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## ECC'S DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Regional Digital Inclusion Plan

As part of ECC's partnership with North Carolina State University's Institute for Emerging Issues (NCSU IEI) and the NCSU Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, a Regional Digital Inclusion Plan is being developed for the 9-county region.

A digital inclusion plan will support the region's efforts to increase broadband access and use, and computer literacy. Carteret, Duplin, and Onslow Counties already have digital inclusion plans in place and their data will be included in the 9-county regional plan.

Residents of Greene County participated in a Digital Inclusion plan listening session on Nov. 15th at

Greene County's Senior Center in Snow Hill. ECC held its 2nd Digital Inclusion Listening Session at Heartworks in Pamlico on Nov. 18th.

We look forward to continuing this project in collaboration with our partners for Craven, Jones, Lenoir, and Wayne Counties in the future.

ECC will hold a Lenoir County Digital Inclusion Plan Listening Session at the Kinston Teens' East Kinston Neighborhood Hub at 815 Tower Hill Road in Kinston on Dec. 9th at 6:00 PM.



Partners from NCSU include (L-R) Dr. Stella Jackman-Ryan, Adama Washington, and Oscar Miranda-Tapin.



Digital Inclusion Plan Listening Session on Nov. 15th at Greene County's Senior Center in Snow Hill.



Thanks to Greene Co. Senior Services Director Sharon Harrison for hosting the listening session in Greene County!



Digital Inclusion Listening Session at Heartworks in Pamlico on Nov. 18th.



Thanks to Debbie Stribling, of Pamlico County's Heartworks, and everyone who is supporting this effort throughout the region!



Digital Inclusion Listening Session at Heartworks in Pamlico on Nov. 18th.

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## Regional Opioid Asset Mapping Project

All nine Eastern Carolina Council counties are collaborating with ECC to develop a regional, comprehensive assessment across the continuum of care for adult substance use disorder. The primary goal of the assessment map is to identify gaps that can be addressed through services in regional collaboration.

The Recovery Alliance Initiative (RAI) is an organization with whom ECC is partnering to bring sectors of communities together to explore opportunities for collaboration and solutions to address the opioid epidemic. We appreciate all 9 counties for supporting this effort, because together we will be better able to address the opioid crisis!

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### **ECC Hosts City-County Managers, Mayors, and Economic Developers at Seymour Johnson AFB:**

ECC hosted a quarterly City-County Managers, Mayors, and Economic Developers Meeting on Friday, November 22nd at Seymour-Johnson AFB. The meeting included a mission brief and base tour. Thank you to everyone who attended and special thanks to Seymour Johnson AFB for being such gracious hosts, as well as for the service they provide!

Participants learned a great deal about the work of the personnel at the base, including how they collaborate and partner with Wayne County, Goldsboro, the State of NC, and other stakeholders. We made

great connections and look forward to exploring new opportunities for collaboration and support for our region's military community.



**Magnolia Hires Charles Banks as Town Manager:** ECC assisted the Town of Magnolia with its recent Town Manager search. ECC appreciated this opportunity to work with Mayor Dawn Ward and the Town Board, and we are excited to welcome Charles Banks to the ECC region as the Magnolia Town Manager.

### **NC Chapter of the American Planning Association - Senate Bill 382:**

In an APA Email, the NC Chapter offered an Update on SB 382 that they opined would limit local government authority in zoning administration and community planning. Reportedly, last week, Governor Cooper vetoed Senate Bill 382. The Chapter's analysis identified these potential areas of interest:

- Retroactive applicability to decisions made six months in the past
- Conflicts with state requirements
- Impacts to extra territorial jurisdiction and voluntary annexation
- Barriers to updating and amending land use regulations in response to community and market needs
- Unintended impacts to the zoning entitlements process
- Modifies local governments' ability to implement long-term planning strategies

To view the bill and status, visit <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/2023/S382>. The APA is committed to continuing coordination with the League of Municipalities and the Association of County Commissioners to advocate for sound planning practices and the protection of local authority. The Chapter's legislative committee will monitor the status of Senate Bill 382 when the Legislature reconvenes in December. (On December 2nd, the NC Senate voted to override the veto. The House would still need to consider a veto override, which may happen this week.) For insights on the NC APA Chapter, go to: <https://www.planning.org/aboutapa/>.



### **Register for Essentials of Government, offered by UNC School of Government's County/Municipal:**

UNC-School of Government (UNC-SOG), in coordination with the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCAACC) and NC League of Municipalities (NCLM), is offering the Essentials of Government course. It covers topics such as, government law and authority by clarifying roles and responsibilities, instructs in finance, budgets, and fiduciary duty, and specifies the legal boundaries of ethics, conflicts of interest, and open government.

