



## IN THIS EDITION:

### Important Information

2025 Kerr-Tar Annual Banquet	P. 2
NCARCOG Announced New Executive Director	P. 3
Thrive & Shine Fall Family Fest	P. 4
The State of the Region Address	P. 5

### Area Agency on Aging

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month	P. 6
Fall Prevention Month	P. 7
Medicare Open Enrollment	P. 7
A Matter of Balance Training	P. 7
Veterans Health & Resource Fair	P. 8
CAC Volunteer Program	P. 9
North Granville Opens New Senior Center	P. 10
Family Caregiver Conference	P. 10

### Planning & Development

Bunn Fun Day	P. 11
Affordable Housing Seminar	P. 11
Regional Housing Summit	P. 12

### Workforce Development

Person County Job & Resource Fair	P. 13
Success Story: Honesty Scott	P. 14

### Staff Announcements



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **IGNITE 2025 Regional Summit:** October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Oxford City Hall
- **State of the Region Address:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12 p.m. Henderson Country Club
- **Kerr-Tar RPO Meeting:** October 23, 2025, @3:00p.m., Kerr-Tar COG Offices
- **KTRCOG Executive Committee:** October 23, 2025, TBD, Virtual
- **Regional Food Council Meeting:** October 29 @ 10 a.m., Kerr-Tar COG Offices
- **Holiday:** Halloween, October 31st
- **Daylight Saving Time Ends:** Nov. 2, 2025.



# KERR-TAR CELEBRATES ITS 2025 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET & CEREMONY

On Thursday, September 25th, the Kerr-Tar region came together at the Miles Magnolia Event Center in Louisburg, NC, for the 2025 Kerr-Tar Annual Awards Banquet & Ceremony, a night dedicated to celebrating the individuals whose leadership and service help our communities thrive. We proudly recognized Lauren Chandler (Town of Franklinton) as Outstanding Clerk to the Board, Nathan Page (Town of Youngsville) as Outstanding Manager, Carolyn Faines (Vance County) as Outstanding COG Board Member, Vicky Daniels (Town of Butner) as Outstanding Municipal Elected Official, Bertadean Baker (Warren County) as Outstanding County Elected Official, and Mayor Marilyn Newell (City of Roxboro), was awarded the Regional Star Award for her extraordinary contributions and commitments to regional collaboration. During the evening, the three new officers for 2025-2026 were also announced: Carolyn Faines as Chairperson, John Alston as Vice Chairman, and Tom Lane as Treasurer. Each of these honorees exemplifies the dedication and collaborative spirit that move our region forward. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this inspiring evening, and to our generous sponsors—VC3, Sunrock Industries, and Granville County Farm Bureau—for making it all possible. Here's to another year of progress, partnership, and regional success. See you in 2026!



Winners are from left to right: Marilyn Newell, Carolyn Faines, Bertadean Baker, Nathan Page, Lauren Chandler, Vicky Daniels.



Clerks across the region (left to right): Lauren Chandler, Dywanda Pettaway, Paula Pulley, Kristin King, Pamela Perry, Lynda Clayton and Barb Rote



Linda Keith singing the national anthem.



# NCARCOG ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



- The North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments (NCARCOG) is pleased to announce the appointment of Todd McNeill as its new Executive Director, effective October 1, 2025. Mr. McNeill will serve as the first full-time Executive Director of NCARCOG. He brings a wealth of experience in local government, business operations, and strategic planning to the role.

Todd has been an integral part of the Council of Governments' network since 2018, having previously served as a member of the High Country Council of Governments' Board of Directors. In this capacity, he helped to provide strategic leadership and oversight to the High Country region. Todd has also served as an instrumental leader for local governments having served as an Ashe County Commissioner since 2018 and a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners since 2020, where he currently serves as 1st Vice Chair.



Todd also has extensive experience in operations, regulatory compliance, and customer service from his role as the owner and operate of several private businesses. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations from Appalachian State University and has attended multiple leadership development and local government trainings through the School of Government and Hunt Institute.

Mr. McNeill states: "I am honored to step into the role of Executive Director for the North Carolina Association of Regional Councils of Governments. Our sixteen councils are on the front lines of strengthening communities, from supporting counties and municipalities to tackling challenges that no single local government can solve alone. I look forward to working alongside our partners across the state to build on that legacy of collaboration and to ensure that every region of North Carolina has the tools it needs to thrive."

