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### Staff Announcements



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- COG Quarterly Staff Development, **May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am**
- AIM High 5K/10K Event, **May 10<sup>th</sup> @ 8 am**
- Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council Executive Committee, **May 13 @ 2 pm via Zoom**
- Kerr-Tar COG Board Meeting, **May 22 @ 6:30 pm**
- Kerr-Tar Regional Food Council Meeting, **May 28 @ 10 am**
- Kerr-Tar TAC/TCC Meeting, **May 29 @ 3 pm**
- Holiday: Memorial Day, **May 26<sup>th</sup>**, COG will be closed

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

# AIMHIGH KEEP PRESSING 5K/10K EVENT

*From Your Hands to Their Handlebars!*

We are collaborating with AIMHigh and Pathways 2 Peace to get your support in securing bikes for local youth during this event! If you have gently used or new bikes you would like to donate, please drop them off! AIMHigh is also accepting monetary donations that will directly go to purchasing bikes.



**MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>  
2025**

## DROP OFF LOCATIONS

- AIMHigh  
126 S Garnett St, Henderson, NC
- Perry Memorial Library  
205 Breckenridge St, Henderson, NC



For more information, contact Victoria Glasscock at [vglasscock@kerrtarco.org](mailto:vglasscock@kerrtarco.org)





# DISASTER RECOVERY EXPO

*In the aftermath of devastating disasters, entire communities are left in need of urgent assistance*

*Save the Date*

**THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH**

**@**

**VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CIVIC CENTER**

200 Community College Rd,  
Henderson, NC 27536

**9 AM-1 PM**

## VENDORS NEEDED

**Shelters**

**Department of Social Services**

**Non-Profits**

**Fire Departments**

**Emergency Management  
& MORE!**

A great opportunity to share your expertise, resources, and materials, such as pamphlets, business cards, preparedness guides, or other informational materials that can help individuals and communities before and after a disaster.

SAVE THE DATE



**IGNITE**  
**2025**

Collaboration - Opportunity - Success



**Kerr-Tar Regional Summit**  
**Thursday, October 9, 2025**  
**Oxford City Hall - Oxford, NC 27565**

*Presenting Sponsor:*



**Other Sponsorship Opportunities Available!**

**Contact Desiree Brooks - 252-436-2040 or email [dbrooks@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:dbrooks@kerrtarcog.org) for information**



# KERR-TAR COG PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

The Kerr-Tar team was out in full force at the annual Community Resource Fair at Vance Granville Community College. Joining the event from the Kerr-Tar COG were the Safe Routes to Schools program, Community and Economic Development, Area Agency on Aging, and NCWorks. There were over 100 different vendors from both Vance and Granville counties who came to provide resources to over 400 individuals. The day was filled with fun prize giveaways and a great variety of information from across the two counties.

**We'll see you at the next one!**

*Check out our team below!*



**Area Agency  
on Aging**



**Community and Economic  
Development &  
Safe Routes to School**



**NCWorks**

**COMMUNITY**



# UNC SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT COURSES



SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNMENT

## **Essentials of Economic Development**

June 3, 2025 | Rocky Mount | 9:00am-4:00 pm | Course cost: \$225

This one-day workshop is designed to help local officials understand the fundamentals of economic development in the current economic climate. It will help participants understand what is required to attract and support private investment in their communities. To register, click [HERE](#).

## **Legal Competency for Local Elected Officials**

June 11, 2025 | Chapel Hill | 10:00am-3:15 pm | Course Cost: \$225

Being effective as a local elected official means understanding your local authority, being fluent in meeting procedures, and knowing the scope of your transparency obligations. The laws are complex, and many situations raise questions unique to each set of circumstances. This course builds on material from the Essentials courses, giving you a deeper understanding of your legal responsibilities. To register, click [HERE](#).

## **Apply to Become a Civic Fellow**

**Cohort 1:** September 8-12 & October 6-10, 2025

**Cohort 2:** November 10-14 & December 8-12

The intensive two-week program at Chapel Hill aims to enhance personal and organizational leadership skills and competencies. Participants complete the program with a deeper understanding of their leadership strengths, skills for improving their organizations, and a renewed passion for public service. [Learn more about becoming a Civic Fellow here](#)

# ETHICS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS



SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNMENT

Under North Carolina law, members of governing boards of cities, counties, local boards of education, unified governments, sanitary districts, and consolidated city-counties are required to receive at least two (2) clock hours of ethics training within twelve months after each election or appointment to office.

