



CENTRALINA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13	Centralina Executive Board Meeting
September 14-15	Living Healthy with Chronic Pain Cross Training
September 19	Centralina Learns: Basic Code Enforcement & Minimal Housing Training
September 20	Centralina AAA Webinar: Brain Injury 101 & Falls
September 22	Centralina Subcommittee: Advancing the Plan Meeting
September 27	Centralina AAA Webinar: The Movement to Reframe Aging in North Carolina
October 10	Centralina Learns: How to Effectively Research Grant Funders to Ensure You Win the Grant
October 17	Centralina Learns: Conflict Resolution for Local Government Staff

CAPITOL CORNER



August Advocacy Update

In August, the House and Senate are adjourned and members of Congress traditionally spend their time in their congressional districts. Members of Congress refer to this as the “District Work Period” and use it to meet with constituents and participate in local public events. Centralina takes advantage of the district work period to meet locally with our Congressional Delegation to discuss our regional priorities and federal action agenda. This past month, we held meetings with U.S. Representatives Alma Adams and Jeff Jackson with record attendance at both! In these sessions, we shared information on our work to increase regional mobility and advance workforce development. We also highlighted the importance of continued flexibility in the aging programs we administer.



August advocacy meeting with Congresswoman Alma Adams, featuring community representatives from Cornelius, Davidson, Kannapolis, Mint Hill, Huntersville, Mooresville and Mecklenburg County



August advocacy meeting with Congressman Jeff Jackson, featuring community representatives from Lowell, Gastonia, Ranlo, Pineville, Cramerton and McAdenville

[Read More About Our August Advocacy Efforts](#)

Celebrating 55 Years

On September 13th, Centralina Regional Council will celebrate the 55th anniversary of our founding. Through the last five and half decades, our organization has helped to support the growth and prosperity of our region through various projects and initiatives. In honor of this historic milestone, we'll be taking a deep dive into the history how Centralina and the region we serve have evolved over the years and learn more about the talented staff who help to carry our mission forward every single day. Keep an eye out for more information in next month's newsletter!

Regional Road Trip

In August as part of our anniversary celebration, we kicked off our "Regional Road Trip" series with visits to the towns of Huntersville and Mooresville. The following are some of the other member communities that we've had the pleasure of visiting recently.



Town of Landis



City of Albemarle



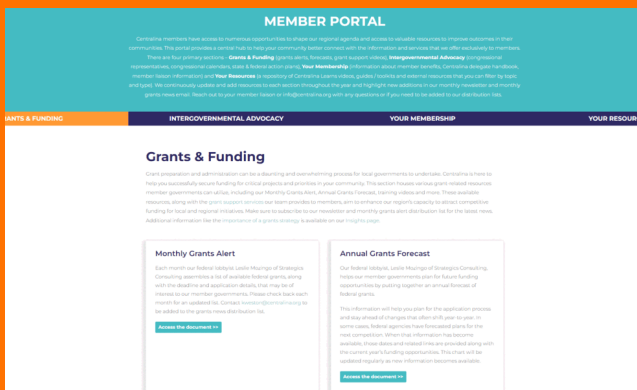
Town of Waxhaw



Town of Ranlo

FEATURED ARTICLES

Centralina's NEW Member Portal is Here!



Centralina's password-protected member portal is a virtual hub to help communities better connect with the information and services we offer exclusively to members. We're excited to announce that our new and improved member portal is now live!

The updated portal has four sections including membership benefits, grant support and intergovernmental advocacy. There is also a resource library that can now be filtered by topic or by topic to make it easier to find what you need. We will continuously add content to the portal throughout the year and will make note of new resources in our monthly newsletter and monthly grants news email. If you are a Centralina member and would like access to the portal, please reach out to your board delegate or regional manager for the password. You may also contact us at info@centralina.org.

Member Portal

2023-2024 Centralina Learns Training Series: Code Enforcement & Grant Funding Research

We're excited to kick off our first session of the 2023-2024 Centralina Learns training series this month! There are 11 sessions, covering various relevant and timely issues, that will be offered throughout the year. Our first two sessions for the fall are now open for registration!

