

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Western Piedmont Council of Governments. Don't forget to add jason.toney@wpcog.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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WPCOG - Newsletter

February 2020

Area Agency on Aging

- You Deserve a Break

Community & Economic Development

- Design Foundry Building Re-use of Old Baker Furniture Building

Community & Regional Planning

- Conducting the 2020 Census

Regional Housing Authority

- Ribbon Cutting Woodlane Street Apartments in Granite Falls

Transportation Planning

- Region Awarded Walkability Training

Workforce Development Board

Mark Your Calendars

Make sure to mark your calendars for April 23 and 24, 2020. April 23, will be the WPCOG Annual Meeting (Invitation only), beginning at 6pm with a social hour, followed by special guest speaker, Doug Griffiths. Doug will be speaking about "13 Ways to Kill Your Community." On April 24, Doug Griffiths will lead a 4 hour training to further dive into the details of "13 Ways to Kill You Community." This event is open to anyone who has a stake in or wants to learn how to productively shape the future growth, health and prosperity of the region. AICP credits will also be available for this event. Registration will open soon at www.wpcog.org. Stay tuned!



Community & Regional Planning

Conducting the 2020 Census Count



The 2020 Census is a massive undertaking. It requires counting a diverse and growing population in the United States and the five U.S. territories. To do this, the U.S. Census Bureau must:

- Make an accurate list of every residence in the U.S. and five U.S. territories-including houses, apartments, dormitories, military barracks, and more.
- Get a member of every residence to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail in March and April of 2020.
- Follow up in person with homes that have not responded.

Collecting Responses

There are three ways that the Census Bureau will initially collect responses from people for the 2020 Census: online, by phone, and by mail.

In mid-March, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census. By April 1, 2020, all households will have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home.

Starting in May 2020, the Census Bureau will begin following up in person with homes that have not responded to the census.

Counting Everyone in the Right Place

To ensure a complete and accurate count, the Census Bureau counts people at their usual residence, which is the place where they live and sleep most of the time, with a few exceptions (to learn more about these exceptions, go to the Census Bureau 2020 website [www.2020census.gov]). People who do not have a usual residence should be counted where they are on Census Day (April 1, 2020).

The Census Bureau has special processes in place to ensure that everyone in the 50 states, District of Columbia and five U.S. territories is counted. There are three ways that the Census Bureau will initially collect responses from people for the 2020 Census: online, by phone, and by mail.

Census 2020 Timeline

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance. Here is a look at some of the key dates along the way:

- March 12 - 20, 2020: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.
- March 30 - April 1: The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.
- April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. When you respond to the census, you will tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.
- April: Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Census takers also begin conducting quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.
- May - July: Census takers will begin visiting homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.
- December: The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.
- March 31, 2021: By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

For additional information concerning the 2020 Census, please visit the US Census Bureau's Census 2020 Website www.2020census.gov.

Article by Taylor Dellinger

Regional Housing Authority Ribbon Cutting Woodlane Street Apartments in Granite Falls

Regional Housing Authority Housing Specialist, Ashley Dale attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Woodlane Street Apartments in Granite Falls. Woodlane opened in December, 2019 and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher holder Ms. Marroquin was their first resident. Marroquin signed her lease on December 23, 2019. Before moving to Woodlane, her health suffered from living in unsanitary housing conditions. Since living at Woodlane, she has received reports that her health is improving drastically. During the ribbon cutting Marroquin was asked to cut the ribbon and share her experience with relocating to Woodlane Street Apartments as well as her improving health and new outlook on life. Her presentation was very moving. She expressed her gratefulness to be living in decent, safe and sanitary housing. *"This apartment complex is such a blessing to me."* - Marroquin said, during the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Ms. Marroquin, Woodlane Resident cutting the grand opening ribbon.



Ashley Dale, RHA | Cody Philyaw, Woodlane Property Manager | Ms. Marroquin, Woodlane Resident.

Marroquin is also a participant in our Family Self Sufficiency - REACH program. Marroquin began REACH in February of 2018. REACH is a family self-sufficiency program for Housing Choice Voucher participants. The REACH Coordinator supports families with referrals to community resources and services. Each participant is guided through a process to identify existing barriers in their lives. The coordinator helps those families create a plan and counsels families through steps to overcome those barriers and become self-sufficient. Marroquin is currently earning and saving money that will be distributed to her at the time of her graduation. *"It's programs like this that give people a chance. You have saved at least one life somewhere."* - Ms. Marroquin stated during the ribbon cutting ceremony

Article by Ashley Dale & Kala Guido

Transportation Region Awarded Walkability Training

WPCOG was recently selected among six regional teams across the US for training through the Walkability Action Institute. The Institute is funded by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD). NACDD realizes that making communities more walkable is not just a public health challenge, but also one involving planning, transportation, economic development, housing, transit, recreation, and other local issues. With this understanding, the training will empower a diverse delegation of area leaders in public health, transportation, planning, and elected office.

