



IN THIS ISSUE

Important News

Area Agency on Aging

- 2023 Senior Games Opening Ceremonies Recap
- Senior Tar Heel Legislature

Planning & Economic Development

- Grant Resource Workshop Recap
- Spring 2023 Litter Sweep
- Announcing the Piedmont Farm Tour
- Training & Webinar Opportunities
- Clean Transportation Demonstration Days
- Student Art Contest
- NCDOT Bike Helmet Initiative
- Bike & Roll to School Day 2023

Workforce Development

- Kerr-Tar Reentry Simulations
- NCWorks Career Center Single Employer Events
- Success Stories
- Fueling the Future of the Small Business and Entrepreneurial Economy



Downtown Warrenton

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- Live Viewing-NCLM April Reporting Deadline Informational Webinar: **Wednesday, April 5 @ 10:00 am-11:00 am, Kerr-Tar COG Offices**
- Kerr-Tar ARPA Workshop: **Thursday, April 13, @ 10:30 am, Vance-Granville Community College Seminar Room 1**
- Spring 2023 Litter Sweep: **April 15-29**
- KTRPO TAC Ethics Filing Deadline: **Monday, April 17, 2023**
- Kerr-Tar Reentry Simulation: **Tuesday, April 18, 2023 @ 10:00am-1:00pm, Granville Expo Center**
- Keep Our Air Clean Student Art Contest Entries due: **Monday, April 24, 2023**
- Kerr-Tar Regional Managers Meeting: **Thursday, April 27, @ 8:30 am, Creedmoor Community Center**
- Bike & Roll to School Day 2023: **Wednesday, May 3, 2023**
- Fueling the Future of the Small Business and Entrepreneurial Economy Event: **Tuesday, May 9, 2023 @ 9:30am-4:00pm, RTI International, Raleigh NC**

INNOVATE 2023 Regional Economic Development Summit

On Thursday, March 23rd, the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) and the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board hosted Innovate 2023: Question. Design. Thrive. at the Lakeland Cultural Arts Center (LCAC) in Littleton. This event focused on challenging ourselves and our ideas on education, hiring practices, and our thinking about systems through expert lead panel discussions and workshop facilitation. A total of 133 attendees from across the region and beyond attended.

The day began with remarks from Diane Cox, Kerr-Tar COG Executive Director; Warren County Board Chair, Bertadean Baker; Executive Director of LCAC, Peter Holloway, as well as special remarks from Marqueta Welton, Chief of Staff with the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The Summit began with attendees participating in an interactive workshop titled, "Unlocking Your Innovation Spirit", led by Melissa Carrier and Sanji Datar with Innovate Carolina. Attendees were joined virtually by Inez Ribustello who spoke on the topic of "Creating, Supporting, and Building in Rural Eastern North Carolina."

The event's first session, "Challenging Bias and Creating Room for Innovation: Hiring Practices and Workplace Culture" was a panel discussion focused on the importance of challenging biases that may exist within ourselves and the workplace framework. Attendees next heard from Rupen Fofaria, with EducationNC. The final session covered the topic of "Redesigning Systems: Innovative Education for a More Purpose-Driven Workforce" and how systematic change can positively impact our educational systems and most importantly, students futures.

This Summit is an annual convening hosted by the Kerr-Tar COG addressing important issues impacting our region. This event could not have been made possible without the following collaborative partners: Franklin County Economic Development Commission, Granville County Economic Development Commission, Granville County Chamber of Commerce, Henderson-Vance County Economic Development Commission, Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce, Person County Economic Development Commission, Piedmont Community College, Vance-Granville Community College, and the Warren County Economic Development Commission. The events of the day were captured in a **unique graphic format** by Brian Tarallo, graphic recording artist and Managing Director of Lizard Brain. We are extremely appreciative to the Lakeland Cultural Arts Center for providing the venue space to hold such an event.



City of Henderson Recognized by NC Department of Commerce

For her work beautifying downtown Henderson, the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division awarded Maria Bailey, The Main Street Champion Award. Maria was one of 38 individuals who received this award at a ceremony and she was the first resident of Henderson to be recognized. Congratulations to Maria!



