



CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15 -18	<u>Living Healthy with Chronic Disease Leader Training</u>
August 16	<u>Regional Managers Meeting</u>
August 23	<u>Age-Friendly Communities: Walkability & Pedestrian Safety</u>
September 12	<u>Centralina Workforce Development Board Meeting</u>
September 13	<u>Centralina Executive Board Meeting</u>
September 14-15	<u>Living Healthy with Chronic Pain Cross Training</u>

CAPITOL CORNER

Continuing Resolution & Potential Government Shutdown

Congress is currently in its annual August recess. The Senate returns on September 5th and the House returns on September



12th to begin a very busy legislative session with priority given to the appropriations process. This September could be filled with political drama as Washington insiders and political pundits debate whether or not there will be the first government shutdown in four years. With the end of the fiscal year (September 30th) fast approaching, Congress will have only four weeks to pass 12 appropriations bills or pass a Continuing Resolution (CR).

A CR provides temporary funding to federal programs and activities until a specified date, which usually is determined by when Congress expects to complete the appropriations process.

[Learn More](#)

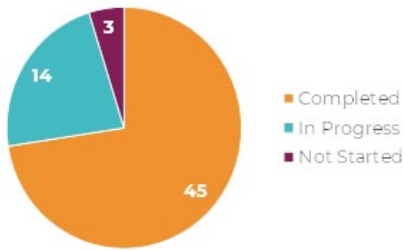
Celebrating 55 Years

This October marks 55 years since the establishment of Centralina Regional Council (formerly Centralina Council of Governments). This historic year coincides with the 55 municipalities that are members of our organization. Throughout the fiscal year, Centralina staff will be traveling to each of our member municipalities on a "Regional Roadtrip" to learn more about what makes each community unique and how Centralina can provide support to projects and initiatives through 2024 and beyond. Executive Director Geraldine Gardner kicked off the campaign last week with initial visits to the towns of Mooresville and Huntersville.



Wrapping Up FY23: Our Q4 Progress Report

The Centralina team completed the vast majority of its FY23 workplan action items and closed the fiscal year with an impressive set of accomplishments – [see examples here](#). By the end of June, 95% of action items were launched or completed. Only three action items were not initiated due to lack of funds and/or capacity.



FEATURED ARTICLES

Staying Cutting-Edge with Centralina Learns



Local government staff across the Centralina region and beyond have more on their plates today than ever before. Between staffing shortages, communities that are still reeling from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and wave after wave of unprecedented federal and state funding opportunities, many jurisdictions are stretched thin. As a council of governments, Centralina

provides critical services and support to communities across the region, helping local staff stay abreast of new developments in the field and take advantage of unique opportunities. Amid the challenges facing local planners, zoning officials and administrators throughout FY23, Centralina created Centralina Learns to ensure local staff had the information they needed about “cutting edge” planning and administration topics, delivered in easily accessible formats to fit their increasingly busy schedules and continuously adapting communities.

[Learn More About Centralina Learns](#)

Statesville Thrives: Leading a Prosperous Community Conversation on Housing

Population growth and the increased cost of living in the region continue to impact housing affordability for local communities. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Housing Affordability Strategy data estimated that in 2022, 33% of households in Statesville have at least one of four housing problems: incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room and are considered housing cost-burdened.



After hearing first-hand from Statesville residents who experience housing issues, Darbah Skaf, CEO of Statesville Housing Authority (SHA) and its nonprofit affiliate, Iredell/Statesville Community Enrichment Corporation (ISCEC) began brainstorming ideas for an event that could gather community members and service providers to address these issues. With collaboration among SHA, ISCEC, the City of Statesville and Centralina Regional Council,

Darbah's ideas were brought to life in the form of Statesville Thrives on June 29th, 2023.

[Read the Full Success Story](#)

The Cost of Care: An FCSP Success Story



According to a new AARP Report, Caregivers provide \$600 billion unpaid hours of care across the United States. Many of these individuals are loved ones who put their lives on hold and sacrifice their own free time to provide essential care to someone who can't care for themselves. Many aren't able to afford the cost of round-the-clock care options, and while no monetary value

can trump the love of a caregiver, this role can be very physically, emotionally and mentally taxing. When one local caregiver seemed to be at his wits end, Centralina Area Agency on Aging's Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP) stepped in to help ease the burden.

