



# KERR-TAR

*Council of Governments*

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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*Downtown Louisburg*



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Caregiver's Cup

- Friday, July 9
- 12:00-1:00 pm @ Sadie's

### KTRPO TAC/TCC Meeting

- Thursday, July 22
- 3:00-5:00 @ COG Office

### No COG Board Meeting in July



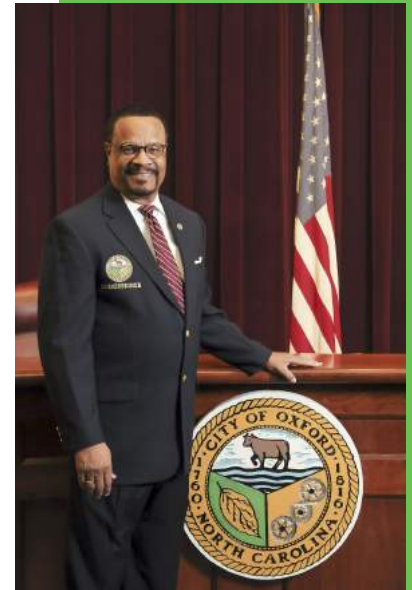
Follow us on Facebook to get up to date information!

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

*Quon Bridges*

OXFORD CITY COUNCILMAN

Quon Bridges has served over 13 years on the Oxford City Council, in addition to serving as judge. He received his Juris Doctor degree in 1981 from North Carolina Central University School of Law, and began his law career. He was the first judge to preside in Granville, Franklin, and Vance Counties in the newly established Teen Courts. Teen Court involves real juvenile cases and teens play every role in court except judge. In 2013, Quon was re-elected City Commissioner for the City of Oxford. In addition to serving on the Kerr-Tar COG Board, he serves on the Recreation, Parks & Environment Committee, the Property, Buildings & Real Estate Committee, and the Personnel Committee. Quon has been in private practice for the last 9 years. He is one of eleven children born to Angus and Sadie Bridges. He is married with three children.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

*Katie Connor*

FINANCE ASSISTANT

Katie Conner, Finance Assistant for the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, has been with the COG for 5 years. Katie not only works in the finance department, but she also handles the Essential Single Family Rehabilitation and Urgent Repair housing programs AND helps with planning special events.

Prior to being the Finance Assistant, Katie worked in the Aging Department, where she built relationships outside of the office with clients and Senior Center staff. While working in finance, Katie has the opportunity to do what she loves, working with numbers! She loves new challenges, multi-tasking, and being busy...trust us, she can't sit still! If you need something done, Katie is your woman. She's encouraged by the Leadership at the COG, who push her to do her best and give it her all. You can find Katie in her office with her sweater and space heater on any time of the year (yes, including 90 degree summer days). She loves summer and trips to Florida with her family.



# American Rescue Plan

## ARP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS

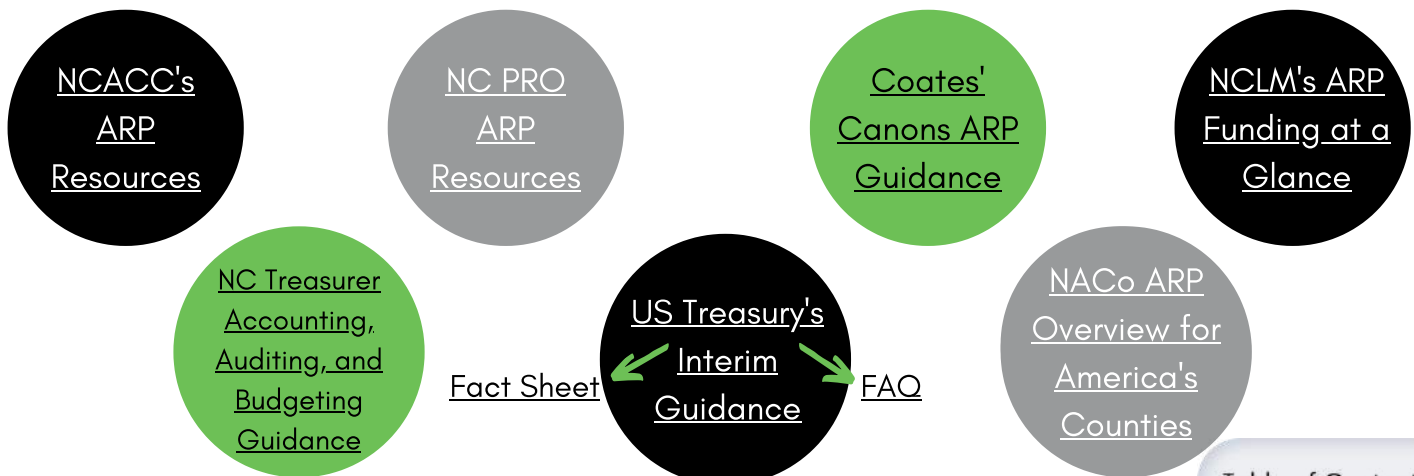
As a joint collaboration between the NC Association of County Commissioners and the Governor's Task Force on Racial Equity in Criminal Justice, there will be a series of sessions focusing on responding more appropriately to calls for emergency service, specifically those concerning mental illness, autism, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse, homelessness, and other non-emergency situations.