Below are links to each course:

- **Essentials of Municipal Government** – <https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/essentials-municipal-government>, Jan. 9-10, 2025, New Bern.
- **Essentials of County Government** – <https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/essentials-county-government>, Jan. 16-17, 2025, New Bern.

**ECC will host Ethics Training for Elected Officials on Wed., Feb. 5th, from 6:00-9:00 PM.** –Once again ECC is partnering with Attorney David Baxter of Sumrell

Sugg to provide the required ethics training for newly-elected and re-elected local government officials. The training will be held on Feb. 5th at the ECC Offices; a light dinner (pizza) will be served. To register for the event, visit <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/fbra7sw/lp/85a6f88f-e779-41e2-856c-6b081da86520>.

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## ECC Area Agency on Aging (AAA) News

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Congratulations to ECCAAA staff member Angelia Pridgen, Lead Regional Ombudsman, for her 20 years of services as a NC Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselor. Angelia assists individuals with Medicare Part D and supplemental information, and she has played an active role across the region at county enrollment events and has conducted one-on-one counseling sessions. Join us in congratulating Angelia Pridgen for her many years of service as a SHIIP counselor.

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### 2024 National Family Caregivers Month: Recognizing And Supporting Caregivers



### **National Family Caregivers Month in November recognized and supported caregivers.**

It was a time to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country. It offered an opportunity to raise awareness of caregiving issues, educate communities, and increase support for caregivers. ECCAAA providers across the region hosted events to celebrate caregivers in our communities, which included the Wayne County

Caregiver Day Out event; Lenoir County Council on Aging Caregiver Candlelight Vigil; Duplin County Senior Services Caregiver Candlelight Vigil; caregiver support group celebrations; and many other events. Caregivers received information and resources to assist them in their caregiver roles. ECCAAA staff assembled and distributed 245 caregiver gifts for providers to celebrate their caregivers.

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*See the person, not the Dementia.*

On Nov. 5th, Lenoir Co. Law Enforcement participants engaged in the Dementia Live large group simulation to learn empathy for those diagnosed with Dementia.

ECCAAA continues to provide community Dementia Live simulation training throughout the region through the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

Participants also received training on caregiver crisis interventions, older adult crisis interventions, behaviors, normal aging versus not normal aging, elder abuse, and the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program.

**Holiday Events at Senior Centers Across the Region:** The holidays are upon us and many Senior Centers will be hosting events to celebrate. As these events are made available to us, we will share them!

Craven County Senior Center will host a Christmas event on Dec. 13th, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at 811 George St, New Bern.

Duplin Senior Center will host a Christmas event on Dec. 11th, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM at the Duplin County Events Center, Kenansville.

Greene County Senior Center will host numerous Christmas celebration events during December:

- Dec. 3rd, 6:00 PM - "A Very Merry Christmas Party" at the Senior Center.
- Dec. 7th - Snow Hill Christmas Parade - Senior Games participants in float.
- Dec. 10th, 10:30 AM - Pre-K Center Christmas program at the Senior Center.
- Dec. 12th, 9:00 AM - Intermediate School Choir program at the Senior Center.
- Dec. 19th, 10:00 AM - Greene County Middle School Mini Band Concert & hot chocolate social.
- Dec. 20th - Party with Santa-Carols, meal, and presents at the Senior Center.

Jones County Senior Center will host an "Elder Cheer" event on Dec. 12th at the Jones County Senior Center, Trenton. This event is specifically designed for senior site participants and residents of local long term care facilities. For more information, please contact the Jones County Senior Center at (252) 448-7571.

Pamlico Senior Services and EP7 Youth Outreach will host an event, "Surviving the Holidays," to prepare for the holiday on Dec. 13th, 9:00-11:00 AM. On December 20th from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM there will be a Christmas Party, and at 2:00 PM, Pamlico Senior Services and EP7 Outreach will host a special community event to remember lost loved ones.

Wayne County's Senior Center will host a Christmas celebration on Dec. 4th, 10:00 AM-1:30 PM, the Maxwell Center, Goldsboro. This is a "ticketed" event for about 200 older adults. All tickets have been distributed, but there are about 100 older adults who are still on the waiting list.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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ECC Grant Writing Workshop, Dec. 3 and 4, 9:00-4:30, ECC Board Room.

Christmas holidays, Dec. 24-27, ECC office - closed.

New Year's holiday, Jan. 1, ECC office - closed.

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## STAY CONNECTED!

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Eastern Carolina Council Mission - *to improve the region's quality of life by providing human, planning, and economic development services to local governments and area residents by leveraging resources and collaborating regionally.*

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