



## CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

# THE CENTRAL LINES

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 19	Centralina Regional Managers Meeting
October 19	Electric Vehicles: <a href="#">Ride and Drive Fleet Event</a> and <a href="#">First Responder Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Training</a> Sessions
November 1	<i>Last day to register:</i> <a href="#">Centralina Learns Planning Series Bundle</a> . The six-session pack covers affordable housing, transportation, stormwater, medical marijuana and more.
November 3	Centralina Learns Planning Series: <a href="#">Stormwater Management - Innovation &amp; Best Practices</a>
November 8	Centralina AAA Webinar: <a href="#">A Financial Guide and Tools for Underserved Older Women</a>
December 6	Centralina Learns Planning Series: <a href="#">Transportation Demand Management</a>

## CAPITOL CORNER

**Congressional Action Needed to**



### Preserve Treasury's ARPA Support

With the Congressional appropriations process under way, the National Association of Counties, National League of Cities and others are directing local governments and key stakeholders to ask their Members of Congress to support adding an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) flexibility bill to the year-end omnibus appropriations package or to the

next must-pass legislation. The bipartisan bill is titled the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act (S. 3011/H.R. 5735). The bill would ensure the Department of Treasury continues to provide administration support to communities for ARPA programs, including the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) program. It would also give communities more flexibility to use remaining recovery funds on transportation, infrastructure, economic development and disaster relief projects. The call to action came after the Department of Treasury recently told ARPA recipients that it plans to reduce staff and diminish services for ARPA programs due to funding shortfalls.

[Continue Reading](#)

## WELCOME BACK DELEGATES!



On Wednesday, Oct. 12th we welcomed the Centralina Board of Delegates to the first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic. This was also the first time the Delegates toured the new office space. We kicked off the evening with an open house of our department

"neighborhoods." Thank you to everyone who participated - we enjoyed seeing you face to face!



## FEATURED ARTICLES

[2021-2022 Annual Report Highlights](#)



Our annual report highlights our work at the regional, community and individual levels for the year ending June 30, 2022. We focused this year on visionary planning initiatives as well as strategic implementation to transform ideas into action. We worked with several communities on strategic planning processes, launched the region's five-year **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** and began the critical task of implementing key recommendations from the **CONNECT Beyond** regional mobility initiative. Collectively this work demonstrates our commitment to the big ideas that move our region forward and fulfilling our role in ensuring that positive change occurs at the local level. In FY22 we also:

- Launched a **Regional Dialogue Series** to hear from stakeholders and inform our three-year strategic planning process.
- Proactively engaged our members about the **American Rescue Plan Act** and provided a range of supports to aid local governments in implementing their ARPA funds.
- Completed the pilot year of the **Regional Resilience Collaborative** to build capacity in our regional emergency management so that we can better recover from future disasters.
- Created and managed a regionwide **COVID-19 vaccine outreach campaign** to engage older and disabled adults.
- Got creative in our approaches to connecting our workforce and businesses to fill our talent pipeline and address the changing nature of work due to the changing nature of work due to the pandemic

[Read the Report to Learn More](#)



### Featured Technical Assistance Projects

Our technical services enable communities in our region to receive expert support for reduced fees compared to private sector companies. Over the past fiscal year, our staff provided close to 100 services in a variety of categories for over 40 local governments. Read some of the technical assistance success stories from 2021-2022 featuring the communities we serve.

[Read the Success Stories](#)

## Region of Excellence Quality of Life Award Winner: Neighborhood C.A.R.E. Center

In March 2022, Centralina awarded the Neighborhood C.A.R.E. Center (NCC) the Improving Quality of Life award at our



annual Region of Excellence Awards. The NCC is a non-profit organization headquartered in Cornelius that aims to provide immediate and long-term aid to neighbors through relational and faith-based programs in a hope-filled environment. Their dedication to empowering people to build and maintain a stable future has been influential in the surrounding community. We interviewed Executive Director Manny Rosado (pictured) and Communications Manager MaeLynn Joyner to learn more about

challenges the organization faced and how they overcame obstacles when trying to serve their community. The following are the four best practices they recommend to other communities who are navigating communication and assistance programs to improve quality of life.

### Learn the Top Four Best Practices



### Region of Excellence Awards: Coming Soon!

The nomination period for the Centralina Region of Excellence Awards is almost here! The awards are our opportunity to recognize and celebrate how local governments and partners expand opportunity and improve quality of life across our region. More information to follow in the weeks to come.

## Pedestrian Safety Month



Each October, Pedestrian Safety Month is observed to increase awareness around pedestrian safety and remind drivers to watch for pedestrians every time they are behind the wheel. Pedestrian Safety Month recognizes that "at some point in the day, everyone is a pedestrian." For older adults and people with disabilities, navigating our built environment as a pedestrian can be a particularly challenging and dangerous process. Through regional initiatives such as **CONNECT Our**

**Future** and **CONNECT Beyond**, Centralina has been a leader in providing equitable mobility. As an extension of this work, Centralina received grant funding from the Charlotte Area Transit System to support regional efforts to enhance and improve transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities in the Charlotte Urbanized Area. As part of this funding, we partnered with Iredell County Area Transit System (ICATS) and the City of Statesville to conduct walk audits around bus stops in Statesville. The resulting reports, which will be released in October 2022, will include recommendations on how ICATS and the City of Statesville can make transit stops more safe, comfortable and accommodating for pedestrians.

