



## CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

### THE CENTRAL LINES

*Take a peek inside this issue. Here's what's coming up...*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 19

Centralina Learns: [Recognizing Human Trafficking - Introductory Training for Local Governments](#)

### CAPITOL CORNER



#### **Congressional Midterm Elections**

Following last month's general elections and Georgia's run-off election in December, the composition of the next Congress is finally set. The 118th Congress will be sworn in on January 3rd, 2023, with control split between Democrats and Republicans. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Republicans regained majority control, albeit narrowly, with 222 Republicans and 213 Democrats elected. In

the U.S. Senate, Democrats retained a thin majority, picking up a seat for a 51 to 49 control. Because the party gained one seat, Democrats will be able to pass bills that can advance with a simple majority of votes without the need for a tie-breaking vote from the Vice President. Senate committees will also not be split evenly between Democrats and Republicans.

[Continue Reading](#)

## Centralina Region of Excellence Awards: Call for Nominations



The Region of Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate how local governments and partners expand opportunity and improve quality of life across our region. All municipal and county governments, quasi-governmental entities and non-governmental organizations in our region are encouraged to submit nominations for projects, programs or plans that were initiated or completed in 2022. Two potential awards will be given in each category - one for larger and

one for smaller jurisdictions.

### **Local Government Innovation / Cross-Community Collaboration Improving Quality of Life / Aging in Action / Clean Cities James D. Prosser Excellence in Government Leadership**

Complete the nomination form and send your entry, along with at least one high resolution photo, to **RegionofExcellence@centralina.org** by 5 p.m. on **Friday, January 6, 2023**. Multiple submittals will be accepted if they are on separate forms. The award ceremony is **Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023**.

[View the Nomination Form](#)

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### Prosperity for All CEDS 2023 - 2028



The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a five-year strategy intended to guide priorities for economic development in the region. It outlines an approach to coordinate growth and prosperity that builds on the region's strengths and addresses weaknesses and barriers to future growth, prioritizes key regional industry clusters and emphasizes collaboration. Over the past 11 months, the Centralina team worked in partnership with the Centralina Economic Development District Board of Trustees, CEDS Steering Committee and a range of stakeholders to assess the region's current economic conditions and develop a strategy that builds

on existing assets while addressing short-term shocks and structural challenges to the economy. These findings were the building blocks of the 2023 – 2028 Prosperity for All CEDS. At the heart of this approach is the desire to improve the overall resilience and inclusivity of the people, places and economy of our nine-county region. Our vision will be achieved through regional collaboration and collective action across three goals, 15 recommendations and 58 near-term action items over the next

five years. We invite you to review the full plan to learn more about where the region is today and our plan to move towards prosperity for all.

[Review the 2023 - 2028 Prosperity for All CEDS](#)

## Director Spotlight: Linda Miller

Linda Miller is the Director of [Centralina Area Agency on Aging](#). She has more than 30 years of experience in the aging field and has been a part of the Centralina team for 25 years. Linda was instrumental in developing Centralina's evidence-based health program that has been delivering wellness programs in the community since 2007. We sat down with her to learn more about her on a professional and personal level, along with her tips and resources for others working in the aging field.



[Learn More About Linda](#)

## Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition: Year in Review



The [Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition \(CCFC\)](#) is the designated Clean Cities Coalition for the greater Charlotte region through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Housed at Centralina Regional Council, CCFC has served the region for over 20 years, working with more than 100 local and regional stakeholders to reduce petroleum usage and promote clean fuels and energy efficient mobility options. This year saw CCFC redouble our

efforts through a variety of innovative, collaborative projects. As 2022 draws to a close, let's look back at the successes for clean, equitable transportation across the region over the last year, including:

- The PoleVolt charging station collaboration for accessible, affordable electric vehicle (EV) charging
- The CONNECT Beyond regional mobility plan
- Advancing electrification across the region and the [EV funding dashboard](#)
- A focus on equity in clean transportation

[Read More About These Achievements](#)