The expert panelists will detail how American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding offers an opportunity for local governments to implement crisis response teams, co-responder teams, and alternate responder models to respond to calls for service. More information on the three sessions is listed below. An informational flyer on the training sessions is available [HERE](#).



Session	Date	Time	Topic	Registration Link
I	July 13, 2021	12:00 pm	Respond more appropriately to calls for emergency services, specifically concerning mental illness, autism, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse, homelessness, and other non-emergency situations.	<a href="#">Click HERE</a>
II	July 15, 2021	12:00 pm	Fund violence prevention programs.	<a href="#">Click HERE</a>
III	July 20, 2021	12:00 pm	Establish and expand access to pre-arrest and post-arrest diversion programs.	<a href="#">Click HERE</a>

## ADDITIONAL ARP RESOURCES





# MUNICIPAL WATER QUALITY TRAINING

The Council of Governments will be hosting a Water Quality Training for its municipal governments on **July 19 at 2:00 pm** at the COG Office. This training will be facilitated by staff at the NC Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Water Infrastructure. The topics to be discussed include: the State's Water and Wastewater Master Plan and the new Viable Utility Program. The COG is encouraging interested municipalities to attend. If your municipality is interested in attending, please contact Michael Kelly or James Cunningham at [mkelly@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:mkelly@kerrtarcog.org) or [jcunningham@kerrtarcog.org](mailto:jcunningham@kerrtarcog.org) or 252-436-2040.

## GRANVILLE COUNTY RECEIVES SPR FUNDING

Granville County has been awarded State Planning and 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. The KTRPO will provide the Towns of Butner and Oxford with periodic updates on the study.



## US DOT RAISE GRANT

The KTRPO will serve as the lead applicant for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant, formerly the BUILD Grant through the US Department of Transportation. The RPO, working with the East Coast Greenway 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. This grant application is due later this month.

## PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL 130

On Friday, June 25, Governor Cooper signed House Bill 130 (now Session Law 2021-54) designating the East Coast Greenway as a State Trail. This legislation overwhelmingly passed both chambers.

Following this designation, the East Coast Greenway will be eligible for a variety of funding mechanisms and other forms of support for trail planning and construction in North Carolina.

Speaking on the passage of HB 130, East Coast Greenway Virginia & North Carolina Manager Sarah Sanford stated: *"This recognition by the North Carolina State Parks system is a tremendous step for the East Coast Greenway in the state."*

Speaking at the bill signing in Raleigh, Governor Cooper stated: *"Designating this trail as part of the State Parks system will ensure that we continue to develop and maintain these important resources for all North Carolinians. It is vital to the health and well-being of our state's residents that public outdoor spaces are available to everyone, in every community."* The KTRPO is presently partnering with the East Coast Greenway on applying for a RAISE Grant through the US Department of Transportation.



# KTRPO TAC/TCC MEETING

The KTRPO TAC/TCC will meet on **Thursday, July 22 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.



# ARCHIE TAYLOR NAMED 2021 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Please join us in congratulating Vance County Commissioner Col. Archie B. Taylor, Jr. for being designated the 2021 Citizen of the Year by the Henderson-Vance County Chamber of Commerce.

His selection was announced at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Chamber. Col. Taylor is described as a "small-town diplomat" and a "roll-up-your-sleeves worker." His volunteerism includes his support of education, the arts, Boy Scouts, Maria Parham Health and other community institutions.

In the area of education, his involvement with the Vance County Public School Foundation, the local school system, and Henderson Collegiate Charter School were noted. Evidence of Taylor's service to the Boy Scouts was his designation several years ago as the George Rose Watkins Citizen of the Year by the Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts.

Fellow Vance County Commissioner, Tommy Hester, Jr., said of the recognition: *"He's done an outstanding job of promoting Vance County and Henderson. He works hard for every citizen of the County."* Henderson-Vance Economic Development Board Member, Ruxton Bobbitt, has had an opportunity to see Taylor's impact on the economic well-being of the County and stated: *"He's one of the most cooperative people to sit down and listen to what people need and the County needs."*

We congratulate Col. Taylor on receiving this honor and thank him for his service to this country and commitment to Vance County.

# CERRI UPDATE

The North Carolina Department of Commerce has begun its Community Economic Recovery and Resiliency Initiative (CERRI) program with the initial 10 communities. Warren County, located in the state's North Central Prosperity Zone began conducting meetings in June. The CERRI process will involve residents and business owners. The COG looks forward to 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.

