



CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12	Centralina Executive Board Meeting
April 19	Centralina Regional Managers Meeting
April 20	Centralina Learns: Medical Marijuana: Planning for Legalization
April 21	Volunteer Appreciation Event
April 27	Centralina AAA Webinar Series: All About Arthritis
May 4	Centralina Learns: 2023 EDA Funding Opportunities

CAPITOL CORNER

**Updates on Transportation Programs
from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**



Signed into law on November 15, 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), also referred to as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, funds numerous transportation infrastructure programs. A year and half later, some BIL programs are re-opening for the second round of applications, while other programs are still preparing to accept applications for the first time. A popular BIL

funding opportunity currently accepting a second round of applications is the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program. The second application period for SS4A recently opened on March 30th. This BIL-created grant program provides \$5 billion over five years to regional, local and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries through planning grants and implementation grants.

[Continue Reading](#)

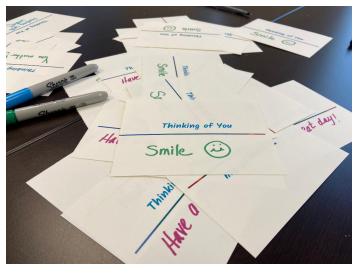
Celebrating National Volunteer Month



The Centralina team kicked off National Volunteer Month by assembling snack packs for [Crisis Assistance Ministry](#), an organization that assists and advocates for people in financial crisis to help move them toward self-sufficiency. Staff provided non-perishable food and drink items and helped to pack more than 300 bags that will be distributed to those visiting the organization's site for assistance. Each bag includes an inspirational note handwritten by a member of our team. Expanding

opportunities and improving quality of life lies at the heart of what we do. We enjoyed this chance to bond with our team through an activity that gives back to those in our region that need it most.

Later this month, the Centralina team will be assisting in a garden beautification project at [Roof Above](#), North Carolina's largest service provider for people experiencing homelessness. The garden at their Day Services Center provides fresh fruit and vegetables for meals distributed to over 300 people a day, totaling to nearly 100,000 meals a year. Our team will assist in mowing, picking weeds and removing obstructive trash, plants and tree limbs to help keep the harvest bountiful so Roof Above can continue to make a tangible difference in the Charlotte community.



FEATURED ARTICLES

[Celebrating Successes of Our Nine-County Region](#)



In 1991, the National Association of Counties established April as National County Government Month. This annual observance celebrates the successes of county initiatives and allows for an opportunity to provide information to communities about how their county serves and advocates for their residents. Since 1968, through regional collaboration and local action, we have seen our counties grow and expand their efforts to focus on challenging and top-of-mind issues involving workforce, housing, education, transportation and more. This month, we're highlighting previous county success stories as well as exciting projects they have currently underway with Centralina.

[More on Successful Initiatives in Our Region's Counties](#)

New Member Spotlight: Town of Norwood



When municipalities and counties join Centralina as a member, they are given a variety of opportunities to shape regional and local action, which in turn helps to shape and support our organization's work. We are proud to work alongside more than 60+ member governments and value the unique perspectives they provide. This month, we're highlighting the Town of Norwood, one of our newest member governments.

[Learn More About Norwood](#)

Medical Marijuana: Planning for Legalization

Across the country, the regulatory environment for medical and recreational marijuana is changing rapidly. Based on the history of legalization nationwide, once a state legalizes cannabis for medical purposes, the legalization of



recreational usage often follows within several years. Both medical and recreational legalization, especially recreational, have implications on land use regulation, permitting processes, law enforcement operations, administrative procedures at the local and state levels, equity considerations and more. The North Carolina General Assembly is currently considering the Compassionate

Care Act, which would establish the statutory and organizational framework for legally using cannabis products to treat debilitating medical conditions. What would these new laws mean for NC local governments, and how can communities best prepare for the future of medical and recreational cannabis?

[Read the Full Article](#)

PoleVolt: Collaborating for Clean, Equitable Energy

2022 Region of Excellence Award Winner

As electric vehicle (EV) ownership becomes more prevalent, access to affordable EV charging will be increasingly important. Through a 2018 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) at UNC Charlotte partnered with the City of Charlotte, Duke Energy and Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition, a DOE program housed at Centralina Regional Council, to investigate solutions to this issue. The grant provided funding to develop a prototype technology designed to tap into existing streetlight infrastructure for curbside EV charging, lowering installation costs for curbside EV chargers compared to chargers that require the installation of new electrical infrastructure. EPIC collaborated with Duke Energy to develop a prototype for a pole-mounted EV charger, called PoleVolt, and deployed two pilot chargers in the City of Charlotte.



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[Learn More About PoleVolt](#)

Region of Excellence Award Winner Spotlight: Local Government Innovation



The City of Gastonia and Gaston County received the 2022 Region of Excellence Award for Local Government Innovation for their partnership in building inspection services. Their teamwork is a positive example of the success that comes from cities and counties working together towards a common goal. This project provides an effective solution to address a challenge in the community, delivering a

government level.

measurable impact at the local

[Read the Success Story](#)

Union County's Fair Housing Initiatives



The month of April is National Fair Housing Month and National County Government Month. There is no better time than now to celebrate Union County and its initiatives to further fair and affordable housing in their jurisdiction! Throughout 2022, Union County and Centralina Regional Council embarked on an extensive research study exploring and analyzing the fair and affordable housing efforts of the County as a requirement of the Community Development Block Grant Program. As a result, the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Report, which outlines the goals and methods of the County to affirmatively further fair and affordable housing in their jurisdiction, was developed. Affirmatively furthering fair housing entails taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics.