David Richardson, Chair of NCARCOG, shared the following: "NCARCOG is delighted to have Todd onboard to provide strategic leadership and support for NCARCOG. We know that with his outstanding history of public leadership, understanding of our work, and ability to build partnerships, he will be able to move NCARCOG forward."

NCARCOG is the professional association of the 16 regional councils of governments providing services to both county and municipals governments across North Carolina. Our mission is to find innovative solutions to North Carolina's regional challenges and deliver excellent federal, state, and regional services to our member communities. We promote collaboration and partnerships at the regional level.



# ★ THRIVE & ★ SHINE PUMPKIN FALL FAMILY FEST ♥

A Glow Party + Community Health Fair  
for the Whole Family!

- 📅 Date: October 28, 2025
- 🕒 Time: 4:00 – 7:00 PM
- 📍 Location: Porte NOIRE Garden  
200 Korea St, Franklinton, NC 27525
- ☂️ Rain Date: November 3, 2025



## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ☀️ Family Fun & Games
- 🎵 Music, Dancing & Glow Activities
- 🏠 Free Health Screenings
- 📱 Scan the QR Code for More Info
- 🍼 Limited FREE Diaper Giveaways
- 💉 Limited FREE Flu Shots
- 🚚 Food Trucks on site
- 📁 Plus more FREE resources!

Proudly sponsored by







Please join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of final “State of Address” lunch and learn for 2025



*Michael L. Walden Ph.D.*

William Neal Reynolds  
Distinguished Professor  
Emeritus at NC State University  
and President of Walden Economic  
Consulting, LLC

**Silver Sponsors**

Wake EMC, Walmart Distribution,  
Benchmark Community Bank

OCTOBER 22, 2025  
12:00 NOON  
HENDERSON COUNTRY CLUB  
300 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE,  
HENDERSON, NC

Cost- \$30 per person or  
\$240 - table of 8

**Deadline to register is Oct. 16th**  
RSVP to Tanya @hendersonvance.org  
or Call 252-438-8414





# 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)

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

**About 1 in 8 women born today in the United States will get breast cancer. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the United States, next to skin cancer.**

Some women are at higher risk for breast cancer than others because of their personal or family medical history or because of certain changes in their genes. Getting regular mammograms may lower the risk of dying from breast cancer.

If you or someone you love is on Medicare, take advantage of Medicare-covered preventive services, including mammograms.

Medicare covers a number of preventive services to help keep people with Medicare healthy.

Ask a SHIIP counselor for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Crystal Allen @ 252-436-2040



# FALL PREVENTION MONTH

In recognition of Fall Prevention Month, Crystal Allen visited local senior centers and community groups to share valuable fall prevention tips. Her visits aimed to raise awareness and promote safety among older adults, helping them stay confident, active, and independent.



# MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT



Medicare's annual Open Enrollment for 2026 runs from October 15, 2025, to December 7, 2025. During this period, people with Medicare can compare and choose health and drug plans for the upcoming year. You may review your plan options on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) because plans and costs often change, and new features are available to help you find the best coverage for your needs. You also may schedule an appointment with a SHIP coordinator by contacting your local senior center or Crystal Allen at 252-436-2040 or [callenekertracog.org](https://callenekertracog.org).

# A MATTER OF BALANCE TRAINING

A Matter of Balance is an evidence-based program designed to reduce the fear of falling, encourage increased physical activity, improve awareness of home safety, and promote long-term behavior changes among older adults. On September 16 and 17, 2025, a Matter of Balance Coach Training was held at the South Granville Senior Center. This training equips volunteers and staff with the tools needed to lead classes that empower seniors to stay active, safe, and confident in their daily lives. Thank you to all who participated in supporting fall prevention efforts in our community!





