



September 2023 Newsletter

REGIONAL UPDATES

River Bend Mayor John Kirkland Receives Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to River Bend Mayor Kirkland, who was awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award at a Mount Carmel Helps, Inc. event recently held in the Craven County Convention Center. Mount Carmel Helps, Inc. (MCH) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit that works to eliminate food insecurity and provides other services, such as counseling. The organization partners with agencies, such as the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, and various churches, and serves the elderly, homeless, youth, and veterans.

Oriental Town Manager, Diane Miller, Received the 2022 ICMA Local Government Excellence Award

Congratulations to Oriental Town Manager, Diane Miller, who received the 2022 ICMA Local Government Excellence Award for a Shoreline Restoration Project. She, Mayor Sally Belangia, and the Town Board were concerned about the shoreline of Whittaker Pointe. Ms. Miller researched how to transform the final, remaining 5-acres on the private peninsula's entry creek that provided Oriental's protection from tropical storms - into a viable living shoreline, now fully protected and sustainable. She gathered historic and recent surveys, secured several federal, state, and foundation grants, acquired the land for the Town, and employed professional, regional partners to develop a Comprehensive Plan and the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) project. By utilizing volunteers comprised of NC universities' marine science students and residents, the Town was able to complete the shoreline restoration project by December 2022 at a cost of \$3,680,752.

ECC Executive Committee Meeting to be Held on Sept. 14th

An ECC Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14th. As always, General Membership Board Members are welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings.

A Budget and Audit Committee meeting will be held prior to the meeting. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., and the Executive Committee meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. In order to have a good head count for our quorum/dinner, please confirm attendance at: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejxshhoq02af6993>. The meeting will be available via Zoom at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88423489639?pwd=TW5NQ0lrblHhZb1ZyeC9rZFYveThCZz09>.

September is National Senior Center Month - Discover Yours



September is National Senior Center Month which showcases senior centers across the United States that provide valuable programs to older adults and their caregivers. The National Institute for Senior Center's theme is *Discover Yours*. There are over 10,000 senior centers in communities across the county that provide access to information, meal programs, socialization, and wellness programs. For further information about what your senior center provides and to *Discover Yours* please contact your senior center today.

- **Carteret County**- Leon Mann Jr. Enrichment Center, 252-638-1790
- **Craven County**- George Street Senior Center, 252-638-1790
- **Craven County** - Havelock Senior Center, 252-444-6535
- **Duplin County**- Duplin Senior Services, 910-296-2140
- **Greene County**- Greene County Senior Center, 252-747-5436
- **Lenoir County**- Lenoir County Council on Aging, 2525-527-1545
- **Onslow County**- Onslow Senior Services, 910-455-2747
- **Pamlico County**- Pamlico County Senior Services, 252-745-3488
- **Wayne County**- Wayne County Services on Aging, 919-731-1591

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF): Preparing for the Audit

As detailed in previous [posts](#), all NC counties and municipalities received federal grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover Fund (ARP/CSLFRF). There are detailed expenditure guidelines, and compliance and reporting requirements for these grant funds. A local government's auditor plays an important role in monitoring compliance with these requirements and flagging any issues during the annual audit process. Most NC local governments spent at least some of their ARP/CSLFRF funds this fiscal year, and it's time to start preparing for the annual audit. The following is a summary of the ARP/CSLFRF grant and helpful resources for a local government and its auditor in preparing for this significant compliance check.

Brief Overview of ARP/CSLFRF – The ARP/CSLFRF is a federal grant program that provided funding to the state, counties, and municipalities for a mix of COVID-related and general government expenditures. Eligible projects are defined in four broad areas:

1. Responding to COVID-19 and Its Negative Economic Impact
2. Revenue Replacement
3. Premium Pay
4. Necessary Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Broadband Infrastructure

US Treasury has defined in detail what qualifies as lawful expenditures in each of these categories. And North Carolina local governments also must ensure that they have state law authority for the expenditures. (There are some expenditures authorized by the grant that are not authorized for NC local governments under state law. For the full article, visit [ARP - Preparing for the Audit](#).

ECC is assisting the Town of Oriental with its 160D update. Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes consolidated city- and county-enabling statutes for development regulations (formerly in Chapters 153A and 160A) into a single, unified chapter. Chapter 160D placed these statutes into a more logical, coherent organization. All city and county zoning, subdivision, and other development regulations, including unified-development ordinances, should be updated to conform to the new law.

In addition to an ordinance compliance review, the 160D legislation also requires a current Comprehensive and/or Land Use Plan. ECC is currently working with the Town of Pink Hill on its Comprehensive Plan.