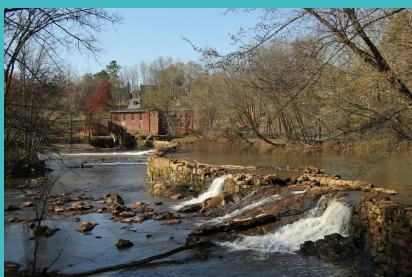
[Read More](#)

Service Spotlight: Age-Friendly Communities

The passing of Executive Order No. 280 this past May has brought the idea of "age-friendly" communities to a new audience, sparking curiosity amongst local governments on what they can do to assist their residents as they age. Centralina Area Agency on Aging, in collaboration with Centralina Regional Planning, offers various services to our members to help them foster a safe and inclusive community where older adults can thrive. [Click here](#) to view our most recent "Service Spotlight" video and learn more about ways these teams can support your community.



No River Too Wide For South Fork River Health Committee



The South Fork of the Catawba River is the largest tributary in the Catawba River System and flows through Gaston, Lincoln and Catawba counties. This river is beloved by the communities it touches, offering miles of natural landscapes, great fishing spots, endless hours of kayaking within a moment's drive and acts as home to a variety of wildlife, such as the great

blue herons, osprey, bald eagles and deer. Unfortunately, population growth and development in the South Fork basin area over the years have resulted in adverse impacts on the river's health and on the communities themselves. Frequent flooding of nearby municipalities and a decline in the water quality influenced former Mayor of Cramerton, Will

Cautchen, to develop and prioritize a plan to improve both the health of the river and address its impact on the community.

[Learn More About the South Fork River](#)

IN THE NEWS

Axios Charlotte: From Gastonia to Charlotte to Concord, leaders in talks about merging transit under regional authority



Last month, Axios Charlotte joined one of our regularly scheduled Advancing the Plan Committee meetings to learn more about CONNECTBeyond and the group's progress towards implementation in the greater Charlotte area. Take a look at their [recent article](#) to learn more about the immersive discussions between stakeholders and some of the key takeaways.

PBS to Spotlight PEARLS on ncIMPACT Initiative

This month, staff from our Centralina Area Agency on Aging team were interviewed about our PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives) program that focuses on reducing feelings of depression amongst older adults in our region. This segment will be featured as a part of ncIMPACT Initiative's series focused on mental health, which will be showcased at select local town halls in August and September to supplement a panel discussion on the topic. Keep an eye out for when our clip is broadcast to the public on Friday, Sept. 15 on [PBS North Carolina](#) and on the [ncIMPACT website](#).



Transit Guide for Older & Disabled Adults Wins USAgging Achievement Award for Mobility



On July 16th, Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) was recognized with the 2023 USAgging Aging Achievement Award for Mobility Management at the USAgging Annual Conference. This award reflects the collaborative work of Centralina's AAA and Centralina Regional Planning teams to identify fixed-route and demand-response transit providers and barriers to transportation access. Their research helped Centralina AAA to develop a

regional transit guide, a transportation planning template and a toolkit for providers. Centralina is proud to receive this honor and we applaud the members of our team who worked together to create comprehensive resources

that will help older adults and people with disabilities in our region easily access necessities and get where they need to go. You can access our award-winning resources on Centralina AAA's [website](#).



Mount Holly is Hiring a City Manager

The City of Mount Holly is currently seeking an experienced manager with demonstrated knowledge of innovative public administration and local government services to serve as the new City Manager. Strong applicants will have a vast array of education and experience in public administration with strong interpersonal skills that allow them to easily interact and collaborate with elected officials, organizations, businesses and citizens. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone looking to advance in local government leadership within a growing and thriving community in our region. [Learn more about the community, the position and how those interested can apply.](#)

UNC SOG: Upcoming Courses and Training Opportunities

Registration is now open for various course sessions for the UNC School of Government's **Fundamental Supervisory Practices** course. This course is designed to provide newly promoted or first-time supervisors in local government with the critical knowledge and skills needed to be an effective supervisor. Registrants will learn about their management styles, essential duties and skills, critical employment laws, promoting inclusivity in the workplace and more. Those interested can register on the [UNC SOG website](#).

The school will also be hosting "**Emotional Intelligence: Your Key to Extraordinary Leadership**" on their campus in Chapel Hill on Wednesday, Sept. 13. Attendees of this full-day course will take part in group breakout sessions, self-assessments and individualized coaching that will showcase the value of self-expression, the fundamental qualities of emotional intelligence, ways to practice effective listening and more. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Register Now for the NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit



Hosted by BikeWalk NC, the annual NC BikeWalk Transportation Summit is a multi-day conference focusing on the safety, health, community design and equity dimensions of active mobility. This year's Summit will be hosted at Catawba College and features:

- A day-long bicycling workshop for transportation professionals and local law enforcement officials on Thursday, Sept. 14
- Keynote speakers and spotlight presentations from practitioners across the state on Friday, Sept. 15
- In-person tours and activities on Saturday, Sept. 16 in our member jurisdictions of Salisbury and Spencer

[View the Summit agenda and register to attend today!](#)

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



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