



## MCRC Weekly Newsletter February 24, 2023

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### Notable Notes From the Region

**-New Hire at MCRC:** The Mid-Carolina Regional Council recently hired Ray Bolton as its new Business Services Engagement Manager. A seasoned Workforce Development professional, Mr. Bolton served as the One Stop Coordinator for multiple regions and Workforce Investment Boards in Virginia. In those roles he was responsible for regional coordination of workforce services, developed regional partnerships with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors, and supervised all local career center managers to ensure effective service delivery. Please join us in wishing Ray the best of luck as we welcome him to the team!

**-Upcoming Storytelling Festival at Festival Park:** The Cumberland County Public Library will be holding its 14th annual Storytelling Festival kickoff event on Saturday, March 4 at Festival Park in Fayetteville. The event begins at 2:00 PM, and is a free, family-friendly event. This year, Carolina Storyteller, a bilingual storyteller and performer, will explore the myths, legends, folktales, historical narratives and literature of Latin America and Hispanic cultures. In case of rain, the festival kickoff event will be held at Headquarters Library located at 300 Maiden Lane, in downtown Fayetteville.

**-Harnett County Hires New Marketing Director for Economic Development:** Harnett County announced Elizabeth Edwards as its first Marketing Director for Economic Development earlier this week. Ms. Edwards brings over 15 years of experience leading digital marketing and communication initiatives, serving most recently as the Director of Communications and Donor Relations at William Peace University. She also previously led an alumni engagement communications strategy for Campbell University, guided communications and digital marketing efforts for the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, and supported global branding, economic development, and tourism-related promotions for the North Carolina Department of

Commerce. Congratulations Elizabeth and welcome back to the Mid-Carolina Region.



Elizabeth Edwards will have oversight of internal and external marketing strategies, playing a central role in positioning the community for the attraction of new jobs, investment, and overnight stays.

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## Mid-Carolina Regional Council Annual Meeting

The Mid-Carolina Regional Council will be holding its annual meeting and regional dinner on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:00 PM at Campbell University's Oscar N. Harris Student Union Banquet Hall. The event is our region's premier gathering of local governments and partner organizations from across the Mid-Carolina Region. The event serves as an opportunity to reconnect, build cross-community relationships, share best practices, and collaborate on emerging issues. For more information on

becoming a partner or sponsor for the event, please [click here](#). For anyone interested in attending the dinner, please RSVP to [jhembree@mccog.org](mailto:jhembree@mccog.org) or [swullenwaber@mccog.org](mailto:swullenwaber@mccog.org) by March 1.

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## Save the Date for Mid-Carolina Senior Games

It's almost that time of the year, the Mid-Carolina Senior Games are only a little ways away! This year will be the 37th Annual Mid-Carolina Senior Games taking place in Cumberland, Harnett and Sampson counties. While opening ceremonies are just around the corner, registration for the games is still open. Click this [link](#) to sign up and register for the numerous sports events or Silver Arts categories open. Make sure to register before March 10 for the early bird deadline! The final deadline to register for the Mid-Carolina Senior Games is March 31. The Mid-Carolina Senior Games is for participants aged 50 and over. If you have any additional questions regarding the Senior Games or would be interested in volunteering for any of the events, please email Lashonda Gough at [lgough@mccog.org](mailto:lgough@mccog.org).

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## Updated Local Government Services

The Local Government Commission of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer has added and updated the information of firms wishing to provide audit and non-audit accounting services to local governments throughout the state. If you are interested in the potential services offered, the web page can be accessed [here](#), or by clicking on the state and local government finance division link on [www.nctreasurer.com](http://www.nctreasurer.com).

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### Free Network Security Assessment from NC National Guard Cyber Security Response Force

The North Carolina National Guard Cyber Security Response Force is offering free network security and vulnerability assessments to NC state, local, territorial, and tribal entities. Their mission is to assist state and local government agencies minimize exposure to cyber criminals in the digital domain. An average assessment takes 4 days, with no impact on your network operations or services. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity or learn more, please reach out to Joseph Chytka at [joseph.m.chytka.nfg@army.mil](mailto:joseph.m.chytka.nfg@army.mil).

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### Upcoming COG Events

**Monday, February 27:** Cape Fear Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Free Classes, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM (start and end times subject to change), Mid-Carolina Regional Council 6205 Raeford Road, Fayetteville, NC 28304. Lunch cost \$10/day For more information, please contact Barbara White at [bwhite@mccog.org](mailto:bwhite@mccog.org) or 910-323-4191. To view event flyer, please [click here](#).

**Tuesday, February 28:** Cape Fear Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Free Classes, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM (start and end times subject to change), Mid-Carolina Regional Council 6205 Raeford Road, Fayetteville, NC 28304. Lunch cost \$10/day For more information, please contact Barbara White at [bwhite@mccog.org](mailto:bwhite@mccog.org) or 910-323-4191. To view event flyer, please [click here](#).

**Thursday, March 2:** Aging Advisory Council & Senior Tar Heel Legislature Meeting, 2:00 PM, Harnett County Resource Center & Library, 1st floor training room #103 A, 455 McKinney Pkwy (adjacent to the Harnett County Courthouse), Lillington, NC Please contact Tracy Honeycutt at [thoneycutt@mccog.org](mailto:thoneycutt@mccog.org) for any questions.

**Tuesday, March 7:** Matter of Balance, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM, Tokay Senior Center, 328 W. Hamilton St., Fayetteville, NC 28304 To register, please call 910-433-1414. [Click here](#) to view the flyer.

**Wednesday, March 8:** Mid-Carolina Regional Council Annual Meeting & Dinner, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM, Campbell University, Oscar N. Harris Student Union Banquet Hall, 445 Leslie Campbell Avenue, Buies Creek, North Carolina. We hope you can join us for our annual meeting, dinner and caucuses! Please RSVP by March 1 to [JHembree@mccog.org](mailto:JHembree@mccog.org) or [SWullenwaber@mccog.org](mailto:SWullenwaber@mccog.org).

**Thursday, March 9:** Transform the Way You Care: Free Caregiver Virtual Reality Experiences, Held all day through **appointment only**, Mid-Carolina Regional Council 6205 Raeford Road, Fayetteville, NC 28304. To make an appointment, please contact Barbara White at [bwhite@mccog.org](mailto:bwhite@mccog.org), or 910-323-4191, ext. 28 or Carla Smith, 910-323-4191, ext. 23. This event is free, for more information on the event, please [click here](#).

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## SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

### UNC School of Government Worthwhile Reads

HIPAA and the Right of Access: OCR's Heightened Enforcement  
(Published 2/10/23) Read [here](#).

Aimee Wall Named Dean of the UNC School of Government  
(Published 2/20/23) Read [here](#).

Expending ARP/CSLFRF Funds for Local Government Employee Salary, Benefit, and  
Other Payroll Costs OUTSIDE of Revenue Replacement (For Local Governments with  
OVER \$10 Million Allocation Only)  
(Published 2/22/23) Read [here](#).



#### About Us

Mid-Carolina Council of Governments is a multi-county, planning, development, and human services organization. We reach across county and municipal borders to provide technical assistance to our local governments and to administer programs that benefit our region's citizens. Our mission is to provide creative regional solutions to relevant and emerging issues in Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson Counties while providing a standard of excellence in the delivery of federal, state, and regional services for our local governments and the people they serve.

Mid-Carolina Council of Governments | 6205 Raeford Road, Fayetteville, NC 28304  
910.323.4191

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