Basic Code Enforcement & Minimum Housing Training is an in-person workshop that will cover the fundamentals of code enforcement, clarify sources of authority for enforcement of various ordinances and outline the steps of an investigation and enforcement from the initial complaint to compliance or abatement.

How to Effectively Research Grant Funders to Ensure You Win the Grant is a virtual session that showcase tools and strategies attendees can use to strengthen their initial grant funder research efforts, help relationship building efforts and ultimately create a prioritized proactive grant seeking strategy.

Details on how to register for other upcoming sessions will be shared soon, but for now, save the dates for the anticipated FY24 schedule of training sessions. We hope to see you at a training session this year!

DATE	FORMAT	2023-2024 SYLLABUS
9/19/23	In Person	Basic Code Enforcement and Minimum Housing (separate session fee applies)
10/10/23	Virtual	How to Effectively Research Grant Funders to Ensure You Win the Grant
10/17/23	In Person	Conflict Resolution for Local Government Staff
10/24/23	In Person	Climate & Sustainability Planning
12/5/23	In Person	Aging Sensitivity & Age-Friendly Planning
12/12/23	Virtual	Artificial Intelligence & Ethics for Planners
----- W I N T E R B R E A K -----		
2/8/24	Virtual	Implementing Strategic Plans
3/7/24	Virtual	Connecting Clean Transportation & Affordable Housing
----- S P R I N G B R E A K -----		
5/7/24	Virtual	How to Tell Your SMART Story in Grant Applications
5/16/24	In Person	Transportation Demand Management II: Workforce & Economic Development
Key: General Government Sessions Planning Sessions (AICP credits available)		

Register for Upcoming Sessions

Our Federal Legislative Priorities

For the 2023-2024 legislative session, Centralina is seeking to secure support for key issues and opportunities impacting our local communities and region at large. The Centralina Board set priorities to guide advocacy and engagement towards regional funding and programs, workforce development, aging services and funding flexibility to advance implementation of the CONNECT regional mobility plan.

[Executive Summary](#)

Our State Legislative Priorities

Centralina asked the N.C. General Assembly to support several projects in its 2023-2024 budget. Specific priorities the Centralina Board has advocated for include mobility (CONNECT Beyond), infrastructure projects, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy implementation, stormwater management and funding support for health programs including Ombudsman.

[Executive Summary](#)

Centralina Staff at the SE4A Conference

Last month, a group of Centralina staff attended the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A) Conference in Asheville, NC. Several team members led breakout sessions including Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Program Manager Cindy Kincaid, Centralina AAA Assistant Director Debi Lee, Centralina AAA Director Linda Miller (pictured below top right) and Centralina Regional Planners Luke Lowry and Reaghan Murphy.

In addition to leading discussions and volunteering to help run the event, attendees had an opportunity to network and learn best practices in the aging field while celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of AAAs. It was an impactful week for our aging team and we look forward to seeing how they'll take what they learned and apply it to their ongoing efforts to advocate and support older adults and people with disabilities throughout our region.





Don't Wait for Tomorrow: Prepare for an Emergency Today!

Older adults and people with disabilities are especially vulnerable during extreme weather events and emergencies that often come without warning, such as heatwaves, major flooding, electric outages and pandemics like COVID-19. While natural disasters may be out of our control, there are a number of things that you can do ahead of time to get prepared. In honor of Emergency Preparedness Month, Centralina Area Agency on Aging has prepared a checklist of things you can do to stay safe before, during and after an emergency or natural disaster.

[Learn More About Emergency Preparedness](#)

Celebrating Workforce Development Month

September is Workforce Development Month, a time to raise awareness about the importance of this industry in ensuring the prosperity of our national economy. Check out some of Centralina Workforce Development Board's (WDB) recent [success stories](#) that showcase the impact their work has on businesses and career seekers throughout our region.

