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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Caregiver's Cup

- Friday, June 11
- 12:00-1:30 pm @ Sadie's

Senior Tar Heel Legislature

- Tuesday, June 15
- 1:30-4:30 pm, Virtual

KTRPO TAC/TCC Meeting

- Thursday, June 24
- 3:00-5:00 pm @ COG Office

COG Board Meeting

- Thursday, June 24
- 6:00 pm @ COG Office



Follow us on Facebook to get up to date information!

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Betty Wright

MAYOR PRO-TEM, LOUISBURG

Council Member Betty Keith Wright, elected on November 2017, is a native of Franklin County. She attended Riverside High School and completed grade 12 at Louisburg High School. She attended Louisburg College, Vance-Granville Community College, and Shaw University and has a degree in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Wright is the mother of 3 children and grandmother of 4. She worked for 4 years with the USDA-Farm Service Agency and over 30 years with the Franklin County School System. While with the school system, she served in the classroom and with support staff. Mrs. Wright served positions such as PTA President, member of the Educational Support Personnel for the Superintendent's Board for the merger of Franklin City and County Schools, NC-ESPA District Director, and was a NCAE Delegate to the National Education Association. A member of South Main Street Missionary Baptist Church, she has served in various auxiliaries including Church Clerk, LACER Camp Director, Relay For life Team Leader, Deaconess Board Chair, and Member of the Senior Choir. She is committed to help bring excellence to the community because "We're in this thing together!"



STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Diane Cox

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diane Cox, Executive Director for the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, has been with the COG for 14 years. Diane enjoys the diversity of the work she does at the COG, which ensures that each day is different. Each day brings new challenges and situations, which helps her to stay focused and interested.



Working closely with Board leadership to navigate through a financial crisis has been one of Diane's proudest achievements while working at KTCOG. She is proud that we have become a stronger, more resilient organization. Fun fact about Diane: she loves amusement parks and roller coasters...the faster and scarier, the better! When asked who her role models are, Diane said, "It might sound cliché, but my parents are my role models. My daddy is hardworking, humble, and kind, and my mama is selfless, nurturing, and loyal. I learned from them the importance of honesty and always striving to treat people how you want to be treated." Diane says she is humbled to be surrounded by many people who genuinely care about those they work with and the communities they serve.

SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE

Senior Tar Heel Legislature General Session Virtual Meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 15, 2021 from 1:30-4:30 pm.** Participation is via Zoom or a call-in number.

Priorities for NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature are:

- Increase funding for services for older adults
- Maintain and increase funding for Senior Centers
- Increase funding for Project C.A.R.E.
- Strengthen and fund North Carolina's Adult Protective Services Program (APS)
- Increase staff-to-patient ratios in Nursing Homes

We encourage your participation to support the interests and needs of our region's older adults. Call Mary Lynn Baldwin, Aging Specialist, to learn more.



Since May, Kim Hawkins, KTAOA Ombudsman, has resumed her in-person visits and advocacy in our region's long-term care residences. We seek dedicated volunteers who are interested in getting to know residents and advocating for their interests. Give Kim a call at 252-436-2050.

AREA SENIOR CENTERS

As pandemic restrictions relax, our Senior Centers are carefully reopening for events and activities. Staff and participants are happy to be together again, and there are many happy reunions between friends.

Look on Center websites for activity calendars or call them.



Franklin County Senior Center (Louisburg):	919-496-1131
Franklin Senior Center:	919-494-5611
Granville County Senior Services (Oxford):	919-693-1930
South Granville Senior Center (Creedmoor):	919-528-0848
North Granville Senior Center (Stovall):	919-693-3383
Person County Senior Center:	336-599-7484
Vance County Senior Center:	252-430-0257
Warren County Senior Center:	252-257-3111

NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

In partnership with Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO) in Henderson, KTAAA continues to provide nutritional support during the pandemic. Together with GRRO, we provide emergency, shelf stable food boxes delivered to the home. If you or an older adult you know is challenged by food insecurity during this difficult time, please give us a call at 252-436-2040.



CAREGIVER'S CUP



The next Caregiver's Cup coffee club will be **Friday, June 11 from 12:00-1:30 pm** at Sadie's Coffee Corner in Henderson. If you provide care for an adult over age 60 and would like some non-structured social time and a good cup of coffee, join us! Call Austin with any questions at 252-436-2040, ext. 6072. Newcomers welcome!