Announcing ARPA Workshop



Kara A. Millonzi

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) will have the pleasure of hosting Kara Millonzi, Robert W. Bradshaw, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Public Law & Government at the UNC School of Government and frequent ARPA Office Hours host on **Thursday, April 13 in Seminar Room 1 at Vance-Granville Community College beginning at 10:30.**

Please RSVP to Regional Project Manager, Marley Spencer, by Wednesday, April 12 at: (252) 436-2040 or mspencer@kerrtarco.org if interested in attending this unique individualized training for Kerr-Tar member governments.

Ethics Filing Reminder



KTRPO TAC and TAC Alternates are subject to the State Government Ethics Act and subsequently must file annually a Statement of Economic Interest ("SEI") and Real Estate Disclosure Form. The 2023 deadline for the North Carolina State Ethics Commission to receive these forms is **Monday, April 17, 2023**, due to April 15, 2023 falling on a Saturday.

Individuals who do not file the required forms within 60 days of the deadline are subject to a fine and criminal penalties. Please contact the Kerr-Tar COG to receive assistance with completing these necessary forms.

Gov. Cooper Announces Department of Information Technology Listening Tour on Closing Digital Divide, Encourages North Carolinians to Participate

NCDIT's Division of Broadband and Digital Equity will host a statewide listening tour focused on closing the digital divide to collect feedback from stakeholders. Governor Roy Cooper announced the N.C. Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) will host a statewide listening tour focused on closing the digital divide. The Closing the Digital Divide: From Mountains to Coast listening tour began with a session at the N.C.

Rural Summit on March 21 and will continue through eight upcoming sessions to collect feedback from stakeholders as part of Governor Cooper's plan to close the digital divide in North Carolina.



The listening tour will include stops in each of the eight prosperity regions defined by the North Carolina General Assembly. For locations and more information, click [HERE](#).

NCLM April Reporting Deadline Informational *Webinar*

The North Carolina League of Municipalities, in partnership with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners will be hosting a webinar to assist local governments in preparing upcoming annual Project & Expenditure Report due April 30, 2023. The webinar, *What You Need to Know for the April Reporting Deadline*, is part of an ARP Webinar Series and will take place on **Wednesday, April 5, 2023 from 10:00 to 11:00 am.**



The webinar will include an on-video walk-through of the reporting portal. This webinar is **FREE** but **registration by April 4th is required**. You may register for the webinar [HERE](#). If unable to do so, the Kerr-Tar COG will be hosting a live viewing of the webinar at our offices. If interested in attending this webinar in person, please contact Regional Project Manager Marley Spencer at: (252) 436-2040 or [mspencer@kerrtarco.org](mailto:m Spencer@kerrtarco.org).



2023 Senior Games



Opening Ceremonies for the 2023 Kerr-Tar Regional Senior Games were held on Friday, March 24 at Creedmoor Community Center. Over 100 participants and spectators were in attendance. Mayor Bobby Wheeler and Granville County Board of Commissioners Chairman Russ May welcomed everyone to the Creedmoor Community Center. Deaconess DeDe Reid of Union Baptist Church led us in an energetic national anthem. Lynn Harrell, Assistant Director of NC Senior Games, gave an inspired talk entitled *"YOU are the spirit of Senior Games!"* Then our local coordinators Barbara Unrein and Michael Patterson officially opened the games. Athletic events continue through May 11th, and the SilverArts exhibit and performances will be on Thursday May 18th at the Warren County Armory.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature



Senior Tarheel Legislators from across the state met in Raleigh on March 20 and 21 to discuss advocacy for the needs and interests of North Carolina's older adults. STHL representatives visited the NC General Assembly to meet with their legislators and update them on important initiatives. Our region was represented by Robert Allen (Person County), Annette Myers (Granville County), Sandra Butler Tubbs and Carson Clark (Vance County) and Kathy Harris (Warren County).

Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, Kerr-Tar COG Communications & Administrative Coordinator.

