



ECC'S MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



NEWS AND EVENTS



Pollocksville's Mayor Jay Bender receives the Order of the Long Pine Award. ECC Board Member and Pollocksville's Mayor, Jay Bender, was presented the Order of the Long Pine Award on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at Town Hall recognizing more than 40 years of distinguished public service.

Since 1963, the governors of North Carolina have awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to individuals who have significantly contributed to the state and their communities through exceptional service and accomplishments. Recipients of this honor are celebrated as honorary "Ambassadors" of North Carolina, with their names and award dates recorded in a list maintained by The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society.



Craven County Highway Construction Progress with US-70 Projects

- Havelock's Bypass project is 87.07% complete.
- James City projects are 48.79% complete and are expected to be finished as of Aug. 8th.



Governor announces awardees of Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Program. Governor Josh Stein announced funding awards for North Carolina Information Technology's (NCDIT) *Completing Access to Broadband* (CAB) Program. The CAB program is a competitive bidding program that provides an opportunity for individual N.C. counties to partner with NCDIT to fund broadband deployment projects in unserved and

underserved areas of each participating county. Four hundred million dollars was appropriated from the American Rescue Plan for this program. In partnership with counties, NCDIT developed a competitive process for prequalified internet service providers to bid on broadband infrastructure deployments. Participating counties work with NCDIT to mutually identify eligible project areas and develop the scope of work for the procurement of construction, installation and operation of broadband infrastructure in the targeted project areas. Projects require matching investments from the selected broadband service providers. No county may receive more than \$8 million in aggregate funding from the CAB fund in a single year.

As of Feb. 28, 2025, the following counties within ECCs region have received CAB funding:

- Craven – CAB – Spectrum - construction to be completed 2/16/2026.
- Jones – CAB – Brightspeed construction to be completed 10/31/2026.
- Onslow – CAB – Spectrum construction to be completed 12/11/2025.
- Pamlico – CAB – Brightspeed construction to be completed 2/19/2026 and CAB – Brightspeed construction to be completed 10/31/2026.

For more information of all NCDIT Broadband deployment awards visit:

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/dashboards/awards-program>.

PLANNING NOTES

Are you 160D compliant? North Carolina General Statute Chapter 160D, is the combining and modernization of county and city enabling statutes for local development regulation, took effect on June 19, 2020. The deadline to adopt updates conforming local development regulations to Chapter 160D was July 1, 2021. Communities with zoning, subdivision, and other types of development ordinances must be compliant with 160D.

Are your ordinances 160D-compliant? Check the following:

- Does your ordinance frequently reference 153A or 160A?
- Does your ordinance refer to hearings to solicit public comment on a legislative decision as a “public hearing” instead of “legislative hearing”?
- Does your ordinance fail to reference conflict of interest standards that must be followed by governing and appointed board members and staff?

If you answered “yes,” or are unsure about any of the points above, your ordinances may need to be updated for 160D compliance. Please keep in mind, conformance with these enabling statutes are not optional. They are necessary for the administration and enforcement of the regulations that protect your community.

Please contact Carlton Gideon, Senior Community Planner, cgideon@eccog.org, to evaluate becoming compliant with NCGS 160D.

AREA ON AGING (AAA) NEWS



FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING: MAY 2025

Focus on Older Americans Month 2024 through Regional Celebration Events. “Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation’s observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). The 2025 theme is *Flip the Script on Aging*, which focuses on transforming how society perceives, talks about, and approaches aging. It encourages individuals and communities to challenge stereotypes and dispel misconceptions. This year, join us in honoring older adults’ contributions, exploring the many opportunities for staying active and engaged as we age, and highlighting the opportunities for purpose, exploration, and connection that come with aging. Senior Centers across our region will be partnering with community agencies to host community events to celebrate older adults. These events included informational health fairs, luncheons, activities, and awareness walks. For further information about events in your county during the month of May please contact your local Senior Center and for further information on Older Americans Month visit <https://acl.gov/oam/2025/older-americans-month-2025>.



Wayne County dancers.



Greene County dancers.



Duplin County dancers.



Craven County Seniors perform.

ECC AAA held its annual volunteer appreciation luncheon on April 3rd.



Members of ECC's Regional Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL).



Members of ECC's Community Advisory Committee (CAC).



Members of the Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC).



Appreciation of Ossie Keyes' dedication to long-term care residents.



The Volunteer Reception.

AAA Ombudsman, Angelia Pridgen, Provided a Presentation at the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on April 4th.

AAA Attended Neighbors Helping Neighbors Workshop, which is a new respite program coming to New Bern later in 2025. ECC AAA staff attended the Neighbors Helping Neighbors community group meeting recently to learn about the new family caregiver respite program starting in New Bern. Additionally, AAA Staff presented its services and the New Bern Project Lifesaver Program.

AAA Supported a Recent Family Caregiver Support Program Association Meeting. AAA Staff Member, January Brown, facilitated the NC Family Caregiver Support Program Association meeting in Raleigh on April 10th. Staff provided an informational presentation on how AAA utilizes the Dementia Live Simulation training; members discussed new programs, life after ARPA funding, and many more Senior opportunities. AAA Staff also attended the DHHS NC Family Caregiver Support Program and Project CARE state training on April 11th. Members received informational presentations from Dementia Alliance NC, the Alzheimer's Association, NC Lifespan Respite, and updates from DHHS staff consultants.



ECU Intern, Elayna Arthur, won a poster award. ECCAAA hosted Elyna Arthur as a Social Work undergraduate intern this spring. Congratulations to Elyna Arthur for recently winning a poster award during ECU Research's Creative Activity Week! She created her poster entitled, "Exploring College Student Perception of Older Adults: A Photo Reflection Assignment." Elayna plans to continue her education by pursuing her Master's degree in Social Work.

Focus on Elder Abuse Awareness on June 15th. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) and many of ECC's regional communities will host events to promote awareness

in May and June (between Mother's Day and Father's Day). WEAAD provides the opportunity to promote communities around the world with a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. ECCAAA and various Senior centers are preparing for related events during May and June.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

May - Older Americans Month 2025 - *Flip the Script on Aging*.

ECRPO TCC and TAC Meetings, May 15, 9:30-10:30 AM, La Grange Community Center.

DERPO TCC Meeting, May 20, 10:00-11:00 AM, ECC Board Room and Zoom.

Memorial Day Holiday, May 26, ECC Office - closed.

DERPO TAC Meeting, May 27, 10:00-11:30 AM, ECC Board Room and Zoom.

RESCHEDULED ECC Executive Committee Meeting, May 29, 6:00 PM Dinner, 6:30 PM Meeting, ECC Offices.

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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.*

Eastern Carolina Council | PO Box 1717 | New Bern, NC 28560 US

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