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Our inaugural Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group Meeting for participants at the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe will be **Monday, June 7 from 10:00-11:00 am.**

JUNE IS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

June 15 is recognized as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and has been observed by the World Health Organization since 2011. It serves as a call-to-action for individuals, organizations, and communities to bring attention to the issue of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Kim Hawkins, KTAAA Regional Ombudsman, is asking to help promote awareness by choosing a day during this season and wearing something purple in support of the victims of this crime and their family members.

Local Elder Abuse Awareness Day activities include outdoor and drive-by events planned by our region's senior centers on these dates:

- **FRANKLIN:** Franklin County will host an Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Drive-Thru event on **Thursday, June 10** at Owens Park in Louisburg from **11:30 am-1:00 pm**. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance.
- **VANCE:** Vance County will host an Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention presentation on **June 17 at 10:00 am** at the Vance County Senior Center. The speaker will be Austin Caton, KTAAA Family Caregiver Support Specialist, and Kim Hawkins, KTAAA Regional Ombudsman.
- **WARREN:** Warren County will host an Elder Abuse and Prevention Drive-Thru event, tentatively scheduled for **Friday, June 11 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm** at the Warren County Senior Center. Attendees are encouraged to arrive shortly before 11:00 am for further instructions.
- Granville County & Person County TBD



Listen to WIZS Town Talk on **Thursday, June 3** for our Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kim Hawkins, who will speak about Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and what we can all do to protect vulnerable adults and their caregivers from the risk of abuse.

Billboards are currently on display in Person County on 501 N near Roby Barton Road, and in Franklin County on US-1 N to bring awareness to this under-reported crime.



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan in March of 2021, non-entitlement municipalities in North Carolina municipalities will be receiving funds from the state's Pandemic Recovery Office. All sixteen municipalities in the Kerr-Tar region have been awarded a specific allotment of funds. If your municipality needs assistance completing the necessary paperwork, please contact the Council of Governments office for assistance.



GRAND RE-OPENING OF BUSINESSES

The Planning & Economic Development Department continues to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 on local businesses. Many local businesses have adapted their business operations as a result in order to meet the needs of their customers. As such, businesses from across the Kerr-Tar region have been featured on the Kerr-Tar COG Facebook page.

This month the Planning & Economic Development Department hopes to identify businesses that will be reopening. The Department strives to identify businesses located in all five of our counties. If you are aware of a potential businesses owner adapting to COVID or plans to re-open, please reach out to our Planning & Economic Development Department. We would love to recognize them for their work.



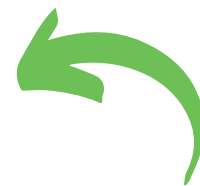
NC COMMERCE CERRI UPDATE

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has begun its Community Economic Recovery and Resiliency Initiative (CERRI) Program with the initial 10 communities. We are please to announce Warren County, located in the state's North Central Prosperity Zone will begin conducting meetings in June. The CERRI process will involve residents and business owners. The COG looks forward serving as a Community Partner and working with Department of Commerce planners in this initiative. Other identified communities within the Kerr-Tar region will begin the CERRI process at various times.

VISIT NC FARMS MOBILE APP

The Council of Governments along with our Cooperative Extension Offices are still accepting applications for inclusion onto the region's Visit NC Farms Mobile App. Since the pandemic, many of our region's farms and Farmers' Markets have adapted the ways they conduct business or offer products. If you are a local farmer, local food producer, a restaurant using local foods, or offer local goods, please contact your local Cooperative Extension Service or Council of Governments for details about being included in the app. The app is available to download for free at the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Be on the lookout for one of these 3 Visit NC Farms App billboards in the region!



US-1 North in
Vance County



US 501 in
Person County



I-85 North in
Granville
County

KTRPO TAC/TCC MEETING

The KTRPO TAC/TCC will meet on **Thursday, June 24 from 3:00-5:00 pm** at the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Office, located in Henderson. Members will have the option of attending virtually via Zoom as well. The agenda and related meeting materials will be posted onto the KTCOG website and sent to members as the meeting date approaches.