Grant Resource Workshop Recap



Last month, the Kerr-Tar COG hosted a Grant Resource Workshop at Vance Granville Community College with representatives from approximately 11 member governments. Guest speakers at the event included: Hillary Sherman, North Carolina's Economic Development Administration Representative, Ted Lord, Sr. Vice President and General Counsel

for Golden Leaf Foundation, and Bruce Naegelen, Community Economic Development Planner for the North Central Prosperity Zone. We are extremely grateful to our member governments for attending this workshop and to our federal and state partners for presenting on various grant opportunities available and funding priorities. The workshop ended with our county Economic Development Offices and two Community Colleges presenting on various economic activities occurring within their county and on their respective campuses.

Spring 2023 Litter Sweep

Litter Sweep is the N.C. Department of Transportation's biannual statewide roadside litter removal initiative. Residents throughout the state participate in local efforts to help clean up North Carolina's roadways. In addition to volunteers, NCDOT maintenance crews devote one week of their time to pick up litter and collect orange bags placed on the roadsides by volunteer pickups. Volunteers are provided cleanup supplies, such as reversible orange/blue trash bags, gloves, and orange safety vests, from their local NCDOT County Maintenance Yard office. The Spring 2023 Litter Sweep will be held **April 15-29**. Please help by participating in this biannual event to make our region clean and beautiful!



Announcing the Piedmont Farm Tour

This year, the Piedmont Farm Tour will feature, **Sunset Ridge Buffalo Farm** located in **Person County**. Sunset Ridge Buffalo Farm is a North Carolina Bicentennial Farm, in operation since 1797, and currently raising grass-fed bison using rotational grazing, no-till pasture management, and soil conservation practices. While visiting the farm, guests may join one of their narrated covered wagon tours through the bison fields, where they will see bison cows, calves, and bulls. Tours depart every 30 minutes beginning at noon! There will be a bison burger lunch sale on **Saturday, April 22nd!**



Training & Webinar Opportunities:



LELA 101: Top 10 Primer on Transportation Planning in NC



In this "Top 10 Primer" offered through the UNC School of Government, participants will learn about the Department of Transportation's structure, funding, and planning processes. The roles of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO's) will be explained and anticipated future statewide transportation needs will be explored. This informational training is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 10:00-11:15**. To register and learn more, click [HERE](#).

SFT Webinar Series 2023

Register for "Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Fleet Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment" and discover strategies, lessons learned and best practices in fleet electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This webinar is being offered through the NC Clean Energy and Technology Center and NAFA Fleet Management Association as part of the Sustainable Fleet Technology Webinar Series. For dates and registration, click [HERE](#).



Check out the event below!



CLEAN TRANSPORTATION DEMONSTRATION DAYS



**NC CLEAN ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

Celebrating 35 Years



APRIL 11 & 12 | 10 AM-4 PM

In support of Executive Orders 80, 246, and 271, NCCETC is hosting two Clean Transportation Demonstration Days to give government entities across North Carolina information and experience with clean transportation technologies. The day will consist of classroom instruction with real-world case study results, hands-on static review, networking, and a closed-course ride & drive for those who wish to participate.



TUESDAY | APRIL 11, 2023
NC Highway Patrol Training & Driving Facility
308 E Tryon Rd | Garner, NC 27529

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 12, 2023
Coastal Plains Raceway Park
4744 Richlands Hwy | Jacksonville, NC 28540

Register and Learn More:
go.ncsu.edu/CTDemoDay

Or scan
the QR
code!



Questions? Contact Heather Brutz at hnbrutz@ncsu.edu or 240-281-0234.

Student Art Contest



The North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) has officially launched the 6th Annual "Keep Our Air Clean" Student Art Contest, where students in North Carolina from kindergarten through high school can submit their artwork for a chance to be featured on billboards across the state. Students' artwork should focus on actions that people can take to reduce air pollution

from vehicles and help keep our air clean. Examples include walking, biking, using public transportation, carpooling, using electric vehicles or biofuels, and more. Please make artwork family-friendly, non-partisan and non-copyrighted. You can learn about the alternatives at cleantransportation.org or fuelwhatmatters.org. **Entries are due Monday, April 24, 2023.**

NCDOT Bike Helmet Initiative

Applications for the 2023 Bike Helmet Initiative closed last month. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is expected to announce award recipients on **Thursday, April 6, 2023**. If you are a local entity within the Kerr-Tar region, awarded helmets during the 2023 application cycle, please contact the Kerr-Tar Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator to discuss partnering in the distribution of bicycle helmets through Safety Events or Bike Rodeos.