# VETERANS HEALTH & RESOURCE FAIR

**Saturday, November 1, 2025  
11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**at the  
Vance Granville Community College  
Civic Center  
200 Community College Road  
Henderson, NC 27537**

**KICK OFF  
National Veterans and  
Military Families Month**

## **VETERANS:**

**Bring Your Military ID such as  
DD214, NGB Form 22 or VA ID Card**

- \* Refreshments
- \* Veteran Service Officers to assist with accessing VA benefits, eligibility, etc.
- \* VBA Services including retirement, housing, employment
- \* Education & Training assistance

- \* Mental health & substance abuse information
- \* Health screenings and flu vaccines
- \* Financial and legal assistance
- \* Door prizes
- \* Much more

**For Information Please Contact:  
Lyn Breisacher @ 919-693-8947 or  
Anne Williams @ 919-892-5471**

*Sponsored by the Granville County Veterans' Affairs Committee  
and supported by many local businesses*



# Join the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Volunteer Program

## Make a Difference in the Lives of Long-Term Care Residents

*As a NC LTC Ombudsman Program's Community Advisory Committee (CAC) volunteer, you become the voice and advocate for residents in adult care and nursing home facilities. Your presence helps ensure dignity, respect, and quality of care for some of our community's most vulnerable neighbors.*



### Why Volunteer?

- ✓ **Impact:** Be a trusted listener and advocate for residents.
- ✓ **Community:** Join others who share your passion for service.
- ✓ **Learning:** Gain insight into long-term care and resident rights.
- ✓ **Fulfillment:** Know that your time makes a lasting difference.



### What We Provide

- Training and orientation to prepare you for your role
- Ongoing support and guidance
- Opportunities to serve in your own community



### What You'll Do

- Visit long-term care facilities
- Listen to and support residents
- Share concerns with staff and advocates
- Help protect resident rights

### Ready to Get Started?

Contact Kimberly Hawkins, Regional Ombudsman, Region K  
 ✉ [khawkins@kerrtarco.org](mailto:khawkins@kerrtarco.org) | ☎ 252-436-2040 ext. 2050

Together, we can make sure  
 every resident has a voice.  
*Your advocacy matters!*



# NORTH GRANVILLE OPENS NEW SENIOR CENTER

The new North Granville Senior Center, located at 301 Oxford Street, Stovall, held its ribbon-cutting / open house on Friday, September 26, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The new facility includes administrative offices, dining and fitness areas, a multipurpose meeting room, a craft room, a kitchen, an outdoor deck with a canopy roof, and a paved walking trail. The new facility will provide a welcoming space for seniors to gather and engage in enriching activities and programs.



# KERR-TAR FAMILY CAREGIVER CONFERENCE

Join us to hear from Director of Dementia Alliance, Lisa Levine, and from Pharmacist Consultant, Dr. DeLon Canterbury. Learn practical skills for engaging and supporting those living with dementia, and how to care for yourself in the process.



**LISA LEVINE** Director of Dementia Alliance



**DR. DELON CANTEBURY** Pharmacist Consultant

## Family Caregiver Ticket \$15

For those caring for someone living with dementia, neighbors, friends, students, clergy and anyone else who would like to attend. Limited scholarships available.

## Professional Caregiver Ticket \$40

For professionals caring for people living with dementia. 6 CEUs available.

*\*Breakfast and refreshments will be provided*

# THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

## 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

VANCE GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CIVIC CENTER

For questions, please call Michael Patterson at (252) 436-2040 ext. 6072 or email [mpatteron@kerrtarco.org](mailto:mpatteron@kerrtarco.org)

# BUNN FUN DAY

Bunn Fun Day was a great success! Our Long Term Care Ombudsman, Kim Hawkins, and our Regional Program Coordinator, Victoria Glasscock, had an amazing time engaging with the community on September 20th, sharing valuable resources through our Ombudsman, Aging, and Safe Routes to Schools programs. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with residents, provide helpful information, and celebrate together. To top it all off, we made sure to hand out plenty of fun prizes throughout the day!



SCHOOL OF  
GOVERNMENT



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING SEMINAR: TOOLS, STRATEGIES, AND CASE STUDIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

What You'll Learn:

- Strategic approaches to affordable housing
- Affordable housing tools and financing mechanisms
- How to assess local housing needs
- Case studies and exercises
- Immediate next steps

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This interactive in-person seminar is designed for elected and appointed officials (including managers and department heads) from local governments who are setting strategic direction around affordable housing. The seminar will focus on local government support and public-private partnerships for workforce residential housing. It is open to professionals and elected officials.