Communities that are not 160D compliant are strongly encouraged to contact ECC Executive Director David Bone at 252-638-3185, ext. 3005 or at executivedirector@eccog.org.

Consider Hosting a Golden LEAF Intern in Summer 2024

This summer, Golden LEAF hosted its second cohort of Rural Internship Initiative participants. This program supports Golden LEAF Scholars with professional work experience related to their career field in a rural North Carolina community. The Golden LEAF Foundation provides funding to pay interns \$15/hour for up to 400 hours of work. Internships take place over 8-10 weeks, between May and August. For more information, visit <https://scholars.goldenleaf.org/rii/>

Scholars intern in a wide range of settings, including businesses, governmental entities, and nonprofits. Common fields of interest are health care, human services, government/public administration, engineering, education, and journalism/communication.

Golden LEAF Scholars are responsible for identifying a site to complete their internship. In preparation for the upcoming summer 2024 internship season, Golden LEAF is gathering information from entities interested in hosting an intern next summer. There is no commitment to host an intern. Internship site information can be found at <https://scholars.goldenleaf.org/rii/sites/#survey>, which will be shared with Scholars in the fall of 2023 as a resource to locate internship sites. If you have any questions, please contact Arlena Ratliff, Golden LEAF Scholarship Program Manager, at rii@goldenleaf.org.

ECC Assisting Faison with Grant Administration - Grant Writing and Grant Administration Services Are Available to ECC Communities

As was reported in June, ECC Community Planner Holly C. Lippitt assisted the Town of Faison with a Rural Transformation Grant application re-submittal, and the town received a grant award of \$180,000 to make improvements to their town park. Holly is now assisting the town with grant administration services.

If you are interested in ECC helping your community with grant writing and/or grant administration, please contact Community Planner Holly C. Lippitt (hcraighead@eccog.org, 252-638-3185, ext. 3021) or Executive Director David Bone (executivedirector@eccog.org, 252-638-3185, ext. 3005).

ECC Auction of Surplus Items

ECC is conducting an online auction of some surplus furniture. The items are online at <https://eccog.org/eastern-carolina-council-private-auction/>. The auction runs through September 7th at 3:00 p.m.

Registration Now Open for ECC's Eastern NC Transportation Summit on Oct. 19th

ECC will be hosting a **Regional Transportation Summit** on **Thursday, Oct. 19th – 9:30-3:00** at Craven County's Riverfront Convention Center. Thank you to Craven County for helping to sponsor this event! Registration is now open for ECC's Eastern Carolina Transportation Summit to elected officials, local and state government staff, Highway 70 Commission Board Members, Highway 17-64 Association Board Members, RPO/MPO Board Members, economic development professionals, and sponsoring organizations. The event will include updates on regional transportation projects / issues and a discussion about the intersection of investments in transportation infrastructure and economic development. The keynote speaker will be the new NCDOT Secretary Joey Hopkins (effective Oct. 1st). Lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration for the Transportation Summit is required. To register, visit:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejym2bkj7a4d13d7>

2023 BRIC/FEMA LOI

This is part of an outreach effort by NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Hazard Mitigation to encourage towns and counties to submit their infrastructure needs by the **October 2, 2023 Letter of Interest via EMGrants by the 5:00 PM deadline** for the BRIC/FMA2023 grant competition. Over **\$2.3B is expected to be available** in the Building Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) grant program and another \$800M in the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program. This can be for shovel-ready construction projects that mitigate the risk of a natural hazard to public infrastructure or plans and studies to help develop future projects (called Capabilities & Capacity Building or C&CB proposals).

The first step is to submit the LOI. After the LOI panel review, technical assistance in preparing these applications may be available from a variety of sources. FEMA has aligned these funds with the JUSTICE40 Initiative, directing 40% to benefit disadvantaged communities. There are helpful tools and a 1-hour webinar about the program at www.NCDPS.gov/BRIC.

Feel free to email directly any questions to Kaine.Riggan@ncdps.gov.

WEBINARS



UNC, Chapel Hill, School of Government Class – “LELA 301: Emotional Intelligence: a

Key to Extraordinary Leadership” will be offered **on Sept. 13th**. This class is ideally suited for anyone who is interested in improving their self-awareness in interactions with others and becoming a positive influence on others in their communities. Included is a confidential personal assessment of your emotional self-awareness, and breakouts include personal coaching that is unique to the individual. Registration information is available at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/lela-301-emotional-intelligence-your-key-extraordinary-leadership>.

ECC Hosting “Flood Insurance & the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)” Training on Sept. 12th

David Holcomb, ISO/CRS Specialist, works for the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) and is contracted by FEMA to do fieldwork on the Community Rating System (CRS) as the contact for NC communities. He will co-present a hybrid training session entitled, *Flood Insurance and the NFIP*, on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 1:00-2:00 at Eastern Carolina Council's (ECC) 3rd Floor Conference Room and via online.

