



In This Edition:

- [Message from Steve Keen](#)
- [NC Tomorrow](#)
- [CRC and Regional Leadership](#)
- [ECC and the Military](#)
- [Newly Elected Officer—ECC Services](#)
- [Doing What it Takes](#)
- [Hurricane Irene Recovery](#)



Message from Steve Keen, ECC President

Organizational and economic development leaders have recognized regionalism as the way of the future, and to this end your Council of Governments is working hard to make a positive difference region-wide. In the past three months, the Area Agency on Aging has assisted many seniors cope with the devastation caused by Hurricane Irene. From an economic recovery stand point, ECC has joined with two other Regional Councils to apply for an Economic Development Administration grant that will assist local governments impacted by Irene with both recovery and future disaster mitigation.

As we all know, one of the region's most important economic engines is the military and related support facilities, both of which are critical components of the Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. In this newsletter you can read about the

Council's support of the military and its participation in an effort to develop a state-wide economic development strategy that will further strengthen regional efforts to support the military and other regional business sectors attain sustainable growth.

And finally, the Council's success ultimately depends on the leadership and hard work of its staff. In this issue we highlight the success of several Area Agency on Aging staff members who provide both advanced training and leadership to programs for older adults.



NC Tomorrow.....A Collaborative for Sustainable Economic Growth

The Eastern Carolina Council is one of sixteen Regional Councils that serve all one hundred North Carolina counties. As a group, organized as the NC Association of Regional Councils, the sixteen regional councils are joining with the US Department of Economic Development, the NC Department of Commerce (Community Development Division), and the SAS Institute of Cary, NC to create a statewide comprehensive economic development strategy. The statewide economic development strategy supported by accurate data will serve as a "blueprint" for growth and development based on common sense, sustainable best practices. To accomplish this, the SAS Institute is developing a software tool specifically for use by planning professionals, economic development professionals, elected officials, and private industry developers. With solid data and the ability to accurately

analyze the data, the NC Tomorrow project will provide the basis for sustainable economic growth.

The project is funded by EDA and the NC Division of Community Assistance through its CDBG program. ECC will be receiving \$50,000 to develop the ECC regional comprehensive economic development strategy, which will roll up into the statewide strategy.

The NC Association of Regional Councils and its partners are working to develop a strong foundation for common sense development and growth that will create jobs for our citizens while conserving the natural resources that make North Carolina the special place it has always been – a place where companies can thrive and grow their businesses and where families want to live.

Hurricane Irene Recovery Grant

in matching funds for an Economic Development Administration Hurricane Irene Recovery Grant. The grant is being awarded to the Albemarle Commission, the Mid-East Commission and the Eastern Carolina Council to provide planning for disaster mitigation and economic recovery from Hurricane Irene. The \$50,000.00 grant from EDA will be matched with \$7,143.00 from each of the three regional councils for a total of \$71,429.00. *Continued on page 4.*

At its September 8, 2011 meeting, the ECC Executive Committee approved \$7,143.00





ECC AAA Establishes Community Resource Connections (CRC)

Community Resource Connections (CRC), a new program of the ECC Area Agency on Aging, aims to provide services in a smooth and seamless manner to older adults, adults with disabilities and their families. By working together and partnering with existing agencies such as Community Care Plan, Vocational Rehabilitation, County Departments of Social Services, Local Management Entities, and other agencies, the CRC strives to provide accurate, timely information and referrals. Where as, in the current system of care, consumers often times have to tell their story over and over in an attempt to find the right organization that can help.



Please welcome Misty Hill, the newest member of the ECC Area Agency on Aging team and coordinator of the Eastern Carolina Community Resource Connections. Misty is from the area and graduated from East Carolina University in 2000 with a Bachelor's degree in social work. She has worked with state and private agencies that focus on mental health and developmental

North Carolina has adopted a "no wrong door" philosophy, meaning that it should not matter where individuals go to seek information for long term care services. They should receive the right information at the right time to connect the individual or family with the appropriate services they need.

disabilities. Misty's experience with program development and implementation makes her the ideal candidate for this new ECC program. For more information about partnering with a CRC in your county, contact Misty Hill at 252-638-3185 extension 3014 or email at mhill@eccog.org.

ECC Employees Provide Regional Leadership

As certified Master Trainers for the Chronic Disease Self-Management and Diabetes Self-Management Programs, ECC Area Agency on Aging staff members Jillian Hardin and David Rosado not only provide training for the ECC region but have also trained leaders in counties covered by the Cape Fear Council of Governments, the Mid-East Commission, and the Albemarle Commission. In an area that covers the entire eastern part of North Carolina, nearly 50 leaders have been trained to conduct the *Living Healthy* workshops.