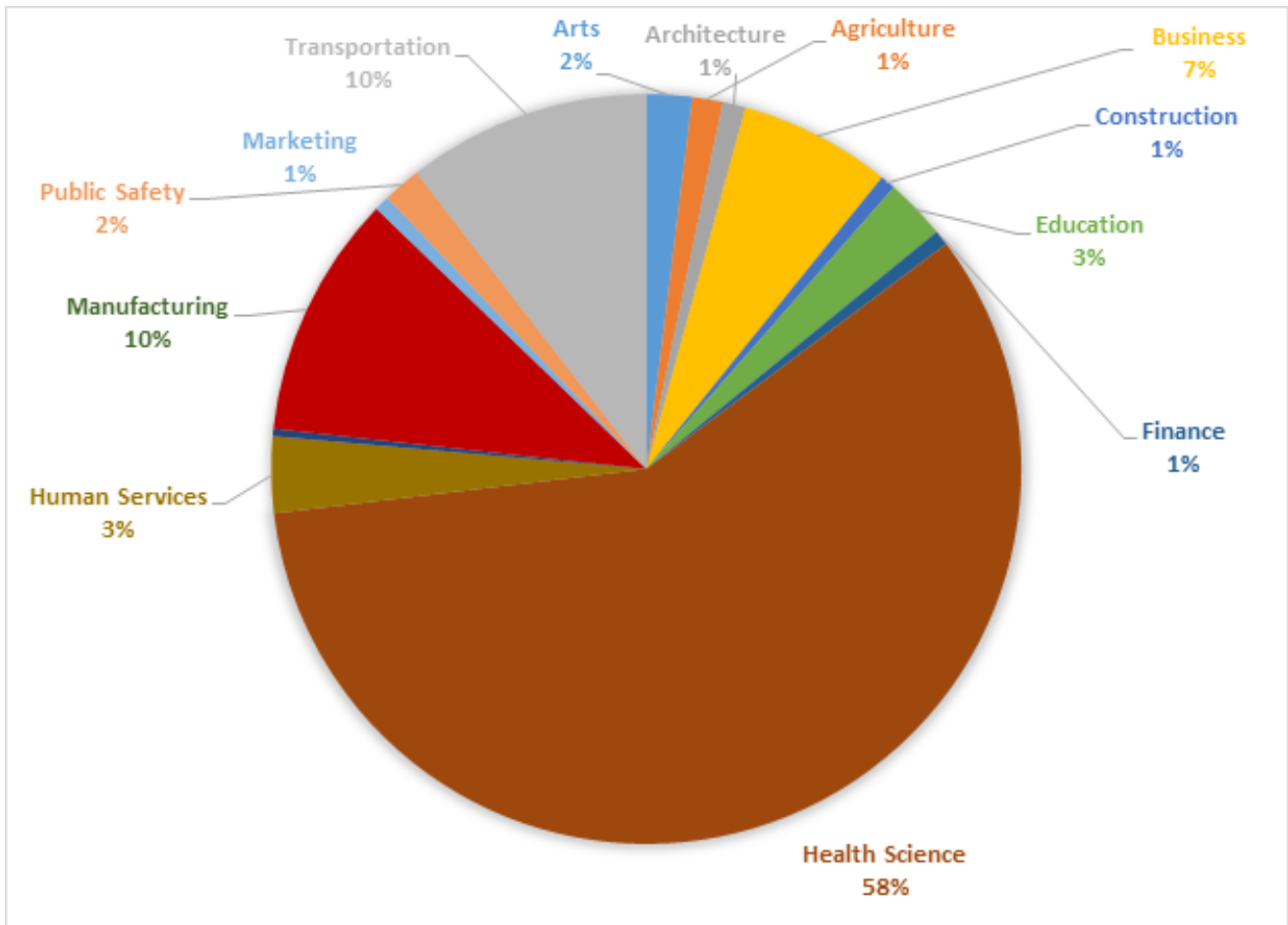
WPCOG sought this opportunity to help enhance regional efforts to improve pedestrian safety and foster healthier communities. Within one month of completing the training, WPCOG and area communities will collaboratively develop a Walkability Action Plan. The Action Plan will strategize ways to support physical activity and non-motorized forms of transportation. The workshop for the Action Plan is tentatively scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, April 29. Stay tuned to be involved in helping shape walkability strategies for our region.

Article by Brian Horton

Workforce Development Board

Workforce Development Scholarships and Training

The following is the current Western Piedmont Workforce Development Boards scholarship and training funded impacts. Scholarships and training funding is awarded to eligible individuals to help them obtain post-secondary credentials, degrees and/or work experience. (January 1 2019 - December 31 2019)



Article by Wendy Johnson

Area Agency on Aging You Deserve a Break!

The Area Agency on Aging Family Caregiver Support Program provides information, resources and support for caregivers of an older adult and/or an older adult caring for a loved one. An important service for caregivers through the Family Caregiver Support Program is respite or temporary relief from caregiver responsibilities. Caregiving can be a demanding job, and this service can help caregivers take a much-needed break from these demands and challenges.