The ethics training requirement is an ongoing obligation, triggered by each subsequent re-election or reappointment to office.

**To register for the course please read the following:**

- May 22, 2025 | Online
- 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- Course Cost: \$75

**[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)**



2025

Friday, June 13, 2025

10:00am-2:00 pm

## REGION K ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

# Conference & Walk





## Prevent Elder Abuse

FREE and Open  
to the Public

Warren County Armory  
Convention Center  
501 US Hwy 158 Bus E,  
Warrenton, NC 27589

Free t-shirts,  
lunch, &  
other goodies  
available

### Reminders/Awareness

-  June 15 is observed internationally as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
-  Each year, NC recognizes Vulnerable Adult & Elder Abuse Awareness from Mother's Day to Father's Day

Wear PURPLE & SILVER to show the world you care about ending elder abuse and neglect and/or decorate your vehicle, in support. We will recognize each participant that displays their support for Elder Abuse Awareness & Prevention.

### For more information, contact:

Nyesha Woodard,  
Adult Services  
Warren County DSS  
(252) 257- 5000

Kimberly Hawkins  
Kerr-Tar Area  
Agency on Aging  
(252) 436-2050



# PRODUCE BAG DISTRIBUTION

## Do you qualify?

- ✓ Are you at least 60 years old?
- ✓ Do you live in Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance or Warren counties?

If so, you may be eligible to receive a voucher for a monthly produce bag at the Oxford Farmers Market

### 2025 Dates

- May 24
- June 21
- July 19
- August 16
- September 20 (as funding permits)

**For more information, contact us:**



Crystal Allen  
[callen@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:callen@kerrtarcog.org)  
252-436-2040 ext. 2036



# FLIP

the

# SCRIPT

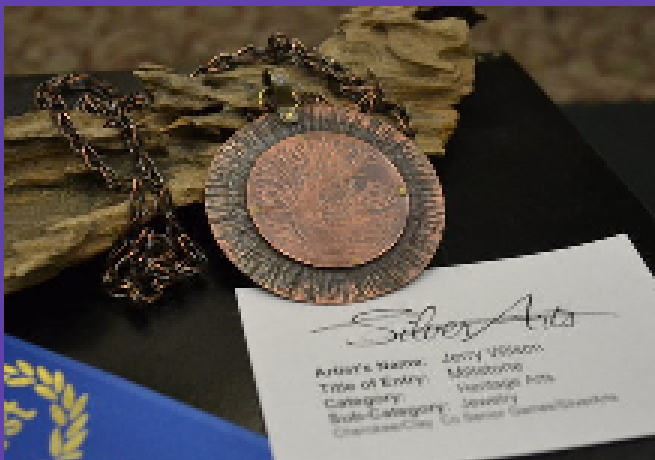
*on aging*



[acl.gov/oam](http://acl.gov/oam)

# MEDICARE SAVINGS

The Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) assists older adults in getting answers to Medicare questions every year. Trained volunteers and staff are very busy during the Medicare open enrollment period every fall. They helped 1288 older adults in our five-county region save \$911,365 during the 2024 Open Enrollment Period. If you would like an appointment with a SHIIP counselor or would like to learn more about being a SHIIP Counselor, please check with your senior center or contact Crystal Allen at 252-436-2040, ext. 2036, or [callen@kerrtarcom.org](mailto:callen@kerrtarcom.org).

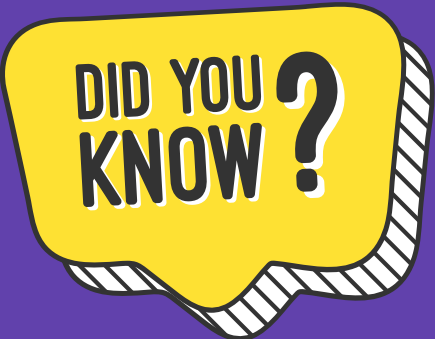


# SILVER ARTS PROGRAM

The 2025 Silver Arts program will be held on Friday, May 16, at the Person County Office Auditorium in Roxboro. We are lucky to have so many talented older adults in our region. For more information, please contact Michael Patterson at 252-4036 ext. 6072 or [mpatterson@kerrtarcom.org](mailto:mpatterson@kerrtarcom.org).