Tonya Cedars, Director of the ECC Area Agency on Aging, has been appointed to a two-year term as Second Vice-President of the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A). The Association seeks to encourage the development and enhancement of a coordinated and unified network on aging in the Southeast. SE4A advocates

The Living Healthy program promotes self-management skills to individuals with health conditions such as heart disease, cancer, arthritis, and diabetes. Individuals who participate in the program have reported improved health, fewer visits to their physician, and fewer trips to the hospital, resulting in a decrease in overall health care expenditures.

actions and education to increase visibility and credibility of the aging network and provides a unified voice to Congress and other interested parties for issues affecting older Americans. The Association also designs and implements specialized training to strengthen and enhance the Southeast Aging Network.

NEXT

Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

ECC and the Military



Many of you have probably attended one of Governor Beverly Perdue's regional military summits over the past several months. In our region, she has held summits in Havelock, Jacksonville, and Goldsboro. A state-wide summit is planned for November in Fayetteville.

In the current lackluster economy and Federal budget constraints, the region must come together with a strategy to protect and leverage military assets in the region. By attending events like the Governor's military summits, and supporting organizations like Allies for Cherry Points Tomorrow and the Eastern Region's Military Growth Task Force, ECC is in a position to bring planning and Federal grant resources to the table. For example, ECC applied for and received a planning grant to support the development of an emerging aerospace cluster in the region. This emerging manufacturing cluster includes Fleet Readiness Center East, the military, existing aerospace industries as well as new industries such as Spirit AeroSystems.

Because the military and aerospace related industries are significant employers in eastern North Carolina, ECC is committed to supporting programs to protect and grow the military's positive impact on the regional economy. A related article in this Newsletter, *NC Tomorrow – A Collaborative for Sustainable Economic Growth*, describes a state-wide initiative currently underway to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy to support common sense development that will include the region's military and aerospace assets.



Larry Gladney Elected 2nd VP

At its June 2011 meeting, the ECC General Membership Board elected Larry Gladney, a two-term Councilman from the Town of LaGrange in Lenoir County, to the position of Second Vice President. Mr. Gladney graduated from Old Dominion University (1971-1975) with a BS degree in environmental health. He served in the Navy from 1967-1973 and worked for 16 years in the US Department of Justice's Marshal Service. Mr. Gladney is a member of the National League of Cities, the Vietnam Chapter of America #892, the Disabled Veterans of America, and the St. Luke Free Will Baptist Church, where he serves as a Board Trustee. He also served as a past Board Member of the American Red Cross in Lenoir County.

The ECC General Membership Board and Executive Committee look forward to utilizing Mr. Gladney's experience and knowledge of the region to lead the Council of Governments.

ECC "Services"

As local governments work to do more with less, it may be time to tap into some of ECC's services. Fewer employees and tighter budgets may call for new responses to old and emerging issues and tasks.

The ECC planning staff is available to assist with planning and zoning issues. We have stepped in to help when municipalities were without a planner, when a small municipality cannot justify a fulltime position, or when a special project needs attention.

This is also a good time to re-examine and update existing plans or to create new plans in anticipation of an improving economy. Plans might include strategic plans, comprehensive plans, parks and Recreation plans, etc. Conducting citizen surveys can also provide guidance for a new direction when things get better. Surveys are especially useful as new faces populate the town and/or the town council.

ECC's key personnel search service can be very helpful when the need to fill a key position comes up. We can provide you with an outline of these services and references upon request.

ECC is your council of governments and we stand ready to help when asked. To find out more about ECC's services, contact Larry Moolenaar at lmoolenaar@eccog.org or Judy Hills at jhills@eccog.org.



Doing What it Takes



The AAA staff is to be commended for the work they did to prepare for Hurricane Irene and for their extra effort after the storm. A lot of planning and coordination goes into making sure meals on wheels and congregate meal recipients have emergency meals delivered prior to a storm, even if it means moving meals from Duplin to Pamlico County in your own vehicle (see picture).

Continued from page 1.....Hurricane Irene Recovery Grant

Performance measures for the grant include a list of communities assisted and the type of assistance provided. All local governments impacted by Hurricane Irene will be contacted and offered technical assistance related to economic recovery and disaster mitigation. The ECC Board will receive progress reports in six months and one year of receiving the grant funds.

You are Invited to the ECC Leadership Awards Banquet

Every year the Eastern Carolina Council hosts a leadership awards banquet to recognize outstanding local and regional leadership. Award categories include advocacy for older Americans, local projects, regional projects, and transportation projects.

Nominations for past awards have recognized individuals for their leadership in successfully implementing critical projects, for creating new programs, for working or volunteering long hours on a regional or local project, for a lifetime of commitment to an organization or a cause, or for outstanding advocacy.

This festive holiday event will be held at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center on Thursday, December 8, 2011. For more information and to make reservations, contact Mary Strickland at 252-638-3185 extension 3001 or at mstrickland@eccog.org.

2011 Annual Leadership Awards Banquet
RSVP Card

_____ *We will attend (number attending)*

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Guest: _____

Please respond no later than November 28, 2011

Mail RSVP to: *Mary Strickland
Eastern Carolina Council
P. O. Box 1717
New Bern, NC 28563*

Or e-mail: mstrickland@eccog.org