When: October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: Chapel Hill



# REGIONAL HOUSING SUMMIT

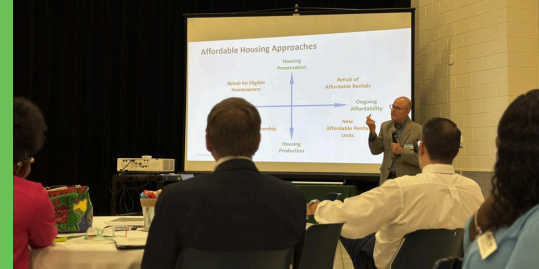
On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Kerr-Tar COG held its Regional Housing Summit at Vance Granville Community College, where approximately 100 attendees gathered for a dynamic and engaging event focused on housing challenges and strategies for local governments. The day began with opening remarks from Diane Cox, Executive Director of the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments.

The morning featured two insightful keynote presentations:

- “Escaping the Housing Trap” by Chris Allen, Director of Events and Partnerships at Strong Towns, who explores the systemic issues behind housing affordability and community development.
- “Affordable Housing Strategies & Tools for Local Governments” by C. Tyler Mulligan, Distinguished Professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government, offers practical tools and policy insights for local decision-makers.

After a short break, the program continued with a panel discussion, featuring diverse perspectives on housing solutions. Panelists included Dennis Tharrington, President of Innovative Green Builders, John Morck, Wilson County Planning Manager and Heather Joi Kenney, CEO of Gateway CDC, and Lindsey Rosenfeld, Lead Policy & Research Analyst with NC Housing Finance Agency serving as moderator.

The event concluded with an interactive working session where participants collaborated on actionable strategies to address local housing issues.



## Follow us on social media to stay updated!



# PERSON COUNTY JOB & RESOURCE FAIR



The Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board/NCWorks along with Person County EDC hosted a highly successful Person County Job & Resource Expo Sept 10, 2025 at Piedmont Community College South Campus drawing strong participation from both employers and job seekers across the region.

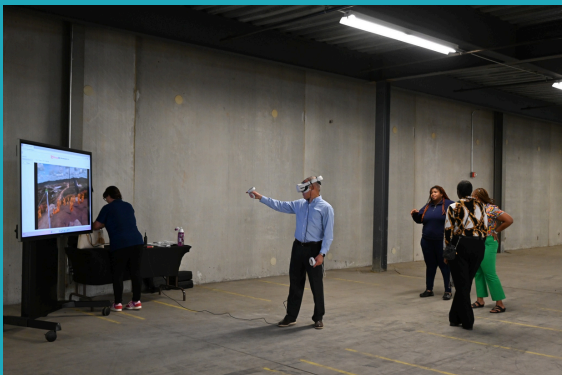
The event welcomed 55 employers and community resources, representing industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, education, transportation, and public service. Employers were eager to meet potential candidates and share information about career opportunities, while resource providers offered valuable support services to help individuals prepare for success in the workforce.

More than 100 participants attended from all five counties in the Kerr-Tar region—Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren—demonstrating the wide-reaching impact of the event. Job seekers had the chance to connect directly with employers, explore career pathways, and learn more about training programs and services available in their communities.

Adding to the energy of the day, the expo also featured food trucks, interactive displays, and a virtual reality experience that gave participants a hands-on look at modern workplace technologies. These engaging elements provided both fun and learning, making the event not only informative but also memorable for attendees.

“This event was about more than filling open positions—it was about connecting people to possibilities.” By bringing together employers, job seekers, and resources under one roof, we’re helping strengthen our regional workforce and support economic growth.”

The Job & Resource Expo is part of the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board’s ongoing commitment to fostering collaboration among businesses, community partners, and job seekers to build a stronger, more resilient workforce.





# SUCCESS STORY: HONESTY SCOTT

Congratulations to Honesty Scott, who recently completed her Dental Hygienist program at Dental U. As a single mother, her biggest motivation throughout her journey was her son and her desire to create a stable, supportive home for their future.

Ms. Scott's hard work has paid off—she is now employed full-time as a Dental Assistant with Tarheel Periodontics. Her NCWorks Youth Advocate, Lequita Cooper, describes her as motivated, hardworking, and determined—qualities that truly shine through in her accomplishments.

We are proud of Ms. Scott and wish her nothing but continued success in her career and beyond.



## 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](#)



## BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Crystal Allen*  
October 7th



*Desiree Brooks*  
October 28th

**BOO!**

## ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Kim Hawkins*  
October 17th



*Cindy Pernell*  
October 30th





# 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

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