Centralina WDB Partners with Iredell County on Workforce Initiative

A Collective That Amplifies **All Voices**



Serve Every
Learner



Guide Every
Career Seeker



Propel Industry
& Business



Invest in Our
Community

On June 8, 2023, the Iredell Industry & Education Alliance, a collaboration of private and public sector leaders, launched Iredell Ready, a county-wide workforce initiative designed to help students and residents, K-12 through retirement age, identify opportunities to pursue individual career pathways and employment with industries in Iredell County. This collaborative effort helps to promote lifelong learning and helps to close an existing skills gap for Iredell County employers.

[Read the Full Article](#)

NextGen Opportunity Site Opens in Troutman



Earlier this year, Centralina Workforce Development Board celebrated the opening of its latest Opportunity Site housed at the J. Hoyt Haynes Memorial Library in Troutman. This Iredell County center is part of the Centralina NCWorks network that focuses on NextGen services that assist youth and young adults with career guidance and skills to find employment. Statistics from the region show that youth are being held back due

to the lack of transportation, access to technology and limited support in rural areas. Building Opportunity Sites in underserved parts of our counties allows these critical services to reach more people.

Local Needs, Future Resiliency: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program



Centralina received a \$1 million planning grant through the U.S. EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, a two-stage grant program that includes funding for noncompetitive planning grants and competitive implementation grants. Centralina will lead coordination with regional partners, stakeholders and advisors across North and South Carolina to create a regional plan that will produce a playbook of investment options to help communities retain clean air for generations to come by supporting local

mobility options, securing newer technologies for fleets, buildings and waste management, enhancing local logistics and distribution systems and the local food economy and/or planning for electric vehicle infrastructure. Completion of a regional Climate Action Plan enables local governments to apply for \$4.6 billion in funding, authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act, to implement local projects for efficient infrastructure, energy and waste management systems, transportation systems and energy-efficient buildings.

IN THE NEWS

Centralina Sparks Sponsorship Opportunities

We are looking for partners to sponsor a variety of events and educational programming throughout this fiscal year. There are several sponsor levels depending on your desired level of engagement with our local government audience. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Lenessa Hawkins at lhawkins@centralina.org. All donations benefit the Centralina Foundation, a 501c3 entity. Pledges must be received by **September 25** to take full advantage of the program benefits.

Have a Possible Brownfield Site in Need of Revitalization?

Centralina is actively seeking candidate sites to include in our Brownfields regional program. We are also applying for federal grants to support a series of site assessments, the first step in reusing a brownfield property, and will use those funds to support communities in moving from site assessment to clean-up activities. Through this program, Centralina will help transform contaminated blights into prime real estate that is ready to serve your community well into the future. Read this [sale sheet](#) to learn more about the program and how your community can get involved.

UNCSOG: Harness the Power of Public Participation

This one-day virtual course for local government professionals and elected officials will teach you how to follow a “with-and-through” participative process that will enable multi-directional community engagement, showing attendees how to get a complete picture of their community and build public trust and confidence in government. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Celebrate TDM Week Next Week

September 18-22 is Transportation Demand Management (TDM) week! TDM refers to a program of education and incentives that allow travelers to better understand and make use of their available transportation choices, leading to improved quality of life, access to opportunities and economic vitality. TDM is about providing transportation choice – the ability to select from a variety of transportation options to meet one’s daily needs.

Join Centralina in celebrating TDM Week 2023 and learn about the benefits TDM can bring to our region:

- [Register to attend the 12th Annual NC BikeWalk Summit](#) in Salisbury on September 14-16 and learn about how N.C. communities are modernizing mobility through sustainable transportation. Don’t miss a “TED Talk” style session on September 15, led by staff from Centralina and Kittelson & Associates.
- Refresh your memory on TDM, its potential benefits and N.C. success stories by reviewing [this article](#).
- Learn more about TDM strategies currently being implemented across North Carolina by checking out [this recap](#) of our Centralina Learns session on TDM or reviewing the video on our [Member Portal](#).
- Find more resources and national TDM week events by checking out the

[TDM Week homepage](#) by the Association for Commuter Transportation.

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the NEW Member Portal](#)



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