# LAST CALL FOR RESPITE VOUCHERS

Are you an unpaid caregiver? Are you considering paying a caregiver for respite? The Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging offers a Caregiver Respite Voucher program that will reimburse you up to \$1000 to hire a caregiver. You may find more information on the website [HERE](#).



The Administrative Office of the Courts has established a digital court system known as Odyssey. This digital system permits many housebound seniors to file legal documents from the comfort of their own home. There are many components to this system including [Guide & File](#) and [Guide & Serve](#). [Guide & File](#) is available in all North Carolina Counties. [Guide & Serve](#) is available in 62 out of 100 North Carolina counties. All counties will have [Guide & Serve](#) by October 31, 2025.





**FREE to participants**

# Granville WALK WITH EASE

Experience the Walk With Ease Program  
Arthritis Foundation Certified  
Doctor Recommended

An exercise program that can reduce pain  
and improve overall health for all fitness  
levels.

**Granville County  
Senior Services  
Center**

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



**T-W-TH**

**May 13 - June 19, 2025**

**9:15 am**

**South Granville  
Senior Center**

***To Register:***

Christy Southall

919-528-0848

[christy.southall@granvillecounty.org](mailto:christy.southall@granvillecounty.org)

## **WWE BENEFITS:**

Walk safely & comfortably

Improve flexibility, strength, &  
stamina

Reduce pain & feel great

# SENIOR GAMES HIGHLIGHT

Ronnie Norwood of Granville County is defending his Senior Games Cornhole National Championship this year in Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Norwood won the Senior Games Cornhole 2023 National Championship in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Norwood is a resident of Stovall and spends his time supporting his community at the local senior center and enjoying time with his family. He truly enjoys the Senior Games; he believes his experience allows him to live his best life and provides the opportunity to socialize and participate in activities that keep him active. We are very proud of Mr. Ronnie Norwood and wish him the absolute best at nationals.

If you would like to support Mr. Norwood in his efforts to defend his Championship and keep the title in Granville County, please visit the Stovall or Oxford senior centers and make a financial donation to support his efforts. (Mr. Norwood is the gentleman on the right of coordinator Michael Patterson, in the middle, Douglas Gross, left).



## MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



**SHIIP**  
SENIORS' HEALTH INSURANCE  
INFORMATION PROGRAM

N.C. Department of Insurance • Mike Causey, Commissioner  
855-408-1212 (toll free) • [www.ncdoi.gov](http://www.ncdoi.gov)

**Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. Nearly one in five Americans lives with a mental health condition. Those living with mental health conditions are our family, friends, classmates, neighbors, and coworkers.**

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

Mental health care includes services and programs to help diagnose and treat mental health conditions. These services and programs may be provided in outpatient and inpatient settings. Medicare helps cover outpatient and inpatient mental health care, as well as prescription drugs you may need to treat a mental health condition.

Ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Crystal Allen @ 252-436-2040 ext. 2036



## SRTS HOSTS STORYWALK IN STOVALL

Victoria Glasscock, the Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, hosted an Earth Day StoryWalk event at the Stovall Branch Library. Kids joined us as we walked through 16 panels of the book *The Earth Gives More* by Sue Fliess. Along the way, children read aloud and answered questions that highlighted the importance of caring for our planet and how, in return, the Earth gives back even more. They even had bookmarks that coincided with the book and made it easier to follow. At the end of the walk, each child received a goodie bag filled with bike safety materials. We wrapped up the event with a conversation about how protecting our environment helps ensure we can continue to bike and walk in our communities safely.



## STORYWALK HELD AT PERRY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, Victoria Glasscock, also hosted the Earth Day StoryWalk at Perry Memorial Library. The Youth Services Librarian, Melody Peters, led close to 70 kids through the storywalk. The kids then followed into their other activities prepared by the Cooperative Extension for Earth Day.





# GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN AWARDS HOUSEHOLDS & BUSINESSES WITH HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Governor Stein recently announced more than \$63 million in broadband infrastructure funding to expand high-speed internet access to 18,889 homes and businesses across 30 North Carolina counties through the Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) program. The CAB program is a partnership between the state and individual counties to identify underserved areas, solicit proposals from qualified internet service providers, and award funding to expand high-speed access. "North Carolinians need access to high-speed internet to connect them with friends and family, business opportunities, telehealth, and more," said Governor Stein. "Broadband is key 21st Century infrastructure, and these partnerships between counties and providers will help connect more North Carolinians."

- **Franklin County**, Brightspeed will deliver service to 1,415 homes and businesses, covering 53.80% of the county's identified underserved locations.
- **Granville County** will see significant coverage, as Fybe (Roanoke Connect Holdings, LLC) will connect 2,164 homes and businesses, reaching 90.96% of the county's underserved areas.
- In **Person County**, Spectrum Southeast, LLC will provide broadband service to 240 homes and businesses, covering 9.34% of eligible locations.
- In **Vance County**, Brightspeed will bring high-speed internet to 1,327 homes and businesses, covering 50.65% of the county's eligible locations.
- **Warren County** will benefit from Brightspeed's expansion to 793 homes and businesses, reaching 66.86% of its eligible areas.

Learn more about the state's broadband expansion efforts: [ncbroadband.gov](http://ncbroadband.gov)

## NCDIT DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES GATHERING



Our grant writer, Amanda Lewis, attended the NCDIT North Carolina Digital Opportunity Gathering. Read about her experience below:

"It was an amazing convening of career professionals helping to bridge the digital divide! Serving North Carolina has been an amazing experience, filled with purpose. I am honored to be a part of such a wonderful group of people that come together to solve broadband and digital skilling challenges in our communities. Looking forward to reviewing the draft documents shared today, providing feedback, and partnering with fellow organizations."

To learn more about NC Digital Opportunities, please click [HERE](#).

# CLEAN TRANSPORTATION DEMONSTRATION DAY



## NC CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

### Clean Vehicle & Technology Demonstration Day Ride & Drive

Wednesday, May 21, 10:30 am - 3:00 pm at the Piedmont Dragway in Julian, NC (Guilford County)

Attendance is limited to government, utilities, and military fleet decision-makers for all alternative fuel vehicles and sustainable fleet technologies (idle reduction, off-site charging, mobile charging, etc.). Volunteers who bring vehicles to display do not have to be affiliated with a government agency or utility. A simple lunch will be provided (hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers), and dietary restrictions can be accommodated. We are government volunteers, utilities, manufacturers, and dealerships to bring alternative fuel vehicles to display.

To register to attend or bring a vehicle or equipment, please click [HERE](#).

## REGIONAL TOURISM SURVEY

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and UPLIFT have continued to collaborate to capture opinions from across the region through their tourism survey. This survey will be used for asset mapping and will later be reviewed for input. We would love to get feedback about your assets in your community. Please take a moment to fill out this survey.

To begin, click on the county you reside in:

[Vance](#)

[Warren](#)

[Franklin](#)

[Person](#)

[Granville](#)

## Follow us on social media!



# NCWORKS HOSTS A REENTRY SIMULATION EVENT

The Kerr-Tar Local Reentry Council, in collaboration with the Kerr-Tar region's NCWorks Career Center hosted a reentry simulation on April 17, 2025. This powerful, interactive, simulation allowed members of The Kerr-Tar LRC, along with regional employers, service providers, and community residents, asks them to step into the shoes of someone reentering life after incarceration. After the event we collaborated and had great networking and ideas from community partners who were excited about joining the local reentry council meeting that will be held in person at NCWorks Career Center on Wednesday May 21, 2025 at 2:30 pm, if anyone is interested please contact the LRC Coordinator at [mrobinson@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:mrobinson@kerrtarcog.org) or office: 252-598-5204.