Respite for a caregiver means taking a well-deserved break from caregiving



responsibilities and using the time for relaxation activities that are most enjoyed by the caregiver. Respite can also be needed for self-care for the caregiver, such as doctor's appointments. Respite can be a key component of family support for those who are caring for someone. Caregivers who do take the time for a well-deserved break often come back to caregiving feeling less burden and more satisfaction with their caregiver role. It is one of the most needed and beneficial services for caregivers. Overall, respite services strengthen family stability, reduces stress, while protecting the health and well-being of both the caregiver and their loved one.

The Family Caregiver Support Program offers options for caregivers to receive respite services. The options available to caregivers include In-Home services provided by a home health agency either occasionally as needed or on a regular basis. When the Family Caregiver Support Program makes a referral to the home health agency, the caregiver can arrange to have someone come in and stay with his or her loved one on the schedule needed.

Caregivers often have friends or neighbors who help with the care they are providing a family member and would like to pay their friend to stay with their family member while taking this much-needed break. Through the Family Caregiver Support Program, caregivers can be reimbursed up to \$500 for this valuable respite service provided by a friend, neighbor, or even an extended family member.

Seeking support is not a selfish act. If you are overwhelmed by the daily commitment of caregiving, it is not selfish to need time to yourself. If you know someone who is a caregiver and have noticed the toll it is taking on their health and well-being, share this important information with them. It is essential to take this step to receive help and rest for the well-being of the caregiver.

For additional information about respite services for the caregiver and additional caregiving information from the community, contact WPCOG Area Agency on Aging Family Caregiver Support Program (828) 485-4256 | mary.mitchell@wpcog.org.

Visit our website at www.wpcogaaa.org

Article by Mary Mitchell

Community & Economic Development

Design Foundry Building Re-use of Old Baker Furniture Building



A Hickory-based furniture manufacturer is making steady progress in its efforts to create a new, modern workforce environment for its operations. Design Foundry has created 55 of its 109 new, full-time jobs that are tied to a N.C. Department of Commerce Building Reuse grant.

WPCOG staff assisted Design Foundry in obtaining the grant and in making the initial \$235,000 pay request through the City of Hickory. The payments are only made after the company has documented that it has

created the new, full-time jobs and maintained those positions for two consecutive quarters.

Design Foundry expects to create the rest of the jobs associated with the grant in 2020. The building reuse program allows businesses to recoup up to \$500,000 in eligible renovation expenses through N.C. Commerce.

N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper recently visited the Design Foundry facility to see first-hand how the company is operating.

[Article by Paul Teague](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WPCOG

13 Ways to Kill Your Community
with Speaker Doug Griffiths

April 24, 2020
Hickory Metro Convention Center
8:30am - 12:30pm
(Doors open at 8)



The Western Piedmont Council of Governments welcomes Doug Griffiths for a special training of "13 Ways to Kill Your Community." This event is open to anyone who has a stake in or wants to learn how to productively shape the future growth, health and prosperity of the region. **AICP credits will also be available for this event.**

Based on Doug's bestselling book, 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, the presentation is sometimes starting and often revelatory. Doug's conversational style makes every member of the audience feel he is speaking directly to them about their own community. The anecdotes are delivered with both wit and wisdom, and in a way that ensures audience members are inspired and confident in their role to make their community, organization, or business successful.

Your audience will:

- Feel inspired and motivated;
- Find a renewed sense of ownership and responsibility toward the community in which they live;
- Recognize the challenges their community faces, and the reasons why it is challenged;
- Receive Basic tools to begin moving their community toward success
- Laugh

Online Registration @ www.wpcog.org

Begins - March 2
Ends - April 17

\$50/person

Payment online at time of registration, there is a \$3.08 processing fee

Questions about the event?

Please contact Lori Dixon at lori.dixon@wpcog.org | 828.485.4263.

Interested in sponsoring all or a portion of the event?

Please contact Ashley Bolick at ashley.bolick@wpcog.org | 828.485.4221.



The Alliance for Innovation's national conference, Transforming Local Government (TLG) 2020, is just around the corner - May 5-8 in Phoenix...there's still time to register!! What's in store? You'll hear from futurists, trailblazers and entrepreneurs as they unleash their super-powers. All the details about the conference are available at www.transformgov.org/tlg2020/. Missed the early bird pricing? Not to worry, because of our partnership with the Alliance, you can register now with discount code WPCOG to save \$50 off the registration cost. For any questions about the event, the Alliance team can be reached at conferences@transformgov.org or 888.496.0944.

WPCOG CALENDAR

March

- 24 - WPCOG Policy Board Mtg.
@ Lenoir - 6PM
- 25 - TCC @ WPCOG - 1PM | TAC
@ WPCOG - 2:30PM

April

- 01 - 2020 Census Day
- 23 - Workforce Develop. Board Mtg. @ WPCOG -
8:30AM
- 23 - WPCOG Annual Mtg. @ Hickory Metro Center
- 6PM
- 24 - 13 Ways to Kill Your Community Training @
Hickory Metro Center - 8:30AM to 12:30PM
- 28 - WPCOG Executive Committee Mtg. @ WPCOG
- 6PM
- 29 - Regional Walkability Action Plan Workshop -
9AM
- 30 - Mayors/Chairs/Managers Mtg. @ Catawba
Springs

Stay Connected



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www.wpcog.org

