



Warren County Farmers Market

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Important Information
- Area Agency on Aging
  - Reminder: Falls Prevention Fair
  - Come on Barbie Let's go Party!
  - KTAAA takes on Conference
  - Aging with Gusto
- Planning & Economic Development
  - New Community & Economic Development Director
  - Person Co. Recreation, Arts & Parks Dept. Receives Grant
  - Helmet Giveaway
  - South Elementary Bike Rodeo
  - S-Line TOD Study Report
  - Fall 2023 Litter Sweep
- Workforce Development
  - Workforce Wednesdays
  - Reentry & Expungement Information Sessions
  - Success Stories

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Upcoming Events

- COG Office Closed: **Labor Day, September 4, Happy Labor Day!**
- Federal Highway Administration Training for Local & Tribal Agencies Applying for Transportation Funding: **Wednesday, September 5, 2:00pm-4:00pm, register [HERE](#)**
- Fall Litter Sweep: **September 16-30**
- USDOT Webinar for Stronger Grant Applications: **Tuesday, September 19, 1:30pm-2:30pm, register [HERE](#)**
- **Save the Date: Falls Prevention Fair, Wednesday, September 20, 10:00am-1:00pm @ Vance-Granville Community College Civic Center**
- **Save the Date: 2023 Kerr-Tar COG Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony, Thursday, September 28, 6:30pm @ Carlee Farm, register [HERE](#)**

# Granville & Vance Awarded NC Rural Infrastructure Authority Grants

The **North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority** (RIA) has approved five grant requests to local governments totaling \$1,384,730. These grants are for projects that have committed to creating 133 jobs and will attract more than \$68.3 million in private investment.

The Rural Infrastructure Authority is a 17-member board that awards Rural, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and Utility grant funds, which include the Building Reuse Program and the Industrial Development Fund – Utility Account program. The **Building Reuse Program** provides grants to local governments to renovate vacant buildings, renovate and/or expand buildings occupied by existing North Carolina companies, and renovate, expand or construct healthcare facilities that will lead to the creation of new jobs in Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties and rural census tracts of Tier 3 counties. The RIA approved three grant requests under this program in the Vacant Building and Existing Business Building categories:

## Existing Business Building Category:



- **Granville County:** A **\$500,000** grant will support the renovation of a 355,000-square-foot building in **Creedmoor**. The building is occupied by Altec Industries, Inc., a provider of products and services to the electric utility, telecommunications, tree care, lights and signs, and contractor markets. The company expects to create 70 jobs and invest \$30,927,478 in this project.
- **Vance County:** A **\$75,000** grant will support the renovation of a 4,500-square-foot building in **Henderson**. The building’s occupant, Versatrim, LLC, is a Henderson-based provider of moldings for the flooring industry. Through this project, the company plans to create 15 jobs while investing \$106,498.

## Free Photo ID Cards for NC Voters

Registered voters who do not have an acceptable identification card for voting in North Carolina can now go to their **county board of elections** office to get a free ID. Most voters have a North Carolina driver’s license, which is an acceptable form of photo ID for voting. Those voters do not need to obtain a separate ID from their county board. Other common forms of acceptable ID include military or veterans ID cards issued by the federal government, and college student and public employer ID cards that the **State Board approved** for use in voting. Read the full press release **HERE**.



# Together, We Are Vance County Proud: Leadership Vance 2023

Our very own Kerr-Tar COG staff member, Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, participated in and recently graduated from the Leadership Vance 2023 Program. Leadership-Vance is a proven, structured program, designed to create a corps of informed and dedicated emerging leaders in our community. Upon graduation, program participants are qualified to meet the present and future challenges facing Henderson and Vance County. The Leadership-Vance program is offered through the Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce, with the support of a variety of sponsors and community partners.



*Together, We Are Vance County Proud*

In order to graduate, class members had to create a class project that would positively impact the Vance community and showcase all of the wonderful leadership skills they learned throughout each program day. One of their class projects was a video titled "Together, We Are Vance County Proud." The video highlights how wonderful Vance County is through a variety of testimonials and community shots. As a Kerr-Tar region community, we would love it if you would check out this video highlighting one of our counties!

To watch, click [HERE](#) or on the image above. Congratulations to Kenia and her classmates!

## NCDOT Locally Coordinated Plan



North Carolina Department of Transportation  
**FY2025-2029**  
**Locally Coordinated Plan**

The Statewide Locally Coordinated Plan (LCP) serves as a strategic framework to expand mobility options to seniors and individuals with disabilities, particularly in small urban and rural communities of North Carolina.

Visit the virtual room and take the survey to help us understand your mobility needs!