## SUCCESS STORY

Saul Esparza came to the NCWorks Career Center through a reverse referral, eager for a new opportunity in the IT field. After his first meeting with NextGen Youth Advocate, Henre' McKnight, Saul was excited to get started and returned with the necessary documents to enroll and begin his career journey. The NCWorks Career Center had a longstanding relationship with HUBZone Technology Initiative but hadn't yet found the right candidate to fill one of their roles—until now. Saul was the perfect fit! On April 22nd, Saul began his work-based Learning assignment as a Senior PC Technician with HUBZone Technology Initiative. He's quickly become an invaluable member of the team, hitting the ground running with his dedication and expertise. Saul loves his new role, and his colleagues at HUBZone are equally impressed with his contributions.

We're excited to see where this journey will take Saul in his future career!



# NCWORKS NETWORKS WITH THE REGION

On Thursday, April 24th, the NCWorks team had a productive day, splitting their time between Franklin County’s High School career fair, Warren County’s High School career expo & job fair, and the Vance Granville Community College job fair.



The day began in Franklin County, where NCWorks Business Services Representative Stacey Williams greeted students and encouraged them to attend the upcoming 4th Annual Young Adult Hiring Event. Stacey also shared valuable information about the importance of registering with the NCWorks Career Center and becoming involved in the NextGen Tuesday Club. The team’s day wrapped up in Warren County, where Kerr-Tar Adult/DW & NextGen Program Manager emphasized the benefits of registering with NCWorks, including how it could assist students with career planning and connect them with career-building resources. She encouraged students to take advantage of the NextGen Tuesday Club, which offers valuable sessions on resume writing, interviewing tips, and more to prepare them for the workforce.

It was a successful day for both the NCWorks team and the students who took part, with many walking away with new insights and opportunities to help them on their career journeys.

## 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!

**CLICK HERE FOR KERR-TAR LABOR MARKET UPDATE**



# YOUNG ADULT HIRING EVENT

On Tuesday, April 29th, the NCWorks Career Center held the 4th annual Young Adult Hiring event at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson, in partnership with the regional Career & Technical Education Departments. It was a beautiful sunny day for this outdoor event! 24 employers from the Kerr-Tar Region attended to share their opportunities with graduating seniors and enhance career awareness in the region.



Community College partners, Vance Granville Community College and Piedmont Community College, were on-site to share their programs, classes, and short-term training opportunities. Vance Granville Community College brought their ON THE GO Bus and the CDL Training Tractor Trailer for all to interact with and ask questions.

It was an exciting event with lots of engagement. Many employers showed up with heavy equipment and work trucks to highlight their industries. Some equipment included Altec's bucket truck, Sunrocks concrete truck, Duke Power bucket trucks, Warren County Sheriff's car, Person County police car, and others on display. This gives the students a hands-on and visual experience with operating equipment.



Groups of students from all Franklin, Granville, Vance, Warren, and Person counties, all eager to obtain employment following graduation. There were over 100 students and numerous job seekers from the public in attendance. We want to thank all of the employers, students and staff who came together to make this such a successful event!



## **List of employers included:**

Vance Granville Community College, Piedmont Community College, Henderson YMCA, Altec, Plastic Ingenuity, Variety Wholesalers, Granville Medical, Carolina Sunrock, Central Regional Hospital, Kittrell Job Corps, Vance County, Franklin County Government, Trio EOC, KFlex, Maria Parham Hospital, MR Williams, NC Dept of Adult Corrections, Governor's Office, Person County Government, SouthEastern Specialty Vehicles, South Granville Water and Sewer, EIDP (Voc Rehab), Revlon and Duke Energy.



## BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Frank Frazier*  
May 6th



*Deborah Cozart*  
May 30th

## ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Ty Cheek*  
1 year

# Kerr-Tar

## 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**

[dc Cox@kerrtar cog.org](mailto:dc Cox@kerrtar cog.org)

#### Area Agency on Aging

**Alan Winstead**

[awinstead@kerrtar cog.org](mailto:awinstead@kerrtar cog.org)

#### Community & Economic Development

**Desiree Brooks**

[dbrooks@kerrtar cog.org](mailto:dbrooks@kerrtar cog.org)

#### Workforce Development

**Lou Grillo**

[lgrillo@kerrtar cog.org](mailto:lgrillo@kerrtar cog.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@kerrtar cog.org](mailto:info@kerrtar cog.org) | [kerrtar cog.org](http://kerrtar cog.org)