# RECONVENING OF THE COUNCIL ON UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

On June 22, the US Small Business Administration announced the agency's reconvening of the Council on Underserved Communities under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The restoration of the Council will help support the SBA's prioritization of equity across its programs and initiatives. The Council will consist of 20 diverse stakeholders from every region of the country tasked with advising the SBA on strengthening and improving its strategies to help underserved communities.

The Council on Underserved Communities was established to focus on communities and populations that have traditionally faced barriers in accessing credit, capital and other resources necessary to start and grow businesses.

The CUC's mission is to collectively provide SBA with input, advice, and recommendations on strategies to improve and strengthen equity among women, veterans, minority-owned businesses and/or businesses from low-to-moderate income or rural communities. The SBA is currently soliciting nominations from the public. The deadline to submit nominations is **Tuesday, July 20, 2021**. More information on the Council is available [HERE](#) as well as the [Nomination Form](#).



U.S. Small Business Administration

## STAFF MEMBER DEPARTURE



Stephanie Harmon, Kerr-Tar's RPO Coordinator for the past 3.5 years will be leaving the COG. Stephanie has accepted a position with the Peanut Belt RPO, which encompasses Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, and Northampton Counties. We thank Stephanie for her service to the Kerr-Tar RPO and wish her the best in her new position!

## Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email [Beth Davis](#), Kerr-Tar COG Regional Engagement Specialist.



## OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

The Area Agency on Aging commemorated Elder Abuse Awareness Day in mid-June with a combination of drive-through and in-person events in our local communities, including one at Owens Park in Louisburg, and at Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren County Senior Centers. It was great to have so much community support, and there were many people wearing purple!

As part of the awareness activities, our Regional Ombudsman, Kim Hawkins, and Family Caregiver Specialist, Austin Caton spoke to an audience at Vance County Senior Center about Elder Abuse Awareness and what people might do to spread awareness and reduce the risk to vulnerable adults. With the guidance of Beth Davis, Regional Engagement Specialist, we are upgrading our brochures and program materials. Look for our signature bright green, black, and white flyers, bookmarks, and billboards.



## OPERATION FAN HEAT RELIEF

Operation Fan Heat Relief is underway, an annual program that distributes free box fans to older adults who need them. Contact your local senior center if you need a fan to keep you cool this summer.

Click [HERE](#) for the CDC's hot weather tips for seniors.



Franklin County Senior Center (Louisburg):  
 Franklin Senior Center:  
 Granville County Senior Services (Oxford):  
 South Granville Senior Center (Creedmoor):  
 North Granville Senior Center (Stovall):  
 Person County Senior Center:  
 Vance County Senior Center:  
 Warren County Senior Center:

919-496-1131  
 919-494-5611  
 919-693-1930  
 919-528-0848  
 919-693-3383  
 336-599-7484  
 252-430-0257  
 252-257-3111

## BINGOCIZE

Our Aging Specialist, Mary Lynn Baldwin, is now a Certified Bingocize Instructor! Look for upcoming classes at our local senior centers. If you know of a community organization that would like to have a class, please call us!



## FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Our Family Caregiver Specialist, Austin Caton, received his Options Counselor certification, which means he is qualified to assist individuals who are making plans for their living arrangements, whether congregate or independent living. He is also a SHIP counselor, for folks who would like assistance with Medicare. Just call Austin!



## CAREGIVER'S CUP

The next Caregiver's Cup coffee club will be **Friday, July 9 from 12:00-1:00 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

The next Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group Meeting for participants at the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe will be **Friday, July 9 from 10:00-11:00 am**. If you are not a part of the Tribe and would like support as a grandparent raising grandchildren, please call us!



# SUCCESS WITH NCWORKS

## MIRANDA BROWN

Miranda enrolled in the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program at Vance-Granville Community College in May 2019 to participate in a work experience activity and to pursue her Associate in Arts Degree. Miranda's work experience placement was with VGCC's Business Office as a switchboard operator. After two work experience placements, Miranda was hired as a part-time switchboard operator. Her supervisor was very pleased with her job performance and recommended her for part-time employment at VGCC.

Miranda has assisted with many events and projects at the college, and has been involved in many school activities. She was the secretary for the Student Government Association and participated in the drama production of "26 Peebles" to bring the production to the community by Zoom during COVID-19.

While pursuing her degree, Miranda received a Presidential Scholarship and was on the Dean's List. She received her Associate's Degree in Art in May 2021 and plans to attend East Carolina University in the upcoming year to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications.