**Scan to take the survey:** Paper copies of survey are also available at your Transit Agency's office.



**Scan to visit the virtual room:** Review the project documents and sign up for public meetings.



**Public meetings (online)**

Three public meetings will be held online. Attend any one of the meetings to learn about the Plan, provide your feedback, and ask questions.

Thursday, September 7, 4pm: [Sign up here!](#)

Wednesday, September 13, 10am: [Sign up here!](#)

Wednesday, September 13, 6pm: [Sign up here!](#)

For questions or assistance, contact Hart Evans by email ([jhevans1@ncdot.gov](mailto:jhevans1@ncdot.gov)) or by phone (919) 707-2610.

Check out the upcoming public meetings (online) for the NCDOT FY2025-2029 Locally Coordinated Plan! Sign up at the links below.

- Sep. 7: click [HERE](#)
- Sep. 13 @ 10am: click [HERE](#)
- Sep. 13 @ 6pm: click [HERE](#)

# Kerr-Tar COG Awarded Funds for Housing Repair Assistance

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) has been awarded **\$264,000** by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) under the 2023 Cycle of the Urgent Repair Program to assist residents in the counties of **Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren**. The Urgent Repair Program finances emergency home repairs for homeowners who are elderly or have special needs and whose incomes are below 50% of the median for the area. Only repairs that address imminent threats to the life and/or safety of occupants of the dwelling unit or accessibility modifications will be performed under the program. A total of 20 households are projected to be assisted.



In the Urgent Repair Program, one or two critical problems may be repaired, but the entire house is not addressed. Examples of work typically done under this program include roof or HVAC system repair, well or septic system repairs, adding accessibility features like ramps, bathroom grab bars, and wider doors.

The COG will provide assistance to those whose homes are selected for repairs, in the form of a loan. Homeowners will receive an unsecured deferred, interest-free loan, forgiven at a rate of \$3,000 per year until the principal balance is reduced to zero. The maximum amount of the loan available is \$12,000.

*Interested in applying?* 

**Applications are available starting September 1, 2023 and must be returned to the COG office by 5:00 pm on November 3, 2023.** Clients to be assisted will be selected by **January 1, 2024**. The application and program information are available on the Kerr-Tar Regional COG website at [www.kerrtarco.org](http://www.kerrtarco.org) or by calling 252-436-2040.

The funds provided by the NCHFA for the Urgent Repair Program come from the North Carolina Housing Trust fund.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
2023 KERR-TAR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS

# Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony

September

THURSDAY | **28** | AT 6:30 PM

CARLEE FARM  
1003 CARLEE FARM RD  
OXFORD, NC 27565

[\*\*Register HERE\*\*](#)

RSVP by September 18, 2023

# Event Reminder: Falls Prevention Fair

**Kerr-Tar**  
Area Agency on Aging  
*Your Anchor for Aging*

## Falls Prevention FAIR



**11 abc**  
**EVENT EMCEE:**  
**ANTHONY WILSON**  
*ABC 11 Anchor & Reporter*

*Leaves MUST fall, but seniors don't need to!*

Falls are NOT a normal part of aging. Get ready for a day of fun, and enjoy a wide range of activities that will inspire and challenge you to prevent falls and help you live without fear of falling.

 **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**  **10:00AM-1:00PM**  **VANCE GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CIVIC CENTER**

**FREE EVENT WITH CASH & PRIZES**

- FREE PRESCRIPTION SCREENINGS • OCCUPATIONAL & PHYSICAL THERAPISTS ONSITE
- BRING YOUR CANE OR WALKER TO GET THEM INSPECTED FOR SAFETY • FREE PRIZES, DRAWINGS, & SWAG • BINGOCIZE & TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS DEMONSTRATIONS • BALANCE & STRENGTH EXERCISES • FALLS PREVENTION IDOL COMPETITION

For more information, call (252) 436-2040 or email [stuckerekerrtarcog.org](mailto:stuckerekerrtarcog.org)

# Come on **Barbie** Let's Go Party!



In honor of the Barbie movie, Louisburg Senior Center held a "Come on Barbie, Let's Go Party" event on Wednesday, August 23! Attendees were asked to dress up as their favorite Barbie and needless to say, the outfits were quite creative! KTAAA Aging Specialist Barbara Stewart dressed up as "Career Barbie" and played Barbie trivia with participants. Barbie first came on the market in 1959, so many of our seniors may have played with the high fashion icon when they were children. Staff and participants even invited grandchildren to be their guest at this wonderful event. This was a very special bonding time as participants and their grandchildren reflected on their memories of Barbie. A total of 40 people were in attendance and we thank the Louisburg Senior Center for inviting us over!