ECC's Community Planner, Holly C. Lippitt, will introduce the subject of the Community Rating System (CRS), which is a voluntary program for municipalities to consider for residential and business owners to identify, implement, and manage community activities on mitigation, floodplain management, and outreach through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). David Holcomb will provide information about the program and the application process; he will

explain what the community initially needs to do, the CRS Series activities, and how communities can progress through the program as he provides follow-up technical assistance. He will guide municipalities towards potentially reduced flood insurance premiums by flood protection activities and outcomes. He will demonstrate how to apply as a community member and plan/administer CRS activities to maintain and increase their CRS score to be eligible for NFIP insurance and become an integral part of floodplain management.

The training session will focus on 3 NFIP goals:

- Provide flood insurance to property owner,
- Encourage flood loss reduction activities by communities, and
- Save taxpayer's money.

To register for the training, visit: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejxsi9ntf466fb51>.

ECC Hosting “FEMA, Region 4: Identifying, Preparing for, and Submitting FEMA’s Preparedness Grants for ULGs” on Sept. 28th

FEMA’s BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant program supports states and local governments as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.

On September 28th at 1:00 p.m., ECC is hosting a BRIC/ FEMA Grant Preparedness workshop. Kaine Riggan, Grant Development Specialist with the NC Department of Public Safety, will provide the program. Kaine will provide a general overview, deadlines, and other information about 4 FEMA and 3 DEQ grant programs to help prepare for application submittal. He will also share the latest VI scores (2020) for Eastern Carolina’s Economically Disadvantaged Rural Areas.

Register for the hybrid training to be held in the ECC Conference Room on Sept. 28th at 1:00 PM:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejym2bfi7d3a0484>.



NC Department of Public Safety, FEMA Hazard Mitigation partners, *All Together for Climate Resilient Communities: Equity, Partnerships, Capability and Capacity*, a virtual workshop will be held between **Oct. 16-19 from 12:00 noon to 4:45 PM**. Visit, <https://hmpartnersworkshop.vfairs.com/en> .



UNC School of Government - ARP Office Hours

The School of Government just released new dates:

- Tuesday, September 12 – 8:30-9:30 a.m. (Focus on Opioid Settlement Funds)
- Thursday, September 21 – 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Focus on ARPA Basics)
- Tuesday, September 26 – 8:30-9:30 a.m. (Focus on Procurement)
- Tuesday, October 3 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, October 12 – 12:00-1:00 p.m. (Focus on Subawards)
- Thursday, October 19 – 8:30-10:30 a.m. (Focus on ARPA Basics)
- Tuesday, October 24 – 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 31 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.

ZOOM LOG IN

Here is the new Zoom Log in for all Office Hour Sessions:

<https://zoom.us/j/95481909044?pwd=UIE2VHNhN2luSoJEYTJqcTZTMFRWdz09>

Meeting ID: 954 8190 9044

Passcode: 779726

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,95481909044# US

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS/EVENTS

FEMA, *Flood Insurance and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Training*, ECC Conference Room and virtual (hybrid), Sept. 12th, 1:00-2:00 PM. To register, visit <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejxsi9ntf466fb51>.

ECC Executive Committee Meeting, ECC Conference Room, Sept. 14th, Dinner - 6:00 PM, Meeting, 6:30 PM.

DERPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting, ECC Conference Room, Sept. 19th, 10:00 AM.

ECRPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Technical Advisory Committee Joint Meeting, La Grange Community Center, Sept. 21st, 9:30 AM.

DERPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting, ECC Conference Room, Sept. 26th, 10:00 AM.

FEMA, *Region 4: Identifying, Preparing for, and Submitting FEMA's preparedness grants for ULGs* hosted by Kaine Riggan, ECC Conference Room and virtual (hybrid), Sept. 28th, 1:00 PM. Register here: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejym2bfi7d3a0484>.

Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC) Meeting, ECC Offices, Oct. 9, 10:00 AM.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature Committee (STHL) Meeting, ECC Offices, Oct. 9, 11:00 AM.

ECC General Membership Board Meeting, ECC Conference Room, Oct. 12th, Dinner – 6:00 PM, Meeting, 6:30 PM.

Eastern Carolina Regional Transportation Summit – *Investments in Transportation – a Driving Force in Economic Development*, Craven County's Riverfront Convention Center, New Bern, Oct. 19th, 9:30-3:00. To register, <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=gppuxoyab&oeidk=a07ejym2bkj7a4d13d7>

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