Bike & Roll to School Day 2023



The 12th annual National Bike & Roll to School Day is **Wednesday, May 3, 2023**, and registration is now open! Bike & Roll to School Day invites participants to celebrate the joy of active commuting while building a sense of community and school spirit. While May 3 is this year's official date, communities are welcome to celebrate any day in May that best fits their schedules. Register your event **HERE** or contact the Kerr-Tar Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator for assistance.

Kerr-Tar Reentry Simulations

The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board Reentry Roundtable, in collaboration with NCWorks and Warren County Community & Economic Development presented a Reentry Simulation at the Warren County Armory Civic Center on Thursday, March 16, 2023. A diverse group of 30 participants from employers, as well as community services organizations, Warren Co. School system, Council members, faith-based organizations as well as Turning Point Workforce Development Board from Rocky Mount NC participated in the simulation.

The Reentry Simulations are designed to offer valuable insight and resources that are useful for participants to gain an understanding of the significant obstacles faced by men and women after their release from incarceration. The month of April has been designated as the national Second Chance Month. The Reentry Roundtable will

facilitate another reentry simulation at the **Granville Expo Center on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 from 10am-1pm**. See the flyer for registration; we look forward to your participation!



Reentry Simulation in Granville County!
Walk in the Shoes of the Justice-Involved
 Tuesday, April 18, 2023

REGISTER NOW!

Register using the QR code or go to www.bit.ly/reentrysimulation-granville

Granville County Expo Center
 4185 US-15, Oxford, NC
 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Kerr-Tar WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD | NC works | A proud partner of the Second Chance Month network

NCWorks Career Center Single Employer Events

Two very successful job fairs were held at the NCWorks Career Center in Vance County during the month of March. An event was held for Meel Corp, a new frozen food production company in Granville County, on March 14th & March 15th. There were 45 job-seekers in attendance over the two days. Bridgestone Bandag in Granville County held their job fair on March 29th with 76 job-seekers in attendance. All of the attendees were prescreened at both events by NCWorks staff and then sent over to the hiring managers for interviews. The hiring managers were impressed with everyone that participated!



Success Story: *James Mendez-Alonzo*

James Mendez-Alonzo is an 18-year old Granville County resident. James graduated last June from Granville Central High School. Back in January, he went to the NCWorks Career Center along with his mother. James was seeking assistance with finding employment. After enrolling in the NextGen Program, his first activity was to create a resume.

Initially, James felt that creating a resume was going to be difficult because he had never held a job before. NextGen staff met one-on-one with James and discovered that he had experience in pet sitting and mowing his family's yard. Center staff assisted James with putting together a resume that identified his work-related skills that he demonstrated while helping his parents and siblings at home. After determining that James was "Job-Ready", he was referred to Business Services for a work-based learning opportunity.

On February 28th, James began an On-the-Job Training Assignment with Clayton Homes in Oxford as a Home Building Team Member. Congratulations to James!



Success Story: *Next Gen Youth Program*



The Next Gen Youth Program at Vance-Granville Community College had two participants that completed CDL-truck driving training on Friday, March 10, 2023. The class began on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. They were Kobe Edmonds, Granville County and Noah Watson, Vance County. Kobe also received a perfect attendance certificate.

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



Check out the event below!



SAVE THE DATE

May 9, 2023
9:30 am - 4:00 pm

FUELING THE FUTURE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEUR ECOSYSTEM



Join us as we focus on small businesses and entrepreneurs in North Carolina.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- D. Jordan Whichard IV, Chief Deputy Secretary of NC Commerce (Invited)
- Olalah Njenga, CEO, Chief Strategist - YellowWood Group
- Christopher Gergen, Founding Partner - Forward Impact
- Panel discussion of small business employers
- Panel discussion of Workforce Boards

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Ben Colvin, President and Founder,
Devil's Foot Beverage Company,
Asheville, NC

RTI

3040 East Cornwallis Road,
Holden Building, Research
Triangle, NC, 27709

[Register now to reserve your seat!](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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](#)

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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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