is available at digitalnavigatorekerrtarcog.org or 919-725-8762.





# **MAKE A DIFFERENCE: VOLUNTEER WITH** KERR-TAR AGING PROGRAMS!

The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging is accepting volunteer applications for several key opportunities. The Regional Aging Advisory Committee helps set regional goals that impact older adults. The Kerr-Tar Senior Games Committee needs volunteers to help organize, promote, and run Senior Games and Silver Arts. The Nursing Home and Adult Home Care Advisory Committees in each county support residential care for older adults. If you want more information or want to volunteer, please contact Alan Winstead at awinstead@kerrtarcog.org or 252-436-2040.

# KERR-TAR COG AT COMMUNITY DAY FOR TURNING POINT CDC

On Saturday, August 2nd, Turning Point CDC hosted its Annual Community Day—an event that brought together families, community partners, and local leaders for a day of fun, learning, and connection. Our Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, Victoria Glasscock, and Regional Ombudsman, Kim Hawkins, were proud to attend and represent our commitment to child safety and community wellness. We proudly partnered up with the Optimist Club to distribute 100 helmets to children, personally fitting each one to ensure proper safety. In addition, the Optimist Club generously donated two bicycles, which were raffled off to

A standout feature of the day was the bike rodeo, where kids had the opportunity to ride bikes in an obstable course set up by the tables while their families explored resources and engaged with local organizations.

two winners.

Turning Point CDC continues to lead by example when it comes to giving back. In addition to organizing events like Community Day, they supported families by giving away backpacks and school supplies—helping to prepare students for success each school year.

Community Day was a wonderful reflection of what can happen when people come together to support, educate, and uplift one another. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped make the day such a success!











# JOIN US FOR THE FOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council meeting is open to the public on Wednesday, October 29 from 10-11:30am at the COG offices. The following virtual committee meetings are also open to the public:

- Agriculture Committee: Tues, 9/23, 10am
- Assessment Committee: Wed, 9/24, 10am
- Food Security & Access Committee: Mon, 9/15, 2pm

For more information and links to the virtual meetings, contact Laila Abed at labed@kerrtarcog.org.



# CALLING ALL FARMS, FOOD BUSINESSES, AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE KERR-TAR REGION!

The Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council is conducting a 5-10 minute survey to better understand our regional food system.

Scan the QR code on the right to learn more & take the survey!



# FIRST RESPONDER FLEET EFFICIENCY AND VEHICLE OPTIONS

If you're interested in learning about:

- What first responder vehicles are available
- Which cleaner fuels are in use
- Existing preventive maintenance and training
- Technologies improving fuel efficiency

Ther will be a webinar series on September 10, 2025 at 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. ET Learn More and Register <u>HERE</u>



# **RPO PROJECT SUBMITTALS DUE SOON!**



### What is prioritization?

Prioritization is a two-year process in which the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) assesses and scores prospective transportation projects. This process begins with the RPO reaching out to their members to ask what their priorities are, and what they would like to see change in their communities/counties. Once they compile what projects they wish to request funding for from NCDOT, they will send that to the RPO; and the RPO will submit them to NCDOT to score and determine where said projects fall in terms of feasibility and likelihood of funding. The scoring process takes things like project cost, location, area traffic, community needs, etc. into consideration. After that process is over, it will be time for the RPO to score their own projects and give their feedback to NCDOT. This process is conducted over a span of two years, and currently, we are in the first half of the process. The stage we are currently in is known as the "project submittal" stage.

### How many projects do we get?

The categories for these projects are as follows for our RPO: Highway, Aviation, Bike & Ped, Rail, and Transit. Kerr-Tar RPO has been given 15 project submittal slots PER MODE. These 15 slots are split amongst the five counties in our region: Vance, Granville, Warren, Person, and Franklin. Each county is given the opportunity to submit at most 3 projects PER MODE.





### How do you get involved in the process?

As a citizen in our region, your voice is crucial in this process. We have posted our project submittal draft sheet to our website. After reviewing the draft sheet, it is recommended that you reach out to your local/county planning departments if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding to posted projects on the sheet. This draft sheet is scheduled to be potentially approved at a special meeting on September 22nd at 3:00 pm. To virtually join us, please click <u>HERE</u>, or you can also attend in person, held at our office: 1724 Graham Ave, Henderson, NC 27536. If you have any more questions about projects or prioritization, please contact Ty Cheek at tcheek@kerrtarcog.org or call 252-436-2040 ext. 2004.



# You're Invited

# PERSON COUNTY JOB FAIR & RESOURCE EXPO

Join us for exciting opportunities and networking. Enjoy Food Trucks and Fun. Come dressed for success.



### WEDNESDAY

September 10, 2025



### TIME

10:00 AM - 2.00 PM

Piedmont Community College CHATT Building 225 Crown Boulevard Timberlake, NC 27583



More Information contact:



Lholland@kerrtarcog.org





A proud partner of the American **Job** Center\*







# Advanced Manufacturing Roundtable

# INNOVATIONS MANUFACTURING



Vance-Granville Community College Civic Center 200 Community College Road, Henderson, NC 27537

> October 3, 2025 12:00pm - 3:00PM

\*Lunch will be served by VGCC Culinary students

With Manufacturing Workforce being a nationwide problem, we encourage partners and service providers from the manufacturing community to attend this roundtable to discuss workforce challenges including:

- Hiring and Retention
- Education
- Burnout **Shortages**



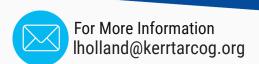




**ELECTED OFFICIALS, COUNTY MANAGERS, MUNICIPAL** MANAGERS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND TO HEAR THIS INFORMATION FIRST-HAND TO HELP US ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS.









# **HIRING EVENT: BRIDGESTONE/** BANDAG

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and NCWorks are proud to highlight a very active August, including a successful hiring event with Bridgestone/Bandag on August 26. The event connected numerous job seekers with immediate employment opportunities, strengthening our region's workforce and supporting one of our area's major employers.

# BRIDGESTONE bandag

**BUILT FOR BETTER** 

In addition to the hiring event, the workforce team has been busy engaging with communities and employers across our five-county region.

# NCWORKS ATTENDS JOBFAIRS **ACROSS THE REGION**

NCWorks has been a couple of busy bees this past month! They attended the Way to Grow Festival, the Warren County Library Job Fair, along with the Kitrell Job Corp Career Fair.







### 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!











# WELCOME LAILA TO THE KERR-TAR TEAM

Laila Abed has joined the COG as the new
Regional Program Manager on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Laila
graduated from Duke University in April with a
master's degree in international development
policy. She also holds a bachelor's degree in
Electrical Engineering and Communications
Control, as well as an MBA in Commerce/
Business Administration from the Islamic University
of Gaza. Laila served as a Project manager and
Development officer for the Center of Democracy
and Conflict Resolution.





# GOOD LUCK WCHARLIE!

Our contractor, Charlie Robinette, who worked closely with the food systems in the region and even created an entire food council at the COG, had his last day on August 28<sup>th</sup>. He and his wife are making the big move to California! He will be pursuing his MSc in Community Development at the University of California, Davis. So please join us in wishing Charlie a farewell and congratulations on his new opportunities from across the country!

# Follow us on social media to stay updated!

# **BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



# 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

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Community & Economic Development

**Desiree Brooks** 

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Workforce Development

Lou Grillo

Igrillo@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

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