STATE PLANNING & RESEARCH FUNDING

Granville County has been awarded State Planning & Research funds from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to begin a Feasibility Study along the Butner and Oxford portions of the East Coast Greenway. Work on the feasibility study is expected to begin in the fall of 2021.



US DOT RAISE GRANT

The KTRPO is in conversations with East Coast Greenway to serve as the lead applicant for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant, formerly the BUILD Grant through the US DOT. The RPO and ECG have identified between 20-40 miles of potential bikeway within Granville County. The East Coast Greenway is a bike route that stretches from Maine to Florida. The RPO will look to receive support from Granville County and its municipalities for this grant.



ROUNABOUT ON MAIN IN OXFORD

North Carolina DOT crews will start building a roundabout on **June 7** at the intersection of Main Street (SR 1602) and W. Spring Street (SR 1207) in Oxford. The \$200,000 project will take approximately 8 weeks to complete, with the roundabout opening in August. During construction, drivers will follow a posted detour along Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, Hillsboro Street/Williamsboro Street and Gilliam Street.

Roundabouts improve safety for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. They also help reduce the congestion and backups more typically found at traditional intersections with stop signs and traffic signals.

NCDOT has produced a [video](#) showing how roundabouts work and improve overall safety. More details can also be found by visiting the department's [roundabout webpage](#).



FALL LITTER SWEEP DATES ANNOUNCED

Following the success of the Spring Litter Sweep last month, the Department of Transportation has announced the dates of the Fall Litter Sweep, which will be **September 11-25**. Litter is unsightly, costs millions of dollars to clean up, and can hurt the environment, tourism, and the state's quality of life. Everyone should do their part by:

- Securing their loads before driving. Unsecured trash can fly from a vehicle and end up as roadside litter.
- Holding onto trash until it can be disposed of properly. Keep a litter bag in your vehicle so you can properly dispose of trash later.
- Recycling when possible. Recycling protects the environment, saves landfill space, and keeps the community clean.



BIKE HELMET DISTRIBUTION EVENT

On Saturday, May 15, the KTRPO participated in a Safe Routes to School event at the Henderson YMCA. The team consisting of Kisha High, Stephanie Harmon, and Michael Kelly, distributed bike helmets to children and provided them with safety tips. The KTRPO is the recipient of a Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure Grant through NCDOT. The Henderson YMCA was the recipient of bicycle helmets through the agency's Bike Helmet Initiative.

The RPO was able to assist 20 families. This event was an interagency event with the YMCA, Franklin Granville Vance Smart Start, Working on Wellness, NC Highway Patrol, Vance County Sheriff's Department, and Henderson Police & Fire Departments. The KTRPO will be at similar events within the region throughout the year.



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EVENT

Students at West Oxford Elementary have successfully completed a Walking to Tokyo event. The goal of the event was to increase physical activity while making it fun and educational. Students walked a total of 6,882 miles, the number of miles to Tokyo, over the course of four months. Kerr-Tar's Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Kisha High, is charged with promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety through education and outreach. At this event, she partnered with the West Oxford staff and administrators to inform students on the importance of being safe while walking.



RESURFACING PROJECTS AWARDED

Thanks to three new contracts awarded by NCDOT, totaling more than \$7 million, about 46 miles of area roadway will be resurfaced. This work can start this summer and must be complete by November 30, 2022.

- Under a \$4.11 million contract, Carolina Sunrock of Raleigh will mill and resurface pavement and improve shoulders along 19.1 miles of state-maintained roads throughout Granville County.
- Under a \$3.44 million contract, ST Wooten Corporation of Wilson will mill and resurface pavement and improve shoulders along 27.4 miles of state maintained roads throughout Franklin County, and about 300 feet of a road that crosses into Granville County and a quarter mile of one road in Warren County.

SUCCESS WITH NCWORKS

NCWorks has had a lot of great success over the last few weeks. Recently, three participants graduated with their CDLs from Vance-Granville Community College. This is one participant's success, and the others will be highlighted next month.

SHERELL SMOTHERS

Sherell Smothers enrolled in the Adult WIOA program in February of this year with interest in obtaining her CDLs. She began CDL training at VGCC in March, and was so excited about going to school and receiving assistance with her tuition that she wanted to write her own success story. Keep reading to hear this story through her words.