## Stormwater Management: Innovation & Best Practices

Stormwater management has been

identified as a critical component of hazard mitigation plans across the Centralina region and beyond. Natural and manmade disruptions will continue to emerge, threatening the health, safety and economic vitality of our communities. This session introduced planners and local government staff to the challenges posed to North Carolina communities by stormwater and identified several actionable strategies for implementing stormwater management best practices in communities of all sizes. The panel of local experts provided attendees with resources for analysis, infrastructure implementation, planning, communication and funding. Participants left the session with a foundational understanding of stormwater management policy and practice, as well as tips for how to translate and adapt best practices for the health and well-being of their own jurisdictions. If you missed the session on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, here are five key takeaways you and your jurisdiction should be aware of...



[Read the 5 Key Stormwater Takeaways](#)

## Vaccine Rates Soar After Outreach Campaign



As the COVID virus continues to impact our region, Centralina is proud to release the impressive results of our older and disabled adult outreach campaign. The one-year public health initiative was designed to increase Covid-19 vaccination rates among at-risk populations and expand vaccine access and awareness for older adults and people with disabilities. Centralina

achieved this goal by using data and mapping to guide outreach efforts, identifying areas with high minority populations where low initial vaccine rates and high barriers to accessing healthcare services existed. The cross-departmental project team, led by Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA), developed an interactive web portal using regional census tracts. Centralina AAA then leveraged this data to focus its outreach efforts by utilizing its existing network of service providers and new community collaborators to deliver the messaging and help host vaccine events.

[Continue Reading](#)

## Centralina AAA Innovation Celebration

Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) recently held its annual holiday event at the Speedway Club to celebrate the work of service providers, volunteers and those serving on advisory councils in 2022. The theme "Innovations in Aging" highlighted best practices across the region and



featured successes that often stemmed from challenging situations. Centralina Executive Director Geraldine Gardner kicked off the event with a few remarks about unlocking your creativity. The key to innovation she said is to take the baggage out of the word and the pressure off yourself. "Innovation" simply means trying something new. Geraldine called on attendees to "innovate for purpose by adding value and making others' lives better." The group

also did a show of hands exercise that demonstrated we're less likely to call ourselves innovators than we are other people. After lunch, participants broke into small groups to discuss topics, challenges and possible solutions around innovation in the aging community.

**More on Centralina AAA's 2022 Innovations in Aging**



*Transportation Guides for Older Adults and People with Disabilities were distributed during the event.*

**Centralina WDB Celebrates 2022 Year of Giving**

Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) and the NCWorks Career Centers established the annual **Centralina Day of Giving** in 2017 as a one-day event. Since that time, it has turned into a series of smaller events around the region that became known as the **Centralina Year of Giving**. Due to the COVID pandemic, all events were moved to a virtual format in 2020 and 2021. This year, Centralina WDB happily welcomed everyone back in person. The 2022 Centralina Year of Giving theme was "Today's Job Seekers - Tomorrow's Leaders."

**Continue Reading**

# IN THE NEWS

## WBTV On Your Side: CONNECT Beyond Regional Transit Plan

Listen as Jamie Boll from WBTV On Your Side interviews Centralina Regional Council's Executive Director Geraldine Gardner. [Watch here](#)



### Year of the Trail

2023 has officially been designated the 'Year of the Trail' in North Carolina! The NC Year of the Trail campaign aims to showcase and celebrate North Carolina's trails, encouraging ongoing participation, investment and development among local and legislators. The campaign envisions a future in which each of the state's counties experience the proven benefits of trails and advocate for their ongoing growth and development. Over the course of 2023, the Great Trails State Coalition will be

providing resources to help get more people out on trails, demonstrate how to get more trails in more communities and promote increased access and equity in trail access, use and outdoor recreation. For more information on the NC Year of the Trail campaign and how your community can get involved, visit the Year of the Trail website: <https://greattrailsnc.com/>.

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)

[www.centralina.org](http://www.centralina.org) | 704-372-2416



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