### Learn More About Walk Audits

## Director Spotlight: Michelle Nance, AICP





Michelle Nance is a Senior Director for Centralina Regional Council, managing regional planning and community economic development services in the nine-county greater Charlotte region. She directs Centralina's work related to land use and transportation, healthy community initiatives, energy and the environment. Her work is focused on helping local governments address shared, long-term issues through collaboration and partnerships. Michelle directed the creation of the Charlotte region's growth framework,

CONNECT Our Future, and co-founded the Centralina Health Solutions Center in addition to leading teams to develop the greater Charlotte region's freight mobility study and the recently completed two-state, 12-county regional transit plan, CONNECT Beyond. She is a past president of the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association, was honored as one of the 2017 50 Most Influential Women in the Charlotte region and was named 2017 Woman of the Year by the Mecklenburg Times. In 2022, she received the Planning Distinguished Alumni Award from East Carolina University and is a member of the East Carolina faculty in the Community and Regional Planning Program. Read on to learn more about Michelle's career, her perspective on current planning issues and the "secret sauce" that drives her in her personal and professional life!

[Learn More About Michelle](#)

### **New Resource: Centralina Data Portal**

Data-driven decision making helps local governments and businesses optimize resources and increase efficiency. By using data to guide decisions instead of relying on assumptions or historical precedent, organizations will decrease bias and risk while increasing transparency and objectivity. To help support local governments, we created a data portal where you can view a variety of customizable maps, tables and metrics for disaster planning, transit equity, career planning/transitions, COVID-19 vaccine rates, economic development and more.

[See the Portal](#)

### **Service Spotlight: Code Enforcement**

Code enforcement protects the safety of the public, making sure basic living and working standards are met. Code ordinances also protect property value and help to attract new development. When potential violations arise, local governments are required to investigate with the goal of achieving voluntary compliance. These services are vital to improving and preserving quality of life for residents and businesses. If your community would like support in this area, contact our code enforcement experts who are ready to help with your enforcement needs.

[Learn More](#)

### **Community Economic Development Month**

October is Community Economic Development month and the Centralina Community



Economic Development department is celebrating by reflecting upon ongoing economic development projects including:

**CDBG Administration:** Centralina supported Mecklenburg and Union County in another successful Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement program year. Centralina serves as the administrator and

assists with the efficient and effective delivery of funds to non-profits, housing and homelessness providers, county departments, local municipalities and other public service agencies.

**CEDS Update:** The Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) launched the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update to the 2017-2022 Prosperity for Greater Charlotte CEDS. Centralina CED serves as staff to the Centralina EDD and has been working with the CEDS Steering Committee for the adoption of the CEDS update in November 2022.

[Continue Reading](#)

## PEARLS to Address Depression in Older Adults

Did you know that one in five older adults may experience depression? Studies show that the burden of depression tends to be higher among those who are isolated, live alone, live in poverty, speak a different language and have complex health issues in addition to people of color. Centralina Area Agency on Aging is responding to this prevalent issue through a partnership with the University of North Carolina Asheville on an initiative called PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives). This community- and evidence-based pilot program is designed to reduce depression in physically impaired and socially isolated people. Centralina will connect and serve 205 individuals over the course of three years to help older adults develop the skills they need to maintain their health, happiness and independence.

[Learn More About the Program](#)

## NCWorks Partnership Conference 2022



### NCWorks Partnership Conference 2022

Centralina Workforce Development Board (WDB) staff spent last week participating in and presenting at the annual NCWorks Partnership conference where the theme was ReConnect, ReEngage and ReIgnite. Congratulations to the SHYAS Community Assistance Program of Salisbury, winner of the 2022 Outstanding Innovative Partnership

[Award!](#)



NextGen Program Leader  
Solomon McAuley leads a  
workshop



Centralina WDB Executive  
Director David Hollars  
kicks off the conference



Workforce Services  
Leader Sherika Rich  
shares her expertise

## IN THE NEWS

### Centralina Wins Three NADO Awards!

Centralina Regional Council received three [2022 Impact Awards](#) from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), a membership association of regional development organizations. The NADO Impact Awards recognize organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. The Centralina initiatives recognized at this year's awards include: 1) **Centralina Regional Dialogue Series** for Communicating Results and Public Engagement, 2) **Centralina Regional Resilience Collaborative** for Emergency Preparedness and Recovery and 3) **Centralina Workforce Development App** for Workforce Development. Learn more [HERE](#).



### CLT Aviation Academy: Now Accepting Applications

The 2023 CLT Aviation Academy provides the opportunity to better understand the inner workings of Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) and its contributions and impacts on our economy, transportation system and community. The Academy is open to public sector, non-profit, private sector and community leaders. The class will be limited to 25 participants selected through a competitive admissions process. Access the [Application Form](#) and the [Proposed Schedule and Syllabus](#). Applications due by [Monday, Nov. 14](#).

### Chapter 160D Extension: Communities Under 1,500

In 2019, the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) updated state planning regulations for local jurisdictions, commonly referred to as "Chapter 160D requirements." These revisions required all communities wishing to enforce zoning regulations to have an adopted, current land use plan by July 1, 2022. Acknowledging the challenges this requirement poses for smaller communities, the NCGA recently extended the deadline to [July 1, 2023](#), for municipalities with populations at or under 1,500. Since the original revisions were passed, Centralina has been working with counties and municipalities to align land use plans with Chapter 160D requirements and reflect shared community visions for the future. Our staff will inventory our communities' populations and engage with qualifying municipalities soon to ensure your land use planning needs are met. To learn more, view our [land use planning flyer](#) or contact [planning@centralina.org](mailto:planning@centralina.org).

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



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