Over 10 years ago, I dreamed of being a business owner having multiple commercial vehicles. However, life happens, and six years ago I thought about it once again. Times were rough, and here it is, 2021.

During rough times, trying to provide for my family (2 teenage children), all I knew was to drive (literally) and I decided to attend a CDL-A class with VGCC. March 15 was quickly approaching, and I was dreading the fact that it was a 9 week course, but perseverance and resilience were all I thought of. Thirty-five years old and living in a time where entrepreneurship and networking is the new norm, I began to pray on my passion. Starting a trucking company is a BIG DEAL.

My first day on the range, shifting gears, I wanted to give up, BUT, I thank God for instructors! Encouraging me to continue to push forward, and every day I attended class I knew that something would be rewarding in the end. I thought to myself, "to be a leader, I must conquer LEADING!" And being a student first was required.

I am now my own boss and business owner. Trucking led me to footprints that will keep my legacy going. I built my business through the mud, in sand, and planted seeds for footprints to be permanent in this land!



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

[CLICK HERE FOR
KERR-TAR PY2021
LOCAL AREA PLAN](#)

TOWN OF YOUNGSVILLE

Youngsville Town Administrator Phil Corderio has resigned after two and half years to start an in-home business and spend more time with his family. During his tenure, the Town has seen tremendous growth and success. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.



DEVELOPMENT FINANCE TOOLBOX

Registration for the School of Government's Development Finance Toolbox program is now open. The program will be held online over a three-day period, **December 7-9, 2021** at the School of Government.

Featuring instructors from the National Development Council and the School, the course is designed for elected officials, local government development professionals, and managers. The course teaches participants the basics of development finance tools used by North Carolina local governments to achieve their community and economic development goals.

Topics discussed will include:

- Federal financing programs and tax credit financing
- Public-Private Partnerships for Redevelopment
- Opportunity Zones and the Local Government Role
- Local government capital financing
- Tax increment financing (TIF) and synthetic TIF
- Business improvement districts
- Attracting private investment to Main Street



The registration fee includes a workshop (held on the first day of the course) designed to teach you the basics of calculating an estimated return on investment and different ways of thinking about debt and equity, heightening your intuition about what is and is not a worthwhile project. CLE and AICP credit will be posted once the agenda is finalized. To find more details about the program and to register, click [HERE](#).

FEDERAL LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants will be available in North Carolina in 2021 for local park and recreation projects. Municipalities, counties, and federally recognized Native American tribes are eligible to apply for the matching grants. LWCF grants can be used to acquire new park properties and renovate or replace outdoor recreation facilities.

Local governments can request a maximum of \$500,000 with each application and must match the grant dollar for dollar. About \$3.5 million will be available for local government projects.

Applications are due **October 1, 2021**. Additional information and this year's application are available at the [NC Division of Parks and Recreation website](#).



SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO FATHERS

In honor of Father's Day this month, several of our staff members wanted to share a few words about their dads. We wish all the fathers and father-figures out there a Happy Father's Day!

My Daddy was the finest man I've ever known. He worked hard all of his life to provide for his family and never looked for accolades for himself. He taught my brother and me to use our minds to make it in this world and to treat everyone fairly. But in the midst of all his working and providing, there was something he loved to do that had been a passion of his since he was a small boy. He loved to play ball-baseball, softball. He was a pitcher. And a very good one. He played with a minor league baseball team in the 1960s called The Mustangs. He played in the Henderson industrial softball league in the 70s with Facet and the Church leagues at the same time. He always batted 4th because he usually made home runs and brought everyone in. I went to many of his games during my childhood and I was always so proud watching him play. He was my hero. I know if God allows baseball games in Heaven, my Daddy is playing right now.

-Donna Lee

One of my most precious memories about my dad was when I was 4 years old. He would often set aside a day to entertain his 3 little girls (ages 3, 4, and 5) by dicing up fruit and making lemonade to serve in our tea sets. And, baking cakes in the Easy Bake Oven. If it was during the windy months, the day would end with kite flying lessons.

-Deborah Cozart



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

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Area Agency on Aging

Nancy Francis

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Planning & Development

Michael Kelly

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Workforce Development

Lou Grillo

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

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