## KTAAA takes on Conference

KTAAA staff attended the annual conference of the Southeast Association of Area Agencies on Aging at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, August 27-30. Participants from the nine southeastern states gathered for the latest innovations and inspiration for staying healthy and engaged as we age. Speakers discussed the hot aging topics: elder rights, overcoming ageism, business development, caregiving, dementia friendly communities, health, access to services and senior centers. Tuesday evening we dined and danced at the beautiful Taylor Ranch, where we were welcomed with bagpipes and a petting zoo. Expect our Aging Department to be proposing and implementing what we learned in the coming months!



## Aging with Gusto



What's "gusto" you wonder? It's the joy of living! It's possible for us at any age, as we focus on those parts of our lives that fulfill and stimulate us. Need to find more fulfillment and stimulation in your own life? You can cultivate new friendships and interests, get some fun exercise, and learn new ways to nurture your body and your mind at your local senior center! Give them a call today!

## New Regional Community & Economic Development Director

Marley Spencer has been named as the Kerr-Tar COG's Regional Economic & Community Development Director effective September 1, 2023. Marley previously served as Regional Program Manager for the COG, where she supported member governments in managing and implementing ARPA funds. Marley will now lead the implementation, reporting, and future updates of the Kerr-Tar Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and provide grant assistance support to our member governments. Additionally, she will provide support to member jurisdictions in community development initiatives including housing, broadband, and downtown revitalization.



*Marley Spencer*

Here's what Marley had to say about her new role with the COG: "I look forward to working with our member government leadership to implement our region's vision, identify opportunities, and provide resources and support needed to embrace thoughtful growth to come." Congratulations to Marley! To reach her, please email [mspencer@kerrtarcoG.org](mailto:m Spencer@kerrtarcoG.org)

## Person County Recreation, Arts & Parks Department Receives Grant

The Person County Recreation, Arts and Parks Department has received a **\$360,000** grant for the County Farm park project. Governor Roy Cooper announced \$8.5 million in grants to fund 19 local parks and recreation projects across the state through the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The Parks and Recreation Authority approved the grant recipients at an August 11 meeting. "Getting outdoors to enjoy parks and greenspaces improves people's health and quality of life, and these grants will help towns and counties to provide recreation for their communities," Governor Cooper said. "These investments can help revitalize our communities, boost local economies and promote tourism." The local communities applied for the grants to fund land acquisition, development and renovation of public park and recreation areas. Every year, the Parks and Recreation Authority allocates 30% of PARTF's total funding to local municipalities and counties. A maximum of \$500,000 can be awarded to a single project, and the awardees must match funds dollar-for-dollar for the grant amount. This year, the Authority considered 52 grant applications requesting a total of more than \$21 million. To read the full press release, click [HERE](#).



# Helmet Giveaway at Turning Point CDC Community Day!



Turning Point Community Development Corporation (CDC) hosted their 13th Annual Community Day on Saturday, August 5 from 10:00am-2:00pm. This event was a special opportunity for residents to come together for fun and fellowship and to support local businesses. Turning Point CDC provided free backpacks with school supplies to youth who attend, and access to educational resources all day long. To add to the fun, the Kerr-Tar COG's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program partnered with the Henderson Optimist Club to give away helmets to children in attendance. A total of 75 helmets were given away to children of all ages! Aside from helmets, our SRTS program also offered educational bike and pedestrian safety information, bike lights, and more! The event was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to spread the importance of bike safety amongst Vance County children. We thank the Henderson Optimist Club for their wonderful partnership!

## South Elementary Bike Rodeo



The Person County Sheriff's Office hosted an exciting and interactive Bike Safety Rodeo at South Elementary School on Wednesday, August 9! Our Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Kenia Gomez-Jimenez, was present offering free helmet fittings. She also provided bike safety swag including goodie bags filled with great bike safety information. All children who attended received a free bike helmet courtesy of the Person County Sheriff's Office. After getting their helmets fitted, children then had the opportunity to try out their biking skills on a super fun rodeo obstacle course!

# S-Line TOD Study Final Report Released

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Integrated Mobility Division led a transit-oriented development planning initiative for seven communities (Apex, **Franklinton, Henderson, Norlina**, Raleigh, Sanford, Wake Forest and **Youngsville**) on a 95-mile-long section of the S-Line rail corridor. This segment of the S-Line is a missing link within the larger vision for passenger rail service in the southeast. To better prepare communities in the area for potential future rail service, this study evaluated potential transit-oriented development opportunities in those seven communities.

The S-Line Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Study kicked off in Summer 2021 and finished in Fall 2022. The S-Line TOD Planning Study evaluated market conditions, affordable housing considerations, multi-modal transportation opportunities, and regulatory conditions in the various jurisdictions. The study delivers a vision for future TOD that is responsive to the communities' individual needs and contexts. To read the S-Line TOD Study Final Report, which was released this summer in July, please click [HERE](#).