[Continue Reading](#)

Centralina AAA's New Programs for Older Adults

Despite an overwhelming desire to live independently, some older adults may need assistance maintaining their homes as they "age in place." To address these previously unmet needs, Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is now offering Housing & Home Improvement and Chore Enhanced programs, developed through federal funding from the American Rescue Plan



Act and delivered through statewide AAA's. These programs are designed to help older adults keep up with essential repairs and maintenance inside and outside their homes, allowing them to stay safely and securely in their homes for longer.

[Learn More About The New Programs](#)

National Volunteer Month:



Highlighting Centralina AAA Volunteer Programs

Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) works to support and enhance services and advocacy that allow older adults and people with disabilities to live with independence and dignity. In addition to the “on the ground” work they do in the region, the Centralina AAA team utilizes volunteers to help support individuals and their families and champion important aging issues. In honor of National Volunteer Month, we want to inform members of the community how they can get involved in bolstering and advocating for the rights of those we serve every day.



[Read More & Learn How You Can Get Involved](#)

Day in the Life of an Ombudsman

Long-term care Ombudsmen are advocates for residents of nursing homes, family care homes and assisted living facilities. They provide information about how to find a facility and what to do to get quality care. Ombudsmen are also trained to resolve and mediate problems if the resident gives them permission to share concerns. Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) houses the Ombudsman program that serves our nine-county region. We have five Ombudsmen who serve over 17,000 residents living in our long-term care homes. Debi Lee, Centralina AAA Assistant Director and former Ombudsman, explains, "People who live in long-term care have lost so much—independence, dignity and control. Having a specific advocate who can assist the resident in negotiation, persuasion and mediation to resolve concerns gives them hope that things can improve."



Sound like an interesting job?

Centralina is currently hiring for TWO regional long-term care Ombudsmen. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply today!

[Learn More About the Work of Ombudsmen](#)

Aging Advocacy: 2023 Legislative Day Recap

On February 28th, several of Centralina’s regional Ombudsmen attended the Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care 2023



Legislative Day in Raleigh. The purpose of the event was to meet with legislative representatives to advocate for and support issues currently affecting aging communities across our state. Members of the North Carolina Ombudsman Association went into the full-day event with several talking points to share and openly discuss with legislators. We took an expanded look at some of the issues our Ombudsmen

championed that day.

[Read the Full Recap](#)

Centralina WDB Recognizes National Volunteer Month



Volunteering allows members of our region to not only make a sizable impact, but it also gives them the opportunity to connect with people in their community who need extra support and resources. Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) pursues volunteerism all year round through their annual "Centralina Year of Giving" initiative. This year, Centralina NCWorks

Career Center leaders worked with community partners to provide both outreach and hands-on help to those in the community by raising awareness of the resources that NCWorks has to offer. As we celebrate National Volunteer Month, we're highlighting several of the volunteer efforts WDB provided throughout the region this past year.

[Learn More About the Centralina Year of Giving](#)

Centralina WDB Talks Youth Engagement at Inaugural NC Youth Forum

On February 28th and March 1st, the North Carolina Association of Workforce Boards and its executive directors' council, in partnership with the NCWorks Training Center and NC Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions, hosted the very first NC Youth Forum in Greensboro, NC. This first-of-its-kind training event allowed over 150 youth leads and youth service providers the opportunity to network and learn best practices from others working in the field. Our very own Centralina Workforce Development Board NextGen Program Leader, Solomon McAuley, presented a workshop on youth engagement. His presentation dove deep into what the term means, how it's evolving and how leaders can consistently empower and encourage youth and young adults across our state.



[Learn More About Solomon's Presentation](#)

IN THE NEWS

ARPA Report Deadline: April 30th

The second annual Project and Expenditure Report for your local government's allocation of ARPA funding is due April 30. All counties and municipalities must complete this report, even if you expend all your funds as revenue replacement. Our ARPA support team is available to answer any questions you may have or help with the completion of this report to meet the upcoming deadline. Additionally, U.S. Treasury has created resources to assist local governments in complying with reporting requirements, including a [user guide](#) and this [recorded webinar](#) that provides step-by-step instructions for submitting the report.



CLT Aviation Academy Graduation

Congratulations to the most recent graduating class of the Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) Aviation Academy! This one-of-a-kind opportunity allows public and private sector leaders across our region the opportunity to

better understand the inner workings of CLT and how it contributes to and impacts our local economy, transportation system and community. This training opportunity, open to elected officials, local government staff and community leaders, showcases a behind-the-scenes look at current operations and future CLT planning efforts.



Charlotte City Council Meeting Discusses CONNECT Beyond

On April 3rd, Charlotte City Council's Transportation, Planning and Development Committee discussed the CONNECT Beyond regional mobility initiative, which would help to connect rural, suburban and urban

communities in our region. Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner was pleased to speak with the council this week to provide updates on the plan's progress and hear feedback from council members. [Council Member Ed Diggs provided a recap of the committee's discussion.](#)

CONNECT Beyond's Advancing the Plan Committee meets bimonthly to steward regional conversation and action that advances plan implementation. For more information on our region's mobility plan, please visit www.CONNECT-Beyond.com.

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



www.centralina.org | 704-372-2416



Centralina Regional Council | 10735 David Taylor Drive Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28262

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