## QUIN'TAVIOUS ALSTON

Quin'Tavious Alston, a 24 year old Vance County resident, came to the NextGen Program in March 2021 seeking assistance with obtaining his CDL. He had been out of the workforce since January as a result of a car accident. He successfully completed VGCC's CDL training program in May and obtained his commercial driver's license. Quin'Tavious is now "Job Ready" and waiting to hear back from Carolina Sunrock and Waste Industries!

## DESTINY OVERBY

Destiny Overby joined the NextGen Program in December 2020, and is a 24 year old mother of one and a Vance County resident. She requested assistance with Nurse Aide 1 training at VGCC in order to obtain a higher position with her current employer, Central Regional Hospital. NextGen provided tuition, uniforms, and state exam fees assistance. She is currently employed as a Housekeeper but after successfully passing the Nurse Aide 1 state exam earlier this month, Destiny hopes to secure a position as a Healthcare Technician with Central Regional Hospital.



# SUCCESS WITH NCWORKS

## SHAVAR DAVIS

Shavar Davis contacted the career center in early March seeking assistance with CDL training. He had previously worked in shipping and receiving at Walmart Distribution.

After many years of working in that field, he decided that he would like to be on the other end of the dock. He was enrolled into WIOA on March 8 and began CDL training at VGCC. Along with two other NCWorks sponsored peers, Shavar graduated in May. We are happy to share that he is now employed full time at Carolina Sunrock!



## MARQUES WILLIAMS

Warren County resident and father of one, Marques Williams enrolled in the NextGen Program in February. He started an On-the-Job Training assignment with Carolina Sunrock as a Paver at the end of March. He successfully completed his assignment in June and his pay increase by \$3 per hour. Marques loves his job and is looking forward to a long career at Carolina Sunrock.

# FIVE COUNTY JOB FAIR WAS A SUCCESS!



Kerr-Tar NCWorks, in partnership with Vance-Granville Community College, hosted a Five County In-Person Job Fair at the Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson on Friday, June 25. This event was made successful with the help of the 40 employers who attended and over 200 job seekers who came throughout the day. A variety of industries and organizations were represented with something for everyone. The NCWorks team was pleased with the turnout and looks forward to more events like this in the future.



### EMPLOYERS PRESENT

ADUSA | Capstone | Captive Aire | Carolina Sunrock | Charles Boyd Chevrolet | Chick-Fil-A | City of Henderson | Executive Personnel Group | Express Employment | Fastenal | Franklin Co. EMS | Franklin Co. Sheriff's Dept. | Gate Precast | Granville Co. | Granville Health System | Hollander Sleep Products | Ideal Fastener | JP Taylor Co. | Kerr Lake Nursing & Rehabilitation | Lewis Electric | Lowe's | Lyneer Staffing | MGM Products | MR Williams | NC Department of Safety | Newcomb & Co. | Precision Machine Fabrication | Qualified Staffing | RiceWrap Foods | Robling Medical | Southeastern Specialties | Timberline | Universal Forest Products | Vance Co. Law Enforcement | Variety Wholesalers | Versatrim

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

# REENTRY TO THE WORKFORCE

Do you need help with employment due to roadblocks from a criminal record? NCWorks is hosting a workshop to provide helpful information and assistance. The workshop will be Tuesday, July 13 at 2:00 pm via WebEx. Click [HERE](#) to join the live session, or click [HERE](#) for more information about the event.



# IN OTHER NEWS

## EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT INFO SESSION



The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary program that provides a discount of up to \$50 or \$75 per month to lower the cost of broadband service for low-income households. To help spread the word in North Carolina communities, the State Library and the Broadband Infrastructure Office of NCDIT are offering an online information session for front-line staff on Friday, July 9 at 1:30 pm. Attendees will receive an overview of the program, and will learn who is eligible, how individuals can sign up, and practical outreach strategies and materials. The session will end with an opportunity to ask questions. To increase reach in their communities, libraries are welcome to invite other organizations that interact directly with potentially eligible households. To register, click [HERE](#).

## NOW HIRING: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNER

We are now hiring for the Kerr-Tar Regional Transportation Planner position. This position will coordinate the transportation planning process of the Kerr-Tar Rural Planning Organization (RPO) for the following five counties: Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren; serve as staff to the RPO's Rural Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and to the RPO's Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Assist in the rural transportation planning activities of the Kerr-Tar RPO; apply knowledge transportation concepts, regional planning, and impact studies in order provide staff support to advisory boards and elected officials. For more details and a full job description, click [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](#)

### Executive Director

Diane Cox

[dcox@kerrtarco.org](mailto:dcox@kerrtarco.org)

### Area Agency on Aging

Nancy Francis

[nfrancis@kerrtarco.org](mailto:nfrancis@kerrtarco.org)

### Planning & Development

Michael Kelly

[mkelly@kerrtarco.org](mailto:mkelly@kerrtarco.org)

### Workforce Development

Lou Grillo

[lgrillo@kerrtarco.org](mailto:lgrillo@kerrtarco.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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