## Fall 2023 Litter Sweep



The Fall 2023 Litter Sweep NC is happening this month! Litter Sweep is the North Carolina 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. 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 Fall 2023 Litter Sweep will be held September 16-30. We encourage our local governments and civic groups to participate in this bi-annual event. More information on litter sweep is available [HERE](#).

# Workforce Wednesdays at the Career Center!

NCWorks Kerr-Tar has developed an exciting way to increase foot traffic, maximize Integrated Service Delivery and provide Talent Connect opportunities to potential customers. Staff have worked hard to implement this team initiative through the development of **Workforce Wednesday!** By combining multiple services to take place on Wednesdays, customers will have the opportunity to take advantage of multiple services that are geared toward obtaining employment.

Workforce Wednesdays kicks off with an orientation. During orientation, potential customers learn details about our programs, enrollment and eligibility processes. Placement Specialists then meet with customers individually to discuss their employment goals and to schedule intake appointments. Workforce Wednesdays also include an Employability Skills Workshop. Career Advisors provide classroom style delivery on topics such as: Applying for Employment, Resume Writing, Interview Skills, Dressing for Success and Job Search Techniques.



After receiving excellent tips towards gaining employment, Workforce Wednesday includes an Employer Spotlight Hiring Event. Our Business Services Representative takes this opportunity to recruit for and schedule hiring employers. Employers conduct on-site interviews with our customers. This creates a natural link between the job seeker and the employer. And finally, Workforce Wednesday also includes Virtual Reality (VR) Training Modules. VR is very popular, and customers are finding it very exciting - especially our youth. This new technology allows customers to gain realistic, hands-on experience as well as career exploration. Training modules include: Welding, Plumbing, Heavy Equipment Operation, Nursing and many more.

Workforce Wednesday has resulted in great success for NCWorks! Employers are pleased with their candidate pool and many employment offers have resulted.

## Stay Connected with NCWorks!



@NCWorksCareerCenter-KerrTar



[www.kerrtarworks.com](http://www.kerrtarworks.com)

# Check out the event below!

## JOIN US!



A proud partner of the American Job Center network.

### Reentry Services & Expungement Information Session

The 1st Tuesday of Every Month!  
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Presented by: Kerr-Tar Reentry Roundtable

### 4 Locations!

- NCWorks Career Center**  
826 S. Garnett Street - Henderson
- Oxford Housing Authority**  
101 Hillside Dr - Oxford
- Business Dev. & Entrepreneurship Center**  
105 N. Main St - Uptown Roxboro
- Warren County Memorial Library**  
119 Front St - Warrenton

Contact Sharon Thomas at 252-436-2040 for more information

- Eligibility Criteria
- Overview of Laws
- Assistance w/Forms

Light Refreshments Will Be Served



Scan the QR Code to access the flyer!



## Success Story: *Kowanda Burwell*



Kowanda Burwell joined the WIOA program earlier this year in April, with the goal of completing her CDL training. She had previously worked at Corning Life Science, a laboratory equipment supplier. However, Kowanda wanted to change her career to improve her financial status. So in May, she enrolled in the CDL program at Vance Granville Community College. Kowanda was very excited and determined to get her CDL. She received her CDL certification and permit in July and is now working at Covenant Trucking Company in Youngsville, NC as a Truck Driver. Congratulations!

## Success Story: *Dudley Blash*

Dudley Blash is a recent graduate of the Vance Granville Community College CDL program! Dudley, a Veteran, was enrolled in the WIOA program in February of this year. He started training for his CDL in March, with the goal of obtaining his CDL license. With hard work and determination, he obtained his CDL license in July! Dudley has gained full time employment as an OTR driver with Gains Express LLC of Hickory, NC. Congratulations!



## Success Story: *Tyrese Peace*



Tyrese Peace is a 20 year-old Granville County resident who came into the Career Center seeking job search and training assistance. He was recently laid off from his job and during his initial assessment, Tyrese expressed interest in both HVAC and Welding occupations. The Program Manager suggested he schedule an appointment to try out a Virtual Reality (VR) simulation in the NextGen Youth Lounge. Tyrese came in on August 7 and selected the Welding simulation which allowed him to engage in a "Real World" day on the job as a Stick Welder which is most widely used for the arc welding processes. "This is so cool!", exclaimed Tyrese. Tyrese has decided to register with VGCC to obtain a Welding certificate!



# 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](mailto:dcox@kerrtarcog.org)

### Area Agency on Aging

Nancy Francis  
[nfrancis@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:nfrancis@kerrtarcog.org)

### Community & Economic Development

Marley Spencer  
[m Spencer@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:m Spencer@kerrtarcog.org)

### Workforce Development

Lou Grillo  
[lgrillo@kerrtarcog.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@kerrtarcog.org) | [kerrtarcog.org](http://kerrtarcog.org)

